



LIVING ON ACREAGE

A Clay County Extension Newsletter for Ranchers, Farmers
Small Farms, and Rural Residents.

SPRING 2009

University of Florida IFAS
Clay County Extension
2463 SR 16 West
Green Cove Springs, FL
32043

BRONSON SENDS OUT EARLY WARNING ON EQUINE VACCINATIONS



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SOLUTIONS
for *your* LIFE

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TALLAHASSEE -- Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson is sending out an early reminder to horse owners to vaccinate their animals for mosquito-borne diseases, especially in the northern parts of the state which have received significant rain.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) are the two major equine diseases animal health officials are concerned about. The heavy rain and flood conditions have left standing water in many areas of North Florida, providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes that carry the diseases.

As of April 15, there are six confirmed cases of EEE and no cases of WNV. Four of the EEE cases affected horses that had not been vaccinated, one was an incomplete vaccination, and it isn't known if the horse was vaccinated in the sixth case. The impacted horses are in Volusia, Gil-

christ, Levy, Lake and Flagler counties.

The number of cases is down from last year and Bronson wants to ensure that the downward trend continues. Last year at this time there were 12 cases of EEE; however, peak season for transmission of these diseases occurs during the summer months. With the recent rains, this year could be worse than average.

"With the potential for a jump in the mosquito population after floodwaters recede, I think it's prudent to urge horse owners now to get their animals vaccinated," Bronson said. "These vaccinations are crucial for preventing the contraction of these serious, deadly diseases."

EEE is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system and is transmitted to horses by infected mosquitoes. Signs of the virus include fever,

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Small farms are a priceless resource and a key to Florida's agricultural future. Using the definition suggested by the USDA (up to \$250,000 sales) 93% of the state's 44,000 farms fall into the "small farm" category.

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension



Florida Small Farms Alternative Enterprises Conference

Aug 1 & 2, 2009



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

"Sustaining Small Farms; Strengthening Florida's Communities" August 1 & 2, 2009 Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee, Florida



(Continued from page 1)

listlessness, stumbling, circling, coma and usually death. The disease is fatal in horses in 90 percent of the cases.

Bronson says the majority of cases of EEE and WNV can be prevented through proper vaccinations against mosquito-borne ill-

nesses and he is reminding horse owners that now is the time to take action. Horse owners are urged to check with their veterinarian to make sure their animals have received current vaccinations and booster shots against WNV and EEE, and that these shots are kept up to date.



MAY 19TH, 2009, 6:30PM
CLAY COUNTY EXTENSION AUDITORIUM
2463 SR 16 W, Green Cove Springs, FL

Our Cut Flower Production workshop is an introductory educational workshop for those who wish to start a niche market enterprise or just would like to produce flowers for personal use. Topics to be covered: Flower Varieties, Irrigation, Marketing & Post Harvest Handling, On Site Demonstration Plots, and Site Prep, and Fertilization.

Speakers: Linda Landrum, Regional Specialized Agent, Marketing & Rural Development, North Florida REC - Suwannee Valley

David Nistler, Agriculture, Small Farm, Natural Resource Agent, Clay County Extension

Registration is \$10.00 to cover costs of demonstration plot, materials, and beverage break. Please Contact the Clay County Extension office at [904-284-6355](tel:904-284-6355) to reserve your spot as soon as possible - space is limited.

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Be sure to
Check out the
2009
Agricultural
Forecast at:
[http://www.
agclimate.org](http://www.agclimate.org)



Buying Local Food

The “buy local food” movement is getting more attention these days, in the media and in the general public. Countless television chefs, magazines and restaurants now specifically address the various aspects of local food. In a March 2007 issue, Time magazine published a lengthy article on the subject.

While buying local has its roots in rural America, those on the urban-rural fringe as well as urban America are gaining understanding and appreciation for locally grown foods. Some of the reasons why people are buying local are:

Local Economy

When you purchase food from local farmers, you’re helping them stay in business.

Environmental Impact

Fresh food items purchased at the grocery store may have traveled hundreds of miles to reach your community. A study from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, based at Iowa State University, indicated that long-distance food transportation using semi trucks contributed four to eight times more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere than local transportation using light-duty trucks delivering the same amount of food.

Seasonal Food

When farmers sell their crops locally, they have the opportunity to harvest it at peak ripeness and offer it to consumers a short time later. This translates to fresh, flavorful food. And because local farmers can only

offer what the growing season allows, customers may be tempted to expand their palates and try items they don’t normally eat.

Accountability

In these food security conscious times, many people want to know more about the items they eat. When you patronize local farmers, you have the opportunity to ask questions about how their wares are produced. Also, you have an opportunity to give them feedback about food you’ve purchased in the past.

Buying local food is easy. Find a farmer, farmers’ market, community-supported agriculture program, u-pick, or other local food outlet near you. Be sure to encourage your local grocers or restaurants to buy more products from local farms.

On Aug. 1-2, 2009, the first Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference will be held at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee. The event will feature exhibitors, educational sessions and more. All Florida farmers are invited to attend. Visit the conference Web site at <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/floridasmallfarmsconference/index.htm>.

For information on conference sponsorship or being an exhibitor, contact Bob Hochmuth, 386-362-1725 or bobhoch@ufl.edu.

