



UNIVERSITY OF  
**FLORIDA**  
IFAS EXTENSION



# Jefferson Farm Advisor

**Farm, Ranch, & Nursery Management in Jefferson County**

Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Office

275 North Mulberry Street, Monticello FL 32344

Winter, 2005

The following events are scheduled in Jefferson County or at near-by sites. We have flyers describing the programs, and registration forms if necessary. **CEU** indicates events that offer Pesticide Recertification credits. Contact us or visit the county website <http://jefferson.ifas.ufl.edu> for details.

<b>2005 Georgia Peanut Show</b>	<b>CEU</b>	<b>Georgia Peanut Farm Show</b> in Albany, GA (Civic Center), Jan 20, beginning at 8:30. CEUs for Florida Pesticide License renewal are available for growers who attend the workshops. When you return from the show, bring me a copy of the program agenda and let me know what seminars you attended. (CEU # 2477)
<b>Watermelon Meeting</b>	<b>CEU</b>	Tri-State <b>Watermelon &amp; Other Cucurbit Meeting</b> , Jan 20, 3:00pm (Central) in Marianna (Jackson County Ag Complex). RSVP by Jan 18 to 850-482-9620.
<b>2005 Pest Management Update</b>	<b>CEU</b>	Jefferson and Madison County producers are encouraged to attend an early-season update of <b>pests and pest management on row crops</b> (2:00-5:00pm) <b>and forages</b> (6:00-8:00pm), <b>February 3 in Greenville at the Senior Citizens' Center</b> . Call 342-0187 to reserve your sandwich supper. Up to 5 CEUs for Private Applicator Ag Pest Control and Row Crops.
<b>Beef Conference</b>	<b>CEU</b>	<b>Northwest Florida Beef Conference</b> , Feb 3, beginning at 8:00am (Central) in Marianna (Jackson County Ag Complex). Contact Doug Mayo for more information, 850-482-9620.
<b>Master Wildlifer Course</b>		<b>Master Wildlifer Shortcourse</b> , will be offered in 2005 at Madison County Extension Office beginning Feb 1 at 7:00pm. Weekly satellite downlinks will be held through March 15. Call Kevin Campbell (973-4138) or Larry Halsey (342-0187) to register. Registration fee of \$95 until Jan 14, \$115 until Feb 1. Course originates from Clemson and is sponsored by UF/IFAS, Florida Forestry Assoc and FDACS Div of Forestry Forest Stewardship Program.
<b>Cotton Production &amp; Marketing</b>	<b>CEU</b>	<b>Cotton Production and Marketing Meeting</b> , Feb 10, beginning at 8:00am (Central) in Marianna (Jackson County Ag Complex). Includes lunch. Contact Clyde Smith for additional information, 850-482-9620.
<b>Crop Insurance Deadline</b>		Deadline for purchasing crop insurance under the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program for most crops is Feb 28. Contact Mark Demott at USDA-FSA, 997-2072.
<b>Panhandle Peanut Shortcourse</b>	<b>CEU</b>	<b>Panhandle Peanut Shortcourse</b> , Mar 3, beginning at 8:00am (Central) in Marianna (Jackson County Ag Complex). Contact Ed Jowers for information, 850-482-9620.

## Meet the FCS Agent, Heidi Copeland

Heidi Copeland joined Jefferson County Extension as Family and Consumer Sciences Agent Nov 29. She taught Life Management and Family and Consumer Science at JCHS and was an ESE instructor. Heidi grew up in Wisconsin, served four years in the Army where she met husband Steve, a native of Alabama. She received her BS in Home Economics Education from University of Alabama in 1985. She has taught FCS at the FSU School (Florida High) and with the Florida Virtual (Online) High School. Heidi operated a catering business, and instructed FSU School of Hospitality production classes and the Ashby Stiff Dinner Series. Her two daughters are students at UF in Gainesville. Reach her at [hbc@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:hbc@ifas.ufl.edu).

