

## Dates to Remember

- November 18**      *Forestry Cooperative Satellite Downlink*  
Crestview—November 18—1:30-4:00 PM
- November 24**      *Beef Cattle Management Program*  
Paxton Community Center, Paxton, Florida—6:00-8:00  
PM—RSVP to 689-5850 by November 21
- December 3**        *Drip Irrigation School*  
NFREC—Live Oak, Florida—More Information Call  
(396) 362-1725
- December 9**        *Suwannee Valley Field & Greenhouse Workshop*  
NFREC—Live Oak, Florida—More Information Call  
(396) 362-1725

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## BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

### November

- Have soils tested.
- Observe cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
- Use mineral with high level of magnesium if grass tetany has been a problem in the past.
- Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
- Maintain adequate nutrient level for cow herd.
- Calve in well-drained pastures.
- Survey pastures for poisonous plants.
- Start summarizing your annual records, both production and financial—then you will have time to make adjustments for tax purposes.
- Re-evaluate winter feeding program and feed supplies.
- Get breeding soundness exams on bull battery so you have time to find replacements if some fail. Implement bull conditioning program.
- Implement bull conditioning program.
- Review plans and arrangements for the upcoming breeding season.
- Check progress of developing replacement heifers—are they going to meet your target weight by the start of the breeding season?

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The Okaloosa 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 Okaloosa County Extension Office at least 5 days prior to the program so that proper consideration may be given to the request.

## December

- Begin grazing small grain pastures (if ready).
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
- Deworm cows and heifers prior to winter feeding season.
- Observe regularly for calving difficulties.
- Rotate calving pastures to prevent diseases.
- Watch for scours in calves.
- Investigate health of bulls before you buy.
- Have dead animals posted by a veterinarian or diagnostic laboratory.
- Complete review of management plan and update for next year. Check replacement heifers to be sure they will be ready to breed 3-4 weeks prior to the main cow herd.

Source: Animal Science Newsletter, November 2003

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### CRIMSON CLOVER (for Northern Florida)

Crimson clover is one of the most reliable cool season annual clovers that we can plant in north and northwest Florida. It is usually grazed but can be mechanically harvested.

“Mechanical Harvesting: Mixtures of crimson clover and winter annual grasses can make excellent quality hay or silage. Early spring growth of crimson clover often contains more than 20% crude protein and can be as high as 80% digestible. Even at full bloom the forage may contain 12 to 14% crude protein and 60 to 65% digestible nutrients on a dry matter basis. Crimson clover alone often produces 1 to 2 tons of dry matter per acre, while mixtures with winter annual grasses usually yield considerably higher.

Unfortunately, spring weather conditions in the Southeast often make hay harvest at the correct time difficult. In addition, crimson clover forage dries slowly, prolonging the period of vulnerability to rain damage. Consequently, forage of winter annuals, including crimson clover, is most frequently harvested by grazing or as silage.

Winter annual mixtures containing crimson clover planted on a prepared seedbed in early autumn can often be grazed until early to mid-March and still produce a hay or silage harvest. Harvest should be made at the early bloom stage of the clover. Regrowth from crimson clover after mechanical harvesting is usually poor, so only one harvest can be expected to contain significant quantities of clover.”

Source: Ball, D. M., and G. D. Lakefield,

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### OVERSEEDING WARM SEASON PERENNIALS WITH COOL SEASON ANNUALS

When overseeding pastures or hay fields, wait until growth slows and remove all excess forage by grazing or mechanical harvest before planting. Overseeding works best where there is plentiful soil moisture throughout the growing season. Site or soil type also plays an important role in successfully growing cool season annuals: Soils and sites must be carefully selected. Clay soils, sandy soils underlaid by clay, (and moist flatwoods soils in some locations) produce the best results. Of course if irrigation is available,

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these forages can be grown almost anywhere.

