



**Santa Rosa County Ag. Sheet**  
**P.O. Box 37, 5259 Booker Lane, Jay, FL 32565**  
**850.675.6654, Fax 850.675.8590**  
**January, 2009**

Dates to Remember

Core, Ornamental & Turf Pesticide Review and Testing.....January 29, 2009  
Milton Extension Office, 8:00 am. (For more information call 623-3868)

2009 Farm Day.....January 29, 2009  
Walnut Hill Community Center (For more information see flyer)  
For CEU information call 675-3107

Forest Stewardship Workshop.....February 17, 2009  
Black Water River State Forest 8 am – 4 pm (To register contact the Santa Rosa County  
Extension Office at 850-675-6654)

Row Crop Meeting.....March 12, 2009  
Jay Community Center (For more information call 675-6654)

**In This Issue**

Beef Cattle Management Calendar.....2  
New Scrapies Rule Has Gone Into Effect.....3  
Wheat Fertility Recommendations.....3

## **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 calving 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.

## **New Scrapies Rule Has Gone Into Effect**

TALLAHASSEE—Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson is announcing the upcoming implementation of a new rule regulating the identification and intrastate movement of sheep and goats. The rule, effective October

10, is designed to prevent the spread of Scrapie, a fatal, degenerative disease of the nervous system in these animals.

The rule requires that all sheep and goats moved intrastate for any reason, or when there is a change of ownership, must be identified by their flock/herd of birth, or if that information is unknown, by the flock/herd from which they originated. Only identification methods approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) can be used. These include official USDA ear tags, identification tattoos, or implanted electronic microchips.

The new rule is being done in conjunction with the USDA's Scrapie Eradication Program which provides standards for state and federal governments and the industry to monitor, control and eradicate the disease from domestic flocks and herds in the United States. The USDA regulates interstate movement of sheep and goats but the state rule was necessary to ensure the same standards are followed for animals moved within the state's borders.

"It is imperative that the federal government and all the state's work together on this eradication program," Bronson said. "In today's marketplace, animals are often moved to many locations. It's important to be able to quickly determine where they are from if they are diagnosed with Scrapie."

Information about the flock or herd of origin is necessary because an infected animal may not show clinical symptoms for up to five years, making it more difficult to diagnose and trace back to the original herd to look for a source or other infected animals.

The department's Division of Animal Industry is launching an education effort to get word of the new rule out to producers, dealers, auction markets, petting zoos, 4-H clubs, and any other entities that deal with goats and sheep.

For more information about Administrative Code Rule 5C-29, the Scrapie rule, contact the Department's Division of Animal Industry at (850) 410-0900 or visit [www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai).

## **Wheat Fertility Recommendations**

Soil fertility is one of the primary yield building components of small grain management. A properly managed fertility program, including recommended fertilization and liming practices, can improve yield and quality more than any other single management practice. Such a program includes soil testing, knowledge of crop nutrient requirements and removal, timely application of nutrients and record-keeping.

Nutrient uptake and removal varies with yield (Table 1). Most fertilizer recommendations account only for nutrients removed in the grain. When straw is also removed, additions of phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and sulfur (S) should be increased for the following crop.

**Table 1. Nutrient uptake and nutrient removal by wheat at different yield levels. Removal based on grain only.**

Yield bu/A						
40		70		100		
Nutrient	Uptake	Removal	Uptake	Removal	Uptake	Removal
-----pounds per acre-----						
N	75	46	130	80	188	115
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	27	22	47	38	68	55
K <sub>2</sub> O	81	14	142	24	203	34
Mg	12	NA	21	NA	30	NA
S	10	NA	18	NA	25	NA

