



Santa Rosa County Ag. Sheet

P.O. Box 37, 5259 Booker Lane

Jay, FL 32565

850.675.6654, Fax 850.675.8590

January, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fish Pond Management Short Course.....3 monthly sessions.....beginning February 4, 2008
(For more information see flyer)

Beef Conference & Trade Show.....Thursday, February 7, 2008
(For more information see flyer)

2008 Farm Day.....February 13, 2008
Walnut Hill Community Center Registration 8:00 a. m. (For more information see flyer)

Crop Production Meeting.....Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Jay Community Center Registration 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. (For more information see flyer)

Gulf Coast Agribusiness Conference.....February 21, 2008
(For more information see flyer)

IN THIS ISSUE

Beef Cattle Management Calendar.....	2
Proline.....	2
Topdress Small grains with Nitrogen in Late January or early February.....	3
Thistle Control	3
Peanut Inoculation.....	4

BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

- Apply lime for summer crops.
- Check for lice and treat if necessary.
- Control weeds in cool season pastures.
- Begin grazing winter clover pastures when approximately 6 inches high. Rye should be 12-18 inches high.
- Check mineral feeders.
- Put bulls out for October calving season.
- Make up breeding herd lists if using single sire herds.
- Watch for calf scours.
- Give bulls extra feed and care so they will be in condition for breeding season.
- Make sure cow herd has access to adequate fresh water.
- Buy only performance tested bulls with superior records.
- Get taxes filed.
- Discuss herd health with your veterinarian and outline a program for the year. Review herd health program with your veterinarian regularly.
- Carry a pocket notebook to record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas, difficult calvings and other data.
- Observe cow herd for calving difficulties.
- Watch for grass tetany on winter pastures.
- Increase magnesium levels in mineral mixes if grass tetany has been previous problem (if you are not already using a high magnesium mineral.)
- Examine bulls for breeding soundness and semen quality prior to the breeding season.
- Vaccinate cows and heifers against vibriosis and leptospirosis prior to the breeding season.

FEBRUARY

- Top dress winter forages, if needed.
- Check and fill mineral feeders.
- Put bulls out with breeding herd.
- Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.)
- Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.
- Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.
- Cull cows that failed to calve.
- Check for lice and treat if needed.

PROLINE

Fungicide Coming Soon

Prothioconazole is a new fungicide for peanut and wheat production from Bayer Cropscience. Prothioconazole will be marketed on peanut as "PROLINE" and also as a component of "PROVOST". (The second component of PROVOST is tebuconazole (Folicur).

The greatest benefit to peanut producers in the southeastern United States from PROLINE will be from use as an in-furrow treatment to manage CBR. In a number of studies, use of PROLINE in-furrow has significantly reduced the severity of CBR and increased yields.

It is expected that Bayer Cropscience will receive a label for the in-furrow use of PROLINE sometime during May of 2008. While this label may arrive too late for the 2008 planting of peanuts, it will certainly be in place for 2009 and should be an important tool for peanut growers who battle CBR. The price for an in-furrow application of PROLINE is expected to be about \$25.00/A.

Source: Dr. Bob Kemeraite, University of Georgia, Extension Plant Pathologist

TOPDRESS SMALL GRAINS WITH NITROGEN IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY

Small grains should be topdressed with nitrogen no later than early February. Small grains will be tillering usually by early to mid January if it has been planted timely. Herbicide may be applied with the nitrogen application to control broadleaf weeds by late January to keep weeds from becoming too big for effective control. Growers generally use nitrogen with sulfur since most of our soils are deficient in sulfur. Growers can use 16-19% solutions of nitrogen with sulfur which are usually cheaper per unit of nitrogen than the more concentrated 28-32% nitrogen solution. However, more volume is needed to get the same rate (28-32%) when using the low nitrogen concentration solution (16-19%). About 90-120 lbs of total nitrogen per acre is enough to make top yields. The total amount of nitrogen needed depends on soil type, previous crops, and rainfall amount. Additional nitrogen can be applied about 4-5 weeks after the January—February early application is needed.