Over seeding bahiagrass pastures: The Bahiagrass sod should be cultivated to obtain 30 to 50 percent disturbance when overseeding. This will reduce the bahiagrass competition with the ryegrass or clover seedlings.

Overseeding bermudagrass hay fields in northern Florida: If overseeding is done with the intention of harvesting the crop as hay or silage, then overseeding with small grains and/or crimson clover may work best as compared to ryegrass. Ryegrass has a longer growing season and will compete with the bermudagrass in the spring especially if it is allowed to accumulate for harvesting as hay or silage. This competition may be detrimental to the bermudagrass stand. On the other hand, if it is grazed, then the competition may be controlled.

Overseeding Perennial Peanut: If overseeding for hay production or grazing, again oats or one of the other small grains or crimson clover would be the better choices. I have seen crimson clover overseeded on a small perennial peanut pasture and used for creep grazing that was very successful.

Source: Agronomy Notes, University of Florida/IFAS, November, 2003

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## **CALF PREDICTABILITY THROUGH MANAGEMENT MEANS ADDED VALUE**

Management practices can mean added value if they are merchandised through calf predictability. The beef industry does not need a predictable calf. What the industry needs are pens of cattle that are uniform and that will perform in a consistent and predictable fashion as a group. A fast gaining steer in a pen of slow gaining steers is not an asset. By the time the pen is shipped to the packer the single fast gaining steer will probably be too fat and too heavy. The ideal situation, of course, is to produce pens of fast gaining, efficient, quality cattle. Management decisions and practices can lead to uniform predictability and when merchandised properly can mean added value for the producer.

Management practices should be driven by economics. The producer who sells feeder calves needs to look at management practices that can net additional dollars at sale time. Maximum gain or maximum price does not always correspond with maximum net return.

Major management decisions include the genetic selection of seedstock and the breeding systems for predictable production along with forage systems. Both are extremely long term commitments that are paramount.

Uniform, predictable groups of cattle are needed in the feedlot. A uniform group of cattle means a narrow weight range, which usually means a similar age. This means a relatively short breeding and calving season.

The following is a short list of conceivable management practices that add to predictability:

- Castration and dehorning
- Maintaining the health of cattle
- Reducing stress during shipping and handling

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- Implanting calves
- Control of parasites
- Preconditioning program

There are management practices that each producer can use to improve the predictability and value of calves. Some of these, like implanting, pay off with added weight gain. Some like castration and dehorning, improve the marketability of cattle. Some, like vaccination and herd health programs are important in establishing the reputation of a producer and the reputation of cattle from an area with buyers. In summary, it is a never ending process for the producer to use wise management decisions that can be merchandised to reap added value benefits.

Source: Charles A. McPeake, Extension Animal Scientist, University of Georgia



## FALL NEMATODE SAMPLING

Fall is the best time to sample soil and roots for nematodes to predict problems that may develop in many vegetable, agronomic, ornamental and turf plantings for the coming year. Plants have grown throughout the spring and summer and nematode numbers have steadily increased on roots to their highest levels. Additionally, destructive sampling to determine root galling, is most acceptable in the fall since most plants are nearing the end of the growing cycle. In most cases, laboratory assays of soil and

sometimes plant roots must be conducted for accurate diagnoses of nematode problems or potential problems. Nematode analyses are available from both public (e.g. UF/IFAS) and private laboratories. These laboratories, however, must receive samples that are collected and handled properly. Homeowners, commercial growers, consultants, and other professionals are most familiar with collecting and submitting soil samples for nutrient analyses. Thus many times, force of habit dictates handling nematode samples similarly, which may result in poor sample condition upon reaching the laboratory. To avoid this, a few simple principles should be kept in mind concerning nematodes:

1) Nematodes have fragile bodies and no skeleton; 2) Nematodes must always be surrounded by a film of water or they will desiccate rapidly; and 3) Nematodes cannot survive extremes in temperature. So, what happens if samples are subjected to drying or temperature extremes? The nematodes simply 'disappear', and thus, cannot be found in a sample (not even skeletons).

