
	SANTA ROSA COUNTY AG. SHEET APRIL, 2012	
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Calendar of Events

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April

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We're on the Web:
<http://santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu>

**Happy
Easter**

The Santa Rosa Ag. Sheet Newsletter is
available at:
<http://santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture.shtml>

The Foundation for The Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution



Beef Management Calendar

April

- Plant Warm season annual pastures.
- Plant corn for silage.
- Check and fill mineral feeders
- Check dust bags or apply treated ear tags.
- Check for external parasites and treat if necessary.
- Observe cows for repeat breeders
- Deworm cows as needed if not done in March
- Vaccinate against blackleg and brucellosis after 3 months of age and before 12 months of age.
- Market cull cows and bulls.
- Update market information and refine market strategy for calves.

Fontelis (penthiopyrad) from DuPont receives registration

DuPont announced on February 29th that their new fungicide "Fontelis" has been granted a Section 3 federal registration and was now navigating through the process to receive labels from individual states. It is expected to take a week or two to receive state registrations; Fontelis should certainly be available to peanut growers for use in 2012. Fontelis is likely to be recommended by DuPont as three applications, 16 fl oz each, in an overall spray program. DuPont will also develop Peanut Rx reduced-risk programs that include use of Fontelis.

A significant amount of data has been generated at the University of Georgia on Fontelis. Based upon this work, there are three important things to consider about this product. First, penthiopyrad is in a class of fungicides different from the strobilurins (Abound, Evito, and Headline) and the triazoles (Provost, Proline, Quash, tebuconazole) and could therefore be an important tool for minimization of the risk of fungicide resistance. Second, Fontelis has broad-spectrum activity and is effective in the management of leaf spot diseases, white mold, Rhizoctonia limb rot, and suppression of CBR. Lastly, Fontelis has performed well in fungicide trials when compared to other programs. It is clear that a fungicide program that includes Fontelis will be an effective program.

Source: Bob Kemeriat, University of Georgia
Extension Plant Pathologist

Weather update

Growers should continue, should warmer-than-normal conditions remain the norm, to anticipate potential outbreaks of *Aspergillus* crown rot (a seedling diseases favored by warm soil temperatures), early development of white mold (again, favored by warm soils) and increased risk to the peanut root-knot nematode. Nematodes become active as soil temperatures rise in the spring. Soils have been unseasonably warm during much of the winter of 2011-2012, possibly allowing populations to build earlier than they normally would.

Source: Bob Kemmeriat, University of Georgia
Extension Plant Pathologist

Bahiagrass Planting – What are the Options?

Dr. Yoana Newman, Extension Forage Specialist

Spring has arrived and many ranchers have decided to renovate their pastures or establish new ones with bahiagrass because of soil conditions, desired management, etc., but the question remaining is: which bahiagrass variety to plant? In Florida, bahiagrass has a century-long history as a common grass. It was first introduced in Florida in the early 1900s, and since then several cultivars have been adopted. The most popular ones are Pensacola, Tifton 9, and Argentine, and more recently two new bahiagrasses are available, UF Riata bahiagrass, and TifQuik.

Following is a description of each variety:

Pensacola: Has narrow leaves, good seed production. This selection is very persistent under intensive grazing. It is among the most cold tolerant bahiagrass types. Approximately 60% of the bahiagrass acreage in Florida is estimated to be Pensacola. Despite the wide spread, for-age production is lower compared to Tifton 9, Argentine, and the new releases UFRiata and TifQuik.

Tifton 9: This bahiagrass is an improvement from the existing Pensacola. This cultivar was developed after nine cycles of selection (therefore its name, Tifton 9). Compared to Pensacola, it has more vigorous seedlings, and longer leaves. The plants are more upright than Pensacola making it a great type for haying but less tolerant of close grazing. In general, it produces 25% more forage than Pensacola, but as much as 40% has been reported in replicated studies. Leaf digestibility is similar to Pensacola but live-weight gain per acre is higher for Tifton 9. Seed characteristics are similar to Pensacola; with a rate of germination of the seed that is the same for both.

Argentine: This bahiagrass is an ecotype from Argentina that is drought and disease tolerant. It is less frost and cold tolerant than Pensacola. Argentine is ideal if planning to overseed with cool-season forages because it will quit production earlier than other types; it will provide less competition to the cool-season grasses or legumes that will be sodseeded. Argentine has excellent spreading, and lower seedhead production.

UF Riata: The more recent release by University of Florida. This cultivar was selected from Pensacola to improve late fall and early spring production. Total season yield of UF-Riata is similar to Tifton 9. Like Tifton 9 it does not tolerate close grazing. If grazing UF-Riata care must be taken to allow for regrowth to a 6-inch height between grazing events.

