



Santa Rosa County Ag. Sheet
P.O. Box 37, 5259 Booker Lane, Jay, FL 32565
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February, 2009

Dates to Remember

2009 Gulf Coast Agribusiness Conference.....February 26, 2009
Jay Community Center (For more information call 675-6654)

The New 2008 Farm Bill Meeting.....March 3, 2009
Jay Community Center 6 pm – 8 pm

Row Crop Meeting.....March 12, 2009
Jay Community Center (For more information see flyer) 8 am – 1:30 pm

Florida Ag. Literacy Day.....March 18, 2009
Milton Extension Office (For more information call 623-3868) 8:00 am – 11:00 am

How to Grow Tomatoes in Florida.....March 26, 2009
(For more information see article)

Amnesty Day.....March 28, 2009
(For more information see article)

Santa Rosa County Fair.....March 31 – April 5, 2009
East Milton Recreational Park (For more information call 623-3868)

In This Issue

Beef Cattle Management Calendar.....2

Attention Florida Agriculture Producers.....2

Fertilizer Placement.....3

Laudis – A New Herbicide for Corn.....3

One-Line Pesticide CEU’s Available.....3

2008 Farm Bill Issues.....4

Amnesty Day.....5

Seminar to Teach How to Grow Tomatoes in Florida.....6

BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

March

- Prepare land for summer crops.
- Begin grazing warm season permanent pastures.
- Check and fill mineral feeder.
- Observe bulls for condition and success. Rotate and rest if needed.
- De-worm cows as needed.
- Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.
- Hang forced-use dust bags by April 1st for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.
- Identify, vaccinate, implant and work late calves.
- Put bulls out March 1st for calving season to start December 9th.
- Remove bulls March 22nd to end calving season January 1st.

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
- De-worm 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.

Attention Florida Agricultural Producers: (The New 2008 Farm Bill Meeting)

The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill, has become law and rule making is in process. As NRCS in Florida prepares to deliver the conservation programs within the bill, many of which provide cost-share and other financial assistance, we want to ensure that we address the natural resource conservation priorities within the State and get the information out to our partners and Florida's agricultural producers.

As a result, we are holding public information sessions designed to provide NRCS customers and natural resource partners the opportunity to hear what programs will be available with the new 2008 Farm Bill and changes from the 2002 Farm Bill. Information on how to make public comments will be available. A question and answer session will follow.

Jay Community Center, March 3, 2009, 6 pm - 8 pm, 5259 Booker Lane, Jay, FL 32565

Fertilizer Placement

For many years most fertilizer has been spread with a spreader truck in order to cover as many acres in a short period of time. Soil test recommendations are based on broadcast applications of fertilizer. With crops like wheat, which are often followed by soybean or peanut, all of the P and K may be broadcast prior to planting and the residual fertilizer is available for soybean or peanut. However, for crops like corn or cotton that often require high rates of P and K, it may pay to band fertilizer material. There may not be a yield increase vs. a broadcast application but P levels may be decreased as much as 50% and K levels by 33% without yield loss. Nitrogen rates should follow what is recommended since it is not based on soil tests. If large acreages of corn and cotton are planted, banding equipment can be paid for several times over in the first year. If growers try banding of P and K, they should split fields where part of the field follows conventional methods of fertilization to compare on their soil type and management. There is an advantage of applying minor elements near the row at planting so that these nutrients are exposed to less soil and remain available to the crop for a longer period of time.

Source: Dr. David Wright, Extension Agronomist, Agronomy Note, Vol. 33:1, January 2009

Laudis – A New Herbicide for Corn

Laudis (tembotrione) is a new “bleaching” herbicide registered for use in corn. Laudis is applied postemergence at a rate of 3 oz/A and provides excellent control of pigweeds, ragweed, morningglory, and annual grasses such as crabgrass and goosegrass. This herbicide also possesses a significant level of soil residual activity. One application of Laudis will generally control sensitive weeds for 4 to 6 weeks after application. Because of the spectrum of this herbicide, it is an ideal tank-mix partner for glyphosate and atrazine. Atrazine + Laudis combinations applied to 6” corn has performed very well in University of Florida trials. However, like most postemergence herbicides, control is maximized if weeds that are less than 4 inches are sprayed.

Laudis can be applied from corn emergence until the V8 stage of growth. All applications should be made using either a crop oil or methylated seed oil adjuvant.

Although Laudis has soil residual activity, plant back restrictions are relatively short. Small grains can be planted within 4 months of application. Plant back for soybeans and cotton are 8 and 10 months, respectively.