To ensure that good samples reach the laboratory, the following suggestions should be considered:

1. Do not take samples in dry or in 'soggy wet' soils.
2. Do not allow samples in plastic bags to remain in direct sunlight.
3. Do not place samples in hot vehicles unless in an insulated container.
4. Do take samples 8-10 inches deep if possible, shallower in turf (4 inches).
5. Do place samples in plastic bags and seal well to prevent drying.
6. Do submit samples as soon as possible to a laboratory.
7. Do use some type of insulation when mailing the samples.

Nematode Sampling Kits are available at County Extension offices and extension personnel can provide more specific information on nematode sampling techniques, sample handling and management methods.

Source: Jim Rich, University of Florida/IFAS, NFREC Newsletter, Volume 5 Issue 21, October 13, 2003



## 2003 FALL FORAGE UPDATE

Fall forage recommendations are now available on EDIS at:  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AA266>

Wildlife forage plot recommendations are also available on EDIS at:  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG140>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG139>

The results of the University of Georgia 2002-2003 Small Grains Performance Tests, which includes the Marianna location for winter forage trials of wheat, oats, rye and ryegrass, are available online at:  
[www.griffin.peachnet.edu/swvt/small.htm](http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/swvt/small.htm)

Source: Ann Blount, Carrol Chambliss, Ron Barnett, Ken Quesenberry and Gordon Prine, University of Florida/IFAS, NFREC Newsletter, Volume 5 Issue 21, October 13, 2003

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## CEU REQUIREMENTS

Be aware that the CEU requirements for license recertification are changing. Starting January 1, 2005, licensees must earn 4 Core CEUs to renew their license. This is in **addition** to the CEUs required for each category. However, you will only need to earn 4 Core CEUs regardless of the number of categories on your license. For example, beginning January 1, 2005, Private applicators must earn 8 CEUs in the Private category **plus** 4 Core CEUs for a total of 12. If you are an applicator licensed in the Aquatic and Right of Way categories you'll need 16 Aquatic CEUs, 8 Right of Way CEUs and 4 Core for a total of 28 CEUs. This means that anyone who has a license that expires in January 2005 or later will have to meet the new requirements. So, plan ahead and get your CEUs early during your license period to avoid problems later. Don't forget, you can still retake exams at your county extension office to renew without having to earn any CEUs.

Source: Pesticide News!, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, September 2003

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## FEED HAY WISELY TO SAVE MONEY

Feeding hay more efficiently this fall and winter can save producers up to 45% of their supply. Believe it or not, cattle trample, over-consume, foul and use for bedding 25 to 45 percent of your hay when it's fed with no restrictions. When hay is as expensive as it is this year, do not let the long hours of harvesting, storing and feeding go to waste.

Feeding just one day's supply at a time, or only when cattle have cleaned up a meal, can reduce overeating. Research shows that when cows are fed a four-day supply, they will overeat and waste 20-30% more hay than when they are fed one day at a time. That adds up to \$35 or more per cow over a four-month feeding period.

Some other tips:

- Restrict hay access by using bale racks or rings to keep animals off the hay.
- Racks with barriers around the bottom prevent livestock from pulling hay loose

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- with their feet and dragging it out to be stepped on.
- If you unroll bales or grind and feed on the ground, position an electric fence alongside or above the hay to keep cows from trampling or bedding down on the hay.

It is also important to provide sufficient feeding space to allow all animals to eat at once. Otherwise, boss cows may keep timid cows from getting their fair share. Producers should feed a balanced ration that provides sufficient energy and protein, but not too much. Animals that eat too much protein will excrete it as extra nitrogen in their urine. This is as wasteful as directly trampling hay into the ground.

