



Farm & Ranch Advisor

Jackson County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

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Management Changes make Small Grains worth Reconsidering

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In the past, farmers and ranchers in the Southeast recognized the value of small grains for cattle grazing in a diversified farming operation. In recent years, however, many farmers and ranchers have greatly reduced their use. Increased fertilizer costs, less dependable rainfall, seed costs, diseases, farming more acreage, lack of fencing, later peanut planting dates, and more specialized farming have limited the interest in growing small grains. There are several changes that have occurred, however, that make small grains worth reconsidering.

Cattle, as one segment of a diversified farming operation, have more value now. Cattle markets are at an all-time high, so rotation of cattle grazing with cotton, peanuts and other crops can be more profitable. The use of perennial grasses, like bahia, in rotation with crops provide a welcome relief to nematodes, weeds and diseases that plague peanuts and cotton in constant rotation. Crop yields are boosted by the pest reduction, but also by increased organic matter and nutrients recycled by grazing cattle. Because of their extensive root system, grasses also improve water infiltration into the soil. In drought years, this is of even greater benefit.

Small grain rotations do not provide the same benefit as two years of perennial grasses, but they do add some benefit in a crop rotation as well. Several area farmers have seen some benefits from grain cover crops in recent years, such as:

improved soil moisture retention, palmer pigweed suppression, higher soil organic matter, and, ultimately, a boost in cotton yields. Recent data from the NFREC Crop Rotation Study showed that cotton fertilization requirements were also reduced, following cattle grazing small grains, because of the nutrient recycling in the root zone.



What a difference a month makes. January 26 comparison of Florida 401 Rye planted on October 31 versus November 29.



January 26 comparison of Triticale planted October 31 versus November 29.

One of the big changes that make small grains a more viable option again is the potential for earlier peanut planting dates. Because of the

Market & Weather Summary

Doug Mayo, Jackson County Extension Director

predominance of tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV), peanuts needed to be planted in mid-May. With the successful release of TSWV resistant peanut varieties, planting peanuts in April is now a more viable option. This change makes it possible to once again plant small grains behind peanuts in October, instead of November, to get earlier grazing in January instead of mid-February. The longer days, enable the crops get off to a much faster start, as seen in the photos on the previous page.

Oats behind peanuts had been a favorite of many local farmers, but barley yellow dwarf virus, spread by aphids, has really hampered their productivity in the past decade. A somewhat new option has arisen that may provide a better alternative. Triticale is a hybrid of rye and wheat that is resistant to yellow dwarf virus, and is more cold tolerant than oats. Triticale does not mature as quickly as rye, but does mature faster than wheat, so it still could fit in a normal crop rotation. 50/50 blends of rye and triticale would offer an even longer season of growth for grazing than either by themselves.

With skyrocketing byproduct feed prices over \$200 per ton, grazing cattle on small grains is once again worth reconsidering. Based on University of Georgia budgets, total costs for producing small grains is around \$250 per acre. Newer rye and triticale varieties produce 3-4 tons of forage dry matter per acre behind peanuts, which translates to \$60-80 per ton feed, that requires no troughs, feed wagons, or storage, with greatly reduced labor.

There are some challenges to overcome. One issue with growing small grains is unpredictable moisture at planting time. Gradually farmers in the area are making the investment in irrigation for their most productive fields. These irrigated fields would offer some real opportunity to grow small grains. Another stumbling block is the lack of fencing to use these fields for temporary grazing. Cutting small grains for hay can also be challenging due to the short days and cool damp weather January through March, but an alternative would be to utilize small grains for silage or round bale silage.

Small grains for forage may not be a good fit for every farm, but it is time to reconsider them as another option in a diversified farming operation.

Commodity	Unit	Spot Market Price		
		1/27	12/16	11/30
Golden Peanut Flex Price	\$/lb	1.30		
Dec Cotton Futures	\$/lb	0.95	0.86	0.88
Sept Corn Futures	\$/bu	5.94		
Nov Soybean Futures	\$/bu	12.22	11.51	11.47
AL 500-550 #1 Steers	\$/lb	1.64	1.48	1.39
Live Steer 35-65% Choice	\$/lb	1.26	1.22	1.21
Cull Cows 85% lean	\$/lb	0.76	0.71	0.62
Young Cows 4-6 mo Bred	\$/hd	1100	1025	
Inputs				
Ammonium Nitrate	\$/ton	465	475	475
Diammonium Phosphate	\$/ton	743	743	743
Potash	\$/ton	650	650	650
Farm Fuel	\$/gal	3.50	3.46	3.52
Feed				
Whole Cottonseed	\$/ton	270	270	275
Soybean hulls	\$/ton	223	265	273
Corn Gluten pellets	\$/ton	225	245	245
#2 Corn	\$/bu	7.45	6.70	7.14
Large Round Bale	\$/ton	100	87	100

