



Jefferson County Extension Service

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Jefferson Farm Advisor

Farm, Ranch and Nursery Management
in Jefferson County, Florida

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

275 North Mulberry Street Monticello, Florida 32344
Lawrence A. (Larry) Halsey, County Extension Director

Mid-Summer

August 2001

NOTE THE DATES OF THESE ACTIVITIES

Event	Date & Time	Location
® Peanut Field Day	Aug 21, starts 8 AM CDT	Marianna NFREC - Greenwood, FL on Highway 71
® Pecan Field Day /Pecan Grower's Association Annual Meeting	Sept 6, starts 8:30 AM	Monticello Country Club, Boston Hwy
Sunbelt Ag Exposition	Oct 16-18	Moultrie, GA Spence Field
Fla Nursery & Allied Trade Show	Oct 20-22	Orlando
® Pesticide Applicator Training CORE (2 CEUs each)	Thurs, Aug 30, 7-9 AM or Tues, Sep 4, 3-5 PM	Monticello Extension Office (two sessions, different material...come to one or both)
® Pesticide Applicator Training Private Applicator-Ag (2 CEUs)	Thurs, Aug 30, 3-5 PM or Tues, Sep 4, 7-9 AM	Monticello Extension Office (two sessions, same material...come to one of the two)
® Meetings marked with ® offer CEU credit for CCA and Pesticide Recertification Call us at 342-0187, see below or check our bulletin board for agenda details		

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Larry Halsey
County Extension Director 342-0187

We don't have TDD, but if you have a hearing impairment,
contact us through the **Florida Relay Center Service:**
1-800-955-8771

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE, HOME ECONOMICS, SEA GRANT AND 4-H YOUTH, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

West Nile Virus - Where We Are We?

Since the July 6, 2001 confirmation of West Nile Virus in a crow collected in the county, two human cases have been confirmed and treated in Madison County. A team from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) collected bird blood samples and mosquitoes here, and a team from the UF/IFAS Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory (FMEL, Vero Beach) is currently setting traps to identify where, when and by which mosquitoes the virus is conveyed. For information about West Nile Virus and other similar encephalitis diseases, visit the Jefferson County Website, and click on WNV/EEE Updates. I have links to Florida Dept of Health, CDC, FDACS, FMEL and others there. For information on Human Health related to West Nile, contact the Jefferson County Health Department, 342-0170.

West Nile is a concern for horse owners. Several horses have been confirmed with WNV, a few have died or have been euthanized. Mosquitoes spread the virus from birds to other birds, to horses or to people. WNV is not thought to be spread from horses or people.

Clinical signs of West Nile Virus in horses are:

Ataxia (affecting rear limbs more often) characterized by stumbling, staggering, wobbly gait, or incoordination

Weakness

Going down with difficulty and inability to rise

Muscle fasciculation

Facial paralysis or twitching

Teeth grinding

Blindness

**Contact your Veterinarian about
vaccinating or treating horses**

(The following Q & A is from Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, Division of Animal Industry)

West Nile Virus Vaccine Information:

On August 1, 2001, USDA conditionally approved a West Nile Virus, killed vaccine, for use in horses. On Friday, August 3, Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson and Dr. Leroy Coffman, State Veterinarian granted permission to distribute the vaccine in Florida as it is made available by the manufacturer.

When will the vaccine be available, and where?

It is not yet available, but, as available, horse owners may order the vaccine through their private veterinary practitioner. Priority orders will be directed to counties with currently confirmed positive West Nile cases: Jefferson, Madison, Leon, Taylor and Duval Counties.

Who do I get the vaccine from?

The vaccine can be obtained by ordering it through your

local veterinary practitioner.

When can I get the vaccine?

You can get the vaccine as soon as it is available from the manufacturer. We have no time frame for the actual delivery. It could be as early as the week of August 6th. It could be in two weeks. The manufacturer is in control of this issue.

Can I order the vaccine myself?

No. At this time the approval for distribution of this trial vaccine is only given to licensed accredited veterinary practitioners, to be determined by the State Veterinarian and the location of the veterinary practice.

