Welcome to a busy time of the year. With spring planting, fertilizing, weed control and especially the fair, activities will keep us all busy.

There are many events coming up, so keep your calendar updated. There will be many opportunities for CEU’s and new workshops including small ruminants and equine in the future.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Wendy Burton
Livestock & Natural Resources

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A pasture free of weeds begins with good management. A well managed vigorously growing grass is less susceptible to the influx of weeds. Good management begins with proper forage selection, adequate soil pH and fertility and proper grazing management along with weed control methods. Mechanical or herbicidal methods can be effective, but management practices must follow for a successful eradication of that weed.

Mowing is one of the most common weed control practices. It improves the appearance of pasture and if timed properly can prevent weeds from producing seed. It is more effective on broadleaf weeds and annual weeds. Another factor to consider is the method of regeneration of that weed. Prickly pear for example can form new plants from the cut of past plants; therefore mowing would only spread this plant to other parts of the pasture.

There are many different types of herbicides used to control weeds and knowing what weed you need to control is the first step. If you are not sure what is in your pasture, call your local extension agent for proper identification. Time and rate of application is also important. Rates too low will not give adequate weed control and rates too high can injure the forage. Preemergence applications are made before the weed germinates and knowing the life cycle of that particular weed is essential for proper timing. Postemergence application is done after the weeds have emerged and are most effective when they are small.

Broadcast application or spot application is another concept you need to address before application. How you will apply depends upon how dense your weed population is. If scatted over the pasture, it may be more effective to broadcast the herbicide.

Before spraying you need to check your nozzles on your boom and look for injury or wear to the nozzles. Also checking for uniform distribution is extremely important to get uniform coverage. Damaged nozzles can result in un-uniform coverage therefore causing streaking and possibly damage to the forage. You may contact your local extension agent for help in this matter.

For information concerning control of particular weeds please see IFAS publication, Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland- 2006. In this pub you will find charts with effectiveness of herbicides on common weeds, when and how much herbicide to apply, and haying and grazing restrictions.

See attached publication!!
Upcoming Events

Bradford-Union Fair
March 17-25, 2006

Show Events:
Saturday, March 18 at 10am- Poultry & Rabbit Check-in
Monday, March 20 at 8am- BUCA Steer and Breed Weigh-In
Monday, March 20 at 10am- Poultry Show
Monday, March 20 at 1pm- BUSA Swine Weigh-In
Monday, March 20 at 6pm- Rabbit Show
Tuesday, March 21 at 7pm- BUSA Swine Show
Wednesday, March 22, at 6 pm- BUCA Steer and Homegrown Show
Thursday, March 23 at 6pm- BUCA Breed and Overall Showmanship Show
Friday, March 24 at 7pm- BUSA Swine Sale
Saturday, March 25 at 3:45pm- BUCA Awards
Saturday, March 25 at 4pm- BUCA Cattle Sale

Private Pesticide Applicator School
April 10, 2006
Bradford County Extension Office
8:30 am—5:00 pm

Topics Include:
- CORE Principles
- Private Applicator Pest Control
- Equipment Calibration
- Pesticide Arithmetic

Take both exams on this day!!!
CORE and Private Applicator
Registration is $5
Please call the Bradford County Extension Office (966-6224) by April 5 with your name to reserve your meal and handouts!

**Flyer attached**
North Florida Beef & Forage Group Upcoming Events

**Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training**
Thursday, April 20, 2006 & Thursday, April 27, 2006
(This is a two part program)

5-8pm, UF Animal Science Room #156
Registration: $5 to cover meal
Please RSVP to Cindy Sanders, Alachua County Extension 352-955-2402
By April 14, 2006

**2 CORE and 1 Private Ag or 1 Animal Ag CEU’s available!**
**Florida Level 1 BQA Certification**

Please see attached Flyer for further information and benefits of attending.

**Small Ruminant Workshops**
May 2006
Columbia County- May 20 from 9am-12pm
Clay County- TBA-
Goat Forage Management

**Equine Workshops**
June 2006
Alachua County- Nutrition and Reproduction
Bradford County- Nutrition, Teeth and Hoof Care
More information will follow!
MARCH

- Non-pyrethroid dust bags and back rubs may be set up now or in April 5 to 6 inches lower than the average back heights of the herd to control flies. They should be located in areas where cattle are forced to use them and in areas through which cattle must pass once or twice a day, such as mineral boxes or water troughs.

- Remove cows from crimson clover to allow it to reseed for next year.

- Consider planting pearl millet or sorghum-sudangrass for extra grazing

- COWS, BULLS, and REPLACEMENT HEIFERS: A minimal vaccination program is to vaccinate for vibrosis and leptospirosis (5-way).

- Optional vaccinations are IBR, PI, BVD, BRSV, H. Somnus. Consult your veterinarian. Also, deworm and individually identify no later than 3 weeks prior to the beginning of the breeding season when females are open (not pregnant).

- Give brucellosis vaccination to heifers at 4 to 12 months of age (usually in fall at weanings).

- CALVES: A minimal vaccination program is to vaccinate for blackleg (8-way). Also deworm, castrate dehorn, implant, and individually identify.

APRIL

- Rotate permanent pastures to provide adequate grazing.

- Continue feeding hay and/or stockpiled forage that's in pasture and supplement if perennial grass is short.

- Check and fill mineral feeders.

- Check dust bags and back rubs, and/or spray, if needed. Dust bags: should be replaced or repaired when torn, worn, or the bag becomes frayed. The bags should be checked for caking (especially after a rain) and should be refilled as needed. Back rubs: one backrubber should be placed for every 50 - 75 animals and should be retreated every 2 - 3 weeks.

- Mow or spray pastures with herbicides to control weeds and brush.
**Livestock Judging**

Congratulations to the Bradford County 4-H Livestock Judging Team for placing 1st at the Florida State Fair Livestock Judging competition on Saturday February 11th! Team members Ryan Crawford, Dakota Reddish, Lloyd Webb, and Clay Whitehead. Dakota Reddish received 1st high individual and Clay Whitehead earned 5th high individual.

Members will also compete at the Alachua County Fair on March 11. Good luck teams!

The Bradford-Union Fair will be hosting a Livestock Judging Contest on March 24 at 9am. Teams from North Central Florida will come to compete.

The State Contest is on April 1, 2006. Team members Dakota Reddish, Abigail Crawford, Ryan Crawford, and Lloyd Webb will be competing. Good Luck!

Thanks to Jamie Whitehead and Brad Muse for their unending support!!

**Summer Camps**

I will be holding a Fishing Camp this summer for youth ages 8-14. Keep looking for more information!

I also have had a request for another Embryology type camp. I will print dates once they are set.
Check out our website at
http://Bradford.ifas.ufl.edu