TifQuik: This bahiagrass was registered in 2011, and was developed for fast germination from Tifton 9. Previous bahiagrass cultivars described have a considerable amount of hard seed and therefore require between 2 to 3 weeks for the seed to germinate. This period of time is critical and it is usually when weeds infest the pasture and moisture in the soil is limited. TifQuik has a higher rate of germination (if the label indicate 85% germination, close to 100% of that germination percentage will occur within one week). Faster establishment with this type should be useful for decreasing weed competition and increasing profitability by providing earlier grazing or an additional hay harvest in the establishment year. Developers of this grass show that profits from hay would increase significantly with yields of a ton or better two months after planting.

Planting

Bahiagrass seeds are small. Planting depth should be less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch to avoid entombing the seed. Placing the seed too deep is one of the most common mistakes associated with failed plantings. In addition, seeds are of the hard type (except for TifQuik), which means that they have a hard or waxy seed coat that prevents them from germinating immediately requiring either time or scarification to allow for moisture penetration. Because of these conditions higher seeding rates are recommended (around 30 lb/acre, see Table 1 below); lower seeding rates can be used but additional investment in weed control will be required.

Seedlings are also small and slow to grow. There are no selective herbicides, therefore, a well prepared seed-bed is critical and weeds during this early stage need to be controlled by mowing or grazing.

Plant certified seed for Tifton 9, UF Riata, and TifQuik. This is you're your only guarantee to keep you from acquiring regular Pensacola at the price of improved varieties.

Table 1	Seeding Rates
Pensacola	20–30
Argentine	20–30
Tifton 9	15–20
UF-Riata	15–20
TifQuik	15-20
Adapted from data from Newman et al. 2008, University of Florida	

Use sufficient seed. The higher the seeding rate, the quicker the stand will close, and the opportunity for weeds to fill in the open areas will be minimized. After seeding, pack the soil with a roller to seal the moisture in the soil.

For additional information on bahiagrass production, please check the following:

Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*): Overview and Management available online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag342>

Source: UF/IFAS Agronomy Notes. Apr 2012. Vol. 36:4

The How and Why of Herbicide Incorporation

Dr. Jason Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist

Preemergence herbicides are a powerful way to prevent weed infestations before they start. In our current climate of glyphosate and ALS-resistant weeds, a good preemergence program is more valuable than ever. However, method and timing of application dramatically impact the efficacy of many preemergence herbicides. To improve their reliability, preemergence herbicides should be incorporated – this is particularly important for the yellow herbicides

such as Prowl, Sonalan, and Treflan. So here are a few items that should be considered prior to making the application.

Why does incorporation improve herbicide performance? For a preemergence herbicide to work, the weed seed must germinate in the presence of the herbicide. Since most weeds do not germinate on the soil surface, the herbicide must be mixed into the soil so the emerging weeds can absorb the herbicide immediately upon germination. If the herbicide is applied to soil surface, the weed seed may germinate below the herbicide zone and emerge without harm. Additionally, many soil applied herbicides will degrade quickly in the presence of sunlight. Mixing with soil will protect the herbicide and greatly increase persistence and duration of weed control.

Is incorporation essential? Yes. A herbicide must be incorporated (or activated) for weed control to occur. This can be done using tillage equipment, irrigation, or rainfall. In a dryland system, if at least 0.5 inch of rain is not predicted within 5 to 10 days of application, mechanical incorporation will be essential to achieve weed control.

How should a herbicide be incorporated? As stated previously, the purpose of incorporation is to concentrate the herbicide in the zone where weeds germinate. We have already stated that most weed seed don't germinate on the soil surface, but neither do they germinate from several inches deep. Therefore, deep incorporation dilutes the herbicide in the soil profile instead of concentrating it in the germination zone. The best way to incorporate a herbicide is with minimal disturbance from a field cultivator or roto-tiller.

Can I incorporate with a disc? A disc can be used, but careful attention to depth of the implement is essential. A heavy disc can cover ground quickly, but have the tendency to cut the herbicide several inches into the soil – moving much of the herbicide away from the germinating seedlings. Additionally, a single pass with a disc can also incorporate the herbicide in streaks directly below the turning blades, rather than distributing it evenly. If a disc is used, two passes (each angled across the other) will help distribute the herbicide more evenly. Beware to not incorporate too deeply.

Should all preemergence herbicides be incorporated? No. Valor herbicide performs best when applied directly to the soil surface. It too requires rainfall or irrigation for activation, but should not be incorporated with tillage.

