



Bradford County Fair Edition



The Green Machine

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for future generations

SOLUTIONS
for your LIFE

Volume 2, Issue 1

<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/>

February 2007

Bradford County Strawberry Growers Save Money by Following Best Management Practices

Bradford County Extension
2266 N. Temple Ave.
Starke, FL 32091
Website:
<http://bradford.ifas.ufl.edu>
Email: jtd@ufl.edu
Phone: (904)-966-6299

Inside this issue:

- Modern Farming in Bradford County 1
- Buzz Busters Update 2
- Master Gardener News 3
- Modern Farming Workshop 4

Your Bradford County Extension Staff:

- * Mike Sweat: Acting CED
- * Wendy Burton: Livestock and Natural Resources Agent
- * Jim DeValerio: Agricultural and CRD Agent
- * Heather Futch: FCS Agent
- * Kimberly Paul: Administrative Assistant
- * Laurie Compton: Program Assistant

Jim DeValerio
Agricultural, CRD &
Horticultural Agent

Combined efforts from the University of Florida, Bradford County Extension, University of Florida BMP Specialists and the Suwannee River Water Management District have resulted in the adoption of more efficient farming practices by Adam and Drew Wainwright of Wainwright Farms.



The Wainwright's took advantage of a cost share program sponsored by the Suwannee River Partnership that helped them acquire their own soil moisture and plant nutrient monitoring equipment. The monies also provided a lap top computer that is used to record and study the amount of water used by the crop. In addition to the equipment, the University of Florida provided technical field personnel to teach the Wainwright's how to use the equipment. By learning how to use this technology they will have the ability to apply these same principles on all of the crops they produce.

The Wainwright's were able to use the information gained regarding strawberry crop water demand by irrigating only with the amount of water the crop could use at that time. The Bradford County water table is shallow, due to the close hard pan, and this information is tailored to those types of soils. Since fertilizer is delivered through the irrigation system, any change in water management affects nutrient application. By closely monitoring nutrient levels in the plants, the Wainwright's were able to apply only the fertilizer the plant required.

It is hoped that more farmers in the region will take advantage of these principles on their farms. There will be a demonstration workshop on the Wainwright Farm in Bradford County on March 5th, 2007. All area growers and gardeners are welcome to attend. Call the Bradford County Extension Service at 904-966-6224 for more information.

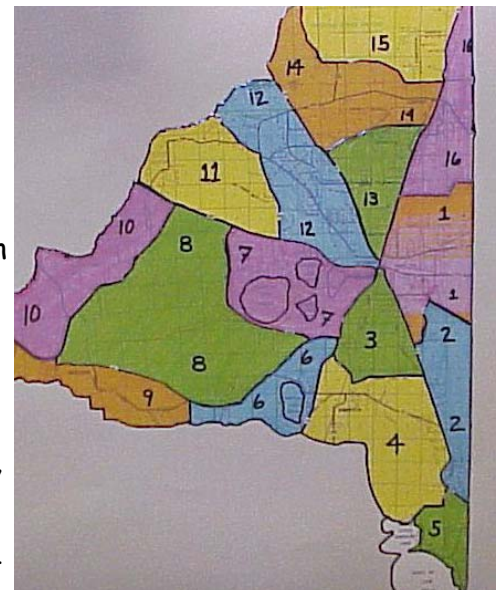
The Buzz Busters Are Back And We Are Recruiting!

What are the Buzz Busters? The Buzz Busters are a volunteer group of citizens of all ages that help Bradford County Mosquito Control by monitoring mosquito populations in the county. The Buzz Busters have been busting mosquitoes for four years. **The Bradford County Buzz Busters are the ONLY volunteer mosquito control group in the State of Florida.** The Buzz Busters are supported by many agencies including the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation Board, Bradford County Mosquito Control, Bradford County Extension, University of Florida-Integrated Pest Management, University of Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, Bradford County Schools and Boy Scout Troop 70.

What do the Buzz Busters do exactly? The volunteers use modern trapping techniques to monitor the adult and juvenile mosquito populations within they're assigned zone weekly from May to October. The trapped mosquitoes are used in a variety of ways. **First**, if a body of water has a large enough population of mosquito larvae, then they are treated using really cool eco-friendly insecticides. This is really the most efficient way to kill mosquito populations since, once they are airborne, they are harder to hit. **Second**, if enough adults are collected the county is notified about the high population and then the county will come out and spray insecticides to kill the flying adults. **Third**, all of the mosquito bodies are collected and the samples are sent to the University of Florida Medical Entomology Lab in Vero Beach. Once there the information gained is used with other mosquito population information from all over Florida. There are many different kinds of mosquitoes and we need to know where the different kinds are in order to reduce the threat of mosquito borne diseases.