Can I give my horse the vaccine myself if my veterinarian orders it for me?

No. The product can only be administered by a licensed accredited veterinary practitioner. Any other method of vaccination will put licensure and accreditation of the veterinarian at risk for loss of both and subject the veterinarian to up to a \$10,000 fine.

Where do I call to get information about the vaccine?

850 - 921-0384

Is the vaccine safe for my horses?

The manufacturer's reports have indicated equine reaction appears to be no different than that of the EEE vaccine.

How many doses do I need for my horses?

Your veterinarian will request/be allocated enough doses for each horse in his practice, as indicated to him by his client's herd volume, to provide the manufacturer's recommended immunological support.

Am I required to vaccinate my horses?

No. However, Commissioner of Agriculture, Charles H. Bronson and the State Veterinarian, Dr. Lee Coffman emphasize that the WNV vaccine does not supercede vaccinations for eastern and western equine encephalitis (EEE and WEE), but that horse owners who decide to use the WNV vaccine will be doing so in addition to other equine vaccinations. Properly scheduled EEE/WEE vaccinations, while great protection against EEE/WEE, offers no cross-protection against West Nile virus. The Commissioner and State Veterinarian encourage everyone to continue with common-sense precautions such as spraying for mosquitoes and stalling your horses -- under fans, if practical -- during dusk to dawn hours, which are the prime mosquito feeding times.

In addition to vaccination for horses, prevention for people and livestock relies on avoidance of exposure to mosquitoes, which includes: eliminating mosquito-breeding sites such as stagnant water contained in bird baths, flower pots, old tires, unused pools, plastic tarp and the like; keeping horses away from ponds, marshes or wetlands; keeping horses indoors at dusk and dawn, the periods of greatest mosquito activity; use fans or screens in stalls and barns; applying insect repellents as recommended by manufacturers.

I circulated a poster stating that horse blood samples would be drawn prior to vaccination. Samples are not required. I apologize for any misunderstanding that may have caused.

Florida Pecan Field Day 2001

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Monticello/Jefferson County Country Club,

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Welcome - Larry Halsey, Jefferson County Extension Director
- 9:10 Pecan Insect Control - Dr. Russ Mizell, Entomologist, NREFC, Monticello, FL
- 9:30 Summary of Pecan Horticultural Research - Dr. Pete Anderson, Horticulturist, NFREC, Quincy
- 9:50 Air vs. Ground in Scab Control - Dr. Tim Brenneman, Plant Pathologist, Univ. of Ga., Tifton, Ga
- 10:10 Break
- 10:30 Core Pesticide Training - Larry Halsey, Extension Director, Jefferson County, Monticello, FL
- 11:20 Intercropping Pecans - Dr. Tom Crocker, Extension Horticulturist, Univ. of Ga., Tifton, GA
- 11:50 Business Meeting of Florida Pecan Grower's Association
- 12:30 Lunch - Monticello Research Center, Sponsored by Griffin Ag. Products Co.
- 1:30 Tour

**CEU credits for Pesticide Applicator License
Recertification : 1 CORE CEU and 1 Category CEU**

Pesticide Applicator Training

I will hold a Pesticide Training class August 30 and September 4, at the Extension office. Classes will lead to the exam for Pesticide Applicators License. License holders may get CEUs for re-certification. Early and late sessions are scheduled each of the two days. See the notice of events on the front page.

If you need to get certification, you may take the tests whenever you feel competent, and you don't pay the fee until you pass! Just drop by. Two exams (Core and the Private Applicator-Ag) are required; there are 50 multiple choice questions each, extracted directly from the two training manuals. Manuals may be ordered for at \$13, from the University of Florida by phone with a Visa or Master Charge account number is quickest, easiest:

Complete Reference for Private Applicator Category Exam, SM55 (includes two publications, SM1 & SM53).

Call toll free 1-800-226-1764 (Visa accepted) or come by the office. Joann Demott has the Resource Catalog of all "For Sale" publications from UF/IFAS.

