

POLK COUNTY LIVESTOCK REPORT

Polk County Extension • University of Florida • IFAS • 1702 Highway 17 South • Bartow, FL

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Farm Bill Session.....	2
Farm Bill Programs.....	2
IFAS Waste Testing Lab.....	3
Bahiagrass:UF Riata.....	3
Cattle & Forage Field Day.....	4
Cow-Calf Series.....	4
Horse Short Course.....	4
Calendar.....	4

- *Due to state and county budget cuts, postage funds are limited. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please email me at bccarlis@ufl.edu to let me know.*
- *If you know fellow producers that are not receiving this newsletter, please share my contact information with them so that they may be added to the list.*
- *If you have information that needs to be included in the newsletter, please let me know.*

March—April, 2009

Volume 9, Issue 1—Published Bi-Monthly

I would like to thank everyone who came out last month to the Polk County Cattlemen's and Extension Service Trade Show and Ranch Rodeo. I would especially like to thank all of our booth, event and team sponsors that made the day a huge success.

I strongly encourage you to plan to attend the [Florida Beef Cattle Short Course](#) on April 29—May 1 in Gainesville. The spectrum of topics related to cash flow, cow herd considerations, and calf management should provide something for every beef cattle producer regardless of size. This is the most informative and worthy program offered to Florida beef cattle producers and I hope that you will consider taking the time and expense to attend.

I would also like to invite you to take advantage of the W-W Beefmaster Squeeze Chute that was donated by the Polk County Cattlemen's Association for use by Polk County cattle producers on a loan basis. If you are interested in using the squeeze chute, please contact me to reserve it.

I hope that the information provided and the programs offered in this newsletter will serve you well as you meet the challenges of today's beef industry. I would like to personally thank you for your role in the beef and agriculture industry.

As always, I look forward to serving your livestock and forage production needs. Please feel free to call me at (863) 519-8677 Ext. 104 or email me at bccarlis@ufl.edu.

Bridget Carlisle, Livestock Extension Agent

P.O. Box 9002, Drawer H203 • (863) 519-8677 ext. 104 • bccarlis@ufl.edu • <http://polk.ifas.ufl.edu>

Farm Bill 2008: Public Information Session

The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill, has become law and rule making is in process. As NRCS in Florida prepares to deliver the conservation programs within the bill, many of which provide cost-share and other financial assistance, we want to ensure that we address the natural resource conservation priorities within the State and get the information out to

our partners and Florida's agricultural producers.

As a result, we are holding a public information session designed to provide NRCS customers and natural resource partners the opportunity to hear what programs will be available with the new 2008 Farm Bill and changes from the 2002 Farm Bill, on Tuesday, March 10th, at 1pm, in the Polk County Agricultural Center South Auditorium. Information on how



to make public comments will be available. A question and answer session will follow. For more information, please contact Jeff White at (941) 729-6804.

Florida NRCS Announces Sign-up Cut-off Date For Three Key Farm Bill Programs

State Conservationist Carlos Suarez with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces March 13, 2009 as the cutoff date for three Farm Bill conservation programs. All applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) will be accepted until close of business on March 13, 2009.

EQIP and WHIP offer financial and technical assistance to install structural and management practices on eligible non-federal lands to address natural resource concerns and wildlife habitat restoration. Conservation treatment activi-

ties for EQIP and WHIP are carried out in accordance to a conservation plan that is developed with the landowner or manager.

State-wide priorities for EQIP include erosion control, water quality, water quantity, animal / plant health and confined livestock operations. Priorities for WHIP include habitat restoration on scrubby flatwoods, pine rocklands, tropical hammocks, and native grasslands for bobwhite quail. Individual county priorities may vary slightly due to locally established objectives. The WRP purchases conservation easements on wetlands that have been impacted by agricultural operations. These lands are then restored to wet-

lands.

For livestock producers, the EQIP has been used to provide cost share funding for fencing and watering facilities to promote rotational grazing, prescribed burning, invasive exotic weed control and other conservation practices needed to address resource concerns.

For additional details on these Farm Bill programs and for specific eligibility requirements to participate, contact Edward Sheehan, District Conservationist or Wayne Wiggs, Conservation Program Manager at, USDA-NRCS, 1700 Hwy 17 S, Ste 2, Bartow FL 33830; Telephone: (863) 533-2051 x3; Fax (863) 533-1884.

IFAS Livestock Waste Testing Laboratory

Producers that utilize organic sources (biosolids, animal manure, poultry litter, etc.) for their nitrogen fertilization programs should consider livestock waste testing to determine adequate application method and rates.

The Livestock Waste Testing Laboratory (LWTL) offers analytical tests, interpreta-

tions and nutrient recommendations for organic sources. The laboratory services are being offered as a part of the IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories. The analysis will include a test for nitrogen (N), ammonium (NH₄-N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K) as well as percent moisture, percent solids, percent ash, and pH. Based on test re-