Source: Dr. David Wright, Extension Agronomist, North Florida REC, Quincy, wright@ufl.edu, Agronomy Notes, Volume 32:1, January 2008

THISTLE CONTROL

January is a time when most people are not thinking about pasture maintenance. But right now is when thistles are the most productive. In January, most thistles are still in the rosette stage (a small ring of leaves on top of the ground) and are easily overlooked. However, as warm weather approaches the thistle will send up a stalk and produce a flower.

A single thistle plant can produce at least 4,000 seeds that will drift in the wind and produce higher thistle populations in the pasture the following year.

Consequently, management practices need to be conducted prior to flower formation for effective thistle control. Even if thistles have not infested your pasture in the past, it is ideal that your pastures are scouted in late fall through mid-spring to ensure that thistles do not get out of control. New infestations are easier to manage than large-scale populations.

Although there are at least nine different species of thistle in Florida, most are closely related and control recommendations will not differ. As a general rule, thistles in the rosette stage are much easier, and cheaper, to control than thistles that are flowering (Table 1). If caught early, a few dollars per acre of 2,4-D ester is the best solution. This application is best made when daytime temperatures are consistently in the 60s. Applications made during a cold snap can decrease activity.

Herbicide	Rate	\$/A ^a	Thistle Growth State		
			Rosette ^b	Bolting ^c	Flowering
2,4-D	2 qt/A	6	90	85	40
Weedmaster	2 qt/A	6	95	90	55
Remedy	2 qt/A	21	95	90	75
Pasturegard	3 pt/A	18	95	90	70
Milestone	4 oz/A	11	99	95	90

^aApproximate herbicide costs.
^bThe rosette stage is when the thistle forms a low-growing ring of leaves.
^cThe bolting stage is when the thistle forms a stalk and prepares to flower.

Now is the time to quickly scout your pastures and determine if enough thistles are present to require a herbicide application. If so, spraying early will always be easier and provide much greater dividends. For more information on thistle control, check the reference titled: *Thistle Control in Pastures* at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG253>.

Source: Dr. Jason Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist, jferrell@ufl.edu, Agronomy Notes, Volume 32:1, January 2008

PEANUT INOCULATION

There is much speculation about whether to inoculate peanuts each year and how often they need to be inoculated and if newer, higher yielding varieties have a greater need to be inoculated than older varieties.

A study was conducted in 2007 with three of the newer peanut varieties, Florida 07, AP-3, and McCloud to compare inoculated with non inoculated plots over conventional and strip tillage planting methods.

Tillage did not affect nut yield with 4297 lb acre⁻¹ for conventional tillage and 4372 lbs acre⁻¹ for strip till averaged across inoculations and cultivars. These data indicate that tillage can be reduced without loss of yield and can reduce input costs and increase net economic return.

Inoculated treatments had slightly higher yield than non-inoculated plots in conventional tillage (turned and harrowed), but results were reversed in strip till treatment. Peanut yields were 4371 lbs acre⁻¹ for the inoculated and 4299 lbs acre⁻¹ for the non-inoculation treatments even though the area had been in bahia grass for 3 years and had not been in peanuts for more than 6 years.

Results from this study indicate that inoculation may not be important for either old or new varieties of peanuts if peanuts have been grown in the fields within five years.

However, cultivars varied in yield with Florida 07 having highest yield of 4668 lbs acre⁻¹ followed by AP-3, 4371, and McCloud, 4335. Yield difference was only detected between Florida 07 and AP-3 in conventional tillage with non-inoculation Florida 07 being significantly higher yielding than non-inoculated AP-3.

Source: Dr. David Wright, Extension Agronomist, North Florida REC, Quincy, wright@ufl.edu, Agronomy Notes, Volume 32:1, January 2008

The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the product names and does not signify that they are approved to the exclusion of others.

