



From the Ground Up



A Word from DeSoto County's Extension Director...

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Here at the DeSoto County Extension Office we are excited about the coming year and the multitude of programs that we can bring to this county and surrounding areas. You will see in this issue of From the Ground Up a wide variety of opportunities for learning. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the DeSoto County Fair in January as we support our 4-H youth. We also are excited to be a part of the Florida Cattleman's institute and Allied Trade Show on January 17th in Kissimmee. In the coming months be on the lookout for further information on Ag-Tours, Florida Agriculture Leadership Series, and the Florida Master Naturalist and Master Gardener

Programs.

As we have been talking about in the last few issues of this newsletter UF/IFAS provides solutions for your life. This month on <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu> we have some great articles on the selection and care of colorful holiday plants. One of my favorites is the Poinsettia. This plant provides safe non-poisonous color to any holiday decoration. There are many varieties and colors to choose from and are fairly easy to care for. Check out the full article <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu>.



Happy Holidays and blessing to you and yours,

Ken

<http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu>



2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
www.agcensus.usda.gov
 YOUR VOICE.
 YOUR FUTURE.
 YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

In just a few months, America's farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities by taking part in the Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census captures a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches and those who operate them. Census data is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities

from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses and trade associations. Companies and cooperatives can use the information to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers. Often legislators use the information when shaping farm policies and programs. NASS will mail out Census forms in late December, and responses

are due by February 4th, 2013. Producers also have the option to complete their forms online. After all, the Census is your voice, your future and your responsibility. For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

Beef Management Checklist

January

- Apply lime for summer crops.
- Check for lice and treat if necessary.
- Control weeds in cool season pastures.
- Begin grazing winter clover pastures when approximately 6 inches high. Rye should be 12-18 inches high.
- Check mineral feeders.
- Put bulls out for October calving season.
- Make up breeding herd lists if using single sire herds.
- Watch for calf scours.
- Give bulls extra feed and care so they will be in condition for breeding season.
- Make sure cow herd has access to adequate fresh water.
- Buy only performance tested bulls with superior records.
- Get taxes filed.
- Discuss herd health with your veterinarian and outline a program for the year.
- Review herd health program with your veterinarian regularly.
- Carry a pocket notebook to record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas, difficult calvings and other data.
- Observe cow herd for calving difficulties.
- Watch for grass tetany on winter pastures.
- Increase magnesium levels in mineral mixes if grass tetany has been previous problem (if you are not already using a high magnesium mineral).
- Examine bulls for breeding soundness and semen quality prior to the breeding season.
- Vaccinate cows and heifers against vibriosis and leptospirosis prior to the breeding season.

FL-AG Leadership Series

Leadership development for young farmers and ranchers

The development of the next generation of farmers and ranchers is vital to the success of the agricultural community. UF/IFAS Extension has created a partnership with the Wedgworth Leadership Institute at the University of Florida to leverage their nationally renowned leadership development programs through a local level program called FL-AG (Florida-Agriculture) Leadership Program. The intent of this program is to develop and refine the leadership capabilities of young leaders who, in turn, will be prepared to become increasingly involved in policy formation that will affect the future of Florida agriculture and natural resources either in a direct or indirect manner.

This program is geared to prepare potential leaders to assume greater leadership responsibilities in their organizations, industries and communities. Also, FL-AG assists those

same young leaders to assemble net-works composed of class members, alumni, and program resources for the purpose of developing future industry, organizational, civic and political leaders.

The FL-AG Series consists of four single-day leadership programs. Each day will focus on a different set of leadership skills to help each participant in their business and community while equipping them to better serve the Florida agricultural and natural resources industry.

Program Dates/Times:

9:00AM-3:00PM on:

- Friday, February 15, 2013
- Friday, March 15, 2013
- Friday, April 19, 2013
- Thursday, May 17, 2013

For more information please contact your local County Extension Office.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. 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.

DeSoto County Extension Calendar of Events

January 2013

17—30th Annual Florida Cattlemen’s Institute and Allied Trade Show

17-27—DeSoto County Fair

19—9:00am—Poultry Judging

11:00am—Rabbit Judging

1:00pm—Poultry Showmanship

20—2:00pm—Steer Grooming

4:00pm—Rabbit Showmanship

21—7:00pm— Swine Show

22—7:00pm—Steer Show

23—7:00pm—Goat Show

24—7:00pm—Beef Breeding

25—5:00pm—Livestock Awards

7:00pm—Livestock Sale



The Florida Master Naturalist Program

A Natural History Training Program

Florida Master Naturalist Program students include anyone over the age of 18 interested in learning more about Florida’s environment. Those who benefit include environmental educators, natural resource managers, volunteers, eco-tour guides, teachers and anyone wishing to expand their knowledge of Florida’s natural world. Professionals and teachers have obtained CEUs and in-service credit.

