Dear Producers,

I would like to thank every one of you that participated in the fair or supported youth at the fair. It was a great week and I am looking forward to many great fairs in the future.

I would also like to thank those of you whom have attended past workshops, your participation makes these events possible!

Enclosed is some information for you to get your pond up and ready for the summer. There are also many events coming soon to teach you more about your livestock operations, and pond management skills.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 904-966-6224.

Sincerely,

Wendy Burton
Livestock & Natural Resources

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We all know that aquatic plants are found in every water body in the state of Florida. Ponds, rivers, lakes and even ditches are full of this type of plant life. Some of them can be beneficial to these different areas by providing wildlife habitats and aesthetic values, however many of them are just a nuisance. This is where aquatic plants become a problem in our ponds.

There are numerous types of aquatic weeds that may inhabit your pond. Watching for changes in the pond on a daily or weekly basis is important to catch weeds before they get out of hand. Once a change is noticed, the next step is to identify exactly what you have. You may use books or pamphlets to identify these plants, or you may contact your local extension office for a positive identification. A correct identification is extremely important because control methods differ for various weeds.

Once you have determined what type of weed is in the pond, you need to decide upon a control method. There are various methods of weed control that may be used. Fertilization, nutrient reduction, drawdown, mechanical control, biological control and herbicides may be used. However, this article will concentrate on herbicide use.

Herbicide use is the most common method used to control aquatic weeds because of the many advantages associated with this control. They may be used to selectively control specific plants, they can reduce the need for mechanical control, erosion may be reduced, and herbicides control plants that may not be controlled by other methods. Herbicides can be divided into two categories; selective and non-selective. Selective herbicides control weeds without harming other plants, ornamentals, crops, and lawns. Nonselective herbicides control all plant species when applied at an adequate rate.

Herbicides are often found in liquid form, however there are a few found in dry formulations. It is extremely important that the label is read and understood so that the chemical is applied correctly and will act accordingly. Application rates vary depending upon size and depth of the pond and how dense the vegetation is. The label will identify what plant species it will control, when to apply, how to apply, where it can be used, the toxicity to various fish species, and if a surfactant is needed. A surfactant is a material you add to the herbicide that reduces the surface tension of the water droplet and allows it to spread through the hairs onto the leaf surface where it may be absorbed. For weeds such as common salvinia, a surfactant can greatly increase your effectiveness. If one is unsure about how to read product labels, please contact your local extension agent.

While applying herbicides it is extremely important that you use precautions noted on the label. Wearing long sleeves, long pants, gloves, rubber boots, goggles and a face mask is important while spraying or even mixing herbicides. Proper handling ensures the safety of yourself and the environment.

For more information about specific herbicides that control specific weeds, call your local extension agent or reference Weed Control in Ponds, by K.A. Langeland et al, from the University of Florida IFAS Extension Bookstore.

**Information for this article was taken from Weed Control in Ponds by KA Langeland, DD Thayer, WT Haller, and CJ Joyce, Aquatic Weed Control Recommendations: A Guide for County Extension Faculty by Ken Langeland.**
Bradford-Union Fair Results 2006

Grand Champion Swine- Zach Sweat
Reserve Grand Champion Swine- Dylan Gualt
Swine Showmanship:
  Senior- Katie Williams
  Intermediate- Julie Nettles
  Junior- Arielle Wilson
Grand Champion Steer- Clay Whitehead
Reserve Grand Champion Steer- Taylor Whitehead
Grand Champion Breed Animal- Randa Connor
Reserve Grand Champion Breed Animal- Kendall Morgan
Beef Showmanship:
  Senior- 1st place- Ashley Waters
  Intermediate- 1st place- Amber Waters
  Junior- 1st place- Randa Connor

Total number of Steers: **68**
Total number of Hogs: **90**
Average Sale Price Steers: **$2.79**
Average Sale Price Hogs: **$5.21**

Other Items of Interest

28th Annual Goat Production Conference
When: June 10 & 11
Where: UF College of Veterinary Medicine
What: Meat and Dairy Goat Information

Twilight Field Day
When: Tuesday, May 23
Where: North Florida Research and Education Center, Live Oak
CEU’s and CCA’s available!!

See attached flyer for more information!
North Florida Beef & Forage Group Upcoming Events

Small Ruminant Workshops
May 2006
Columbia County- May 20 from 8am-12pm
Clay County- May 11 from 6:30pm-9pm
See attached handouts for more information!!

Equine Workshops
Alachua County- June 1- Nutrition, Deworming, pasture management, body condition scoring
Bradford County- June 27- Nutrition, Teeth and Hoof Care
See attached handouts!

9th Annual Hay Field Day
Wednesday, July 19th, 2006
Where: North Florida Research Center, Live Oak
More information to Follow!

Youth Opportunities
7th Annual Columbia Classic
When: May, 26-27, 2006
Where: Columbia County Fairgrounds
What: Open show for 4-H and FFA members. Steer, heifer, showmanship, and cattleman’s contests to be held.
How Much: $10 per animal before May 5.
$20 late entry
Come by the office or call for a registration sheet!
## May Monthly Management

- Rotate pastures to provide adequate grazing.
- Monitor pastures for sufficient forage and supplement, if necessary.
- Check mineral feeders.
- Remove bulls from **heifers** by mid-May.
- Observe cows for repeat breeders.
- Check bulls for soundness and activity.
- Check dust bags and back rubs.
- Develop marketing plan for calves.
- Mow or spray pastures with herbicides to control weeds and brush.
- Fertilize hay field(s).
- Remove cows from arrowleaf and white clover to allow it to reseed for next year.
- Consider planting pearlmillet or sorghum-sudangrass for extra grazing.

## June Monthly Management

- Make first cutting of hay. Cut early before plants become too mature. Early cutting is the key to nutritional quality.
- Check mineral feeders.
- Check dust bags and back rubs.
- Remove bulls from **cows** by mid-June.
- Re-implant calves with growth stimulant.
- Watch for evidence of pinkeye and treat.
- If too many females return to heat, consider: 1) your bull; 2) your nutrition; 3) reproductive disorders such as vibrio, lepto, cystic ovaries, or uterine infection. Consult veterinarian.
- Consider planting pearlmillet or sorghum-sudangrass for extra grazing.
Livestock Judging

On Saturday, April 1 the Bradford 4-H Livestock Judging Team competed at the State Contest in Gainesville. They received second place and will advance to judge more livestock at the National Western Stock Show held in Denver, Colorado on January 7, 2007. Team members Abigail Crawford, Ryan Crawford, Dakota Reddish, and Lloyd Webb are looking forward to the trip. Dakota Reddish stole the show by bringing home five individual awards. She received 5th place individual in evaluation, 4th place individual in reasons and swine placing, 2nd place individual in cattle selection, and 2nd place overall High Individual. Lloyd Webb received 9th place overall High Individual. At the contest in Gainesville, they judged and evaluated 12 classes of animals, did questions on two classes and gave two sets of oral reasons to defend their class placing. They competed against 9 other 4-H teams across the state. Congratulations to the team and thanks to all of the individuals that allowed us to come and practice at their farms. Thanks again to Brad Muse and Jamie Whitehead for continually supporting and coaching the team.

Summer Camps

I will be holding a Fishing Camp this summer for youth ages 8-14. Keep looking for more information! I will print dates once they are set.

This newsletter is printed bi-monthly. If you know of anyone not receiving this, that would like to, please call 904-966-6224 and let me know.

Also, check out our website at:

http://bradford.ifas.ufl.edu
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