Allowing the crop to emerge in a weed-free setting is essential to obtaining top yields. The yellow herbicides, in particular, benefit from light incorporation immediately after application. Though the yellow herbicides will not provide season-long weed control, proper incorporation can allow them to perform at an optimum level. For more information, we suggest reading the Treflan label. Though not for use in peanut grown in the Southeast, this label provides an excellent narrative on proper herbicide incorporation, particularly for the yellow herbicides (<http://www.cdms.net/LDat/ld0AQ006.pdf>).

Source: UF/IFAS Agronomy Notes. Apr 2012. Vol. 36:4

2012 Prospective Plantings

John M. Riley, Mississippi Extension Service and Don Shurley, University of Georgia

USDA released their annual Prospective Plantings report Friday morning (Mar 30). The report revealed that corn is the big gainer in terms of acres planted this year versus last year. Corn acres across the U.S. are expected to jump by almost four million to 95.864. Although not the largest gainer in terms of total acres, peanuts are projected to increase by 24.7%. This accounts for an increase to 1.422 million acres from 1.141 in 2011, or up 281,000. Cotton and soybeans are expected to see the largest declines in acreage across the U.S. Cotton acres are projected to be down 1.577 million acres versus last year at 13.155 million (total cotton acres,

Upland acres are projected at 12.885 million). Soybean acres are expected to drop by 1.074 million to 73.902. Two other crops that will see an increase in total acres are hay and wheat, forecasted at 57.348 and 55.908 million, respectively and up 3.1% and 2.8% from 2011.

Cotton

Farmers say they intend to plant 11% less cotton than last year. This is on par with what has been anticipated by most industry analysts. So, this should have little bearing on the market. Of course, how much cotton is actually planted will depend on expected prices over the next couple of months, the weather, and other factors.

Most regions of the Cotton Belt are expected to be down about 10 to 10½ percent with exception of the West expected to be down 16½ percent. Only a couple of states (South Carolina and Missouri) are expected to remain the same or up from last year. Among the top-5 acreage states, farmers in Texas say they intend to plant 10% less cotton, Georgia 12% less, North Carolina and Arkansas 13% less, and Mississippi 8% less.

Assuming a realistic but conservative US average yield of 800 lbs per acre and harvesting 87% of the acres planted, this 2012 acreage if realized would project a crop of 19.075 million bales. This would be 3.4 million bales more than the drought-stricken 2011 crop.

So, the much anticipated report is now out of the way and it pretty much showed what we thought it would show. So what's next in terms of watching the market and the factors that will impact price?

First of all, the market (Dec12 futures) for now seems to have found support and avoided a potential meltdown to 85 cents. We're back above 90 cents—a level I've said all along is very important for a number of reasons. Prices bottomed at around 88 cents last week but have since managed a bit of a comeback. This perhaps shows us that although bearish signs are a plenty, the market still has some upside strength. There are no assurances how long this will last or if it will, but it's encouraging nonetheless.

As we move forward from this point, key factors in price direction will be actual planting and US weather and crop conditions, any signs of improved demand prospects, China purchases, India exports, and 2012 foreign acreage and production. Any combination of these things could hammer us down into the 80's or rally us back to 95 cents or better. So, stay on your toes.

Below are our latest UGA costs estimates/revisions and comparison of 2012 estimated crop net returns for Georgia. Net return comparisons are based on the costs, yields, and prices assumed for non-irrigated production. Individual farm operations will vary from these estimates. An average peanut price of \$600/ton is used but this will vary depending on expected yield, contract prices, and amount contracted and availability of contracts.

	Corn	Cotton	Peanuts	Soybeans
Expected Average Yield	85	700	2900	30
Expected Average Price	6.00	0.90	600	11.00
Expected Income	\$510	\$630	\$870	\$330
Operating Costs	\$319	\$436	\$601	\$245
Net Return	\$191	\$194	\$269	\$85

Source: Mississippi Crop Situation, March 30, 2012 and Southern Cotton Growers, Inc. - Cotton Marketing News, March 30, 2012. Vol. 10, No. 7.



Announcing a Pesticide Applicator Training, Exam, and CEU Opportunity!

Private, Commercial, or Public Pesticide License Holders- DO YOU NEED CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEU'S)? Do you need to take a Restricted Use Pesticide exam?

If yes to either, you may want to attend this training and CEU opportunity!

