

Okaloosa County Extension

5479 Old Bethel Rd.

Crestview, Florida 32536-5512

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Dates to Remember

- June 16** ***Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day***
WFREC—Jay
Pre-Registration Required
By June 9—\$25.00
After June 9—\$35.00
- June 29** ***Agronomy Weed Science Field Day***
WFREC—Jay (See Flyer)

BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR



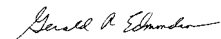
June

- Last date for planting sorghum.
- Check mineral feeder, use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not over 2½ to 1 calcium to phosphorus ratio.
- Check pastures and hay field for spittlebugs, mole crickets, and army worms.
- Treat if necessary; best month for mole cricket control.
- Check dust bags.
- Watch for evidence of pinkeye and treat.
- Utilize available veterinary services and diagnostic laboratories.
- Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.
- Pregnancy check cows.
- Update market information and plants.
- Make first cutting of hay.
- Put bulls out June 1 for calves starting March 11.
- Reimplant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.

July

- Cut corn silage.
- Control weeds in summer pastures.

Okaloosa County



Gerald R. Edmondson
Extension Director

5479 Old Bethel Road
Crestview, FL 32536-5512

Phone: 850-689-5850

Fax: 850-689-5727

Email:
gedmondson@co.okaloosa.fl.us

We're on the Web:
<http://okaloosa.ifas.ufl.edu>

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- 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.



FERTILIZING FORAGES

Fertilizer is a critical input for vegetable and row crop growers but curiously, fertilizer applications are frequently overlooked or under-utilized by many forage growers. Although a fair amount of nutrition is recycled via animal wastes in pastures, even grazed lands need periodic nutrient replenishment. It is especially true for fields that are being cut since the nutrients are permanently removed as biomass several times each season. In general, grasses are cut every 4 to 5 weeks and perennial peanut every 6 to 8 weeks during the growing season, resulting in over 4 tons per acre peanut hay removal and no tons per acre or more grass hay removal per season, depending on growing conditions and fertility. For example, 10 tons per acre of grass hay removes approximately 500 lbs N, 80 lbs P (180 lbs phosphate), 350 lbs K (420 lbs potash), and about 90 lbs each of calcium, magnesium, and sulfur. Several pounds per acre of micronutrients are removed, as well.

Soil nutrient depletion becomes more severe in fields with low nutrient holding capacity sandy soils. Some of the heavier (sandy clay) soils found in the Panhandle can hold some nutrients, particularly in the deeper subsoils but if not replenished, these too may become depleted over time. However, there is debate as to whether Panhandle subsoils have a sufficiently large nutrient reserve, i.e., P, K, and S, that does not require replenishing. Current NFREC fertility research with bahia grass, Bermuda grass and perennial peanut on light and heavy soils includes subsoil (Maximum depth = 4 ft) sampling to measure subsoil nutrient changes with fertilization and plant nutrient uptake over time.

Meanwhile, the forage grower should be working with their local county extension agent to create a field management record based on periodic (every 2—3 years) soil sampling (more often if a fertility or pH problem is suspected). The county agent also can help the grower formulate a yearly fertility program, based on soil fertility reports and field utilization requirement. The IFAS publication "UF/IFAS standardized fertilization recommendations for agronomic crops" <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS163> provides information on establishment, hayed and pasture forage fertilization. My observations from some recent soil fertility reports representing a variety of field locations include: 1) fields with perennial peanut often had a lime requirement (soil pH < 5.5), 2) soil potash tended to be low, regardless of forage type, and 3) soil copper was frequently deficient.

Forage micronutrient fertility has received even less attention than N, P, and K fertility. Improving micronutrient fertility may improve hay quality via supplying animal micronutrient requirements and improving plant health. There may be some benefit to periodically (every few years) adding a micronutrient package to the fertilizer blend. However, micronutrient fertilization only should be considered based on the results of a soil and/or plant tissue analysis confirming the need. Some micronutrients have a narrow concentration range between deficiency and toxicity in the plant.

Source: Cheryl Mackowiak, NFREC News, Volume 6 Issue 12, June 7, 2004



CALL FOR CONSIGNMENTS – 2004 FLORIDA BULL TEST

It is now time to plan consignments to the 2004 Florida Bull Test at the University of Florida, North Florida Research and Education Center, Marianna. Consignment is open to all breeds and composites with Expected Progeny Differences.

Bulls must be born between September 1 and December 31, 2003. Bulls will be gain tested for 112 days. Weight growth, ultrasound, health and reproduction data will be gathered throughout the test. Eligible bulls will be sold at auction at the NFREC Pavilion on Saturday, January 22, 2005. Bulls will be scheduled to arrive at the testing facility on July 30-31, will go on test August 24-25 and complete the test on December 15-16.

