



Okaloosa County Extension

5479 Old Bethel Rd.

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## Calendar of Events



## September

- 12** **Representative Greg Evers to Host Ag IDEARAISER**  
Jay Civic Center—6:30 p.m.  
See details inside.
- 22** **Forest Tree and Plant Identification Workshop**  
Crestview Extension Office—9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Call 689-5850 for more information.  
Cost \$10 at the door.
- 28** **Wildlife Expo**  
Walton County Extension Office  
8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$25.00 pre-registration; \$35.00 at door  
Registration online: [www.miltongators.com](http://www.miltongators.com)  
or call 850-983-5216 ext. 113.  
See attached flyer.

## October

- 2** **Perennial Peanut Field Day**  
NFREC Marianna/Greenwood—2:00 p.m.  
Call 689-5850 for more information.
- 5-6** **Quail Management Shortcourse**  
Monticello, Florida  
Pre-registration: \$60.00  
Call Larry Halsey 850-342-0187 for information.
- 9** **Panhandle Cattlemen's Association Meeting**  
Walton County Extension Office—7:00 p.m.  
RSVP to 689-5850
- 17-19** **Sunbelt Ag Expo**  
Moultrie, GA



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

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## September

- Cut hay.
  - Heavily graze pastures to be interplanted to cool season pastures.
  - Check mineral feeder.
  - Check for mole crickets, spittlebugs, and grassloopers, and treat if necessary.
  - Check dust bags.
  - Wean calves and cull cow herd if not already done. Remove open, unsound, or poor producing cows.
  - Train cowboys to observe normal and abnormal behavior and signs of disease.
  - Be sure any replacement purchases are healthy and have been calthood vaccinated for brucellosis.
  - September or October is a good time to deworm the cow herd if internal parasites are a problem.
- When replacement heifers are weaned, give them required vaccinations and teach them to eat from a bunk – then put them on a good nutrition program.
  - Determine bull replacement needs, develop selection criteria, and start checking availability of quality animals.
  - Review winter feed supply and feeding plans so that needed adjustments can be made before supplies tighten and prices rise.

## October

- Plant cool season legumes.
- Plant small grain pastures.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for external parasites, especially lice, and treat if needed.
- Check for spittlebugs and grassloopers and treat, if needed.
- Watch condition of cow herd; maintain adequate nutrition.
- Isolate any additions to the herd for 30 to 60 days and observe for signs of disease; retest for brucellosis and leptospirosis.
- Be sure you have adequate handling facilities, and they are in good working order.
- If you are raising bulls for the commercial market, October thru December is the main bull-buying season for cattlemen in south Florida and now is the time to have your promotion program fully activated.

Source: Department of Animal Science, University of Florida

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## **Representative Greg Evers to Host Ag IDEARAI SER**

Representative Greg Evers (R-Baker) is hosting an Ag "Idearaiser" in Jay, Florida on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm. An Idearaiser is a venue that allows citizens and legislators to come together to discuss ideas that will make Florida a better place. House Speaker Designate Marco Rubio has encouraged the Legislature to seek new and innovative ideas from citizens regarding certain policy areas of interest. In the spirit of this unique initiative, Representative Greg Evers (R-Baker) will host, along with other Legislators, regional Ag industry specific "Idearaisers".

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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.

"Agriculture is a huge part of local and state economy," said Evers. "An Idearaiser is a great setting to talk about the future of the Ag industry." "This is an excellent opportunity for our community to express concerns and provide possible solutions."

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## Sales Tax Exemption for Ag Electricity Use

Effective July 1, 2006, electricity used directly and exclusively for the production or processing of agricultural farm products on a farm is exempt from sales tax. This exemption only applies if the electricity is separately metered from that used for non-production or non-processing purposes. Other tax-exempt uses include electricity used to supply power to greenhouses, poultry houses, dairy barns, horse stables and processing facilities located on a farm. To qualify for the exemption, the purchasing farmer must furnish the utility provider with an exemption certificate stating that the electricity will be used directly and exclusively for the production or processing of agricultural farm products on a farm. For a copy of the information and form go to [http://taxlaw.state.fl.us/sut\\_out.asp?r=06A01%2D09%0D%0A+In+%23%5B&file=sut\\_tip.ask](http://taxlaw.state.fl.us/sut_out.asp?r=06A01%2D09%0D%0A+In+%23%5B&file=sut_tip.ask)

You can also call Taxpayer Services, 8:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m., ET, Monday-Friday at 800-352-3671 or 850-488-6800.



## SE Hay Contest

The Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition held in Moultrie, Georgia, will once again be host to a Hay Contest. This is the third year the contest has been held.

