



January, 2003

The following events are scheduled in Jefferson County or at near-by sites. Contact us or visit the county website <http://jefferson.ifas.ufl.edu> for details.

Master Wildlifer	A Southeastern satellite broadcast <i>Wildlife Management Shortcourse for Landowners</i> , each Tuesday evening from 7:00 until 10:00, beginning Feb 4 and running through March 18. The closest site with satellite downlink is Madison at the County Extension office. Registration of \$75 before Jan 10, \$95 after Jan 10, plus \$45 for text. See enclosed flyer.
Georgia Crop Updates	<i>Soybean Production/Weed Control</i> , Jan 13 at 11:00am and <i>Corn Production/Weed & Insect Control</i> , Jan 13, 1:00pm at the Grady Co AgriCenter, Cairo. Call 229-377-1312 to register, including lunch.
Watermelon Meeting	Tri-State <i>Watermelon/Cucurbit Meeting</i> , January 14, Washington County Ag Center, US 90 west of Chipley. It is scheduled for 4:00-9:00pm Central Time.
Cattlemen's Institute	The annual <i>Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Trade Show</i> will be held Jan 15-16 at the new Osceola County facilities, US 192 East, Kissimmee. Contact us for more information.
Ruminant Nutrition	<i>Annual Ruminant Nutrition Symposium</i> , Jan 16-17, Best western Gateway Hotel, Gainesville
Calf Health	<i>Beef Calf Health/Management Demonstration</i> , Jan 21, 6:30pm at the Jackson County Extension office in Marianna. Contact Doug Mayo at 850-482-9620 or the Jackson County Extension website.
Pesticide Training	<i>Pesticide Applicator Training</i> will be held the end of January at the County Extension Office, preparing you for CORE and Private Applicator Ag Pest exams. Attendance will earn CEUs for recertification. Classes Jan 23-30, from 2:30-4:30; Exam on Jan 31. See page 2 for details.
Bull Sale	<i>Florida Bull test Sale</i> at Beef Unit, Marianna. Contact Mary Chambliss at 850-482-9904. To review bull test results, go to the website fbulltest.ifas.ufl.edu .
Prescribed Burning	<i>Prescribed Burn Workshop</i> on Jan 29, 8:00-4:30 at Austin Cary Forest between Gainesville and Waldo. This Forest Stewardship Workshop is free but registration is required. Call Chris Demers, 352-846-2375. Call the Jefferson County Extension office for alternative locations and dates.
Corn Silage	<i>Corn Silage Production Meeting</i> in Branford. Contact Marvin Weaver, 352-463-3174.
Florida Forestry Forum	<i>Using our Abilities to Sustain Forest Variability</i> is the topic of the Florida Forestry Forum, Feb 4-6 at the Best Western Gateway Hotel, Gainesville. Forum registration is \$75. Call toll free 877-464-2378, or contact the Extension office for an agenda and registration form.
Sod-Based Cropping Systems	UF, UGA, Auburn and USDA/ARS will host a <i>Sod Based Cropping Systems Conference</i> to discuss integrating cattle production into cropping systems. On the agenda: how cattle on pastures fit with row crops, timber, and vegetables. The conference will be Feb 20-21, at the NFREC, Quincy.
FACTS	<i>Florida Agriculture Conference & Trade Show – FACTS</i> – will be held at Lakeland, Apr 29-30. Check the website www.factsshow.org , or call toll-free, 877-678-8119 to register.
Beef Cattle Short Course	The 51 st Annual <i>Beef Cattle Short Course</i> will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Gainesville, Apr 30 - May 2. A flyer will be sent in March to cattlemen on our mailing list.
Green Industries	New courses are offered at the Green Industries Institute: <i>Conversational Spanish for the Green Industry</i> (Wednesdays, from Jan 8 to Apr 23, 2:00-4:30pm), <i>Green Industries Business Practices</i> , (Thursdays, from Jan 9 to Apr 24, 1:00-3:30pm). Contact Green Industries for other courses: <i>Horticulture Practices, Soils & Fertilization, Plant Pest ID & Management, and Arboriculture</i> . Register through NFCC (\$157.30 for each 3-hour course). Call 997-4088, or visit the website www.greenindustries.org .

