



Santa Rosa County Ag. Sheet
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July, 2009

Dates to Remember

- Tax Savings and Conservation Opportunities for Agricultural Lands.....July 22, 2009
(For more information see flyer)
- Informational DOT Meeting Scheduled.....August 11, 2009
(Information below)
- Peanut Field Day.....August 20, 2009
(For more information see page 6)

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INFORMATIONAL DOT MEETING SCHEDULED

FFB Assistant Director of Field Services Allen Scheffer reports that Santa Rosa County Farm Bureau will be hosting an “Informational/Educational Meeting” to discuss current rules, regulations and laws concerning the hauling of agricultural products and the driving of agricultural equipment on the roadways of Florida. This meeting will be held Tuesday night, August 11, at the Jay Community Center. It will begin at 6 pm with a dinner being served. Dinner is sponsored by Smith Tractor, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, JHL Insurance and Santa Rosa County Farm Bureau. RSVP is required by August 7. To do so, please call the Santa Rosa County Farm Bureau office at (850) 675-4572 or Scheffer at (352) 538-3182.

BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

JULY

- Control weeds in summer pastures.
- Apply nitrogen to warm season pastures, if needed.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for army worms and mole crickets, and treat if necessary.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd.
- Watch for evidence of footrot and treat.
- Consider preconditioning calves before sale including vaccination for shipping fever and IBR at least 3 weeks before sale.
- Check dust bags.
- Update market information and plans.
- Re-vaccinate calves at weaning for blackleg.

AUGUST

- Cut corn silage.
- Cut hay.
- Apply lime for fall and winter crops.
- Harvest Bahiagrass seed.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Update market information and marketing plans.
- Check for army worms, spittlebugs, and mole crickets, and treat if necessary.
- Check dust bags.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd.
- Watch for evidence of abortions.
- Observe animals regularly for signs of disease.
- If cattle grubs were found on cattle last winter or heel flies were observed in the pasture, treat for cattle grubs this month.

Cotton Plant Growth Regulators

As the crop progresses, plant growth regulator applications will, or in some cases have, begun. Although, PGR's have been around for over 30 years and everyone is very familiar with their use, a discussion of how these products work as well as typical crop response is warranted. Essentially a plant growth regulator reduces the amount of growth hormones within the cotton plant. The result of this is reduced division and elongation of plant cells which leads to smaller, thicker leaves, reduced internode length, reduced number of nodes, and shorter plants. Plant height reductions of 5 to 15% are common following application of a plant growth regulator. However, plant growth regulators will not shrink existing leaves and stems, only limit further growth. Based upon the timeline that this crop is on, plant growth regulator application should be more carefully considered than usual. Late planted cotton tends to be highly vigorous and produces higher amounts of vegetative growth due to crop development during periods of warm temperatures and long day lengths. Plant

growth regulator application may restrict development of vegetative growth and force the plant to allocate resources to fruit retention and boll development. However, care must be exercised when applying plant growth regulators. Since these products restrict growth and development, application to cotton that is already under stress (i.e. lack of water, etc.) should be approached with caution as these applications may lead to yield reductions. Yield response to plant growth regulator application has always been erratic. A review of scientific research reveals positive yield responses to plant growth regulator application, negative yield response, and no yield response whatsoever. Generally, yield response has been minimal during long, favorable growing seasons when excess vegetative growth is not an issue. Yield decreases have typically been observed when PGR applications were made to stressed cotton.

Product selection can also be confusing as there is a plethora of products on the market today. Claims of yield and or fiber quality benefits with selected products are also very common. Research and Extension personnel from across the Cotton Belt have been addressing this issue for the past couple of seasons. Based on our research, all mepiquat based products provided similar plant height reductions. In addition, no yield response was observed due to application of any plant growth regulator. Although some extremely minor fiber quality differences were observed, these differences were of little economic importance at the end of the year. Based upon our research, product selection should be based upon the needs of your operation not upon potential yield or fiber quality benefits. If you are on a very tight budget and need to save money anywhere possible, the cheapest available (although still a quality product) PGR may be best. However, if you would rather handle less material, products that have application rates in the 2-4 oz/acre range may be preferred over those that are applied at 8-16 oz/acre.

Source: Dr. Darrin Dodds, Miss. Crop Situation 6/26/09

Peanut Disease Management for July

(Compiled by: John Atkins, Gerald Edmondson, Libbie Johnson)

Early indications are that the 2009 peanut season could be another good year for white mold and a tough year for growers. Conditions are very favorable for development of white mold (very warm temperatures followed by 2 -3 days of rainy weather across our area and peanut crop developing a foliar canopy that traps humidity).

