



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

University of Florida IFAS Extension and
Hillsborough County, FL

LAND & LIVESTOCK

Issue 1

Livestock, Pasture & Forages, Wildlife Habitat, Farm Ponds, & Small Farm Enterprises

Feb/March 2006



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Hillsborough County Land & Livestock Newsletter. I plan to use this publication to provide you with current industry information and to keep you up-to-date on educational programs, workshops, and other opportunities offered through this county, the region, and even the state. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, as I have recently accepted the position as the county's Livestock and Small Farms Extension agent. I attended Auburn University for two years majoring in Animal Science and continued my education at the University of Florida, earning both a BS degree in Animal Science and later an MS degree in Agricultural Extension. I transferred from a similar position in Duval County because I could not pass up the opportunity to work in a county that is truly 'home' to me. We talk about 'grassroots' in Extension, and although I have been away in North Florida and even Costa Rica for a number of years, I look forward to being able to return to my roots and serving Hillsborough County as it faces new challenges in this period of growth and change.

I am passionate about maintaining agriculture in this part of the state and helping the industry remain profitable and prosperous amidst urban and regulatory pressures through education, facilitating processes and communication between organizations and agencies.

Dates to Remember			
Date	What	Where	Contact
3/18/06	Small Farms Livestock Production Conference	LaBelle, FL	See Enclosed Flyer
3/18/06	South- Central Florida Small Farms Conference Conference	Hillsborough Co. Extension Office; Seffner, FL	See Enclosed Flyer
3/28-30/06	20th Annual Beef Cattle Reproductive Management School	Bartow, FL	See Enclosed Flyer



Last week, I attended the Quality Beef Producer Program in Okeechobee to become certified in the new state Beef Quality Assurance program and look forward to discussing this program with the cattlemen in our county. In this position, I have the honor of being a part of the South Florida Beef-Forage group of agents and we are currently working on a long term Animal Identification project in which we will be working with producers in each of our counties along with the upcoming events listed on the "Dates to Remember" table.

****Please pay particular attention to pre-registration dates listed on the flyers.**

I will continue to get out to your farms in an effort to tailor my educational programs to the issues and concerns in the county. If you know someone who is involved with agriculture, including livestock & forages, horses, farm ponds and wildlife, or has a diversified small farm that would like to receive this newsletter, or you would like to remain on this mailing list, please contact me at 813-744-5519 or dragons@hillsboroughcounty.org.

Sincerely,

Steffany L. Dragon
Livestock/Small Farms Agent



Small Farms Alternative Enterprises



- Small farms represent over 90% of all farms in FL and the number of small farms is increasing
- Input from counties throughout Florida identified the need for small farm educational programs
- Programs addressing the needs of small-scale farmers are particularly relevant in Hillsborough County, where over 75% of our farms and ranches are 50 acres or less in size and about 1/3 of them are smaller than 10 acres
- Along with the various 'Alternative Agricultural Enterprise' workshops being held in the region, please visit this website for current information for small farmers:

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

****To remain on this mailing list, please fill out the information below and mail to: Steffany Dragon, Hillsborough Co. Extension, 5339 CR 579, Seffner, FL 33584. Otherwise, you will be removed.**

Name:		
Address:		City:
State:	Zip:	County:
E-mail:		Phone #:
Thank You!!		

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