Source: Dr. Jason Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist, Agronomy Notes, Vol. 33:2, February 2009

On-Line Pesticide CEUs Available

The UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office now offers several online CEU modules, which are available for purchase. The objective of the system is to provide an opportunity for applicators that may be approaching the end of their certification cycle, but lack the required CEUs. The on-line system offers an alternative to retaking qualifying exams and allows applicators to take their CEU courses at their own time and choice of location. Twenty-six programs are available for purchase through the IFAS Extension Bookstore, or by going on-line directly to <http://pested.ifas.edu/onlinepesticideCEUs>. Each module costs \$20.00 and is FDACS approved for one CEU. There are modules available for virtually all applicator categories, including Core. These CEU modules focus mainly on the Agricultural CEU categories. Buggy Software <http://pests.ifas.ufl.edu/software> is run by a cooperating entity at UF/IFAS and focuses on the Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control categories.

2008 Farm Bill Issues

Although not becoming law until halfway through the calendar year, a new farm bill became effective with the 2008 crop year and will cover 2008-2012 production. With the 2009 crop planting season approaching and most information now known, the following is a brief discussion and summary.

Direct and Countercyclical Payment Program. The DCP program is the cornerstone of the income “safety net” begun with the 2002 farm. This program is modified slightly in the 2008 farm bill but continues in large part as was under the ‘02 bill.

- Signup for the DCP program for 2009 has already begun and continues through June 1.
- Base Acres and Payment Yields on the farm are unchanged.
- There are no changes in Direct Payment (DP) rates. The DP on cotton, for example, remains at 6.67 cents per pound for the life of the new bill.
- Some Target Prices have been changed—some increased, some decreased. An increase raises the Countercyclical Payment (CCP) compared to what would have been received under the ‘02 bill. A decrease in the Target Price reduces the potential CCP. The Target Price for cotton is lowered 1.15 cents from 72.4 to 71.25 cents per pound. The Target Price on peanuts is unchanged. The Target Price for soybeans and wheat is increased, corn is unchanged.
- DCP payments are received on Base Acres. Under the 2002 farm bill, payments were made on 85% of Base Acres. Under the 2008 bill, DCP will be received on 85% of Base for 2008 and 2012 crops but 83.3% for 2009-2011 crops.
- A farm must have at least 10 acres of Base to be eligible for payments. This was to begin with the 2008 crop year but due to late passage of the new bill, was delayed until the 2009 crop. This “10 acre rule” does not apply, however, to limited resource and socially disadvantaged producers.
- DCP payments limits are unchanged. The limit on DP is \$40,000 per person or entity total for all crops except peanuts. The limit on CCP is \$65,000 per person or entity total for all crops except peanuts. Peanuts maintain separate \$40,000 and \$65,000 limits.
- Under the 2002 farm bill, the limit on LDP and Loan Gains was \$75,000 per person or entity. This limit could be effectively by-passed, however, by use of market certificates. Under the 2008 farm bill, there is no longer a limit on LDP and Loan Gains.
- A 22% partial payment of DP can be received in December prior to the crop harvest year. The remainder is received in October of the harvest year. A 40% advance/partial payment of projected CCP is received not earlier than 180 days after the beginning of the marketing year. The remainder is received in October of the year after harvest.

Direct Attribution. As just discussed, provisions of the DCP program are tweaked somewhat but largely the same as under the ‘02 farm bill. The most significant change from 2002 is not in the program itself or Payment Limitations. The most significant change regards the guidelines for payment eligibility.

Under the 2002 farm bill, payment limits could effectively be doubled using the “3-entity” and “spouse” rules. These provisions have been eliminated.

Eligibility for payments is now determined by “direct attribution”—meaning that a person or entity receiving payments must qualify by having a contribution in production and/or management of the farm.

Persons or entities must complete the necessary paperwork to document their attribution before they will be allowed to enroll in the DCP program and receive payments. Persons or entities are encouraged to begin this process as soon as possible.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). For Marketing Loan and DCP payments, a person or entity is ineligible if the average AGI from farming is greater than \$750,000 or if the average non-farm AGI is greater than \$500,000. For 2009 benefits, AGI will be the average of 2005-2007. As with Direct Attribution, the AGI test must be determined before payments can be received.

ACRE. The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is an alternative to the DCP program. Essentially, this program offers a “safety net” based on planted acres rather than Base Acres. ACRE payments are determined by both price and yield and the income guarantee is based on state level yields, the farms historical average yields, and national average price.

This program was not designed for the Southeast and was promoted by farmers and legislators from the mid-West. We do not think it will fit most farms with cotton and peanuts but it may fit some and may be worth consideration. We have shifted acres into corn and soybeans in recent years and some producers are currently planting crops significantly different than crops for which they have Base.

