

Okaloosa County Extension

5479 Old Bethel Rd.

Crestview, Florida 32536-5512



Dates to Remember

May 10 *Pecan Management Workshop*
Extension Office—South Bypass—Andalusia
8:00 a.m.—12:00 noon - RSVP by May 9th

May 26 *Fish Pond Management Meeting*
Extension Office - South Bypass—Andalusia, Alabama
6:00-8:30 p.m.

May 31 *Forestry Herbicides, Small Scale Logging, Brush Control
Equipment Demonstration, Hands-On When to Thin
Exercise*
Paxton Ag Building - 5:00-8:30 p.m.
Light supper provided. - RSVP to (850) 689-5850

June 2 *Goat/Rabbit Workshop—Rabbit & Goat
Production & Marketing, Parasite Control*
Paxton Ag Building
5:00-8:00 p.m.
Light supper provided. - RSVP to (850) 689-5850

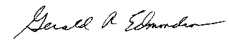
June 2 *2005 Vegetable Field Day*
Quincy
Call (850) 875-7100 ext 0 for more information.

June 11 *Perennial Peanut Field Day*
Spence Field - Moultrie, Georgia
8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Call (229) 985-1968 for more information

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Okaloosa County



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BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

May

- Remove bulls.
- Harvest hay from cool season crops.
- Plant warm season perennial pastures.
- Fertilize warm season pastures.

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.

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- ☑ Check mineral feeder.
- ☑ Check for spittlebugs and treat if necessary.
- ☑ Apply spot-on agents for grub and louse control.
- ☑ Check dust bags.
- ☑ Vaccinate and implant with growth stimulant any later calves.
- ☑ Reimplant calves with growth stimulant at 90-120 days, when you have herd penned.
- ☑ Dispose of dead animals properly.
- ☑ Update market information and refine marketing plans.
- ☑ Remove bulls May 21 to end calving season March 1.

June

- ☑ Last date for planting sorghum.
- ☑ Check mineral feeder, use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not over 2 ½ 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 plans.
- ☑ 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.

Source: Animal Science Newsletter, April 2005



BIOECONOMIC INDEX VALUES ARE A USEFUL TOOL IN BEEF CATTLE SELCTION

As the National Cattle Evaluation (NCE) has progressed over time, numerous traits (Expected Progeny Differences (EPD's)) have been included in the analysis. This has become problematic in terms how of to use all these traits in an effective selection program. Questions similar to these often arise: "How much emphasis should I place on weaning weight EPD, birth weight EPD, yearling weight EPD? How important are carcass traits in my herd? Profitability should be the driving force in a beef cattle operation, however, it becomes confusing as to what combination of traits will achieve that goal.

Recently, some breed associations have published selection indexes to use in conjunction with EPD's and individual performance as a selection tool. These select indexes are a weighted combination of traits that is reflected in a single value (usually dollar value per head). This allows producers to select for several traits at once. Multi-trait indexes are a simple and convenient way for commercial cow/calf producers to make selection decisions. They were developed to be a screening tool to insure that the right genetics are selected. Correctly constructed indexes will eliminate bulls with extreme traits that could unfavorably affect profitability, while identifying those bulls with traits that improve profitability.

The American Angus Association, American-International Charolais and the American Hereford Association have developed selection indexes. Each breed has developed index with specific producers in mind. Indexes are comparable only within breed and sire summary analysis.

The American Angus Association has developed indexes for Weaned Calf Value (\$W), Cow Energy Value (\$EN), Feedlot Value (\$F), Grid Value (\$G) and Beef Value (\$B).

Weaned calf value quantifies the economic impact of birth weight, weaning weight, maternal milk and mature cow size on an expected dollar-per-head basis when comparing two individuals. For example, if two bulls (A= \$20 and B=\$5) were randomly mated to a comparable set of females and the calves were exposed to the same environment, the difference between the \$W value ($\$20 - \$5 = \15) is the dollar value difference that would be expected between their progeny at weaning.

Cow Energy Value assesses differences in cow energy requirements, expressed in dollars per cow per year, as an expected dollar savings difference in future daughters of sires. Larger values are more favorable when comparing two animals (more dollars saved on feed expenses). Components include lactation energy requirements and maintenance energy requirements related to mature size. Using a \$EN value of \$18 for one animal and \$3 for another, we would expect \$15 in cow energy saving per year for future daughters if the former rather than the latter animal was used for breeding purposes.

Feedlot (\$F), Grid Value (\$G) and Beef Value (\$B) are a set of postweaning bio-economic values, expressed on a dollar per head basis to assist commercial producer with their selection decisions. They include feedlot, value based grid market as well as beef value parameters to determine the value of each breeding animal. More information about the Angus indexes can be found at www.angus.org.