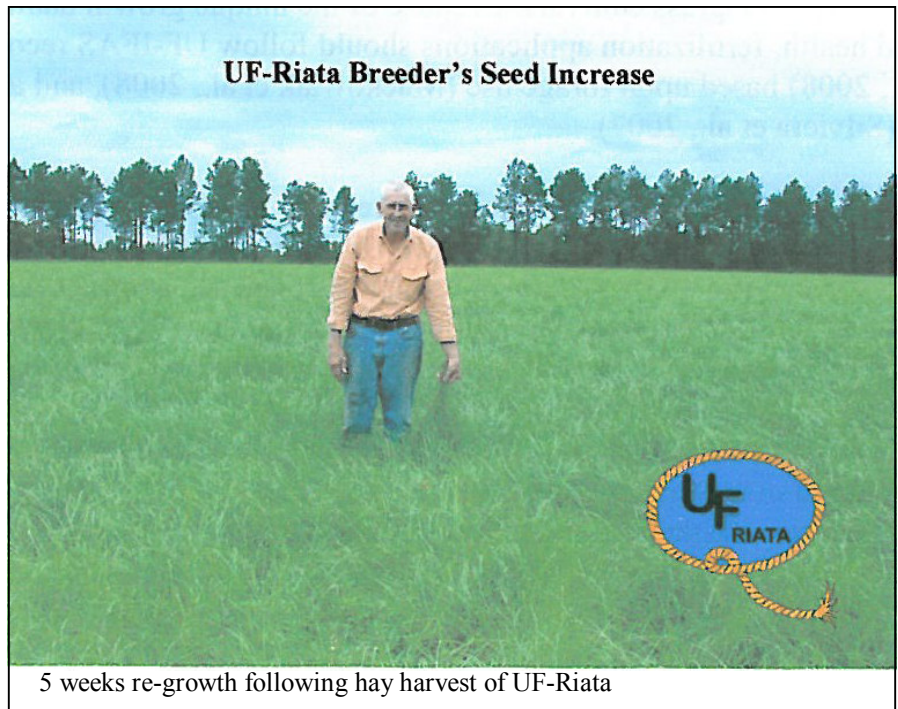
sults, nutrient recommendations for N, P, and K are provided for selected crops and up to three different crops per sample can be selected from a given list.

Appropriate forms can be downloaded and printed from their website at <http://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu> or by contacting Bridget at the Extension Office (863) 519-8677.

New Bahiagrass Variety: UF Riata

The new Bahiagrass cultivar, UF Riata, developed by University of Florida/IFAS researchers is more cold tolerant and has a longer growing season than other varieties. UF-Riata has been exclusively licensed to seed producer Ragan & Massey Inc., based in Ponchatoula, La. The seed should be available to customers starting in late summer 2009.

UF Riata exhibits lower photoperiod sensitivity, improved leaf tissue cold tolerance, and increased forage production during the cool season compared to the standard Bahiagrass cultivars Argentine and Pensacola. While it is similar in total season yield as Tifton-9, it has greater seedling vigor and leaf tissue cold tolerance which allows for later fall and earlier spring forage production. During the



growing season, UF-Riata has equal or higher nutritive values than all other bahia cultivars. As with Tifton-9, UF-Riata is not tolerant of severe overgrazing.

It is important to purchase certified seed of UF-

Riata from a reliable seed source to insure the purity of the cultivar, excellent germination and freedom from weed seed.

Adapted from: Blount, A.R., et al. "UF Riata, a novel Bahiagrass for the Southeastern U.S."

Ona RCREC Cattle & Forage Field Day

The Range Cattle Research and Education Center will be hosting their annual [Cattle & Forage Field Day](#) and the dedication of two new buildings on **Thursday, April 16th, at 9am, in Ona.** The day will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, steak lunch, faculty presentations, and afternoon field tours. There is no charge for the day's program or lunch, however participants must register no later than April



8th to ensure adequate literature and lunch arrangements are made. To register call (863) 735-1314 Ext. 201 or email at ona@ifas.ufl.edu.

Small Farm Cow-Calf Management Series

A series of four management seminars will be offered to small cow-calf producers during the month of May at the Polk County Agricultural Center. These programs will focus on pasture management, beef cow nutrition, herd health, and reproductive management.

Through improved management and planning, profit losses can be substantially reduced. The goal of this program is to help Polk County beef producers realize higher profits from their cow-calf enterprises.

Small Farm Cow-Calf Management Series:

1. **Pasture Management—May 7th, 7pm—8pm.**
2. **Beef Cow Nutrition—May 14th, 7pm—8pm.**
3. **Herd Health—May 21st, 7pm—8pm**
4. **Reproductive Management—May 28th, 7pm—8pm.**

If you are interested in participating in this series of programs or just one of the series, please contact Bridget Carlisle at (863) 519-8677 or bccarlis@ufl.edu

Performance Horse Short Course

The UF/IFAS South Florida Beef Forage Program will be hosting the [Performance Horse Short Course](#) on **Saturday, April 4th, at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.** The program will include guest speakers Bob Myler, Dr. Brent Sellers, Dr. Mike Porter, and Dr. Lori Warren as they present on bit selection, equine nutrition, parasite control, weed control, and a live animal demonstration on gastric ulcers.

Included in the program is a trade show with representatives from feed companies, western décor, seed companies, clothing and tack, and herbicide companies.

For more information, please contact Lindsey Wiggins at (863) 674-4092 or horse1@ufl.edu.

Upcoming Events

March

- 10 Farm Bill Public Session, 1pm, Bartow
- 10-12 FCA Quarterly Meeting, Tallahassee
- 24 [Ag Literacy Day](#)
- 26 Taste of Agriculture, 5pm, Alturas

April

- 4 [Performance Horse Short Course](#), 8:30am, Okeechobee
- 13-17 Agri Fest, Bartow
- 16 [Ona RCREC Field Day](#), 9am, Ona
- 27-30 Agri Fest, Bartow
- 27-30 [UF/IFAS Beef Cattle Short Course](#), Gainesville

May

- 1 [UF/IFAS Beef Cattle Short Course](#) (Cont.), Gainesville
- 7 Pasture Management Seminar, 6:30pm, Bartow
- 14 Beef Cow Nutrition Seminar, 6:30pm, Bartow
- 21 Herd Health Seminar, 6:30pm, Bartow
- 28 Reproductive Management Seminar, 6:30pm, Bartow