**Larry Halsey**, Jefferson County Extension Director

lah@ifas.ufl.edu

850-342-0187 or Florida Relay 711

visit the UF/IFAS Extension Calendar of Events

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

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Cooperative extension work in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, sea grant and 4-H youth, State of Florida, IFAS University of Florida, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners cooperating.

**Bits and Pieces**, from UF/IFAS Specialists and from other Extension Agents

**Perennial Grasses Followed by Corn or Other Grass Crops:** Grass sod crops are excellent for most crops when used in rotation and higher yields are normally expected for crops grown after bahia or Bermudagrass. But, where corn follows a sod crop, at least 50 additional pounds of nitrogen are needed to help decompose the sod and extensive root system. Florida research shows that yields of corn can be depressed if extra nitrogen is not used. (*David Wright*)

**Expanded Peanut Production:** It is expected that Florida's peanut acreage will increase again in 2005 as current growers expand and new growers enter production. New buying points are opening which will serve many of the new growers. Prospective growers should carefully review budgets on the cost of production to estimate potential profits using current and projected prices for peanuts. New growers often produce high yields because they are planting peanuts on land that has not been used recently for peanuts, and therefore have fewer disease problems. It is important for growers to incorporate a crop rotation plan that would prevent peanuts from being planted on the same land no more than once in four years. Good rotation crops for peanuts would be non-legume plants such as grass crops, which includes corn, as well as bahiagrass and others. Cotton is another good choice. The rotation crops should not be susceptible to the peanut root-knot nematode, white mold, the various pod-rot organisms, and other diseases. (*Ben Whitty*)

**Proper Liming of Soils** This is a slow time of year for many of the farm supply dealers and is a good time of year to have lime applied to fields that need it. It also allows time for the lime to react with the soil to adjust pH for the summer row crops. For those growers who use minimum tillage and strip tillage, surface applications are acceptable. IFAS researchers have long term plots that have not been turned or had lime incorporated for 28 years that are still producing good yields of various crops. A high calcium and phosphorus layer can develop in the top 2-3 inches after many years of surface applications of fertilizer and lime. (*David Wright*)

**Role of Ammonium Sulfate with Glyphosate Herbicides:** There are currently scores of glyphosate containing herbicides on the market. These products have different names, differing amounts of active ingredient per gallon, different formulations, and may or may not need a surfactant added. However, all these products recommend that ammonium sulfate (AMS) be added to the spray tank. Why is this?

Surfactants and crop oils are added to spray mixtures in order to improve herbicide retention and uptake by the leaf. AMS is required for a much dif-

ferent reason. Glyphosate is a weak acid herbicide that possesses an overall negative charge. When placed in water with high amounts of positively charged ions like calcium or magnesium (hard water), the glyphosate rapidly binds to these ions and immediately loses all herbicidal activity. In areas where groundwater routinely registers high levels of calcium (as in most of Florida), the effectiveness of glyphosate can be greatly reduced when mixed with hard water. Additionally, all glyphosate formulations are susceptible to antagonism by calcium and magnesium.

However, adding AMS to the spray tank is an easy and relatively inexpensive way to remedy this problem. The AMS will immediately begin reacting with the calcium in the water and not allow for glyphosate antagonism. It is important to note that the AMS must be added to the spray mixture before the glyphosate is added in order to see the maximum benefit.

The amount of AMS required to reverse calcium antagonism is totally dependent on the amount of calcium and magnesium in the water and these concentrations can vary greatly with region. This is why the glyphosate labels suggest adding between 4.5 to 17 pounds of AMS per 100 gallons of water. However, calculations have shown that 8 pounds of AMS per 100 gallons of water should often be sufficient unless extreme conditions occur. (*Jay Ferrell*)

### **Smutgrass Control – Does Mowing Help?**

Smutgrass, both the giant and common variety, is a very common pasture weed. This unpalatable grass invades both bermudagrass and bahiagrass fields and reduces grazing and hay quality. One problem with smutgrass is that Velpar is the only pasture herbicide that will effectively control this weed. However, Velpar will often cost \$20 to \$25/A and managers are hesitant to invest this much money for smutgrass control. Therefore, it has been questioned if mowing prior to herbicide application will allow lower Velpar use rates that will result in a cost savings.