FMNP Instructors include individuals from the University of Florida/IFAS Extension, environmental educators, natural resource managers, teachers, professors and others. FMNP Core Modules provide a holistic approach to understanding Florida’s ecology, natural history, and environmental issues. There are three Core Modules: Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, and Upland Habitats. Training includes ecosystem processes, identification of key plants and wildlife, the role of humans in shaping Florida’s environment, interpretation skills, and environmental ethics.

Each Module is 40 contact hours and includes classroom presentations, discussions, videos, field trips, and practical experience in

interpretation. Students receive detailed course manuals and, upon completion, certificate of achievement, patch and pin, and registration in our online student database. Students who complete all three Modules are designated Florida Master Naturalists and receive a plaque and special recognition in an online database.

The FMNP also offers Special Topic courses for more detailed practical experience. Special Topics courses include Conservation Science, Environmental Interpretation, Wildlife Monitoring, and Habitat Evaluation.

The Special Topics courses are designed to provide a hands-on approach that complements the Core Modules. There is no requirement to have taken any Core Module in order to enroll. Each 24-hour course includes classroom presentations, field trips or activities, and practical experience. Students receive detailed course manuals, and upon completion, certificate of achievement and registration in

an online database.

The DeSoto County Extension Office is proud to offer the FMNP Upland Systems Module. The program begins Saturday, January 12, 2013 and runs every Saturday for six weeks.

The schedule is as follows:

- Day 1—Saturday, January 12, 2013**
DeSoto County UF/IFAS Extension Office
- Day 2—Saturday, January 19, 2013**
DeSoto County UF/IFAS Extension Office
- Day 3—Saturday, January 26, 2013**
DeSoto County UF/IFAS Extension Office
- Day 4—Saturday, February 2, 2013**
Myakka River State Park
- Day 5—Saturday, February 9, 2013**
DeSoto County UF/IFAS Extension Office
- Day 6—Saturday, February 16, 2013**
DeSoto County UF/IFAS Extension Office

For more information, or to register for the course, contact the DeSoto County UF/IFAS Extension Office at 863-993-4846.



What Is A Master Gardener?

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who provide the public with gardening programs and activities that draw on the horticultural research and experience of the University of Florida.

Each Master Gardener receives research based instruction in all areas of home horticulture and is kept up-to-date with the latest developments in home horticulture

from IFAS/University of Florida Extension. In return, Master Gardeners volunteer an equivalent number of hours sharing their knowledge and experience with interested gardeners in the community.

Charlotte County's Master Gardener Program, along with similar programs in other counties in Florida, is directly linked to the University of Florida as part of its

National Land Grant College charter. It is this tie to the University of Florida that provides Master Gardeners with state-of-the art gardening knowledge.

DeSoto County will be forming a Master Gardener Team starting this spring. If you are interested in being trained as a Master Gardener or if you have previously been trained and would like to become part of the DeSoto County team please call our office for more details. The training program will start in March of 2013 in Charlotte County with volunteer hours being fulfilled through the DeSoto County office.

For more information, please contact the DeSoto County Extension Office at 863-993.4846.

Cattle Board							2009-2012 Monthly Precipitation				
Board Prices	Fri Nov 30	Mon Dec 03	Tue Dec 04	Wed Dec 05	Thur Dec 06	Change	2012	2011	2010	2009	
Live Cattle	126.73	127.00	126.13	126.15	126.08	-0.07	Jan	0.48	2.39	1.59	0.32
Feeder Cattle	145.63	145.60	145.58	146.40	148.25	1.85	Feb	0.75	0.17	2.53	0.37
Corn	7.48	7.49	7.47	7.53	7.53	0.00	Mar	1.80	4.47	7.03	1.83
							Apr	0.83	1.71	1.85	0.62
							May	3.45	3.22	3.58	6.23
							Jun	12.92	3.67	8.66	3.95
							Jul	4.96	8.22	4.26	13.88
							Aug	8.82	11.92	10.57	8.44
							Sep	5.63	5.66	6.04	7.91
							Oct	3.62	4.79	0.04	0.17
							Nov	0.11	0.24	2.74	1.16
							Dec		0.07	1.33	4.86
								43.37	46.53	50.22	49.74
Boxed Beef	Fri Nov 30	Mon Dec 03	Tue Dec 04	Wed Dec 05	Thur Dec 06	Change					
Boxed Beef - Choice	195.03	195.32	195.05	194.89	194.13	-0.76					
Boxed Beef - Select	174.20	174.59	176.52	174.83	173.70	-1.13					
Boxed Beef - C/S Spread	20.83	20.73	18.53	20.06	20.44	0.38					
Other	Fri Nov 30	Mon Dec 03	Tue Dec 04	Wed Dec 05	Thur Dec 06	Change					
Est. Cattle Slaughter	123,000	129,000	119,000	128,000	119,000	-9,000					
Daily Drop	12.82	12.84	12.85	12.93	13.02	0.09					
Cutter Cow Cutout	161.11	161.11	162.17	160.64	161.11	0.47					
Beef Carcass - Ch	187.48	186.52	186.29	186.05	185.47	-0.58					