Jefferson County Web Pages

The County Extension Service has an Internet website



which makes volumes of information available. We are located at:

<http://jefferson.ifas.ufl.edu>

Along the left side on the front page are buttons:

Jefferson County (points to the County Page)

The various areas in which our office offers programs: 4-H Youth, FCS, Ag (including small farms, economics and markets, pests and pesticides), Gardening (and the concerns of rural households such as water and septic systems), Natural Resources and Community affairs. Point and click on these, and you'll go to selection and information pages.

You can select the Jefferson County Extension site as your home page, so it will come up any time you click on Internet Explorer, Netscape or other browser. Call me if you need help doing that.

We update the page frequently. For example, the Pecan Field Day agenda and a large collection of West Nile Virus information are found at the site.

I hope you are familiar with our “**Green Pages**” directory of goods and services for direct sale to consumers from county growers and others. You can find a source of butter beans, or someone to do custom mowing by clicking at the “home” page, or at the Commercial Ag page, or at the Community Economic Development page. The **dba** (doing business as..) page lists county businesses and organizations that have web sites. If you want to be listed in either of these lists, contact us by e-mail, phone, letter, or drop by. You can even find out how to **contact us** by clicking on the contact us button on the “navigation” bar at the top of pages at the website.

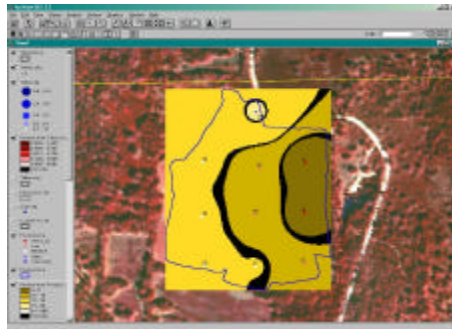
In 1996, our office collaborated with the Board of County Commissioners and the Planning and Building Department to create an “official” Jefferson County Home Page. It has since been revised, and it too, is updated frequently. County Election results are posted, and a new feature is a direct link to the Board of County Commissioners and Clerk of the Court. Agendas for upcoming meetings, Public Notices and Commission Meeting Minutes are posted so you can keep up with the function of County Government. I encourage you to visit the page by jumping from the Extension page, or directly by entering <http://co.jefferson.fl.us> .

Precision Agriculture

Farmers who are interested in having their fields mapped can call and arrange that with me. I have begun a service of field fertility mapping using soil sample analysis. If you are willing to pay for additional sample fees, call me. Typically, you should take a sample per acre for high value crops such as vegetables, sod and nursery stock.

Cotton, corn, peanuts and other row crops would require a sample per 2-4 acres, and hay or pasture could be mapped using one sample per 5-8 acres. Sample analysis fees at the University of Florida are \$7.00 for routine analysis, and an additional \$5.00 for micronutrients.

Here’s an example of a 40 acre hay field I mapped with Mr. Garrett Proctor last spring This analysis is for phosphorous (P₂O₅). Darker area on the right is very low



, middle band is low, yellow on left is medium test levels of P₂O₅. Phosphate fertilizer was applied to about half the field, giving a substantial yield increase, but providing a cost savings for the portion that did not call for additional phosphorate.

Distance Diagnostics and Identification System

Over the past 3 years, I have been participating with other agents, pest-related specialist and our Information Technologies wizards to create a way to submit “virtual” or digital samples of plant damage and disorders over the internet. The process, called DDIS (distance diagnostics and identification system), is fully functional, and it works in many cases, especially identification of weeds and insects. It is less precise, but still useful in identifying plant diseases. Many of you have already benefitted from the accelerated process, others will. If you’re interested in a “guided tour” and demonstration of DDIS, drop by. And when you ask, “What is it?” you can expect me to answer with “I don’t know, but I’ll find out...more quickly than I used to.”

We are required to update our mailing lists. If you want to continue receiving this agricultural newsletter, **Jefferson Farm Advisor** from the County Extension Office, **fill out** and **send** the Jefferson County Extension Service

Name		e-mail Address	
New E911 Address			
City, State, Zip			
Phone		Cell or Truck Phone	