Analysis will be conducted and information released as it becomes available. Regulations and guidelines on some provisions of ACRE have not been released yet. Signup will not likely begin until sometime this Spring. Farms already enrolled in DCP for 2009 would likely be allowed to enroll in ACRE instead if they wish.

ACRE is a one-time election for 2009-2012, 2010-2012, 2011-2012, or 2012.

Source: Don Shurley, Extension Economist, Georgia Cotton, February 8, 2009

Amnesty Day March 28

Amnesty Day, which offers Santa Rosa County residents the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste at no charge, is scheduled for March 28 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Amnesty Day is not a recycle day, but a special day for disposal of household hazardous waste. Materials also will be accepted from conditionally exempt small quantity generators including small businesses, schools, and growers at a reduced rate. Small quantity generators must call (850) 981-7135 by noon on March 27 to schedule a drop off time. Calls will be accepted Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Two drop off sites will be available, at the Santa Rosa County South Service Center, 5819 Gulf Breeze Parkway in Midway and at the parking lot of the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex, 6495 Caroline Street in Milton, behind McDonald’s.

On Amnesty Day, residents and small quantity generators can dispose of:

- antifreeze
- lubricants
- five-gal. propane bottles
- paint
- gasoline
- solvents
- household cleaners
- computers
- oil filters
- fire extinguishers
- pool cleaners
- batteries
- motor oil
- fluorescent lights
- pesticides
- greases

Please note any containers of a household hazardous waste larger than five gallons will not be accepted. These items should never be thrown out with your household garbage. Tires, printers, fax machines, DVD/DVR players, typewriters, copy machines, general debris or household garbage will not be accepted as part of Amnesty Day. Cathode ray televisions and monitors will be accepted at the Midway location. They will not be accepted at the Amnesty Day drop off on Caroline Street, but can be taken directly to the Central Landfill located at 6337 Da Lisa Road in Milton. Residents will be required to remove these items from their vehicle.

Seminar to Teach How to Grow Tomatoes in Florida

If you've experienced difficulties in growing tomatoes in Florida, you're not alone. If you plan to grow tomatoes, you may want to attend a seminar titled **How to Grow Tomatoes in Florida** offered by University of Florida Extension.

This seminar will be held at the Okaloosa County Extension Office, 5479 Old Bethel Road in Crestview from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., March 26.

In recent years Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV) and bacterial wilt have made it more difficult to grow tomatoes. Most of the tried and true standard varieties do not possess resistance to these diseases. This seminar will introduce you to varieties that have resistance to these diseases. We will also share the basics of how to grow tomatoes in Florida's challenging environment that will help make you more successful with your tomato production.

Please pre-register by calling the Okaloosa County Extension Office at 689-5850 or 729-1400, Ext. 5850 by March 23. There is a \$5 cost to attend. Space is limited.

Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Okaloosa County, February 23, 2009

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Sincerely,

Mike Donahoe
County Director
Santa Rosa County

John D. Atkins
Extension Agent
Santa Rosa County

Schedule

- 8:30.....Registration
- 8:45.....Welcome
- 9:00.....Ag Comprehensive Plan
 - Santa Rosa County Ag Facts and Data
 - Florida Ag in the Classroom
 - Implementing Florida Ag Literacy Day
- 10:45.....Q & A panel
of presenters and supporting agencies
- 11:00.....Adjourn

Supporting Agencies

Santa Rosa County FSA
6277 Dogwood Drive
Milton FL 32570
850-623-2441



Natural Resource
Conservation District
6285 Dogwood Drive
Milton Florida 32570
850-623-3229



Blackwater Soil & Water
Conservation District - SWCD
6285 Dogwood Drive
Milton Florida 32570
850-623-3229



Santa Rosa County Farm
Bureau Insurance Services
4035 Hwy 4, Jay, FL 32565
850-675-4572



Santa Rosa County Schools
“I Love Science Program”
850-983-5046



Sponsored By:

Santa Rosa County Extension



**For additional information and to
Pre-register, call by
Noon, Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

**Santa Rosa County Extension
Milton Office (850) 623-3868
Jay Office (850) 675-3107**



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**Santa Rosa
County**



**AGRICULTURE
Help
Share the Story**



Florida Ag Literacy Day

**Training & Workshop
for
Agricultural Producers,
Supporters & Volunteers
Wednesday, March 18th, 2009
8:30 am -11:00 am**

**Santa Rosa County
Extension Office, Milton**

Florida Agriculture Literacy Day

Florida Agriculture Literacy Day is a Florida Agriculture in the Classroom (FAITC) program. It is designed to support the FAITC's mission of helping teachers and students gain a better understanding of Florida Agriculture.

