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

**PASTURE MANAGEMENT**

**Pasture Caterpillars and Chemical Control**

With the change in weather conditions, caterpillars may start showing up in pastures. If scouting during the day when there's still some morning dew, both loopers and army worms tend to fall off the plants to the ground where they are easier to spot. Each looper pupates (stage the insect undergoes in becoming a moth) by folding blades of grass to form a cocoon, whereas armyworms pupate in the soil. You can see the tips of the leaves turned over where the looper caterpillars pupate. The following is the most common insecticide treatments for pasture and hayfield caterpillars:

<b>Product*</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Restrictions</b>	<b>Max # of applications</b>
<b>Malathion 57% EC</b>	2 pt/acre	None	No restrictions
<b>Sevin XLR</b>	1-1.5 qt/acre	14 days for hay or grazing	2 per year
<b>Lannate LV</b>	¾ - 3 pt/acre	7 days for grazing 3 days for haying	4 applications per year
<b>Dimilin 2L</b>	2 fl oz/acre/cutting	No restrictions for grazing 1 day for hay	6 fl oz per year 2 fl oz per acre/cutting
<b>Tracer</b>	1-3 fl oz/acre	3 days for hay Dried if grazing	No restrictions

\*Thanks to the UF/Pesticide Information Office for their assistance on product update.

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## WEED CONTROL

### **Dogfennel**

Dogfennel is the most common weed in Florida pastures. Unlike most states, dogfennel acts as a perennial in Florida and sprouts off existing rootstock each spring. The perennial growth habit causes this weed to grow very rapidly and be more difficult to control. Therefore, herbicide application timing and herbicide selection are very important to achieve optimum dogfennel control. Control of dogfennel ranges from very easy to extremely difficult relative to its size at time of application. The smaller the plants, the more easily and cheaply they can be controlled. But, delaying applications and spraying larger plants will require a greater investment. In light of this, it is advisable to develop a management strategy before the summer rain and heat cause rapid dogfennel growth.

<b><u>Dogfennel Height</u></b>	<b><u>Herbicide recommendation and cost</u></b>
0 to 24 inches	Weedmaster (2 pt) - \$8/A
24 to 36 inches	Weedmaster (3 pt) - \$12/A Cleanwave (1 pt) + 2,4-D (2 pt) - \$11/A Pasturegard (2 pt) - \$12/A
36 to 48 inches	Cleanwave (20 oz) + 2,4-D (2 pt) - \$14/A Pasturegard (3 pt) - \$18/A
>48 inches	Pasturegard (3 pt) - \$18/A Cleanwave (20 oz) + Forefront (2 pt) - \$24/A

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## LIVESTOCK and NATURAL RESOURCES

### **NAIS—National Animal Identification System**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will hold a listening session on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) on June 27 in Jasper, Florida. The public meetings will be held at the Hamilton County Extension Building, 1143 NW US Highway 41, Jasper, FL 32052, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time, with registration one hour prior to each meeting.

Stakeholders may pre-register for the session at [NAISsessions@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:NAISsessions@aphis.usda.gov)

### **SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM LISTENING SESSIONS**

#### **Agenda**

USDA APHIS is planning a series of listening sessions in strategic locations across the country to ask stakeholders for their solutions to overcome existing and new obstacles to implementing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). APHIS seeks to gather not only producer comments and concerns, but also potential or feasible solutions to create a program producers can feel comfortable supporting. The listening sessions will include information about the current program, as well as an opportunity to give public testimony or ask program-related questions. Discussion sessions related to NAIS' cost, impact on small farmers, privacy and confidentiality, liability premises registration, animal identification and animal tracing will allow producers to provide their input on ways to make the program into something they can support.

#### **Registration: 8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.**

All attendees will be asked to sign-in and will be given information on making comments and participation in the PM break-out sessions.

#### **Part I: Explain Current Program – 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

Welcome from USDA and APHIS

General Overview of Day's Agenda

#### **Part II: Comments and Questions on NAIS – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Attendees have up to 3 minutes to ask a question about NAIS as it exists currently OR to make a comment for the record. Comments can also be submitted at any time in writing or via the APHIS website. People will be called on via a lottery system to speak until the time allotted expires. If all speakers are accommodated before 12 noon, we will break early for lunch and may reconvene early in the afternoon. Please note: all comments and questions will be officially transcribed.

#### **Break for lunch—1 hour (approx 12-1 pm) Lunch on your own**

#### **Part III Break-Out Group Sessions: 1:20 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Attendees will be randomly assigned to one of three break-out groups. These groups will engage in facilitated discussions about solutions/ideas to issues as outlined in the Federal Register notice. These discussions will be less about concerns and more about ideas and solutions to create a NAIS that we can all live with. Ideas will be captured and forwarded to APHIS for consideration. Each group will move through all seven questions from the Federal Register Notice so there will be roughly 20 minutes per question. Please note: facilitated discussions will be officially transcribed. Sessions will close with information about submitting comments and

keeping updated on the NAIS public dialogue.

Please check the website: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov) for updates and more information about the NAIS public dialogue. Reports from the listening sessions will be posted on the website in the future. Thank you for your participation.

