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

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Baleage - an alternate to manage moisture

This summer seems to be shaping as a typical Florida summer with very humid days and afternoon showers that usually do not allow for the 3 drying days usually needed for hay production. These showers although short often delay harvest and cause field losses. At the same time, maintaining a regular harvest schedule (every 4 to 5 weeks) during the summer months is essential for good forage quality. Round bale silage is an option to manage this moisture situation and keep with the harvesting schedule.

Baleage is the harvesting of the forage with the same equipment used to make hay with the additional step of wrapping the bales with a plastic film and the aid of a piece of equipment known as a 'plastic wrapper'. This technique where the bale is wrapped wet for fermentation in the absence of oxygen (also known as anaerobic conditions) has been used successfully in Europe and has been in practice in the United States for over two decades.

What is the wait period from cutting to baling? For grasses is usually a couple of hours. How long should one wait from baling to wrapping bales? The quicker the better. Field observations show that wet bales will heat if allowed to sit a few hours before wrapping. Air exposure and high moisture allows plant respiration and fungus (mold) growth, producing heat that is not dissipated once the wet forage is in a bale.

When baling legumes, the ideal moisture is about 45 to 50% Dry Matter (DM) (or 50 to 55% moisture). The wait between cutting and baling to achieve this percent DM under Florida conditions is about 4-5 hrs. It is not really all that difficult to do, just cut and let dry. With the short dry down there is

not even a need to turn. If you bale at that moisture there is little leaf shatter worries. One issue to be careful, as with any legume, is potential for spoilage because of low soluble carbohydrates (or sugars) and high buffering capacity (that may interfere with the desired drop in pH). For example, perennial peanut relative to other legumes does very, very well.

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WEED CONTROL

Grazonnext

A couple of weeks ago, a new herbicide was launched by Dow AgroSciences called Grazonnext. In all actuality, this really is not a new herbicide, but a new name. Grazonnext contains aminopyralid and 2,4-D at the same concentration as that of ForeFront herbicide. A quick look at the labels for both ForeFront and Grazonnext will show that the only difference is the name itself, as everything else remains the same.

A question we are getting a lot already is “Why?”

Dow AgroSciences is phasing out Grazon P + D, a product we have never had in Florida, but is widely used in the rest of the Southeast and elsewhere. They are replacing this product with Grazonnext, due to the environmental concerns with picloram in Grazon P + D.

What about the price?

Grazon P + D is an effective and economical herbicide in states where it is approved for use. Since Grazonnext has been released as a means to phase out Grazon P + D, Dow AgroSciences had to be sure that Grazonnext was also an economical choice as well. As a result, Grazonnext is approximately \$20/gallon cheaper than Forefront herbicide. Therefore, at the 2 pt/acre rate, ranchers can expect the herbicide to cost between \$8.50 to \$10/acre. Currently, our recommendations for pasture weed control recommend ForeFront for many weed species. Since Grazonnext and ForeFront are exactly the same, one can replace the name ForeFront with Grazonnext wherever it is seen in our recommendations.

If you have any further questions about this product, then feel free to contact us.

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Cogongrass

Cogongrass invasion is an ever-increasing problem in Florida pastures. This species is almost totally refused by all grazing animals and will quickly exclude all other desirable forages. Essentially, the only way to control cogon-grass is to either use tillage or the non-selective herbicides glyphosate or imazapyr to renovate the infested area.

From trials we have determined that imazapyr is the most effective herbicide option. BASF recently requested a label change for Arsenal Power-Line. The new label (submitted as a 24C) is specific to Florida and allows broadcast applications of Arsenal PowerLine at 48 oz/A, or as spot spray at a 1% solution. There is also a 30 day haying restriction after application.

If a pasture is treated with Arsenal PowerLine then animals should be either:

- 1) Removed from the pasture for 30 days
- 2) If they remain on the pasture they cannot be sold for slaughter for 30 days.

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

Breeding season ends

1. Bulls should be removed from the cow herd, grouped together in a pasture with good fence and allowed to regain “normal” weight and condition.
2. Check pastures for poisonous plants.
3. Creep-graze or advance-graze calves, providing them with the best forages available.
4. Check pastures for down wild cherry trees.

Fall-Calving Herd

Dry period

1. Fall-calving cows should be dry and pregnant. Their nutrient needs are minimal and they can be maintained on lower-quality pasture to avoid over fattening
2. Keep a good free-choice mineral mix available at all times

3. Get ready for fall-calving and plan to have good pasture available for fall calving
4. Replacement heifers should gain at an adequate rate to reach their “target” breeding weight (65 percent of mature size) by Nov. 25
5. Consider deworming cows
6. Soil test fields to be seeded in fall and to determine pasture fertilization needs

Apply Herbicides or Mow to control weeds in fields
Apply Fertilizer if needed, rate of 50-60 pounds of N per acre
Check mineral feeder
Check fields for armyworms
Wean calves and vaccinate
Treat for flies/lice with bust bags or spray
Vaccinate market calves for shipping fever and IBR

Livestock Indemnity Program

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.

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

1. Prepare bucks for breeding season
2. Wean kids
3. Cull low producing does
4. Identify and separate replacement does

Feeding

1. Continue to grazing warm season perennial and annual forages
2. Allow weaned kids first access to pastures

Health

1. Give booster to kids at 16-18 weeks of age
2. Vaccinate bucks once a year
3. Check for parasite load

Marketing

1. Sell cull does
2. Purchase replacement bucks

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.

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PROGRAMS

Calendar Dates

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
July 23	"Grazing Days" Pasture Management	Columbia Extension Office	6:30pm
July 30	Composting Workshop	Columbia Extension Office	6pm
August 3-7	4H Horse and Livestock Judging School	Columbia Extension Office	9am-12pm
August 6	Rain Barrel Workshop	Ft. White Community Center	6pm