

Derek Barber, Livestock and Natural Resources Agent II - Email: dlbarber@ufl.edu

Pasture Management .. Page 1

Weed Control .. Page 2-5

Livestock and Natural Resources .. Page 5-7

Calendar .. Page 9

Columbia County Extension at <http://columbia.ifas.ufl.edu/>

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Stubble Height: How short is too short?

The selection of a stubble height is one of the most important aspects in forage management. The stubble height left either at grazing or when cutting your hay field is a decision that will determine not only the productivity of your forage but more importantly, over time, its persistence.

If in doubt of whether you are grazing or cutting too short, always try to benefit the plant and go with the taller stubble. There are several growing conditions affecting plant growth such as rainfall/drought (soil moisture), moisture distribution, temperature, etc., and also plant factors (such as presence of underground reserve parts) that affect the way the plant recovers after being cut or grazed. It is the combination of these environmental and plant factors that guides the stubble height you need to leave behind.

For example, bahiagrass can take a lower stubble height (usually 2 inches) compared to most other species used in Florida because of its rhizome or subsurface stem that provides the energy to come back after it is defoliated. Bermudagrass should be cut or grazed to 4 inches, and some species, like Tifton 85 bermudagrass may even require an additional inch or two for better performance and less encroachment of weeds over time.

If you make a habit of using very low stubble height, you may not be allowing sufficient time for that plant to recover before the next cutting is due. By cutting too short or too frequently you are undermining the root system among other things. Under certain emergency conditions you may be forced to cut or graze at 'not an ideal height', just remember to provide additional time for the plant to recover. In such cases your frequency of grazing or cutting will be longer than usual.

Yoana Newman
Extension Forage Specialist
ycnew@ufl.edu

WEED CONTROL

Is \$10 Glyphosate gone forever?

The Roundup brand of glyphosate was a standard for weed control for many years. However, the patent for glyphosate expired approximately 10 years ago and numerous manufactures began to distribute branded glyphosate products. Almost overnight the price of glyphosate fell to levels as low as \$10/gal. But, in 2008 the price of all glyphosate products rose sharply with the cheapest brands now costing near \$30/gal. This brings two questions:

#1 Why did prices increase so quickly?

#2 Will the prices ever return to \$10?

The key reason for the dramatic increase in glyphosate price was a shortage in global glyphosate supply. This shortage was caused by several reasons including increased Roundup Ready corn acreage in the Midwest, acceptance of Roundup Ready technology in Brazil, and closure of glyphosate manufacturing plants in China. Of all the glyphosate sold, there is only one production facility operating in the United States. *Conversely, China recently had as many as 13 glyphosate production facilities.* This means that a vast majority of the “post-patent” glyphosate brands were manufactured in China. The huge glyphosate production capacity of China was due, in part, to government programs. The Chinese government will subsidize certain industries as a means of ensuring a working public. For many years, factories that produced glyphosate received these subsidies. These economic incentives encouraged overproduction of glyphosate and further allowed low sales prices.

In 2007, the Chinese government chose to stop supporting the production of glyphosate. This led to a closure of several production facilities in China while the others dramatically increased price of future production. So, the radical increase in glyphosate price was due to global shortage caused by increased glyphosate use and decreased production capacity.

Will glyphosate cost ever return to \$10 per gallon? It is my prediction that we are likely to never see glyphosate sold this cheaply again. The demand for glyphosate is higher now than ever and I do not foresee this changing in the near future. Likewise, the government influenced over-production of glyphosate will likely not occur again either. For now, it seems as if we must prepare to pay higher prices for glyphosate.

Dr. Jason Ferrell, Weed Specialist
jferrell@ufl.edu

Spiny Pigweed (Spiny Amaranth)

Spiny amaranth (*Amaranthus spinosus*), also known as spiny pigweed, is very common throughout Florida. This summer annual species is often observed in pastures, particularly in bare ground areas (near feeding pens and water troughs). This weed seems to thrive in well-worn, highly compacted areas where stockings rates are high and desirable grasses are few. If left unchecked, spiny amaranth can eventually take over entire pastures, as seen in the photo below.