Research conducted separately by Drs. Mislevy and Mullahey at the University of Florida have documented the effect of mowing 0, 1, 2 or 3 times prior to Velpar application on smutgrass control. However, it was observed that mowing prior to Velpar application did not improve smutgrass control in over 4 years of experimentation. This means that mowing prior to Velpar application is likely an unwarranted expense.

Another common practice is to apply Velpar at 2 pt/A in order to save on herbicide cost. Experiments have shown that the 2 pint rate can control smutgrass, **IF** weather conditions are ideal during and immediately after application. However, if overly wet or dry conditions occur after application, Velpar applied at

2 pt/A will provide only 60 to 90 days of acceptable control. Therefore, it is often best to apply Velpar (as stated on the product label) between 2.75 and 4.5 pt/A. It has been my observation that applications between 3 and 4 pt/A will provide the most consistent smutgrass control at the lowest cost. (Jay Ferrell)

[ Dr. Ferrell is scheduled for the Feb 3 Pest UPDATE session in Greenville. He will have comments on some weed resistance to glyphosate and new herbicides for use on Tropic Soda Apple ]

**Variety Trial Information:** Information on corn, cotton, soybean, small grains and other crops may be found on the web at <http://www.griffin.uga.edu/swvt>. Deciding on best varieties is a very important decision. Many varieties of crops have resistance to disease, insects, and nematodes. Other varieties are transgenic with resistance to herbicides that may be applied over the top of the crop. There is often a 30-50% difference between some of the best varieties and the lower yielding varieties. Quality may vary as well making a difference in the prices received for the commodity or animal performance. (David Wright)

[ The site includes UF/IFAS NFREC-Quincy variety test results. If you don't have internet connection, call me for printed results. Trials go back to 1999. ]

**Grass Tetany:** Grass Tetany, sometimes called grass staggers or hypomagnesemia, can be serious problem in Florida with cattle grazing small grain or ryegrass pastures during the winter months. The is always associated with an imbalance in the mineral components of blood serum, especially reduced magnesium levels. In Florida, the disease is more severe when cattle are grazing young forage, particularly the first flush of growth during December and January. Once the forage becomes more mature, the likelihood of problems occurring is reduced. The disease is likely to appear under conditions of nutritional stress. Placing cattle on a winter pasture directly after being on frosted or other low quality pastures may cause a nutritional stress.

Grass tetany can be prevented by feeding mineral supplements that contain magnesium. Commercial mineral mixtures containing 10-15% magnesium are available for feeding during periods of increased grass tetany probability. Cattle need to consume 6-12 ounces/head/day of this mineral. When liming a field for small grains, use of dolomitic limestone, which contains magnesium, may reduce the risk of grass tetany. (Mike Sweat)

**Burning Hay Fields:** Consider burning frosted bermudagrass stubble to reduce spittlebug infestation, certain fungal diseases, remove trash, and kill early germinating winter weeds. Burning also seems to allow the sun to warm the ground and stimulate growth. Do not burn too soon. Wait until a few green

shoots are present, indicating that the bermudagrass is breaking "dormancy". If a hard freeze follows shortly after growth is stimulated, the stand could be damaged. This is especially true for a non-cold tolerant bermuda such as Coastcross -1. Coastal and other bermudagrasses that have rhizomes have greater cold tolerance and will likely survive a hard freeze. Burning should not be done every year, but may be effective as an occasional hay management practice. (Carroll Chambliss)

**Soybean Rust (SBR):** Soybean rust has been confirmed throughout southeastern US, including Florida. I collected two positive samples on kudzu from Jefferson County in mid- to late-November. To date, SBR (soybean rust) has been detected by DPI and others in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Alachua, Levy, and Marion Counties.