The Buzz Busters are using a pest control strategy called Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Using IPM means that you collect the most information about the pest and then treat in the most environmentally efficient manner. **Volunteers needed!** Volunteers are being recruited for the 2007 mosquito season. Mosquitoes need to be sampled in zones 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16. We also need volunteers to help with processing the samples and identifying mosquitoes. We have a cool training workshop planned for Saturday morning, April 28th, 2007.

Check out the Mosquito Booth at the Bradford County Fair. It will be located next to the horticulture booth in building two. You will be able to see mosquito trapping equipment and learn more about the Buzz Busters!



IPM Integrated Pest Management
Florida

SOLUTIONS
for your LIFE



Master Gardener News



Show Off Your Plants At The Bradford County Fair

Do you have a green thumb? Do you have houseplants or outdoor potted plants that you would like to show off? Perhaps your green thumb is in the area of agricultural plants such as greens or strawberries. Then plan to enter your plants in the Agriculture or Horticulture divisions of the Bradford County Fair in March. Money prizes and ribbons will be awarded for the best plants. Entries will be accepted on March 15th from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. Plants must be pest and disease free and labeled with your name and the type of plant. Please call the Bradford County Extension Office @ 904-966-6224 to pre-register your plant. Entries include cactus, flowering and non-flowering houseplants, begonias, roses, ferns, hanging plants, succulents, bulbs and all agricultural plants.

Some tips for creating a showcase plant: prune off dead leaves, use soapy water for occasional insect problems, mist when needed and rotate the plants position in the sun to assure a well rounded appearance.

Hope to see **your** plant at the Bradford County Fair!

Learn How To Select Plants For Your Home Landscape At The Bradford County Fair

The traditional Agricultural and Horticultural booths at the Bradford County Fair will not only show off prized plants but will also feature teaching which will help homeowners save money on their landscapes. You will learn how to have your soil tested for nutrients and pH at the agricultural booth. This information is extremely helpful when deciding what types of plants to include in your landscape and also when and how much fertilizer to add.

The teaching will continue right next door at the horticultural booth where there will be Master Gardeners teaching how to select the "Right Plant for the Right Place". There will also be displays on building an attractive rain barrel and how to conserve water in droughty times. Our Master Gardeners will be available to answer your lawn and landscape questions.

See your BC Fair guide book for scheduled teaching times or just stop by for a personal tour.

Winter Weeds and Spring Fertilization

Be careful not to waste weed killers on winter weeds at this time. Many winter weeds have already set seed and the timing to get control using chemicals has passed. Many products combine weed killers and fertilizers but often times it is best to apply them separately to get the best results.

As far as fertilization goes, the best thing to do is to get a soil sample and then decide on how much fertilizer to apply to your pecan trees, vegetable garden or lawn once the spring is here.

Workshop Announcement



Co-owner / producer Adam Wainwright and Bradford County Extension Agent Jim DeValerio measure nutrient content of strawberry sap to see if more fertilizer is needed.

Improved Water and Fertilization Management for Strawberry and Other Field Crops In Bradford County

Program Topics:

Drip Irrigation Systems for Field Crop Production

Bob Hochmuth (UF-IFAS Multi County Vegetable Agent)

Fine Tuning Fertilization of Strawberry and Field Crops

Eric Simonne (UF - IFAS Vegetable Nutrition Specialist)

Nutrient Measuring Equipment and

Water Management Tools

Jim DeValerio (UF - IFAS Bradford County Extension Service)

Using Water Management and Nutrient Management

Principles to Grow Your Crop More Efficiently:

An On Sight Demonstration.

Mace Bauer (UF-IFAS BMP Implementation Team)

Herbicide Trial Review and Discussion.

Bill Stall (UF-IFAS Weed Science Extension Specialist)

Questions and answers, Wrap-up and Evaluation

Jim DeValerio (UF - IFAS Bradford County Extension Service)

**Monday,
March 5th, 2007
3:00 - 6:00 pm at the
Wainwright Farm
3.3 miles east of
US 301 on SR 16
Look for the
Orange and Blue Sign**

**SOLUTIONS
for your LIFE**

There is no registration fee. Drinks and snacks will be provided. This will be an interesting workshop for anyone who is involved in commercial agriculture or home gardening. Call 966-6224 for information or to register.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability or national origin. 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.