



Newsletter

July 2007

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Dates to Remember

July

5	Lake County Summer Equine Workshop - Tavares, FL
12	Lake County Summer Equine Workshop - Tavares, FL
12-14	State 4-H Horse Show - Tampa, FL
17-20	NCBA Annual Summer Conference (Adams Mark Hotel) - Denver, CO
18-20	2007 Farm to Fuel Summit - St. Petersburg, FL
19	Lake County Summer Equine Workshop - Tavares, FL
21	Young Farmer & Rancher State Conference - Tampa, FL
23-27	State 4-H Congress - Gainesville, FL
26	Lake County Summer Equine Workshop - Tavares, FL

August

1-5	Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships - Memphis, TN
4	NFBFG Small Ruminant Production Workshop (Meat Goats, Dairy Goats and Sheep) - Live Oak, FL
6-9	Beef Cattle Reproduction Management School - Deer Park, FL
9	Regional Hay Field Day - Alachua, FL
11	Florida Brangus Breeders Accent On Quality Sale - Kissimmee, FL
11	Basic Pasture Management School - Wauchula, FL
16	Beef Quality Assurance Certification - Sebring, FL
28	Beef Cattle Nutrition Short Course - Interactive Video/Gainesville, FL and Marianna, FL

Nominations Sought for Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson today announced that nominations are now being accepted for candidates to the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2008. The deadline for submitting nominations is September 1, 2007.

“The Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame was created to honor Florida’s agricultural pioneers and leaders,” Bronson said. “I hope everyone will take a moment to consider who should be nominated this year for the highest honor bestowed by the agricultural community.”

Anyone can submit a nomination on behalf of a candidate for the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame. However, all nomination forms must be completed as specified in the instructions. The nominees, chosen by an independent panel of judges, will be announced later this year. The induction ceremony will take place during the 30th annual Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame banquet and awards ceremony at the Florida State Fair in February 2008.

Nomination forms may be requested by calling (813) 628-4551, or by writing: Chairman, Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame Foundation, 4508 Oak Fair Boulevard, Suite 290, Tampa, FL 33610. The fax number for nomination forms is (813) 620-4008. Nomination forms are also available on the web at <http://www.flaghalloffame.com>.



Okeechobee County Property Recognized as Century Pioneer Family Farm

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has announced that a farm in Okeechobee County has qualified for recognition as a Century Pioneer Family Farm. Recognition in this program means that the families have maintained continuous ownership of the property for at least 100 years.

The family is headed by Enoch and Tealy Wingate Eddy, whose farm is located on Maude Road in Okeechobee County.

“This family has been able to retain ownership of their land through the Depression, diseases, droughts, freezes and the urbanization of Florida,” Bronson said. “That is a great tribute to the many generations of this family.”

Mrs. Eddy says “the farm is still in pretty much in its original condition.” The 65-acre family farm is full of virgin timber and is home to a herd of Florida cracker cattle.

Since the program began 25 years ago, 130 family farms have received the Century Pioneer Farm designation. The program is administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services with assistance of the Florida Agricultural Museum.

For more information about the program or to apply for membership into the program contact Richard Gunnels at gunnelr@doacs.state.fl.us, call (850) 488-3022, or visit http://www.florida-agriculture.com/marketing/century_pioneers.htm.

SOURCE: Richard Gunnels
Email: gunnelr@doacs.state.fl.us
Phone: (850) 488-3022
Release - June 13, 2007



Whole Foods Market Announces Low-Interest Loan Program for Local Food Producers

Whole Foods Market, the leading organic and natural foods supermarket, is seeking local farmers and other food producers who are interested in participating in its new Local Producer Loan Program. As part of a company-wide initiative supporting local agricultural producers and food artisans, the company plans to provide up to \$10 million annually in low-interest loans to small producers in the U.S.

At five to nine percent, the interest rates currently offered through Whole Foods Market’s pilot program to small agricultural producers can be extremely attractive. The program has other attributes geared to small producers: loan application paperwork is minimized; there are no penalties for early repayment; and loan terms may be from a few months to ten years.

The Local Producer Loan Program is part of Whole Foods Market’s renewed commitment to local agriculture. This includes hosting farmers markets at stand-alone stores, refocusing in-store marketing to highlight locally-produced products, and hiring regional staff focused specifically on sourcing local products.

“It is Whole Foods Market’s intention to help finance local food production all over the United States,” said John Mackey, co-founder and CEO of Whole Foods Market. “We are going to ‘walk our talk’ with financial support for local, small-scale agriculture. We believe this financial assistance of up to \$10 million per year can make a very significant difference in helping local food production grow and flourish across the United States.”

Producers throughout the U.S. are invited to participate in the program. Those interested can find more information and a loan application at the website, <http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/products/locallygrown/lplp/index.html>. They can also contact the program coordinators at lplp@wholefoods.com.