2011 Marianna FAWN Summary								
Month	Air Temp			Soil Temp			Rain Inches	Dev from Avg
	High	Low	Avg	High	Low	Avg		
January	74	20	46	55	33	45	4.33	-0.71
February	82	26	55	70	37	53	4.04	-0.91
March	88	35	63	78	48	63	5.00	-0.47
April	92	41	70	89	56	74	0.92	-3.24
May	100	47	75	99	64	81	0.78	-2.83
June	104	69	84	102	77	89	1.66	-3.21
July	101	71	82	100	74	85	5.11	-1.01
August	104	63	84	97	78	87	1.87	-3.18
September	100	56	76	97	68	79	2.26	-2.15
October	91	38	64	83	53	67	1.84	-0.98
November	86	26	60	70	46	60	1.94	-1.42
December	80	32	56	64	44	53	3.75	-0.32
Annual	104	20	68	102	33	70	33.50	-20.42
2010 Rainfall Deficit								-16.17
Extended Drought Total								-36.59
Total days in 2011 <32°			21					
Total days in 2011 >95°			81					
Source: Marianna UF/IFAS Florida Automated Weather Network Station								

Nominate Jackson School District for Monsanto Grant



Farmers know that education is the cornerstone of any successful community. Monsanto has designated grant funds to help School Districts in agricultural areas improve math and science education.

Farmers in Jackson and Palm Beach County, Florida, have the opportunity to improve education in their rural communities. Through America's Farmers Grow Rural EducationSM, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, eligible farmers can nominate their school district to compete for a merit-based grant of either \$10,000 or \$25,000. The program is part of the commitment by the Monsanto Fund to invest in farm communities, to highlight the important contributions farmers make to our society.

Once a farmer has nominated a school district, the Monsanto Fund will notify the administrator that the district can submit a grant application. Winning grant applications will be chosen by a group of 26 farmer leaders from across the country. Grants will be awarded based on merit, need and community support. **The more farmers to nominate a school district, the more it demonstrates community support and strengthens their application.** One nomination is allowed per farmer. School districts and nominating farmers will be notified by September 30, 2012 regarding which school districts have been awarded grants.

Nominations must come from Jackson County Farmers, age 21 and over, who are actively engaged in farming a minimum of 250 acres of corn, cotton, and/or soybeans; or 40 acres of open field vegetables; or at least 10 acres of tomatoes, peppers and/or cucumbers grown in protected culture. The deadline to nominate the Jackson County School District is April 15, 2012. The nomination is a very simple, online application at GrowRuralEducation.com, or you can also make your nomination by phone at 877-267-3332. The School District must do all of the grant application work, but they cannot apply until farmers from Jackson County have nominated them.

Upcoming Educational Programs & Events

Complete listing of events and information available at <http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu>



Melon/Cucurbit Meeting - February 7

The annual Watermelon & Cucurbit Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, at the Washington County Ag Center, located at 1424 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida. Registration opens at 8:30 AM CST with the program starting at 9:00 AM. The program includes a sponsored lunch, and will conclude at 4:15 PM. There will be 2 Private Applicator, and 1 CORE CEU's provided for Restricted Pesticide License holders.

Topics at the meeting will include: disease control, fertilization, pesticide handling and application, insect management, variety selection, and GAP food safety (Good Agricultural Practices).

For more information, contact Matt Orwat, 850-638-6180, at the Washington County Extension Service.

AL/FL Peanut Trade Show – February 9

Peanut growers in the tri-states area will have the opportunity to see the latest advances in peanut planting, harvesting and other related equipment at the Alabama/Florida Peanut Trade Show, which will be held at the Peanut Festival Fairgrounds in Dothan, AL, on Thursday February 10.

The Trade Show is sponsored by the Alabama Peanut Producers Association and the Florida Peanut Producers Association. More than 60 exhibitors will attend the Trade Show to display their products, visit with farmers and offer information.

"With production cost continuing to increase, it is important that producers operate as efficiently as

possible," says Ken Barton, executive director Florida Peanut Producers Association. "This Trade Show provides producers the opportunity to gain valuable information that will be helpful in producing a high yielding, high quality crop in 2011. We invite all farmers to attend."