A pasture overgrown with spiny amaranth. Grazing is impeded due to the sharp spines, and the plant propagates quickly.

Photos: J. Ferrell and B. Sellers

Spiny amaranth is particularly troublesome because sharp spines proliferate on the stem. This greatly deters grazing around the plant as animals avoid the sharp spines. Also, this weed is an abundant seed producer with well over 100,000 seeds per plant produced each year. Additionally, these seeds germinate throughout the warm summer months and each rainfall event results in another flush of spiny amaranth plants.

Because spiny amaranth seed germinates so frequently, any control measure will generally only last a few weeks before a new flush of seedlings overtake the area once again.

The Pasture Weed Control Program at University of Florida has tested a couple of herbicides to determine if herbicides that provide soil residual activity can be used to provide long-term control of spiny amaranth. Conversely, if residual control can not be obtained, then low-cost options were tested to fit multiple applications during each season.

The herbicides Telar (chlorsulfuron), Milestone and Forefront (both possessing aminopyralid as the active ingredient) have been shown to provide extensive residual control of some weeds. They were chosen to test control of spiny amaranth for an extended period of time since, in addition, these herbicides do not possess any grazing restrictions for beef or dairy animals.

It was observed that Telar and Milestone provided excellent spiny amaranth control at 1 month after treatment (Table 1), but by 3 months, multiple seedlings had germinated and had resumed growth in the treated area. Therefore, neither of these herbicides provided sufficient residual control.

Low rates of Forefront and Telar were effective on spiny amaranth (Table 2). For only a few dollars per acre, Telar can be used to manage this weed. Because long-term control will not be obtained, 2 or 3 applications per season should effectively manage spiny amaranth for the entire season.

Although Telar is very effective on spiny amaranth, there are only few other weeds that will control. Other weeds like ragweed, coffeeweed, Mexican tea (Jerusalem oak), tropical soda apple, and thistle will not be controlled with Telar. However, Forefront (depending on the application rate) proved to be excellent in controlling each of these weeds. In summary, Telar is ideal for areas where spiny amaranth dominates but Forefront would be a better choice for areas that contain a mixture of different weeds.

Control with Telar and Milestone

Herbicide	Rate	Spiny amaranth control (%)		\$/A
		1 MAT ¹	3 MAT	
Telar	0.5 oz/A	93	50	\$10
Telar	0.75 oz/A	95	60	\$15
Milestone	7 fl. oz/A	90	50	\$20

¹ Data collected at 1 and 3 “months after treatment” (MAT).

Control with Telar and Milestone

Herbicide	Rate	Spiny amaranth control (%)	\$/A
		1 MAT ¹	
Telar	0.5 oz/A	95	\$10
Telar	0.3 oz/A	95	\$7
Telar	0.1 oz/A	94	\$3
Forefront	2 pt/A	91	\$15
Forefront	1.5 pt/A	89	\$11

¹ Data collected at 1 “month after treatment” (MAT).

Jason Ferrell
 Extension Weed Specialist
 jferrell@ufl.edu

Dr. Brent Sellers, Extension Weed Scientist
 Range Cattle REC, Ona
 sellersb@ufl.edu

Cogongrass Treatment Pilot Cost Share Program

This program offers cost share reimbursement for herbicide treatment of cogongrass infestations. Approved applicants are required to treat the infestations for two consecutive years. The program will reimburse 75% of the cost of treating cogongrass infestations over two consecutive years, up to a maximum of \$100 per acre per year (or \$100 per year for treatment of less than an acre), or \$200 per acre over the two-year contract period.