The contest is divided into categories: warm season grass hay, perennial peanut and alfalfa, cool season grass hay, mixed and annual grass hay, grass baleage, and legume baleage. The entry fee for the contest is \$10 per sample. Each sample is analyzed for quality by the University of Georgia Feed Lab. This is a great deal. You get your hay analyzed for feeding value and may also gain recognition as one of the top hay producers in the Southeast. Even if you have not produced your finest quality hay, it is well worth the \$10 just to find out how good your hay is, so that you can balance a ration for the animals to be fed this winter. Producers, who participated last year, are eligible for a voucher for a free entry in this year's contest.

The deadline for entry is Friday, September 22. If you would like to send in an entry, contact the Extension Office and make an appointment for sample collection.

Source: Jackson County Extension Livestock & Forage Newsletter, Summer 2006, Volume 6 Number 1

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## Perennial Peanut Field Day

On Tuesday, October 2, the North Florida Research and Education Center near Greenwood will be hosting a Perennial Peanut Field Day at 2:00 PM. The Field Day will give producers an opportunity to tour the research plots at the station. Tour topics will include establishment, weed control, fertilization and variety development. A producer roundtable discussion will also be held at the conclusion of the Field Day to provide input for the direction of future research trials for this crop.



Source: Jackson County Extension Livestock & Forage Newsletter, Summer 2006, Volume 6 Number 1

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## Using Heterosis and Heritability to Improve Your Cow Herd

Gary Hansen, NFREC Beef Extension Specialist



Cattle producers are often confused about how to incorporate heterosis and heritability into the cattle production enterprise. Heterosis involves using crossbreeding systems to capitalize on hybrid vigor while heritability involves using selection decisions to improve individual traits within a beef cattle herd. The best way to incorporate these two principles into a

selection program is to define the terms, know how they relate and when to use which principle to improve productivity in the cow herd.

Heterosis is the increased production that results from mating different or diverse breeds of cattle. More specifically, heterosis is the amount expressed in units or percent that crossbred animals exceed (or differ from) the average of the purebred parents used in the cross. The simplest definition of heritability is the measure or degree to which offspring resemble their parents in performance for a trait. If a trait is highly heritable, then higher performing animals tend to produce high performing offspring while the opposite is true for low performing animals.

Using table 1, cattle producers can determine whether to employ heritability (genetic selection) or heterosis (crossbreeding) when selecting for the different traits listed. Reproductive traits (calving interval) are lowly heritable so genetic selection for these traits is very difficult and takes several years before appreciable progress is made. However, these same traits respond well through the use of heterosis. Therefore, in order to improve reproductive rate it is easier to use crossbreeding than genetic selection. Genetic selection should still be taking place, but heterosis will increase the rate at which progress is taking place. The same would be true of maternal traits. The fastest way for improvement would be to employ a crossbreeding program. Growth traits (birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, etc.) respond equally well to either heritability or heterosis. This indicates that a program wanting to improve growth traits should include genetic selection as well as a crossbreeding to optimize growth rate in the beef cattle operation. Heritability estimates for product (hot carcass weight, marbling, backfat, etc.) are very high, indicating that selection should be through the use of animals that have performed well in these traits. Crossbreeding has little or no effect so it becomes irrelevant in improving product traits. Using this table as a guideline should help producers determine the best and fastest way to achieve their production goals.

Trait	Heritability %	Heterosis%
Reproduction	Low (5-12)	High (20-25)
Maternal	Low to Moderate (10-15)	Moderate (15)
Growth	Moderate (20-40)	Low to Moderate (5-12)
Product	High (40-50)	Very Low

Source: Jackson County Extension Livestock & Forage Newsletter, Summer 2006, Volume 6 Number 1

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## Managing Drought Stressed Cotton for Defoliation

Most of our cotton has received some rainfall and has started taking up nitrogen fertilizer from our soil, meaning re-growth is going to be a problem. As a result of rainfall drought stressed plants will take up the moisture and left over nitrogen and try to grow again. In many of these cases this re-growth will be hard to control. The best we can do is to utilize products with thidiazuron (Dropp, FreFall, etc.) at high enough rates to suppress the re-growth as much as possible. Pay close attention to the weather man in regards to application of the thidiazuron (Dropp, FreFall, etc.) products. If you receive rainfall within 24 hours of applying these products, the effectiveness may be reduced. There have been several questions on the 3-way mixtures of thidiazuron, ethephon (Prepp, FirstPick, Finish, etc.), and phosphate (Def, Folex). If the weather will cool off a bit the three-way mix will work well, like it has in the past. There is no doubt that a phosphate (Def, Folex) will help the thidiazuron products absorb into the plant. However this mix could get a little hot and stick a few leaves as well. If you want to try it, use a super low rate of the phosphate products, 1:32, or 1:40.