The Trade Show opens at 8:30 AM CST. A catered lunch will be provided with a production meeting and seed seminar following. For more information please contact the FPPA office at (850)526-2590.



NW FL Beef Conference – February 22

The 27th annual Northwest Florida Beef Conference and Trade Show will be held on Wednesday, February 22 at the Jackson County Agriculture Conference Center, located at 2741 Pennsylvania Avenue, Marianna, Florida. The event begins with registration and the Trade Show open at 7:30 AM central time. There is a \$5 per person registration fee for the event. The Program begins at 8:15 AM and ends with lunch. Following lunch there will be an optional Cool Season Variety Tour, to be held at the North Florida Research and Education Center, Agronomy Unit north of Marianna.

The focus of the Beef Conference this year will be: *Making the Most of New Opportunities*. 2012 promises to be a very interesting year in the cattle business. Cattle producers should get the highest prices they have ever received when they market their cattle this year. Because of increased costs, however, they will also have the greatest risk because of the investment in those cattle. For these reasons Dr. Walt Prevatt, Auburn University Livestock Economist, was chosen to be the keynote speaker. He will provide a cattle market outlook for 2012 and beyond, and also share ideas for managing cow costs. Kevan Tucker, Clarke County Alabama Extension Coordinator, will share ideas on how to capitalize on these higher market prices. Nicholas DiLorenzo, University of Florida Beef Nutrition Specialist, will discuss nutrition management, and

Doug Mayo, Jackson County Extension Director, will share ideas on how to increase herd performance, to help ranchers improve the efficiency of their operations.

The Beef Conference also features a Trade Show of businesses that offer goods and services to cattle producers in the region. Time will be provided to visit with the company representatives to learn about new products and suggestions they have for beef cattle operations.

For more information on the Beef Conference, contact Doug Mayo, at 850-482-9620, or on the Internet: <http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu>.



Row Crop Short Course – March 1

The Row Crop Short Course and Trade Show will be held on Thursday, March 1, at the Jackson County Agriculture Conference Center, located at 2741 Pennsylvania Avenue in Marianna, Florida. Registration and the Trade Show will open at 7:30 AM CST with the program starting at 8:00 AM and will conclude with lunch. In previous years, cotton and peanut educational meetings were held separately, but will be combined into one training event for 2012.

The focus of the meeting will be to update peanut and cotton famers with information on variety selection, weed and disease management, fertilization, and improved efficiency with variable rate application. Specific topics of interest this year will be: managing white mold in peanuts, palmer amaranth control in cotton and peanuts, the 2012 market outlook for peanuts, cotton, corn and soybeans, and also what to do in the event of a chemical spill on the farm. One Private Ag, and one CORE CEU will be offered for licensed Restricted Use Pesticide Applicators.

The Short Course will also feature a Trade Show of businesses that offer goods and services to farmers in the region. Time will be provided to visit with

the company representatives to learn about new products and suggestions they have for row crop farms. For more information on the Row Crop Short Course, contact Doug Mayo at 850-482-9620, or on the Internet: <http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu>.

***“Tired of the cap you’ve been wearing?
Try one of Farm Credit’s caps on for size!***

Farm Credit is offering you the opportunity to replace your tired, well-worn cap with a brand new Farm Credit cap during the Watermelon Meeting, the Beef Conference, or the Row Crop Short Course. Bring your old cap to the meeting and Farm Credit will exchange it for a new Farm Credit cap- just in time for planting season!



Timber Marketing Seminar – March 15

A Forest Stewardship Workshop entitled Grow Timer Revenue will be held on Tuesday, March 15 at the Washington County Ag Center, located at 1424 Jackson Avenue, Chipley Florida. Registration will start at 9:00 AM CST; the program will conclude at 3:00 PM. Registration will be taken online at <http://fsp-workshop031512.eventbrite.com>. There is a \$10 registration fee to cover the cost of lunch and materials. Space is limited, so register early.

Topics to be covered include: choosing a management system, selling timber for what it is worth, optimizing future returns with thinning, non-timber product opportunities, and Forest Service assistance. For more information, contact Chris Demers cdemers@ufl.edu, or 352-846-2375.