David Nistler, Clay County Extension agent



Visit the
University of
Florida IFAS
Extension
Small Farms
Website at:
[www.smallfarms
ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu)



Polycom Videoconference:

Think Locally, Act Neighbourly to Combat Invasive Species – The Florida Invasive Species Partnership

June 16, 2009; 1:00 – 4:00 PM ET



Invasive species know NO boundaries. The Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) is a collaboration of federal, state and local agencies along with non-government organizations in Florida, formed to link efforts at preventing and controlling infestations of invasive exotic species across agency and property boundaries. FISP has created a Web site, at <http://www.floridainvasives.org/>, to help connect Florida's land owners and land managers with available technical and/or financial assistance programs to prevent or control invasive exotic species problems. Join us to learn how to access and use these valuable resources.

Tentative Agenda (all times Eastern):

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1:00 pm | Sign in at facility |
| 1:15 | Program introduction , <i>Chris Demers, UF-IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC)</i> |
| 1:30 | What is FISP? , <i>Greg Jubinski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</i> |
| 2:00 | Think Locally - how is this going to help me or my clients? , <i>Chris Demers and Anandi Banerjee, SFRC</i> |
| 2:45 | Break |
| 3:00 | Act Neighborly – cooperative efforts in your region , <i>Erin Myers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i> |
| 3:45 | Conclusion, Evaluation, Adjourn |

Register: Please call the contact listed for the location you wish to attend **by June 4** to ensure getting materials. A small fee may be collected at the door to cover refreshments. Please share this announcement with others that may be interested.

Green Cove Springs, UF-IFAS Clay County Extension Office
2463 State Road 16 West

Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0278

Call the Extension Office at (904) 284-6355 to register.

For additional information and other sites throughout the state go to: http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/index.html

Funding for Florida's Forest Stewardship Program is provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry and a grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Fruit and Nut Twilight Field Day

Thursday, May 14, 2009, 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm North Florida Research & Education Center - Suwannee Valley 8202 County Road 417, Live Oak, FL 32060

Topics to be covered:

Variety Selections for N. Florida
Production Practices
Pest Management
Harvest & Postharvest Handling
Market Potential
Propagation



The registration fee is: \$20 if paid by May 1, 2009 \$25 if paid after May 1, 2009. The registration deadline is May 8, 2009 at 5pm. No registrations will be accepted after the deadline. Price includes dinner and educational materials. For more information call Karen Hancock at (386) 362-1725 ext 101 or email to KHancock@ufl.edu.

Florida Cattle Management Calendar

May

- ⇒ Remove bulls.
- ⇒ Harvest hay from cool season crops.
- ⇒ Plant warm season perennial pastures.
- ⇒ Fertilize warm season pastures.
- ⇒ 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 at 90-120 days, when you have herd penned.
- ⇒ Dispose of dead animals properly.
- ⇒ Update market information and refine marketing plans.

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.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ Put bulls out June 1 for calves starting March 11.
- ⇒ Re-implant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.

2009 Upcoming State/ Local Events

May 5, 2009 - **Embracing Change - Adopting Alternative Enterprises**

Angeles Farm LLC, Providence, FL. To register for this program contact the Union County Extension Service at 386-496-2321.

May 11, 2009 - **Southwest Florida Farmers Network Meeting**

Rabbit Run Farm, Fort Myers, FL. For more information contact Robert Kluson at 941-232-3090.

May 14, 2009 - **Fruit & Nut Twilight Field Day**

North Florida REC - Suwannee Valley, Live Oak FL. For more information contact Karen Hancock at 386-362-1725 x101 or email khancock@ufl.edu.

June 6, 2009 - **Be a Hobby Beekeeper Short Course**

Clay County Agriculture Center, Green Cove Springs. For more information call 904-269-6355, 284-6355 or 473-3711.

June 23, 2009 - **Palm Production Seminar**

Jasper, FL. To register call Allen Tyree at 386-792-1276, email ATyree@ufl.edu or Linda Landrum at 386-362-1725 ext 105, email LLandrum@ufl.edu.

July 9 - 12, 2009 - **Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference**

Gainesville FL. For more information call 352-317-0273 or email to setc2009@aol.com

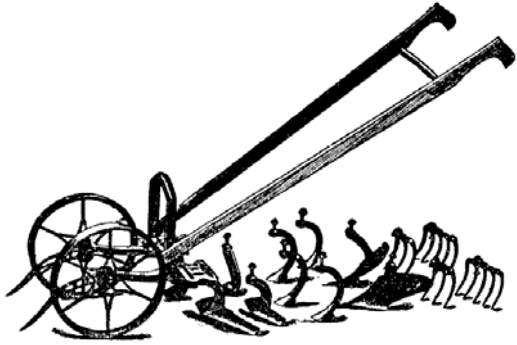


ARE YOU ON MY EMAIL LIST?

I am compiling a email list of farmers, ranchers, educators, and other agricultural professionals so that I can better advertise upcoming events, agricultural news, grant opportunities, etc. I believe this type of communication beneficial and hope you will join the list.

My email is dnistler@ufl.edu, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 904-284-6355. Thank you and hope to hear from you.

David Nistler University of Florida IFAS Clay County Extension
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