Effective management of white mold often includes a) good crop rotation, b) use of a variety with increased resistance to the disease, and c) timely applications of effective fungicides. There are a number of fungicides currently labeled for the management of white mold on peanut and all can be effective when applied at the right time, at the correct rate, and with adequate spray volume. These fungicides include Folicur and generic tebuconazole products, Provost, Abound, Headline, Evito, Artisan and Convoy. Many of our peanut fields are entering the time frame when we should consider initiating white mold sprays.

If white mold becomes troublesome in a field (that is the grower is finding large hits of white mold) growers should ensure that their sprayer is calibrated correctly and that they are using an appropriate spray volume. Movement of the fungicide to the crown of the peanut plant can be improved by timing the application to a period before expected rainfall. In severe cases of white mold, a grower may want to consider using a fungicide containing flutolanil (Artisan, Convoy) or increasing the rate of a fungicide such as Provost or Abound to its upper rate (10.7 and 24 fl oz, respectively).

Convoy is a new fungicide from Nichino and contains only flutolanil (unlike Artisan that contains both flutolanil and propiconazole). Growers who use Convoy will need to tank-mix a leaf spot material with it for

control of soilborne diseases as well as leaf spot diseases. Growers who have used 0.5 lb/A Moncut in the past would need to use 12 fl oz/A Convoy to achieve the same amount of product.

Growers who have used 1.0 lb/A Moncut in the past would need to use 24 fl oz/A Convoy to achieve the same amount of product.

Growers who have used 1.07 lb/A Moncut in the past would need to use 26 fl oz/A Convoy to achieve the same amount of product.

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

Spraying Peanuts at Night to Control Soilborne Disease

Dr. Tim Brenneman, University of Georgia, has done considerable work on this application timing.

Bottom line: spraying peanuts after dark when the leaves are folded, especially in early morning hours with the presence of dew, allows the soilborne fungicide to better reach the intended target, the crown of the plant. The benefits of spraying at night are across all soilborne fungicides. Growers spraying at night have the potential to better control soilborne diseases and improve yields.

Are there any risks to spraying at night?

1. Operating of equipment is more difficult and potentially more dangerous in the dark and with a tired operator.
2. Spraying peanuts at night where protectant-only fungicides like chlorthalonil or ELAST is tank-mixed with a soilborne material like Convoy can lead to reduced leaf spot control. (Note: where the leaf spot material has some systemic activity, we have not seen a reduction in leaf spot control).
3. Based upon current data, there are no other risks- plots treated at night have at least the disease control and yield as plots sprayed during the day, and typically more.

Who should consider using night applications of soilborne fungicides? Any grower who has had or anticipates problems controlling soilborne diseases and who is looking for an additional tool to improve control.

Asian Rust on Soybeans: Dr. Ed Sikora, AU Plant Pathologist

The mild winter allowed soybean rust to successfully overwinter at relatively low levels in Mobile County, and in a few counties in Louisiana, South Georgia, and in Florida. This, along with the relatively cool, wet spring has allowed the disease to be more active than in recent years. In Alabama, the disease was found on June 2 in a soybean sentinel plot near Fruitdale in Washington County. The disease has since then been detected on kudzu in Mobile, Baldwin, Conecuh, Covington and Geneva Counties. There are also new reports of the disease in soybean sentinel plots in Louisiana, and on Kudzu in Georgia, Florida (Quincy area) and Texas. This is the earliest soybean rust has ever been found on soybeans in Alabama or Louisiana. The earliest we have seen rust on soybean in Alabama was during the last week of June in 3 of the past 4 years, and not until late July in 2008. This indicates that rust has the potential to be a more significant problem this year depending on how weather conditions develop over the next few months.

The disease has not yet been detected in the soybean sentinel plot in Fairhope.

Growers in Northwest Florida and Southwest Alabama with soybeans at the R3 to R4 growth stage or later should scout fields closely and consider the use of a fungicide at this time if a fungicide has not been applied previously. Since it is likely these fields have been exposed to SBR, a tank mix combination of a strobilurin and a triazole fungicide, or a prepackaged tank-mix of the two products, would be most beneficial.