UF Beef Cattle Short Course – May 2-4

The 61st Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course will be held May 2-4 in a brand new location this year. The Short Course is moving to the newly built Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center located on Shealy Drive. This new location will have state of the art equipment and a large conference room. The location is



convenient to the University of Florida campus and downtown Gainesville. The focus this year is ***Making Dollars and Sense in the Cattle Industry.***

The registration fee for the Short Course is \$125 paid by April 17, and \$165 after April 17, so get your registration in early. For more information, or to register for the Short Course the web address is: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/beef/index.htm> If you have additional questions, contact Rebecca Matta, Program Assistant, Department of Animal Sciences, 352-392-1916, or rmatta@ufl.edu.



Forage Bites

**Bermudagrass Stem Maggot:
A New Pest in North Florida**

*Ann Blount, UF Forage Breeder &
Tim Wilson, Bradford County Extension Director*

Hay producers may be facing a new concern for their bermudagrass fields this coming season. Producers need to more closely examine any bermudagrass pastures or hayfields for a new exotic insect pest, the Bermudagrass Stem Maggot. Counties in south Georgia reported the stem maggot in July, 2010 and have experienced a resurgence of the fly causing dieback on bermudagrass hay fields this year. We have been monitoring the insect pest moving into Florida since last year; however it was not confirmed in pastures until this fall when maggots were found feeding on bermudagrass in suspect hay fields in north Florida.

This new exotic invasive fly, *Atherigona reversura*, was first discovered damaging bermudagrass pasture and hay fields in Georgia. The identification of the fly was the first record of this species in North America and it has the potential to become a serious pest of bermudagrass forage and turf. Four north Florida counties, including Madison, Alachua, Gadsden and Bradford, have fields of bermudagrass that have the stem maggot infesting tops of the plants. Suspect fields have also been identified in

central and south Florida. Insect specimens collected so far have been confirmed to genus (*Atherigona* spp.) by the Florida Division of Plant Industry and adult flies have been submitted to specialists to verify species (*A. reversura*).



Figure a Figure b Figure c
 Photos of field symptoms (a and b) where top leaves of bermudagrass are affected by maggot feeding and the Bermudagrass Stem Maggot (c).

Symptoms of the bermudagrass stem maggot include the death of top leaves to the node or growing point (Figs. a and b). These leaves can be easily pulled out and, often, feeding by the stem maggot can be seen with the naked eye. The maggot is shown in Fig. c. Control for this pest currently is a short-term pyrethroid application or immediate hay cutting. Should you suspect the stem maggot is present in a bermudagrass pasture or hay field, please contact your local county extension agent, so that we can confirm counties with bermudagrass fields that may be affected.

The reality of the permanent presence of this insect pest to bermudagrass may cause us to increase pyrethroid applications to hay fields or cut and harvest bermudagrass when fly populations are high. Because this is a new pest to the U.S., we have no threshold tolerance levels established or legal known insecticides that would supply longer-term protection from damaging maggots. The University of Georgia's entomologist, Will Hudson, USDA-ARS bermudagrass breeder, Bill Anderson, and forage extension specialist, Dennis Hancock will be working with several Florida agents and UF-IFAS specialists to test registered insecticides that might provide long-term protection from fly infestations. Unfortunately all bermudagrass varieties tested so far have been susceptible to maggot feeding. Again, short-term control includes grazing affected fields, timely hay harvest or pyrethroid applications.



Cotton Briefs

Two-Year Summary for Irrigated Earlier Maturity Cotton Varieties 2010-2011

Variety	Lint Yield	Lint
	lb/acre	%
PHY 499 WRF	1982	46.1
DP 0912 B2RF	1958	43.1
DP 1028 B2RF	1885	46.1
DP 0924 B2RF	1785	43.1
FM1740B2RF	1776	43.3
Dyna-Gro 2570 B2RF	1773	42.5
PHY 375 WRF	1771	44.1
DP 0920 B2RF	1762	43.8
PHY 367 WRF	1752	42.9
AM 1550 B2RF	1740	42.6
ST 4288B2F	1726	40.6
All-Tex 7A21	1712	44.0
All-Tex LA122	1675	44.0
GA2006106	1603	41.7
SSG CT Linwood	1553	42.8
Average	1764	43.4

^a Bainbridge, Midville, Plains, and Tifton.