The American Charolais Terminal Sire Profitability Index (TSPI) utilizes producer information along with EPDs from the Charolais Sire Summary. The index uses economic selection index theory to generate dollar values on the progeny that different sires will produce. The TSPI is internet based and allows producers to interact online. It is available to the public at <http://www.charolaisusa.com>.

The American Hereford Associations has four indexes available with the commercial producer in mind. The terminal sire index is called the Certified Hereford Beef Index (CHB\$) to be used in mating Hereford bulls to British cows and a Calving Ease Index (CEZ\$) for use in mating heifers. The Baldie Maternal Index (BMI\$) is for use in mating Hereford bulls to Angus based females in a rotational crossbreeding program. The Brahman Influence Index (BII\$) serves the same purpose in herds with Brahman influence females. For more information visit www.hereford.org.



UF/IFAS AND FAMU CREATE WEBSITE TO HELP SMALL FARMERS

Small farmers in Florida face a variety of issues and challenges and with less resources available to them than larger farms, they can be at a competitive disadvantage. With small farms representing over 90% of farms in Florida, ensuring their success is vital to the agriculture industry in the state. That's why UF/IFAS and FAMU have created a website (<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>) that specifically addresses the needs of small farmers.

"The website was developed to make small farm information accessible in one location," said Bob Hochmuth, the Multi-County Agent at the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center in Suwannee Valley. "Small farmers may be seeking information on getting started in farming or considering one of many alternative enterprises and it is all pulled together in one site to make the search easy."

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The website provides links and other resources for small farmers including, how to get started, enterprise budgeting, business planning, financing grants, and much more. Farmers using the site can select topics on enterprises of special interest to them, including aquaculture, cut flowers, livestock, and organic farming. Each topic includes information on production, marketing, and economics as well as other appropriate links.

“What a fabulous resource,” said Betty O’Toole, owner of O’Toole’s Herb Farm in Madison, Fla. “Jim and I have found that the IFAS small farm webpage has become an invaluable tool for our business. The site is jammed packed with useful information, quick and user friendly, even for the computer novices as we are.”

Input from small farmers and allied organizations, identifying issues critical to small farmers, such as access to profitable markets, business skills development, accessible technical information, and alternative crops and enterprises, was used to help design the site. Input from counties throughout Florida identified the need for small

farm educational programs to be developed. The small farms website provides information that farmers can employ to address these issues and become more efficient in their business.

For more information visit UF/IFAS and FAMU small farms website at <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Source: NFREC News, Volume 7, Issue 9, April 25, 2005

USDA TO PAY FOR POST MORTEM BRAIN TISSUE SAMPLE

If you have a brood cow, over the age of 30 months that dies, you can call the USDA inspector in Cottondale, Florida, have a brain sample pulled and be paid \$100.00. You must call within 24 hours of death of the animal. Larry Warden, USDA Inspector or FDACS Animal Industry personnel will come to your farm, pull the sample and send it to the lab to be tested for BSE. This service, though looking for BSE, is being used to prove we do not have BSE established in this country. If you want to participate, call the FDACS Region I Office in Cottondale at (850) 718-0459.



TOTAL COST OF PLANTING TRANSGENIC VARIETIES BASED ON SEEDING RATES

Not only have technology fees increased in 2005 but seed costs have also risen substantially. Below is a chart adapted from Greg Slaughter, County Extension Agent in Dodge County, which provides total costs per acre based on planting rates (seed/ft). These estimates combine both technology fees and seed costs and demonstrate the substantial expense of planting transgenic varieties.

As stated last month, technology charges in our region are based on the suggested seeding rate of 52,000 seeds/A and figure to be about \$34.70 and \$59.40 for Roundup Ready (RR) and Bollgard/Roundup (BR) varieties, respectively. This rate of 52,000 seeds/A translates to approximately 3.6 seeds/ft in 36-inch rows and 3.8 seeds/ft in 38-inch rows. Keep in mind that if rate exceeds 2.9 seeds/ft in 36-inch rows or 3.1 seeds/ft in 38-inch rows, the Roundup Rewards Program from Monsanto provides an opportunity to “cap” tech fees. Participation in the program limits technology costs at \$28 and \$48/A (on a whole farm basis) for RR and BR varieties, respectively. There is no similar program with seed charges.

The point is: **Set Planters with Care**. While cutting seeding rates saves \$, be especially careful not to go too far with early plantings under marginal weather or in conservation tillage systems in which seed-to-soil contact is less than ideal.