Each year a day is declared as Florida Agriculture Literacy Day. Florida farmers and agriculture industry employees and agriculture supporters are requested to promote **Ag Literacy Day** and volunteer as a *“classroom speaker & reader.”*

Volunteers are asked to visit elementary school classrooms and read a special book written for the event and talk with the students about the importance of Florida Agriculture.

Volunteers are encouraged to make their classroom visit and read on:

**“Florida Ag Literacy Day”
March 24, 2009***

**Santa Rosa County Schools Spring Break March 21 - 29*

However, the visit and reading can be done anytime before the end of the school year.

Ag Literacy Day Readers may schedule a visit to one or more classrooms before the end of the school year.

Santa Rosa County Extension & 4-H will assist in coordinating visits and provide educational handouts and materials. **Our goal is to:**

**Share the Story of
Santa Rosa County
Agriculture**

Santa Rosa County Extension Promotes Ag Literacy Day

Agriculture is important to the economy and quality of life of Santa Rosa County. Santa Rosa County Extension Service supports the mission of the Florida Ag in the Classroom FAITC program. 4-H is the youth development program of the Santa Rosa County Extension Service. 4-H provides leadership by offering training and programs for youth and adult volunteers, including agriculture related education.

Santa Rosa County Extension and 4-H have planned a special workshop for:

Ag Literacy Day Volunteer Readers

Those who are interested in educating students and teachers about the importance of agriculture are invited to be a part of Santa Rosa County Ag Literacy Day.

Ag Literacy Day Volunteers may be:

Farmers and Ranchers
Ag Industry Employees
Ag related Government Agencies
Ag Business Employees
Farm Bureau Members
Cattlemen's Association Members
Elected and Appointed Officials
Community Leaders
Agriculture & Education College Students
School Volunteers
5th Grade “I Love Science” Volunteers
Santa Rosa County Extension Volunteers
Home and Community Educators
Master Gardeners
Master Naturalists
4-H Adult & Teen Leaders

Santa Rosa County Extension Ag Literacy Day Volunteer Workshop

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009
8:30 – 11:00 am**

**Santa Rosa County Extension Office
6263 Dogwood Drive, Milton**

Workshop Presenters include:

- **Don Salter** - Santa Rosa County Commissioner
- **Mike Donahoe** - County Extension Director
- **John Atkins** - Ag/Livestock Agent
- **Dan Mullins** - Commercial Horticulture Agent
- **Vickie Mullins** - 4-H Youth Development Agent

The workshop will provide knowledge and skills to prepare participants to be effective Ag Literacy Day Volunteers including to:

- ❖ Provide volunteers with an overview of the Agriculture Industry in Santa Rosa County.
- ❖ Provide volunteers with data about Agriculture in Santa Rosa County.
- ❖ Review Ag Literacy Day Program materials.
- ❖ Prepare volunteers to be effective “readers” to children.
- ❖ Provide tips for teaching and working with children.

**Our goal is to coordinate an
“Ag Literacy Day” program
that will reach hundreds of classrooms
and thousands of children in
Santa Rosa County.**

Crop Production Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2009
8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Jay Community Center
5259 Booker Lane
Jay, Florida



- 8:00 – 8:15 **Registration**
- 8:15 – 8:30 **FSA Updates**
Travis Kelley, Santa Rosa County Farm Service Agency Director
- 8:30 – 8:45 **Economic Outlook**
Steve Brown, Auburn University Economist
- 8:45 – 9:00 **“SRC / FL Ag. Literacy Program”**
Vickie Mullins, Santa Rosa County 4-H Extension Agent
- 9:00 - 9:50 **Weed Management Options in Peanuts, Cotton, Soybeans, Corn
and Wheat**
Barry Brecke, Weed Specialist, University of Florida, IFAS
- 9:50 - 10:10 **Break**
- 10:10 - 11:00 **Production Practices to Reduce Pesticide Use in Peanuts,
Cotton, Soybeans, Corn and Wheat**
David Wright, Extension Agronomist, University of Florida, IFAS
- 11:00 - 11:30 **Stink Bug Management and Control**
Ron Smith, Professor Emeritus, Auburn University
- 11:30 - 12:30 **Disease Control Recommendations for Peanuts, Cotton, Corn
and Soybeans**
Robert (Bob) Kemerait, Plant Pathologist, University of Georgia
- 12:30 - 1:30 **Sponsored Lunch (Industry Updates)**
- Adjourn**

Please call the County Extension Office at 675.6654 to pre-register by March 9th.

CEU's will be available.

The Santa Rosa County Extension program provides research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the Santa Rosa County Extension Office at least 5 days prior to the program so that proper consideration may be given to the request.