**Wednesday, April 11, 2012
Santa Rosa County Extension Office
5259 Booker Lane
Jay Florida**

Times:	9:30 – 10:30	Core Training
	10:30 – 11:30	Core Exam
	11:30 – 12:30	LUNCH
	12:30 – 2:00	Private Applicator Agriculture Category Training
	2:00 – 3:00	Private Applicator Exam

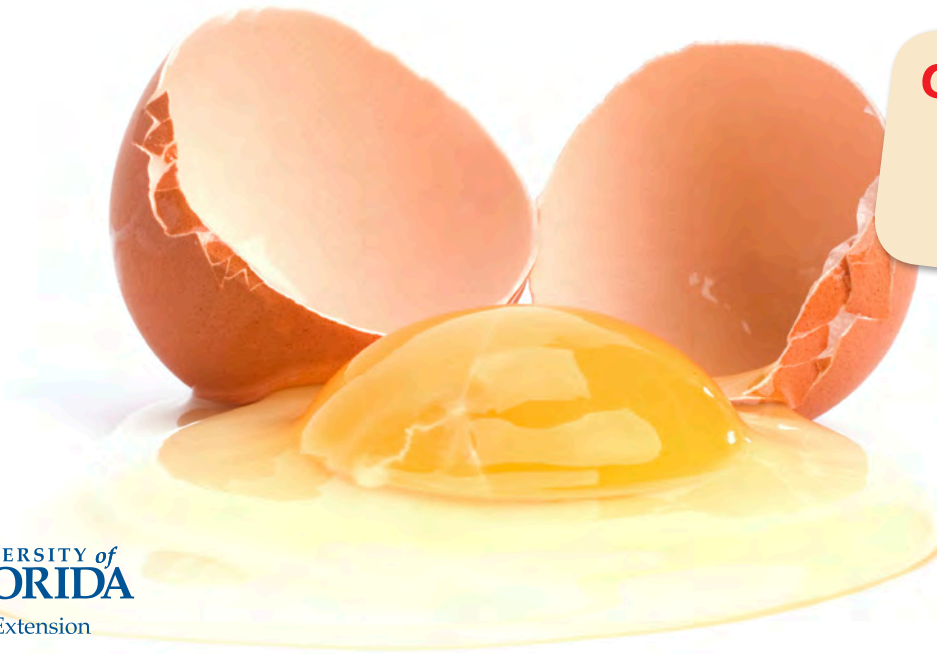
Location: Santa Rosa County Extension Office (Jay Community Center, 5259 Booker Lane)
(For more information call 850-675-6654)

Cost: The fee is \$10.00 for the day and includes lunch.

Topics: Principles of Pest Control, Pesticide Labeling and Formulations, Harmful Effects and Emergency Response, Worker Protection Standards, Application Equipment, Calibration, Formulation, and Area Calculations, Florida Law and Regulations, etc.

SMALL FLOCK

EGG PRODUCTION & MANAGEMENT



GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Gary Butcher and
Dr. Richard Miles

UF IFAS Poultry Specialists

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension



WHEN & WHERE

Monday, April 16

Highlands Baptist Church
6240 Hwy 95A N, Molino, FL

Tuesday, April 17

Jay Community Center
5259 Booker Lane, Jay, FL

TIME: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

COST: \$5

AGENDA

- Local Laws and Resources
- Important Facts to Know about Feeding Chickens
- Housing
- Egg Production
- Breed Selection
- Health Management
- Bio-security and Food Safety

To register:

Santa Rosa Extension

850-675-3107

Escambia County Extension

850-475-5230



Forestry, ROW, Wetland and Invasives Considerations

April 27, 2012

Blackwater Forest
 Bear Lake Pavilion- Highway 4
 Cost \$10 per person

8:30	Registration	
9:00-9:25	The influence of weather and climate on the effectiveness of pesticides in the natural environment- choosing the correct timing of applications based on the weather forecast.	Libbie Johnson, UF IFAS Escambia County Extension agent
9:25-10:15	Understanding how terrain, geological features, and wetland soil types impact the movement and efficacy of pesticides	John McElhaney and Trent Mathews, Escambia County and Santa Rosa County NRCS, District Conservationists
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:30	Protecting fish, other wildlife, and non target organisms from the harmful effects of pesticides	Matt Phillips, Florida Fish and Wildlife, Biologist
11:30-12:00	Is this a wetland? Identifying key features of wetlands based on indicator plants	Jerry Sheppard, Northwest Florida Water Management District, retired
12:00	Catered lunch at Bear Lake	
12:45	Evaluation and Adjourn	

Please call (850) 675-6654 or (850) 475-5230
by April 25 to RSVP for lunch.



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Sincerely,

Mike Donahoe
County Director
Santa Rosa County

John D. Atkins
Extension Agent
Santa Rosa County