Fungicides used before bloom are not considered economical. Though symptoms of soybean rust can occur on soybeans before bloom, this has not yet been observed in Alabama. Soybeans that have reached the full pod-R6 growth stage should not be sprayed as there appears to be little benefit from a fungicide application after this growth period has been reached. There have been several changes this past year to the fungicides that will be and are now labeled for management of soybean rust. In this multi-state effort, Daren Mueller of Iowa State University has taken the lead to keep track of the constant changes. These are now posted on the soybean rust fungicide manual website: <http://oardc.osu.edu/soyrustr/> in Appendix B.

The temperatures have been hovering around 100 degrees with a few scattered thunderstorms. Not perfect weather for rust development at this time. However, control measures should be considered.

Soybean Rust Hot Line: 800-446-0388.

For more information on soybean rust, view the USDA rust information web site at: <http://sbr.ipmPIPE.org>
When viewing the national map, click on Florida and Alabama to review State updates.

Grazonnext: A “New” Herbicide For Pastures

A couple of weeks ago, new herbicide was launched by Dow AgroSciences called Grazonnext. In all actuality, this really is not a new herbicide, but a new name. Grazonnext contains aminopyralid and 2,4-D at the same concentration as that of ForeFront herbicide. A quick look at the labels for both ForeFront and Grazonnext will show that the only difference is the name itself, as everything else remains the same.

A question we are getting a lot already is “Why?” Dow AgroSciences is phasing out Grazon P + D, a product we have never had in Florida, but is widely used in the rest of the Southeast and elsewhere. They are replacing this product with Grazonnext, due to the environmental concerns with picloram in Grazon P + D.

What about the price? Grazon P + D is an effective and economical herbicide in states where it is approved for use. Since Grazonnext has been released as a means to phase out Grazon P + D, Dow AgroSciences had to be sure that Grazonnext was also an economical choice as well. As a result, Grazonnext is approximately \$20/gallon cheaper than Forefront herbicide. Therefore, at the 2 pt/acre rate, ranchers can expect the herbicide to cost between \$8.50 to \$10/acre.

Currently, our recommendations for pasture weed control recommend ForeFront for many weed species. Since Grazonnext and ForeFront are exactly the same, one can replace the name ForeFront with Grazonnext wherever it is seen in our recommendations. If you have any further questions about this product, then feel free to contact us

Source: Dr. Brent Sellers, Extension Weed Specialist, University of Florida, IFAS
Dr. Jay Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist, University of Florida, IFAS

Crabgrass and Sandbur Control in Bermudagrass

The high temperatures and frequent rainfall of summer is great bermudagrass growth, but it also creates ideal conditions for annual grasses like crabgrass and sandbur. Crabgrass has excellent forage quality and can be ideal for grazing.

However, the delayed drying time and off-color often causes problems for those attempting to produce high-quality bermudagrass hay. Sandbur can be even worse by filling the bale with extremely sharp burs that can render the hay inedible.

Control of crabgrass can be difficult to achieve. For several years it has been rumored that pendimethalin (Prowl H2O) is close to receiving a registration for preemergence control crabgrass and sandbur in bermudagrass hayfields. But to date, this registration has not been finalized. Until this occurs, there are no preemergence herbicides labeled for annual grass control. This leaves us with postemergence options – which are few.

One choice is imazapic (Plateau, Impose, etc). Imazapic is highly effective on several grass and sedge species, but can also be injurious to bermudagrass. Generally speaking, you can expect to see bermudagrass stunted for 3 to 4 weeks and this may result in the loss of one hay cutting. To minimize this impact, applications should not be made until the bermudagrass is actively growing and rainfall is common. Early season applications can be highly injurious, resulting in delayed growth for much of the season. Although imazapic can be injurious, proper use of this herbicide can result in premium, weed free, bermudagrass hay.

Another choice is between-cutting glyphosate use. Glyphosate can be applied at 8 to 10 fl. oz/A immediately after hay is removed from the field, but prior to bermudagrass regrowth. Generally speaking, this application should be made within 1 or 2 days after hay removal (or 7 to 10 days after cutting). Delaying this application until bermudagrass regrowth has occurred can result in bermudagrass stunting, but using low glyphosate rates as recommended here will generally not cause severe injury. The drawback to this option is that total crabgrass and sandbur control is rarely achieved. These low rates, coupled with applications to plants with little leaf surface area, results in fair levels of control. But, this application is relatively inexpensive and avoids much of the bermudagrass injury issues associated with imazapic.