Sincerely,

Mike Donahoe
County Director
Santa Rosa County

John D. Atkins
Extension Agent
Santa Rosa County

2008 Farm Day

Location

Walnut Hill Community Center
7850 Highway 97
Walnut Hill Florida 32568

Wednesday – February 13, 2008



Time

Registration 8:00 a.m. – Sessions begin at 8:15

Topics Include:

- Corn production in the Coastal South
- Cotton varieties and production
- Wheat: What to do now to finish the crop
- Soybeans- Production and disease control
- Peanuts: Varieties, Disease Control, and Cost Costing Measures
- Economics, Marketing, and a Crystal Ball look into 2008 prices
- Managing Nuisance Wildlife to Maintain Profitability

CEU, CCA, and Commercial Applicator Points for Florida and
Alabama license holders

Industry Booths and Product Demonstrations

Sponsored Lunch



For more information – Libbie Johnson – 850.475.5230 – libbiej@ufl.edu

Times and Speakers:

- Cotton varieties and production 8:15-9:00
 - Dr. Dale Monks (Auburn)
 - Speaker will cover varieties, fertilization, weed and insect control, seed treatments for nematode control and conservation tillage

- Corn production in the Coastal South 9:00-9:45
 - Dr. David Wright (UF) and Dr. Amanda Gevens (UF)
 - Talk will cover varieties, integrated pest management for disease, insect, and weed control.

- BREAK 9:45-10:00**

- Wheat: What to do now to finish the crop 10:00-10:15
 - Dr. Wright (UF) and Dr. Gevens (UF)
 - Speaker will cover fertilization methods and pest scouting measures that need to be taken in order to finish out the season. Stress will be placed on timeliness of application of fertilizers and pesticides in order to have a successful crop with as few input costs.

- Soybeans- Production and disease control 10:15-11:00
 - Dr. Ed Sikora Auburn University
 - Speaker will discuss varieties best adapted to this region to reduce the amount of herbicide and fungicide applied and have the greatest yield potential. Use of conservation tillage with this crop will also be explained and use of treated seed.
 - Dr. Delaney Auburn University
 - Speaker will discuss soybean diseases. Emphasis will be on identifying diseases, proper scouting techniques, timing of fungicide applications. He will also provide an update on soybean rust for the southeast U.S.

- Peanuts: Varieties, Disease Control, and Cost Costing Measures 11:00-11:45
 - will focus on diseases of peanuts, timing of spray schedule, scouting techniques, and emerging pests.
 - highlight best management practices for peanuts, including IPM, use of cover crops for planting into and double row planting to reduce thrips damage. He will also cover new varieties and their potential for resistance to certain diseases while achieving high yields and grades.

• *Auburn Wildlife Specialists will either talk for 15 minutes before or after lunch*

LUNCH 12-1:00

- Economics, Marketing, and a Crystal Ball look into 2008 prices
 - Marshall Lamb 1:00-2:00
 - Dr. Lamb will discuss economic outlook for 2008 for the various crops.

Crop Production Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2008
8:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Jay Community Center
5259 Booker Lane
Jay, Florida



- 8:45 – 9:00 **Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:10 **Peanut Program Update**
Ken Barton, Executive Director, Florida Peanut Producers Association
- 9:10 – 10:15 **Disease Control Recommendations for Peanuts, Wheat,
Soybeans and Cotton**
Robert (Bob) Kemerait, Plant Pathologist, University of Georgia
- 10:15-10:30 **BREAK**
- 10:30-10:45 **Economic Outlook**
Steve Brown, Auburn University Economist
- 10:45—11:45 **Production Practices to Reduce Pesticide Use in Cotton,
Soybeans, Corn and Wheat**
David Wright, Extension Agronomy, University of Florida, IFAS
- 11:45—12:00 **FSA Updates**
Travis Kelly, Santa Rosa County Farm Service Agency Director
- 12:00—1:00 p.m. **Sponsored Lunch (Industry Updates)**
- 1:00—2:00 **Weed Management Options in Cotton, Soybeans, Corn, Wheat
and Peanuts**
Berry Brecke, Extension Weed Science, University of Florida, IFAS
- 2:00—3:00 **What is Worker Protection?**
Sonia Cotto'Febo, FDACS WPS coordinator
- 3:00 **Adjourn**

Please call the County Extension Office at 675.3107 to pre-register by February 15th.

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.