Dr. Tom Kucharek, UF/IFAS Extension Pathologist will address SBR management/control at the Feb. 3 UPDATE in Greenville. Here are a few early considerations from Dr. Kucharek:

- Fungicides will suppress soybean rust based upon available data. However, we have not established a spray program for SBR in soybeans grown in the southeastern USA. There are many variables involved with such a tactic and I would urge caution in relation to the acceptance and promotion of some internet-based information on this topic for now.
- For now, we have Folicur, Tilt, Bumper, Promimax, and Laredo through Section 18 clearance. We have national Section 3 labels for at least 3 chlorothalonil products (e.g. Bravo Weather Stik) as well as Quadris.
- The big question for us to consider is how much can a grower afford to spend for the multiple fungicide sprays with respect to yield potential for Florida. If you do an analysis, you may find that the only plus for spraying soybeans in Florida is the ability of the grower to add another expense on his income tax form. The fungicide spray program for soybean rust will not be a nickel/dime operation. Growers will need to beef up their checkbooks!
- I will provide information on SBR in more detail in the Plant Protection Pointer I am working on and other updates.

**Meet our DPI Plant Inspector:** Stephen Beidler is the FDACS Division of Plant Industry (DPI) inspector for Jefferson and surrounding counties. He moved from Lake County following the death of Jim Wiglesworth. Steve is located in our offices, and can be reached at 342-0227. He's tied up with field work most days, so leave a message on his recorder.

# ***Pest Management UPDATE – 2005***

**February 3, 2005  
Senior Citizens' Center, Greenville, FL**



For producers in Madison & Jefferson Counties  
.... those from Taylor, Lafayette, Suwannee, Hamilton, Wakulla, Leon,  
Dixie, Brooks, Thomas, Lowndes and other nearby counties welcome, too

**2:00 – 5:00 pm ROW CROPS: Cotton, peanuts, corn, soybeans, cucurbits and others**  
*3 CEUs in Private Applicator Ag Pest or Row Crop Categories*

<b>Crop Nutrition &amp; Fertility</b>	<b>Dr. Cheryl Mackowiak</b> <i>UF/IFAS NFREC Soil &amp; Water Science, Quincy</i>
<b>Insect Management</b>	<b>Dr. Richard Sprenkel</b> <i>UF/IFAS NFREC, IPM &amp; Entomology, Quincy</i>
<b>Disease Management</b>	<b>Dr. Tom Kucharek</b> <i>UF/IFAS Plant Pathology Department, Gainesville</i>
<b>Nematode Management</b>	<b>Dr. Jimmy Rich</b> <i>UF/IFAS NFREC Nematology, Quincy</i>
<b>Weed Management</b>	<b>Dr. Jay Ferrell</b> <i>UF/IFAS Agronomy Department, Gainesville</i>
<b>Survey &amp; Diagnosis of High Risk Pathogens</b>	<b>Dr. Tim Momol</b> <i>UF/IFAS NFREC, Plant Pathology, Quincy, and SPDN</i>

**5:00 – 6:00 pm Sandwich and Chips Supper provided by sponsors \***

**6:00 – 8:00 pm FORAGES: Hay, pasture, perennial peanuts, small grains**  
*2 CEUs in Private Applicator Ag Pest or Row Crop Categories*

<b>Crop Nutrition &amp; Fertility</b>	<b>Dr. Cheryl Mackowiak</b> <i>UF/IFAS NFREC Soil &amp; Water Science, Quincy</i>
<b>Weed Management</b>	<b>Dr. Jay Ferrell</b> <i>UF/IFAS Agronomy Department, Gainesville</i>
<b>Disease Management</b>	<b>Dr. Tom Kucharek</b> <i>UF/IFAS Plant Pathology Department, Gainesville</i>
<b>Pest ID &amp; Diagnostics</b>	<b>Larry Halsey and Kevin Campbell</b> <i>UF/IFAS Extension Agents</i>

To register for supper, or for more information, contact Jefferson County Extension, Larry Halsey (850-342-0187) or Madison County Extension, Kevin Campbell (850-973-4138)

**\* Supper sponsored by**  
**Farm Credit of NW Florida**  
**Waukeenah Fertilizer & Farm Supply**  
**Monticello Milling Company**  
**Greenville Fertilizer**  
**Farmer's Coop-Madison**  
**Birdsong Peanuts-Lee**

(FDACS CEU Class # 2364)