Source: Bruce Anderson, University of Nebraska Forage Specialist



## **COTTON VARIETIES PLANTED, UNITED STATES—2003 CROP**

The Deltapine brand of upland cottonseed was the most popular planted in the United States for the 2003-2004 season, according to the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service's Cotton Program. The Paymaster brand was the second most popular followed by Bayer CropScience Fibermax, Stoneville, Sure-Grow, All-Text, Phytogen, and CPCSD.

Transgenic varieties—genetically engineered varieties resistant to worms, herbicides, or both—accounted for about 76 percent of the upland cotton planted in the United States in 2003. This was down about one percentage point from the 2002 crop and about two percentage points from the 2001 crop. Usage of transgenic varieties in 2003 varied from a high of 100 percent in Florida to a low of 42 percent in California. Texas producers planted transgenic varieties to 56 percent of their 5.8 million cotton acres.

Deltapine brand varieties were the most popular planted in 2003, accounting for 33.0 percent of the United States acreage. This brand accounted for 69.8 percent of the acreage planted in the southeastern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia). It accounted for 29.6 percent of the acreage planted in the south central states (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee), 16.6 percent in the southwestern states (Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas), and 25.7 percent of the acreage planted in the western states (Arizona, California, and New Mexico). Deltapine's most popular varieties were DP 555 BG/RR, DP 451 B/RR, DP 458 B/RR, DP 5415RR, and DP 436 RR, accounting respectively for 8.7, 6.5, 4.6, 3.0, and 1.9 percent of the U.S. cotton acreage.

Paymaster brand varieties were the second most popular planted in 2003, accounting for 21.3 percent of the United States acreage. These varieties accounted for 3.1 percent of the acreage planted in the southeastern states, 19.4 percent in the south central states, 35.1 percent in the southwestern states, and 0.2 percent in the western states. The most popular Paymaster varieties were PM 1218 BG/RR, PM 2326 RR, PM 2379 RR, and Paymaster HS 26, accounting respectively for 5.9, 4.3, 1.9, and 1.9 percent of the U.S. acreage.

Bayer CropScience Fibermax brand varieties were the third most popular planted in 2003, accounting for 15.6 percent of the United States acreage. They accounted for 7.8 percent of the acreage planted in the southeastern states, 5.2 percent of the acreage in the south central states, 28.0 percent in the southwestern states, and 1.3 in the western states. The most popular Bayer CropScience Fibermax varieties were FM 985, FM 832, FM 989BR and FM 989RR, accounting respectively for 4.5, 3.1, 2.3, and 2.1 percent of the United States acreage planted to cotton.

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Stoneville brand varieties were the fourth most popular planted in 2003. These varieties accounted for 13.6 percent of the acreage planted. They accounted for 8.8 percent of the acreage planted in the southeastern states, 33.8 percent of the acreage in the south central states, 5.0 percent in the southwestern states, and 5.1 percent in the western states. The most popular Stoneville varieties were ST 4892BR and ST 4793R, accounting respectively for 7.9 and 2.2 percent of the United States acreage planted in cotton.

Suregrow brand varieties were the next most popular and accounted for 5.4 percent of the U.S. acreage planted in 2003. All-Tex varieties, planted primarily in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, were the sixth most popular and accounted for 3.1 percent of the 2003 cotton acreage.

Phytogen was the most popular brand of American Pima planted in 2003. Phytogen variety PHY 76 Pima accounted for 56.4 percent of the United States Pima acreage and was the most popular variety planted in California (67.5 percent of California Pima acreage). Deltapine's DP 744 Pima was the second most-planted American Pima variety and accounted for 15.4 percent of the U.S. crop. Deltapine's DP 340 Pima was the next most popular variety and accounted for 15.4 percent of the U.S. crop. Deltapine's DP 340 Pima was the next most popular variety and accounted for 11.8 percent of the U.S. Pima acreage. The most popular Pima variety in Arizona was Deltapine DP HTO (90.1 percent).