UGA Two-Year Summary for Irrigated Later Maturity Cotton Varieties 2010-11

Variety	Lint Yield	Lint
	lb/acre	%
PHY 499 WRF	1893	45.0
DP 1252 B2RF	1841	46.1
DP 1050 B2RF	1840	46.0
DP 1137 B2RF	1803	45.3
DP 1034 B2RF	1794	45.9
DP 1048 B2RF	1794	44.7
PHY 375 WRF	1744	43.8
DP 1133 B2RF	1731	45.1
ST 5458B2RF	1690	42.3
PHY 565 WRF	1687	42.7
ST 5288B2F	1684	42.7
PHY 440 W	1486	41.6
Average	1749	44.3

Bainbridge, Midville, Plains, and Tifton.



Peanut Gallery

UGA Tifton, Georgia: 2011 Irrigated Peanut Variety Trial

Variety	Digging Date	Yield lb/A	TSMK %	Seed no./lb
FloRun™ '107'	09/30	5433	73.5	712
Georgia-06G	09/16	5345	77.0	623
Georgia-10T	10/17	5273	78.5	669
Florida-07	09/30	5260	72.5	585
Georgia Greener	09/16	5185	77.5	708
Georgia-07W	09/30	5115	76.0	688
Tifguard	09/16	5061	75.0	617
Georgia-09B	09/16	4949	77.0	721
Georgia-02C	09/30	4604	74.5	835
Georgia Green	09/16	4483	76.0	813
Average	09/27	5216	76.2	747

UGA Tifton, Georgia: 2011 Nonirrigated Peanut Variety Trial

Variety	Digging Date	Yield lb/A	TSMK %	Seed no./lb
Florida-07	10/28	5364	66.5	591
Georgia Greener	10/17	5179	70.5	731
Georgia-07W	10/28	4924	73.5	642
Georgia-10T	10/28	4725	69.0	700
Georgia-06G	10/17	4580	73.0	772
FloRun™ '107'	10/28	4383	68.5	738
Tifguard	10/17	4350	69.0	677
Georgia-09B	10/17	4029	68.0	777
Georgia Green	10/17	4013	69.0	833
Georgia-02C	10/28	4002	71.0	937
Average	10/23	4420	70.0	800



From the Bull Pen

Larry the Smart Aleck Student

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She began her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!"

After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up. The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Larry?" "No, ma'am, but I hated to see you standing there all by yourself!"

The math teacher saw that Larry wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, 'Larry! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?' Larry quickly replied, 'NBC, FOX, ESPN and the Cartoon Network!'

Cowboy Riddle

You are on a horse, galloping at a constant speed. On your left side is a sharp drop-off. On your right side is an elephant traveling at the same speed as you. Directly in front of you is a galloping rhino and your horse is unable to overtake it. Behind you is a lion running at the same speed as you and the rhino. What must you do to get out of this highly dangerous situation?

Wait for them to stop moving, get off the merry-go-round and have a designated driver take you home!

Marriage Retreat

Frank and Ann were having some problems at home on the farm, and decided to attend a weekend Marriage Retreat. While attending the retreat, they listened to the instructor declare, "It is essential that husbands and wives get to know the things that are important to each other."

He then addressed the men: "For instance, can you name and describe your wife's favorite flower?" Frank smiled, held up his hand and said "I know this one!" "Gold Medal All-Purpose"

Frank was admitted to the Emergency Room with multiple stab wounds from the Marriage Retreat ink pen Ann was holding. The police came to the hospital and asked if Frank if he wanted to press charges. He said, "No I think I have done enough damage to our marriage for one day!"

Truly Yours,

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Livestock & Crops Calendar of Events

February	Event	Location
7	Watermelon/Cucurbit Meeting	Washington County Extension Highway 90 W Chipley, FL
9	AL/FL Peanut Trade Show	Peanut Festival, Dothan
14	Jackson County Cattlemen's Fed Cattle Show	Jackson County Ag Center (Hwy 90)
22	NW Florida Beef Conference & Trade Show	Jackson County Extension Ag Conference Center (Penn Ave)
March	Event	Location
1	Row Crop Short Course	Jackson County Extension Ag Conference Center (Penn Ave)
1	4-H Livestock Project 101	Jackson County Extension Ag Conference Center (Penn Ave)
15	Forest Stewardship: Timber Marketing Seminar	Washington County Extension Highway 90 W Chipley, FL
17	Master Gardener Plant Sale	Jackson County Extension Pavilion (Penn Ave)
May	Event	Location
2-4	UF Beef Cattle Short Course	UF/IFAS Extension Center Gainesville, FL (new location)

UF/IFAS Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin. Persons with special needs should contact the Extension Office at least 5 working days prior to the event, to allow consideration to be given the request.

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