More information can be found at

http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/fh_invasives_cogon_treatment_program.html

Publication on Weed Management

[Weed Management in Pastures and Rangelands 2009](#)

[Weed Management in Fence Rows 2009](#)

LIVESTOCK and NATURAL RESOURCES

Beef Cattle Management

Spring-Calving Herd

Watch pastures for limited forage

Watch for poisonous plants

Repair and improve corrals for fall working and weaning

Fall-Calving Herd

Cows should be dry and pregnant

Get ready for fall calving and have good pasture available

BMPs

Don't give up on fly control

Apply lime for fall forages

Check mineral / salt feeders

Check for armyworms

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that eligible ranchers and livestock producers can begin applying for benefits under the provisions of the Livestock Indemnity Program in the 2008 Farm Bill on July 13.

“This program will provide livestock producers with a vital safety net to help them overcome the damaging financial impact of natural disasters,” Vilsack said. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA).

LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) is a new USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) program to provide compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses due to drought conditions during the normal grazing period. (April 1 – Oct 30 for warm season grass) Eligible livestock are those owned or leased at least 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought. For LFP to be enacted in a county requires a prolonged drought at the D2 level for 8 consecutive weeks in the county according to the US Drought Monitor (available on the web). If a D3 drought rating is reached in the county, producers may be eligible to receive two payments. If the D3 rating lasts for four weeks, producers in the county may be eligible to receive three payments. The only insurance requirement to be eligible for LFP, if and when the program is enacted, is to have purchased a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) grazing policy. Producers must purchase a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy by **September 30, 2009** for Grass, Rye, Wheat, Mixed Forage, or Clover to meet the 2010 crop year deadline.

To apply for NAP coverage or to learn more about the program, visit or contact your local FSA county office.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

Horse owners are encouraged to vaccinate their horses now against EEE. [Florida 2009 Map of EEE by county](#).

Meat Goat Herd Management

Breeding

- Trim the hooves and deworm does prior to the beginning of the breeding season
- Prepare bucks for breeding season

Feeding

- Feed does 0.5 pounds per head per day of cracked corn beginning 30 days from the start of the breeding season and ending 40 days after the end of the breeding season.
- Continue grazing warm-season forages
- Allow weaned kids first access to pastures

Health

- Check for parasite load

Marketing

- Sell weaned kids at 70 pounds
- Purchase replacement bucks

* Management for NC Meat Goats (NC State Extension)

Publications on Goat Management

[Health](#) and [Internal Parasites](#)

Poisonous Plants

Check your pasture and fence line for poisonous plants. You can visit [Poisonous Plants of the Southern US](#) at <http://www.caf.wvu.edu/~forage/library/poisonous/content.htm>

Florida Master Naturalist Program

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is a University of Florida environmental education program developed for adult audiences. FMNP training is provided by registered FMNP Instructors through the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service and other educational organizations.

The goals of the FMNP are to promote increased awareness and appreciation of Florida's unique environmental resources among Florida residents and visitors. These goals are met by training Master Naturalists throughout Florida. Trained Master Naturalists may further promote these goals by sharing their knowledge with friends, family, and through more formal educational programs as employees and volunteers, such as at parks, nature centers, and eco-tourism operations.

The FMNP consists of 3 modules — Freshwater Wetlands, Upland Habitats, and Coastal Systems. Students receive 40 educational contact hours per module including classroom learning, field trips, and practical experience in interpretation. More information can be found at <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Upland Habitats — January 2010

I am in the process of setting up to hold the Upland Habitats module. If you are interested in becoming an instructor for a module please contact me at the extension office for more details. [Uplands Habitats Course Description](#)



Southern Pine Beetle

The Florida Division of Forestry will be re-offering the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Cost-Share Program for non-industrial private forest landowners in 2009.

Applications will be accepted during a sign-up period running July 1 – Aug 12. The direct link is http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/fh_insects_spb_prevention_program.html. Hardcopies of application materials are available at DOF County Forester offices.

UF/IFAS Extension
SolutionsForYourLife.com

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

PROGRAMS

Calendar Dates

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Aug 27	Introduction to Alpaca Herd Management	Columbia Extension	6pm
Sept 22	Pasture Management Part II	Columbia Extension	6pm