### Nitrogen (N)

**Nitrogen rates and timing of application are key management factors for making good wheat yields.** Nitrogen rates should be based on soil potential, cultivar, realistic yield goal, previous crop and residual N. For expected wheat yields of 40 to 70 bushels per acre, use a total N rate of 80 to 100 pounds per acre. Adjust this rate based on the preceding crop. If following peanuts or soybeans, decrease the N rate by 20 to 40 pounds per acre. If following grain sorghum or cotton, increase by 20 to 40 pounds N per acre. Timing of N fertilization should be based on the pattern of uptake by the crop. Demand for N is relatively low in the fall but increases rapidly in the spring just prior to stem elongation (usually the last week in January / first part of February) Therefore, apply 20 to 40 pounds of nitrogen per acre at planting, and the remaining N prior to stem elongation. Use the lower rate at planting on heavier-textured soils and the higher rate on sandy soils. Also, excessive N rates applied in the fall could result in a number of problems including surplus vegetative growth, winter kill, disease incidence and lodging, reduction in milling properties and flour quality, and possibly nitrate contamination of the groundwater.

When the yield goal exceeds 70 bushels per acre, use a total N rate of 120 pounds acre. Adjust this rate for the preceding crop as above. Also, on sandy soils, use two topdress N applications, one at early tillering and another at early jointing. This can improve yields when N leaching conditions occur. Although yields may not always be improved, this practice can also reduce the amount of N released into the environment, and offers the chance to adjust N rates downward if climatic or economic conditions do not warrant the added expense of the last N application.

Nitrogen fertilizer prices have increased significantly over the last five years and are currently at an all-time high. Therefore, choosing the proper rate and timing of application is critical in terms of making an economic yield. Also, there are still a good number of different nitrogen fertilizers to choose from that vary in characteristics and price. Be careful not to choose a nitrogen fertilizer based on price alone. In addition, there is currently a shift away from ammonium nitrate to urea. Urea volatilization is a concern under hot and dry conditions. The timing of N applications on wheat are typically not that conducive to losing large amounts of N from urea. Irrigation or

rainfall can reduce N losses from volatilization of urea. Urease inhibitors are also commercially available that when added to urea can reduce volatilization losses.

### Other Nutrients

Since 65% of the total P uptake and 90% of the total K uptake occurs before the boot stage, these nutrients should be applied according to soil test before planting and thoroughly incorporated into the rooting zone. When double cropping after wheat, apply P and K for fall and spring crops prior to fall planting, except on deep sands. In this case, split K applications between the fall and spring crops.

Sulfur (S) leaches readily in sandy soil horizons, but accumulates in subsoil clay horizons. If the depth to clay is greater than 16 inches, apply at least 10 pounds of S per acre. Best results are obtained when S is supplied with topdress N applications.

Micronutrient levels in our soils are usually adequate for wheat production unless soils have been over-limed. Low zinc (Zn) levels and it is easily corrected by applications of three pounds of elemental Zn per acre in the preplant fertilizer. Manganese (Mn) deficiency occurs most frequently in poorly drained soils of the Flatwoods region. Availability of Mn declines significantly as pH increases above 6.2 to 6.5 in these soils. Soil applications seldom correct the problem since Mn is readily converted to unavailable forms. Foliar applications of 0.5 pounds of Mn per acre as  $MnSO_4$  or 0.25 pounds of Mn per acre as Mn chelate will correct deficiencies, but two or more applications may be required.

### Poultry Litter Could be Considered for Next Years Wheat Crop

Managed properly, poultry litter (manure mixed with bedding material) can be a valuable source of plant nutrients for wheat production. It is most like a complete fertilizer, containing significant amounts of primary, secondary and micronutrients except for boron. On average, broiler litter contains approximately 3 % N, 3 %  $P_2O_5$  and 2 %  $K_2O$  (fertilizer value of 3-3-2). Based on this average, one ton of poultry litter contains 60 lbs of N, 40 lbs of  $P_2O_5$  and 40 lbs of  $K_2O$ . Based on current fertilizer prices for N, P and K, poultry litter is valued at approximately \$80/ton. This figure does take into account that only 60 % of the total N is available to the first crop and P and K, 80 %. Also, the nutrient content of litter does vary significantly, depending on moisture content, type of bird, feed ration and especially storage and handling methods. Therefore, it is highly recommended that litter be analyzed for nutrients by a reputable laboratory before determining application rates and value.