Master Gardener Classes	We will <u>not</u> hold local classes for <i>Master Gardeners in 2003</i> . Folks who want the training as Master Gardener Volunteers are invited to join the Leon County training beginning in March. Contact me for an application and details. Visit the website leon.ifas.ufl.edu/are_you_interested_2003.htm .
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Pesticide Applicator Training

I will offer two 6-hour classes to assist pesticide users in qualifying for a Restricted Applicator License. I'll review Basic Standards (CORE) information (required for all applicator categories) from 2:30 until 4:30pm, the afternoons of Jan 23, 24 and 27 at the Extension Office. Then we will hold classes on Private Applicator Ag Pest (category) Jan 28, 29 and 30, also from 2:30-4:30pm. You

may take the exams anytime you feel ready, but we're scheduling them from 2:00 until 4:30pm, Friday, Jan 31 for anyone to take it. The sessions will qualify for CEUs. Remember, you must now have 4 CORE and 8 Category CEUs to qualify, and renewal cost is \$60 each or a total of \$120 for both licenses.

Census of Agriculture – 2002

Farmers and ranchers across the Nation are completing report forms to make sure they are counted in the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Conducted by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census takes place only once every five years. It serves as the Nation's only uniform, comprehensive information source on agriculture production, inventories, sales and expenses for all states and counties. The law (Title 7, U.S. Code) requires every person who receives a report form to answer

the census whether they currently farm or not. This same law protects the privacy of the individual responses. Census responses are strictly confidential. Completed 2002 Census of Agriculture report forms are due Feb. 3, 2003. For help completing the form, a convenient toll free number is available, 1-888-4AG-STAT. If you raised agricultural products, or normally would, and did not receive a form you can call the toll-free number to ensure you are counted.

Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus on Oats

Barley yellow dwarf virus is the most widely distributed and destructive viral disease that affect small grains. It is extensively affecting oats for grazing in Jefferson County this year. Yield losses of up to 60% have been attributed to this disease. Symptoms of the disease include leaf discoloration, which begins at the tip and progresses downward. Leaf discoloration can range from yellow to orange to purple. These diseased plants often occur in circular patches within the field. Symptoms of BYDV are often confused with various nutritional disorders or cold damage. Unfortunately, by the time the symptoms are visible it is too late to take action. BYDV is spread by aphids. Epidemics occur when aphids carry the virus from wild and cultivated hosts. Seedling infections reduce yields the most. Plants infected as seedlings in the fall of the year may not survive the winter, or are severely stunted and discolored when growth resumes in the spring. The virus persists in small grains (oats, rye and wheat), in corn, and in over 80 species of perennial and annual grass species. Late-season infections occur as the aphids migrate from early-planted small grains, as well as wild grasses. Oats are particularly susceptible to BYDV. Early-planted oats often are heavily infected and serve as a source for migration of aphids carrying the virus into adjacent wheat. Aphids acquire BYDV by feeding on infected plants. It normally takes 24 to 48 hours of feeding to acquire the virus

but, once done, the aphid remains a carrier for life. Spread of BYDV depends entirely on aphid movement. Damaging outbreaks of BYDV are most likely if hosts are exposed to migrating aphids over extended periods of cool weather that favor small grain growth and aphid development. Infections can occur throughout the season and are most abundant where high populations of aphids survive the winter. Barley yellow dwarf virus is specialized in its relationship with the aphid carriers and is not transmissible through seed, plant sap, or by other insects. There are three ways to reduce yield losses due to BYDV. The first method is to delay planting. Since oats are generally planted early in the fall to provide winter grazing ahead of ryegrass, planting later may defeat the purpose of using oats. The second method is to apply the insecticide Gaucho (imidacloprid) as a seed treatment. This systemic insecticide does not necessarily kill the aphids, but does alter their feeding habits and has been shown to be effective up to 90 days after planting. The draw back is the \$12-14 per acre additional cost. Insecticide treatment of to control BYDV is rarely justified. The third approach is to control the grassy weeds within and near small grain fields, to reduce the potential for virus introduction. There are no small grain varieties with resistance to this disease, but researchers are attempting to select for this trait.

We have a supply of **Farmer Tax Guides**, 2002 from the IRS, but postage is expensive. Until last year, we sent copies to all who requested to be on the Farm Management/Taxes mailing list. To conserve postage costs, we ask that you drop by to pick up a copy, or call to ask Joann Demott to mail you one.