**Application Method:** Everyone wants to do a once over defoliation this year. Coverage is a crucial aspect with defoliation, therefore the volume applied and spray tips used can make the difference in one shot versus two. The air-induced (AI) tips should not be used for defoliation, unless you can increase the pressure up to 90-120 psi. Twin-jet, Flat Fans, Cone nozzles should all work fine as long as the pressure is high enough to break up the droplet size and provide a good pattern. Water is the other key ingredient in a once over defoliation. To maximize your application use 15 GPA (gallons per acre) minimum by ground and 5 GPA minimum by air. It is amazing the difference adding a little water can make, it is the cheapest thing you can add to the tank.

Source: Mississippi Crop Situation, Editor: Angus Catchot, August 25,2006, Number 21

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## Defoliation Guidelines

*(Jost and Brown)*

The 2006 Cotton Defoliation Guidelines are now available and posted on the UGA Cotton Web Page at [www.ugacotton.com](http://www.ugacotton.com). There are several new products available this year, each is discussed below.

FirstPick will replace CottonQuik in the market place. According to DuPont representatives, the newer formulation of FirstPick addresses the corrosive issues encountered with CottonQuik. The use rates of FirstPick are identical to the old CottonQuik. MFX is a 2 lb/gal ethephon material. UGA Extension has had limited experience with MFX and no experience with FirstPick. Both should be used with caution until we become more familiar with their characteristics. Setup 6SL, marketed by MANA is a new 6 lb/gal ethephon formulation.

Resource is a new defoliant from Valent containing the active ingredient flumiclorac. This defoliant has a similar mode of action as that of Aim and ET. Use rates range from 4 to 8 oz/A and a Crop Oil Concentrate should be added. UGA Extension has limited experience with product.

Adios is a water based formulation of thidiazuron and diuron, the same active ingredients in Ginstar. The use rates of Adios and Ginstar are identical. The primary difference between the two products is that Adios is a water based formulation, while Ginstar is an EC. While preliminary data gathered in 2005 indicates that Adios performed similarly to Ginstar, UGA Extension has looked at this product for one year only.

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Finally, Gramoxone Inteon (2 lb/gal paraquat) and Firststorm (3 lb/gal paraquat) are also new in the harvest-aid market for 2006.

A defoliation cost calculator will again be available on the ChemNut web site at [www.chemnut.com](http://www.chemnut.com).

Source: Georgia Cotton, August 17, 2006

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## **Making the Call: How Do You Know When a Dryland Peanut Field is Beyond Hope?** *(John Beasley)*



The major question many of you will be dealing with over the next few weeks is when to give up on a field in regards to yield potential versus the cost of continued management, including harvest costs. Unfortunately, we do not have a clear cut answer for that question. The decision must be made on a field by field basis.

There are some instances in which we feel confident we can make a sound decision. For example, if there are fields in which very few, if any, pegs or small pods exist on a high percentage of the plants by the middle of August, there is not enough time for a harvestable crop to develop. This is based on the fact that it takes 7-10 days from the time a bloom occurs until the peg enters the soil and it then takes at least 6 weeks for the peg to develop into a harvestable pod that will grade as a sound mature kernel. That's also provided the field receives adequate and frequent rainfall events from pegging through pod development. Any blooms that occur in mid August would take approximately 50 days to reach a harvestable stage. Fifty days from August 15th is October 4th. It would then take at least another 3 weeks to achieve enough yield potential to justify economical harvest. That gets into late October and the chances of having consistently warm nights to allow maturity to occur at a normal rate are very slim. There have been years in which we've had warm enough temperatures in October to mature a peanut crop at a normal rate. However, the chances of that happening are very slim. It would also require frequent rain events though out September into early October.

The tougher decisions are going to be on those fields that have pods of all stages of development, but not enough of the more fully developed pods to feel completely confident to justify continued management practices. We don't have a concrete answer for that question. If there is any doubt whatsoever in what should be done, the crop insurance adjuster should be called in to help render a decision. They will use their own methods for determining yield potential and, in all likelihood, will require the peanuts be dug and combined.

The costs for irrigating and insect control have dramatically increased production costs this year. Although some growers have reduced fungicide costs due to the dry weather, the irrigation and insect control costs have more than accounted for the difference. As a result, any costs from this point forward are resulting in negative returns for most growers. The question then becomes how much more should I put into the crop.

Unfortunately, there are not always easy answers.

Source: Peanut Pointers - Newsletter, University of Georgia, August 2006 - Vol. 43 No. 7