Source: Dr. Brent Sellers, Extension Weed Specialist, University of Florida, IFAS
Dr. Jay Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist, University of Florida, IFAS

Panhandle Agriculture Newsletter

Panhandle Agriculture is a new bi-monthly newsletter created this year by University of Florida Agricultural Extension Agents in Northwest Florida. Our goal is to provide the agricultural community of northwest Florida pertinent, research-based information. *Panhandle Agriculture* will provide articles on row-crops, livestock, vegetables, alternative crops, pesticides, ponds, invasive species, natural resources, forage, and ag-economics. The first three issues of the newsletter are posted on our website in the Agriculture section at <http://santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu/>. Also check out *Gardening in the Panhandle* in the Lawn and Garden and *Living in the Panhandle* in the Families & Consumers sections.

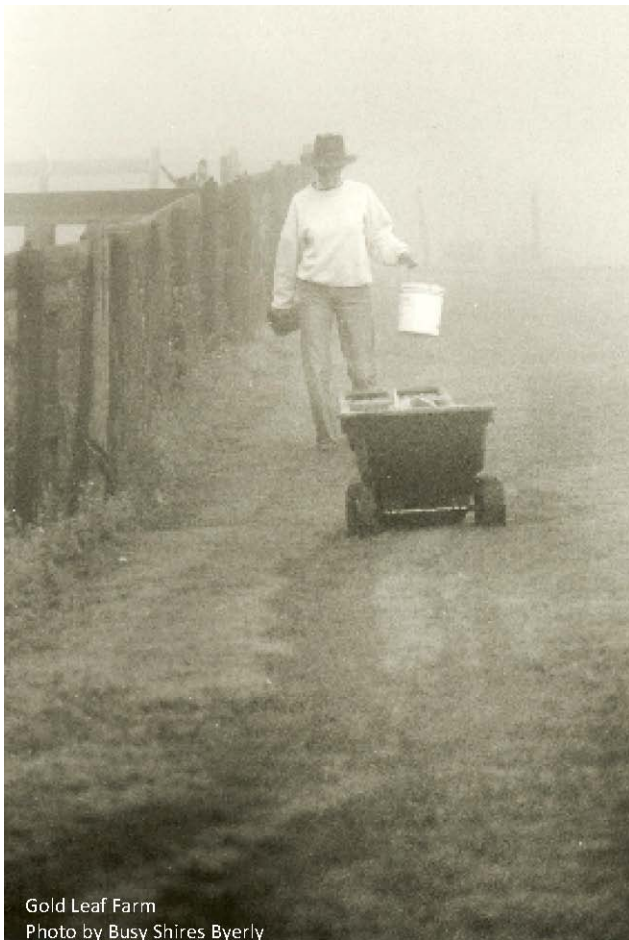
2009 Peanut Field Day, Marianna NFREC

The annual Peanut Field Day will be held at the Marianna North Florida Research and Education Center on Thursday, August 20, 2009 starting with registration at 8:00 AM. A tour of field studies will be held beginning at 8:30 AM. Topics to be addressed include disease and nematode control, new varieties, and other peanut production issues. A meal will be provided at noon. CEUs will be available at registration. The Marianna NFREC is located seven miles north of Marianna on Highway 71 or one mile south of Greenwood. For more info call (850) 482-9004.

Tax Savings and Conservation Opportunities for Agricultural Lands

A Seminar for Landowners, Professionals, and Interested Citizens

Wednesday, July 22, 2009
9:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m.



Gold Leaf Farm
Photo by Busy Shires Byerly

Seminar Topics:

- Basics of Conservation Easements
- Conservation Easement Appraisals
- Asset Protection/Wealth Preservation
- Protect your farm or ranch from estate taxes
- Income, estate and property tax incentives for qualifying landowners

Live Location:

Leon County Agricultural Center (IFAS Extension Office), 615 Paul Russell Road, **Tallahassee, Florida** (local contact – Will Sheftall 2292248470)

Polycom Videoconference Locations:

Santa Rosa County IFAS Extension, 6263 Dogwood Drive, **Milton, Florida**
(local contact Gerald Edmundson 8506895850)

Jackson County IFAS Extension, 2741 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 3, **Mariana, Florida**

(local contact Doug Mayo 8504829620)



Seminar Hosts: Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc., PO Box 134, Micanopy, Florida 32677 Phone: 3524661178 website: www.conserveflorida.org email: info@conserveflorida.org Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy UFIFAS Cooperative Extension