SOURCE: <http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com>
Email: LPLP@wholefoods.com
Phone: (512) 542-0895



**Northeast Florida
Beef and Forage Group
Presents**

10th Regional Hay Field Day

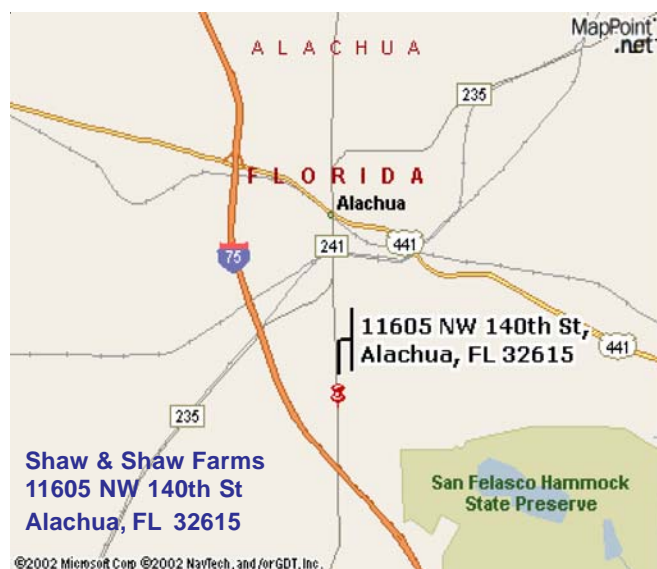
**Thursday August 9, 2007
Shaw & Shaw Farms,
Alachua, FL**

Discussions/Demonstrations & Table Displays

- Drought Related Options
- Hay Quality
- Forage Insect Management
- Irrigation Options
- Haylage
- Pesticide Management (CEU's)
- Forage BMP's

Directions to Farm:

I-75 to Alachua Hwy 441 Exit. East on 441 to intersection of Hwy 441 & 235. Turn Right (south) at red light. Go over RR tracks, 241 will split off to the left. Take left on Hwy 241 South. Go approximately 2 miles, Shaw & Shaw farms will be on the left.



**Registration 8:30 AM
\$5.00 per person for lunch**

**To Register - Contact your local
Extension agent by
July 31st**

**Elena Toro, Columbia Co.
(386) 752-5384**

**Mike Sweat, Baker Co.
(904) 259-3520**

**Cindy Sanders, Alachua Co.
(352) 955-2402**

**David Nistler, Clay Co.
(904) 284-6355**

**Jacque Breman, Union Co.
(386) 496-2321**

**Steve Gaul, Nassau Co.
(904) 879-1019**

**Brad Burbaugh, Duval Co.
(904) 387-8850**

**Scott Kerr, Suwannee Co.
(386) 362-2771**

**Wendy Burton, Bradford Co.
(904) 966-6224**

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FLORIDA**
IFAS Extension



Bronson Urges People to Prepare for Potential Mosquito Explosion

The drought plaguing Florida has had one benefit, a significant drop in the mosquito population that is usually seen this time of year. But Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson is urging residents to prepare for that to change. As soon as

the normal rain patterns return, Florida is likely to see a mosquito population explosion.

The lack of water has prevented eggs from hatching. But mosquito eggs from certain species can be very resilient, lying in wait for the next heavy rain for up to several years. When the wet weather arrives, all the eggs hatch at once, creating a huge increase in the number of pesky pests.

Bronson says people need to keep that in mind and be ready for a possible onslaught of mosquitoes and with them the potential for mosquito borne illnesses.

The Commissioner is urging horse owners to make sure that their animals are vaccinated against two of the diseases - West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

“So far there this year there have been no reports of human cases of mosquito borne illnesses in Florida and we’ve had five EEE cases in horses compared with a high of 207 cases in 2003,” Bronson said. “We haven’t seen any West Nile cases either and I hope with proper protections we can continue this trend.”

In addition to WNV and EEE, mosquitoes can transmit St. Louis Encephalitis and malaria.

Floridians and visitors can protect themselves against mosquito borne disease by taking common sense steps, including:

- Limit time outside during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants to cover skin and reduce the chance of being bitten.
- Eliminate standing water in yards, such as in birdbaths, kiddie pools, old tires and other receptacles, as stagnant water is an excellent breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Use insect repellent that contains DEET, which is an effective repellent.

Horse owners are also urged to check with their veterinarian to make sure that their animals have received current vaccinations against WNV and EEE, and that these shots are kept up to date.

“Florida’s mosquito control districts have done a tremendous job with ongoing monitoring of mosquito populations and taking action when necessary,” Bronson said. “But ultimately, it is up to people to take steps to protect themselves and their animals from mosquito borne

diseases.”

Across Florida, there are 56 mosquito control districts that routinely conduct proactive mosquito surveillance with specific and effective research. They have improved methods of controlling mosquitoes, improved identification of mosquito species that transmit disease, established procedures for the early detection of new mosquitoes, and researched environmental factors that make mosquito disease outbreaks more likely.

For more information on mosquito borne diseases and prevention, consumers can call the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352), or visit the department’s website at <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us>. Information on the subject also is available at the Florida Department of Health’s website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us>.

SOURCE: Liz Compton
Email: comptol@doacs.state.fl.us
Phone: (850) 488-3022
Release - June 14, 2007

Bovine Viral Diarrhea Test now in use in the United States

The Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will be the first American establishment to use a highly sensitive test used throughout parts of Europe to accurately detect bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV).

Developed by a German company, the newly available test identifies and differentiates both persistent infection and transient infection, the two types of BVDV in cattle. According to European governmental reference labs, the test can detect all 68 referenced strains of BVDV, including atypical European and American strains such as HOB1 and H138 strains.

“We’re very excited to be the first U.S. laboratory to provide the [test] to veterinarians and producers of Kansas and the surrounding states,” said Dr. Gary Anderson, KSVDL director. “[Past] technology was viewed as too difficult, unreliable or too costly to run in a high throughput environment.”

The BVDV test components have been submitted to USDA for sale and distribution approval.

SOURCE: Alicia Karapetian
Email: akarapetian@meatingplace.com
Release - June 20, 2007