Planting Cost of RR Varieties

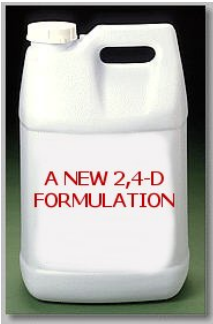
Variety	Maturity	Tech fee, \$/bag	Total cost, \$/bag*	Cost to plant, \$/A				
				2.5	2.75	3.0	3.5	4.0
seed/ft								
DP432RR	E	\$167	\$267	\$39	\$42	\$46	\$54	\$61
DP434RR	E	\$167	\$267	\$39	\$42	\$46	\$54	\$61
DP494RR	M-F	\$167	\$267	\$39	\$42	\$46	\$54	\$61
DP436RR	E-M	\$167	\$247	\$36	\$39	\$43	\$50	\$57
DP5415RR	M-F	\$167	\$247	\$36	\$39	\$43	\$50	\$57
DP5690RR	M-F	\$167	\$247	\$36	\$39	\$43	\$50	\$57
ST4793R	E-M	\$153	\$232	\$37	\$40	\$44	\$51	\$58
ST5303R	M	\$153	\$232	\$37	\$40	\$44	\$51	\$58
ST6848R	F	\$153	\$248	\$39	\$43	\$47	\$55	\$62
FM989RR	E	\$153	\$236	\$37	\$41	\$45	\$53	\$60
FM960RR	E	\$146	\$230	\$38	\$42	\$46	\$54	\$61
FM991RR	M	\$163	\$230	\$36	\$40	\$44	\$52	\$59
Phy410R	E-M	\$153	\$242	\$38	\$42	\$46	\$54	\$61
Phy510R	F	\$153	\$222	\$35	\$39	\$43	\$51	\$58

Total costs include both technology fees and seed charges. Seed costs range from ~ \$70 to \$100 per bag. DPL packages contain 250,000 seeds/bag; Stoneville and Phytogen 230,000 seeds/bag; and Fiber Max 50 lb/bag. Adapted from Greg Slaughter, Dodge County Extension Agent, Georgia.

Planting Cost of B/RR Varieties

Variety	Maturity	Tech fee, \$/bag	Total cost, \$/bag*	Cost to plant, \$/A				
				2.5	2.75	3.0	3.5	4.0
seed/ft								
DP451BR	E-M	\$286	\$366	\$53	\$58	\$64	\$74	\$85
DP458BR	M-F	\$286	\$366	\$53	\$58	\$64	\$74	\$85
DP449BR	M	\$286	\$386	\$56	\$62	\$67	\$78	\$90
DP488BR	M	\$286	\$386	\$56	\$62	\$67	\$78	\$90
DP455BR	M	\$286	\$391	\$57	\$63	\$68	\$79	\$91
DP445BR	E-M	\$286	\$391	\$57	\$63	\$68	\$79	\$91
DP444BR	E	\$286	\$391	\$57	\$63	\$68	\$79	\$91
DP555BR	F	\$286	\$396	\$58	\$64	\$69	\$80	\$92
ST4575BR	E-M	\$263	\$357	\$56	\$62	\$68	\$79	\$90
ST4892BR	E-M	\$263	\$341	\$54	\$59	\$65	\$75	\$86
ST5242BR	E-M	\$263	\$357	\$56	\$62	\$68	\$79	\$90
ST5599BR	M	\$263	\$357	\$56	\$62	\$68	\$79	\$90
ST6636BR	F	\$263	\$357	\$56	\$62	\$68	\$79	\$90
FM960BR	E	\$252	\$334	\$55	\$60	\$66	\$77	\$88
FM989BR	E	\$246	\$328	\$56	\$61	\$67	\$78	\$89
FM991BR	M	\$280	\$363	\$54	\$60	\$65	\$76	\$87

Total costs include both technology fees and seed charges. Seed costs range up to \$110 per bag. DPL packages contain 250,000 seeds/bag; Stoneville 230,000 seeds/bag; and Fiber Max 50 lb/bag. Adapted from Greg Slaughter, Dodge County Extension Agent, Georgia.



A NEW 2,4-D FORMULATION

Amine and ester formulations of 2,4-D are common and have been available for many years. Recently, Helena Chemical Company has developed and released, "Unison", an acid formulation of 2,4-D. In the past, practical use of acid formulations of phenoxy herbicides was limited due to water insolubility and formulation problems. Helena has overcome these issues by developing a system to dissolve insoluble auxin acid in a water dispersible surfactant system. The benefits of this technology are very low volatility, low odor, 100% water solubility, and 100% liquid fertilizer compatibility. Preliminary research indicates that when comparing equal lbs acid equivalent, the acid formulation has greater herbicidal activity than amine formulations and is similar in activity to ester formulations.

It is important to note that Unison is formulated at 1.74 lbs 2,4-D acid per gallon, while most standard amine and ester formulations contain 3.8 lbs 2,4-D acid per gallon. Unlike some ester formulations, the acid formulation of 2,4-D (Unison) complies with Florida's Organo-Auxin Herbicide Rule. Compared to standard 2,4-D formulations, there is likely to be increased cost associated with this new technology; however, it may be feasible to use Unison when volatility and odor issues are of concern. For more information on the Florida Organo-Auxin Herbicide Rule please refer to University of Florida EDIS document SS-AGR-12 at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.