#### Agenda

May 1, Federal Register Notice Questions

- Cost. What are your concerns about the cost of the NAIS? What steps would you suggest APHIS use to address cost?
- Impact on small farmers. What are your concerns about the effect of the NAIS on small farmers? What approaches would you suggest APHIS take to address the potential impact on small farmers?
- Privacy and confidentiality. What are your concerns regarding how the NAIS will affect your operation's privacy and/or the confidentiality of your operation? What steps or tactics would you suggest APHIS use to address privacy and confidentiality issues?
- Liability. What are your concerns about your operation's liability under the NAIS? What would you suggest APHIS consider to address liability concerns?
- Premises registration. Do you have any suggestions on how to make premises registration, or the identification of farm or ranch locations, easier for stakeholders? How should we address your concerns regarding premises registration?
- Animal identification. Do you have any suggestions on how to make animal identification practical and useful to stakeholders while simultaneously meeting the needs of animal health officials who must conduct disease tracebacks?
- Animal tracing. Do you have any suggestions on how to make the animal tracing component practical, in particular the reporting of animal movements to other premises, while meeting the needs of animal health officials who must conduct disease tracebacks?

## **Beef Cattle Management**

### Spring-Calving Herd

- Remove bulls from the cow herd by the end of the month. This will eliminate summer-born calves and help prevent nursing heifer calves from becoming pregnant
- Deworm cows and calves
- Vaccinate calves for blackleg
- Spray for flies if not using other control methods

### Fall-Calving Herd

- Pregnancy test cows if not done previously
- Consider selling open cows and heifers, cow weaning lightweight, or poor quality calves

## **Hay Field Day**

2009 Hay Field Day will be held at Mark Randell Farms on June 30th. Registration fee is \$5.00 per person. For more details open [Hay Field Day Flyer](#)

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## 10th Annual 4-H Laying Hen Project

The laying hen project is for 4-H members ages 5 to 18 who would like to raise laying hens. The 4-H office purchases the day old chicks from a hatchery and each 4-H member will get 5 chicks and a small bag of chick starter. The chicks are raised by the 4-H member and are shown at the fair in November.

Americana's, known as the “Easter Egg Chicken”, are a multicolor breed. They are excellent efficient producers of large eggs of many colors and shades including blue and green.

The chicks are \$2.50 each normally. If you would like to order more than the 5 project chicks you will need to pay \$2.50 for each additional chick. 4-H members are getting a special deal because this is a special 4-H project.

**Remember, the deadline to order and pay for chicks will be July 7.**

**The cost is \$8.00 per set (one set per 4-H member maximum)**

**You may order extra chicks at \$2.50 per chick.**

**Any 4-H member aged 5 to 18 may participate in this special project.**

**You will earn extra premium money at the fair.**

**You will have fresh blue and green eggs in about 6 months.**

**If you have any questions please contact Mr. Derek or Dr. Cindy.**

## 2010 Florida State Fair Youth Steer Show

The 2010 Youth Steer Show rules and entry form information can be found at <http://www.floridastatefairag.com/youth-steer-futurity>

All entries must be postmarked on or before June 15, 2009. Entries postmarked between June 16th and June 22nd will be charged a double late entry fee.

## Meat Goat Herd Management

- Treat for Coccidia four weeks before weaning
- Wean kids
- Cull low-producing does
- Vaccinate kids at age 10 to 12 weeks. Give a booster shot at 16 to 18 weeks
- Check for parasite load

## Poisonous Plants

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



## 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](http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/fh_insects_spb_prevention_program.html). Hardcopies of application materials are available at DOF County Forester offices.

## Catfish Ponds

Channel catfish grow well alone with few disease problems when stocked at 100 to 150 per acre. When stocked alone, channel catfish grow fastest with supplemental feeding. Natural foods include decaying organic matter, plant material, crawfish, small fish, and insects. The relatively low stocking rate (100 to 150 per acre) assures good growth to a harvestable size in a reasonably short period of time. It is not desirable to encourage catfish spawning because of potential crowding and disease problems. To control the possibility of unwanted spawning, add a few bass to the ponds to eradicate any fingerlings less than 6 inches.

One of the most common mistakes pond owners make is stocking too many catfish. In general, the natural maximum carrying capacity in most farm ponds is about 500 pounds of fish per acre. This means that no more than 500 pounds of fish can be maintained without aeration and additional feeding. When catfish are stocked and grown to acceptable catchable sizes (1 to 3 pounds), this carrying capacity is exceeded when more than about 150 catfish are present. Attempts to exceed this natural limit in farm ponds without supplemental aeration, feeding, etc., will usually result in stress and ultimate disease in the catfish. In extreme cases, depletion of oxygen can occur and catastrophic losses may occur.

UF/IFAS Extension  
[SolutionsForYorLife.com](http://SolutionsForYorLife.com)

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## PROGRAMS

### *Calendar Dates*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
June 9-10	4H Fishing Camp	Columbia Extension Office	9-5pm
June 18	<u>Corn Silage &amp; Forage Field Day</u>	Tifton, GA	7:30-1:00
June 30	<u>Hay Field Day</u>	Mark Randell Farm	8-3pm
June 30 July 1	4H Horse Camp	Columbia Extension Office	1-5pm 9-5pm
July 7-10	4H Horse Judging Camp	Columbia Extension Office	9-12pm
July 23	"Grazing Days" Pasture Management	Columbia Extension Office	TBA