Application rates of poultry litter for fertilizer are usually based on the nitrogen requirement for the crop grown. Buildup of phosphorus however is an increasing concern due to water quality issues. **Therefore poultry litter is best used as a preplant incorporated, complete fertilizer to supply P, K, secondary and micronutrients to the crop on a timely basis.** For wheat, an application of 2 ton/a of poultry litter (preplant incorporated) will supply an adequate amount of fall N and should meet the P and K requirements of even a soil testing low in P and K. The remainder of the N requirement should then be applied in the spring using inorganic/commercial N fertilizer. Release of N from litter in the spring will depend on a number of factors, especially weather conditions. Therefore, the crop should be monitored in the spring and topdress applications of inorganic, commercial fertilizer N should be adjusted accordingly.

Source:

UGA Wheat Production Guide

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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.

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Sincerely,

Mike Donahoe  
County Director  
Santa Rosa County

John D. Atkins  
Extension Agent  
Santa Rosa County

# 2009 Farm Day

## Location

Walnut Hill Community Center  
7850 Highway 97  
Walnut Hill Florida 32568

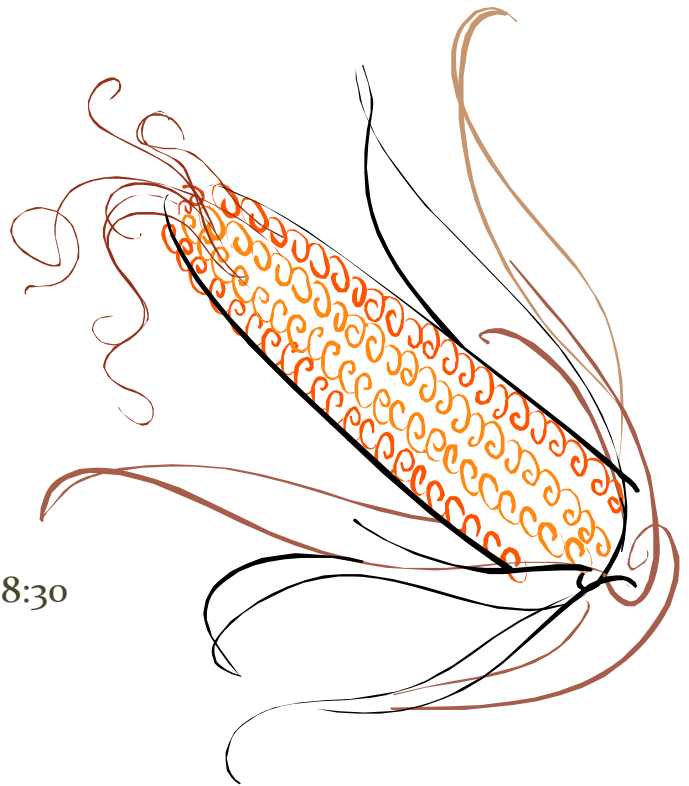
**Thursday – January 29, 2009**

## Time

Registration 8:00 a.m. – Sessions begin at 8:30

## Topics Include:

- Nematode and Diseases in Soybeans
- Insect Control in Soybeans
- Weed Control in Soybeans
- Soybean Production and IPM controls for Profit
- Corn Management: Varieties, Pest Control, and the Production Calendar
- High yielding wheat: Minimizing Inputs while Maximizing Yields



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](mailto:libbiej@ufl.edu)

## Times and Speakers:

- Soybean Insect Control **8:30-9:00**
  - Dr. Tim Reed (Auburn)
    - Talk will cover insect identification and integrated pest management for insect control.
  
- Weed Control in soybeans **9:00-9:15**
  - Dr. Barry Brecke (UF)
    - Speaker will discuss weed identification and control in soybeans.
  
- Soybean Management Practices, Double Cropping, and Late Planted Crops **9:15-10:15**
  - Dr. David Wright (Auburn)
    - 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. David Wright (UF)
    - Speaker will discuss management strategies to utilize double cropping methods on-farm.
  