Nomination forms are available by contacting: Mary Chambliss, North Florida Research and Education Center, 3925 Highway 71, Marianna, FL 32446-7906, phone: (850) 482-7904 or can be downloaded from <http://flbulltest.ifas.ufl.edu>. A Nomination Form and \$50 per head are due by July 1, 2004. The overall cost of the test is anticipated to be similar to last year at \$625. Upon receipt of the nomination, additional information will be sent to the consignors.

The 2003 test concluded with a successful sale for those consignors who chose to participate. Sixty-seven bulls sold for an average price of \$2,031. In reviewing the sale results, one noted fact was that buyers are paying close attention of EPD's. Bulls with below breed average EPD's for growth, or well above breed average for birth weight were not as actively sought and their prices fell well below the average of the sale. This is a performance test and sale, so consignors should take this into account before selecting bulls to be placed in the test. This year should be another opportunity to showcase superior beef cattle genetics in Florida. Don't miss this opportunity to see how bulls from your herd compare with some of the best in the Southeast. By consigning a bull to the Florida Bull Test, you will also have the opportunity to participate in one of the highest quality bull sales in the region.

NEW PASTURE HERBICIDE

Recently EPA granted full registration to PastureGard herbicide for use on rangeland and permanent grass pastures. PastureGard is a combination product of triclopyr (same as in Remedy) and fluroxypyr (formally sold as Vista). This product will be useful for use in brush and broadleaf weed control.

In particular, PastureGard has shown good activity on *Sericea lespedeza*, blackberry, wax myrtle, and many other woody plants and broadleaf weeds. It is somewhat better than Remedy on woody species, but less effective on other herbaceous weeds—particularly tropical soda apple.

The price will be competitive to Remedy. It will be sold in 2.5 gallon containers. This is NOT a federally restricted use pesticide. We are told that this product will be available for commercial sale in about 8 weeks.



ENVOKE HERBICIDE USE IN COTTON

After talking with a couple of farmers around the state I get the impression that Envoke will be used a good bit in Alabama. I believe it will be a good tool to help us manage weeds in cotton, including Roundup Ready, Liberty Link, and conventional varieties. It will be important to use Envoke properly in order to get the maximum

benefit from this product.

First, DO NOT apply Envoke until the cotton has a minimum of 6 true leaves, and if possible wait until 7 or 8 leaves have developed. Don't add any other material to the spray tank with Envoke except a good quality non-ionic surfactant (80% active or more). I know you will be tempted to add insecticide or growth regulator in the tank, but until we have more information on these mixes and the label allows it, just don't add anything. It looks like we are past the cool, wet conditions that can cause problems with Envoke treatments, but obeying the label concerning timing and tank mixing is imperative. Use the low rate (0.1 ounce of product per acre) when spraying over the top. This rate can provide good activity on sicklepod, annual morningglory (except smallflower), pigweed, nutsedge, and several other broadleaf weeds.

Envoke can be directed at rates up to 0.25 ounce of product and is sold in a mix with prometryn under the trade name Suprend. This mix will provide control of several weed species and, when mixed with either glyphosate or MSMA, will control most of the weeds and grasses in the field. Cotton should be a minimum of 10 inches tall for directed applications of these mixes.



INSECT SCOUTING A MUST

During recent years we have observed a decline in the percent of acres being scouted on a regular basis. This change may have occurred for several reasons:

- 1) the use of Bt cotton and the reduced threat of a tobacco budworm or corn earworm disaster when this technology is used
- 2) the good fortune of not sustaining significant yield loss in the absence of scouting
- 3) prolonged drought and reduced yield potential
- 4) economic situation (trying to reduce costs)

From an insect pest management standpoint, hiring an experienced scout or consultant is critical for profit maximization. Decisions regarding insect pests are only as good as the information which is available. We must know which insects are present, the stage of development, and their population levels in order to make a good decision regarding insecticide inputs.

All fields, non-Bt and Bt cotton, should be scouted on a regular basis. Non-Bt cotton should be scouted at least every 5 days (two times per week is preferred). Preferably Bt cotton should be scouted at least every 5 days, but once a week is acceptable. Once a week scouting is unacceptable for non-Bt cotton.

The 2003 season demonstrated to many that insects are still a formidable adversary in cotton production. There were many fields that sustained economic loss and near total loss in some situations due to insect pests such as stink bugs. We cannot control the weather, but when we have good growing conditions our goal should be not to allow insects to be a yield limiting factor.

Source: Georgia Cotton, June 3, 2004



SUPREND LABELED FOR DIRECTED APPLICATION IN COTTON?

Suprend is a mixture of Caparol (prometryn) and Envoke (trifloxysulfuron-sodium) and is very effective controlling many broadleaf weeds and nutsedge species. The Suprend label allows directed applications once cotton is at least 6 inches tall. We would encourage the directed application be made to cotton that is at least 10 inches in height.