All RSVP's to: Ellen at 3523271769 or ellen@conserveflorida.org \$10 program cost at the door (lunch, refreshments, materials)

Thank you

Contact Information: Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. (CTF)

PO Box 134, Micanopy, FL 32667

John Henry November, Land Conservation Assistant Director

Email: john@conserveflorida.org Website: www.conserveflorida.org 904-525-3042**Headline: Tax Savings and Conservation Opportunities for Agricultural Lands**

Dateline: July 22, 2009

Live Location:

Leon County Agricultural Center (IFAS Extension Office), Tallahassee, Florida; (615 Paul Russell Road)

Polycom Videoconference Locations:

Santa Rosa County IFAS Extension, Milton, Florida (6263 Dogwood Dr)

Jackson County IFAS Extension, Marianna, Florida (2741 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 3)

The Conservation Trust for Florida is hosting a workshop on agricultural lands conservation and estate planning for landowners and stakeholders. This workshop will be held on Wednesday July 22nd from 9:00AM until 2:30PM at Leon County Agricultural Center (IFAS Extension Office) located at 615 Paul Russell Road in Tallahassee, FL. The workshop also will be telecast to IFAS Extension offices in Santa Rosa and Jackson Counties. The workshop is co-hosted by Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy. Lunch will be included. Seminar cost is \$10 for refreshments and materials.

Conservation easements can help landowners realize tax savings on property taxes, federal income taxes and, in some cases, estate taxes. Based on the value of the conservation easement, the federal tax incentives allow qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100 percent (landowners 50 percent) of their total income the year of the conservation easement donation. Any remaining value of the donated easement can be deducted, (up to 100 percent of the landowners income), and carried forward for 15 years; for a potential total of 16 years of no federal income taxes.

Nancy Peterson, Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. Board of Directors, will serve as moderator. Speakers and topics include: Brian Hershorin Esq., tax benefits of conservation easements; Cindy Wright, MAI - appraising conservation easements; Tall Timbers Executive Director Lane Green - successful land stewardship through research, conservation and education; Marlene Conaway, county comprehensive planning for agriculture lands, Clay Henderson Esq., Amendment 4's effects on property tax incentives for conservation lands; Joseph Maltese Certified Financial Planner, life insurance as an estate planning tool; Jerry Joiner- USDA Farm Bill Program; and a landowner with a conservation easement will discuss stewardship of conservation easements from a landowner's perspective.

The goal of the workshop is to reach landowners who are faced with an array of tough decisions concerning the future of their land and to inform them about conservation options. Farmers and ranchers will learn about current tax incentives for land conservation, the beneficial economic impacts of conservation easements and about ways to reduce property, federal income, and estate taxes. In addition, conservation easement appraisal information and national, county, and state resources for land protection will be addressed. Farmers, ranchers, landowners, accountants, appraisers, lawyers, students, and others interested in the protection of the special places in our state are encouraged to attend the workshop. **Please register by contacting Ellen Huntley Dubé at 352-372-6568 or by email at ellen@conserveflorida.org.** The \$10 registration for lunch will be accepted at the seminar sites.

CTF Executive Director Busy Shires Byerly recognizes that farms, ranches, and forestlands are an essential resource for Florida's economy, environment, and rural way of life. She stresses, "Florida is at a critical place in assuring that landowners have practical financial options for their lands as they consider their long term land management goals."

The workshop is part of a series of workshops geared towards landowners to make effective conservation management decisions for their families and for future generations. The Conservation Trust for Florida is hosting the workshops with its partners, including Tall Timbers, the UF-IFAS Extension Offices and is supported with funding from the Quail Roost Foundation, Progress Energy, Sally Venerable, and the Educational Foundation of America. Four workshops will be held from January 2009 to February 2010 at regional centers to facilitate attendance from multiple counties throughout the state.

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

RENEWAL FORM

SANTA ROSA COUNTY AG SHEET NEWSLETTER

Government regulations require us to periodically purge our mailing lists. You may renew this newsletter by:
(1) neatly fill in this sheet and mailing it to the Santa Rosa County Extension Office at P.O. Box 37, Jay, FL 32565 –or-
(2) calling us at (850) 675-6654 and providing your name and mailing address.

Due to budget cuts, we encourage you to allow us to send you the newsletter through your email. To receive an electronic copy, send an email with your name and email address to janiskay@ufl.edu.

Deadline for renewal is August 15. If a renewal is not received, you will be automatically removed from our mailing list.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____