- BREAK 10:15-10:30**
  
- Nematode and disease control in soybeans **10:30-11:00**
  - Dr. Kathy Flanders (Auburn)
    - Speaker will discuss soybean diseases. Emphasis will be on identifying diseases, proper scouting techniques, timing of fungicide applications. She will also provide an update on soybean rust for the southeast U.S.
  
- Corn Management Strategies **11:00-12:00**
  - Dr. Dewey Lee (University of Georgia)
    - Speaker will discuss all aspects of producing corn in the coastal south—emphasis on planting good varieties, irrigation timing, identifying and controlling diseases, and timely harvests.

### **LUNCH 12-1:00**

- High yielding wheat and minimizing inputs while maximizing yields
  - Dr. Steve Harrison, (LSU) **1:00-2:00**
    - Dr. Harrison will discuss life cycle of wheat, need for timely fertilization, disease, insect, and weed control, timely harvests, and what to do to take the crop into harvest.

**ADJOURN 2:00 p.m.**





# 2009 Gulf Coast Agribusiness Conference

**“Growing Small Farms”**

**Thursday, February 26, 2009**

**7:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

**Jay Community Center (850) 675-6654**

**5259 Booker Lane, Jay, FL 32565**

## Agenda

7:30 – 8:30 AM	<b>Registration</b>
8:30 – 8:35 AM	<b>Welcome</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don Salter, Santa Rosa County Commissioner, District 3</li> </ul>
8:35 – 8:40 AM	<b>Introduction of Speakers</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cindy Anderson, Executive Director, Team Santa Rosa</li> </ul>
8:40 – 9:00 AM	<b>Panhandle Fresh Marketing Association: From Our Farm to Your Table</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cindy Anderson, Executive Director, Team Santa Rosa</li> </ul>
9:00 – 9:40 AM	<b>Florida Small Farms – A Bright Future</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Bob Hochmuth, University of Florida, Multi County Vegetable Extension Agent</li> </ul>
9:40 – 10:20 AM	<b>Bees for Pollination</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doug Corbin, Consumer Protection Specialist, Apira Inspector</li> </ul>
10:20 – 10:35 AM	<b>Break</b>
10:35 – 11:15 AM	<b>Farm Records and Tax Management for Small Farms</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Brown, Extension Economist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System</li> </ul>
11:15 – 11:55 AM	<b>Exploring Successful Small Farms – Panel Discussion:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roger Elliot, Green Cedars Farm</li> <li>• Dr. Bob Hochmuth, University of Florida, Multi County Vegetable Extension Agent</li> <li>• Dan Mullins, Santa Rosa County Extension Agent</li> <li>• Herb Lundy, Blueberry Patch</li> <li>• James &amp; Diane Dennis, Double D Farms</li> </ul>
12:00 – 1:00 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 – 1:30 PM	<b>Depart for the University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center</b>
1:30 – 2:30 PM	<b>Growing Crops for Oil and Ethanol Production / On Farm Biodiesel Production</b>
	Bob Cole, Santa Rosa County Commissioner / John Atkins, Santa Rosa County Extension Agent Bruce Ward, Walton County Extension Agent/ Mike Goodchild, Walton County Extension Agent Wilson Faircloth, National Peanut Lab
2:30 – 3:30 PM	<b>Basic Hydroponic Production / Greenhouse Production</b>
	William Wendt, WFREC, Alternative Crops Program Manager

**Pre-Registration Fee: \$20.00 / After February 19, 2009: \$25.00**

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return via mail or fax to: Jennifer Walters, TEAM Santa Rosa EDC, 6491 Caroline Street, Suite 4, Milton, FL 32570, fax: 850-623-5932. Make check payable to TEAM Santa Rosa. For more information on the conference or sponsorships, please call Robin Vickers at 850-983-5216 x. 113 (rvickers@ufl.edu).**

**Map - Jay Community Center (850) 675-6654**  
**5259 Booker Lane, Jay, FL 32565**