The use rate per application of Suprend will vary depending on weed species and sizes present but 1.0 to

1.5 lb/A of product per application should be an effective mixture. Add adjuvant according to labeled recommendations. Do not exceed a total of 2.7 lb/A of Suprend per season.

Although Suprend may effectively control very very small grasses when applied alone, mixing it with MSMA will be needed for most of our fields. Suprend may also be mixed with Touchdown (glyphosate) and applied as a directed application in Roundup Ready cotton. Little research has been conducted on the potential for antagonism with Suprend plus glyphosate mixtures by UGA.

Wheat may be planted 3 months after applying Suprend while corn (field, sweet), grain sorghum, peanut, soybean, and tobacco can be planted 7 months after an application.

Source: Georgia Cotton, June 3, 2004

VALOR LABELED FOR PRECISION DIRECTED APPLICATION IN COTTON?



In Roundup Ready cotton, Valor should be mixed with either glyphosate (Roundup, etc) or MSMA. The cotton should be at least 18 inches tall with a minimum of 4 inches of bark up the cotton stem. It is absolutely critical that the cotton stem be barky as green stems can be "burnt into" if contacted by Valor mixtures. If bark extends four inches up the cotton stem then one should direct no higher than 2 inches.

The use of crop oil concentrates, methylated seed oils, organo-silicant surfactants or products containing these ingredients, may result in severe cotton injury and should not be used with Valor mixtures in the cotton crop.

Research has shown extremely good postemergence weed control when mixing 2 oz/A of Valor with MSMA or 1.0 to 1.5 oz/A of Valor with glyphosate. Glyphosate plus Valor has been more effective than Valor plus MSMA on grasses. Valor will also provide residual weed control for sensitive weed species if rainfall or irrigation occurs shortly after application. Mixing Valor with glyphosate could be antagonistic, but to date, research has shown this occurrence is rare and antagonism actually occurs less with Valor than with many other directed options.

Source: Georgia Cotton, June 3, 2004

SIDEDRESS NITROGEN—TIMING, BURN AND VOLATILIZATION

It's sidedress time again (already). The typical "window" for applying sidedress N on cotton is from first square to first bloom. On dryland or where cotton is not looking good and green (e.g. maybe strip-till where preplant N was tied up by residue) it's better to go earlier than later in the window. For irrigated cotton and where there was plenty of N to keep it good and green longer you can wait later in the window. Remember, the idea is to have preplant N carry you to sidedress and then sidedress carry you the rest of the way through peak bloom. You can always "polish off" the crop with foliar N but it is hard to make up for coming up way short at sidedress.

Which is better, granular or liquid sidedress N? This is a popular question, to which there is no correct answer. Both dry and liquid fertilizers can work well when used properly. Both can also have disadvantages. For example, granular ammonium nitrate can burn cotton when topdressed under certain conditions. This problem is usually worse on the two rows directly under the center of the spreader truck where more "fines" are distributed. Dry weather and stressed cotton are also contributing factors to this problem. Although the damage can often appear severe, cotton usually grows out of this situation with

little yield damage. Liquid nitrogen sidedress can also burn cotton, usually on lower leaves where it splashes or comes in direct contact. This can be more of a problem on younger (i.e. smaller) cotton, although again, the effect is usually both temporary and minimal.

Dry weather usually causes concern over volatilization loss of sidedress N materials. Worst case scenario would be topdressing granular urea in strip till and then having dry conditions for 3 weeks. In this case you may lose up to 30 % of your N. Ammonium nitrate is not subject to volatilization and liquid N solutions are only half urea and since they are applied in a concentrated band they are not as susceptible to volatilization loss. Knifing in liquid N is also largely unnecessary and probably causes more harm by losing soil moisture and pruning roots than it does to save nitrogen.

All in all, a lot of this concern is probably unwarranted. Even under dry conditions, volatilization loss of sidedress N fertilizers is probably less than 5 %. If there is not enough moisture in a three week period to "wash" the fertilizer in, the yield potential is probably not there either.

Should I add any other nutrients with my sidedress N? Phosphorous and potassium should have been taken care of at preplant. If you did not add K, it needs to go out with the sidedress. This is easier with granular fertilizer (adding muriate of potash or KMag) than with liquids. If you have not applied at least 10 lb/a of sulfur, now is the time to do it. Sulfur doesn't foliar feed well so sidedressing is your last chance. KMag or ammonium sulfate can be added to granular blends and liquid N with S like 28-0-0-5(S) are readily available and popular. One other element that you might consider adding to sidedress N, especially liquids, is boron. Liquid borons can easily be added to liquid N and supply the B needs of cotton. So if you did not put any preplant B out, and don't plan to foliar feed B (even with early Pix applications) you may want to consider this option.

Source: Georgia Cotton, June 3, 2004