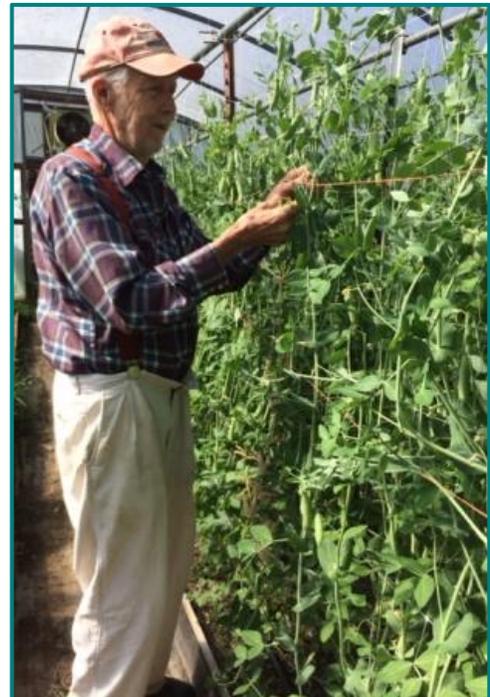


UGA Extension Meriwether County ANR E-Newsletter

April 28, 2017

BRAGGING TIME-LOCAL GROWERS

I visited **Jim Bowden** (below on right) of Manchester recently who had the most beautiful crop of sugar snap peas that I've ever seen. Jim was good enough to let me pick some and they were delicious-raw and slightly steamed. Sugar peas, asparagus and strawberries are my favorites of the crops we can harvest in early spring. Two of these three are grown commercially in Meriwether County and I am hoping that asparagus will soon be planted here too. Jim usually grows produce on contract but he may have produce available locally later in the season.



Florence Byrd from Luthersville came by the office this week with gorgeous peonies (above on left) from her garden. The flowers were huge (over 6 inches across) and smelled divine. I mentioned how much I loved peonies to Florence when I went to visit her farm back in March and saw that she had a large bed of peonies. I'm so glad that she remembered and that she very generously shared them.



Speaking of big and delicious, **Terry Strickland** at **Strickland Brothers Farm** has some exceptional onions (left) that they've grown at the farm. This Yellow Granex variety is the same one grown as Vidalia onions. I measured some at 4-inches across. Terry said that they sold out fast last year, so don't miss them. The Albion strawberries (above on right) grown by **Sean Lennon** at **Fitzgerald Fruit Farms** have also been exceptional. This strawberry variety is my favorite. Three-inch long fruits aren't super common but they are all still big and tasty!

PESTS OF THE WEEK

It's that time of year when I start seeing plant problems everywhere I look. Most are incidental and either easily ignored or fairly easily managed. Some are more problematic.

Leaf gall (below on left) of *Camellia sasanqua* is present again this year. We have certainly had the cooler temperatures required for infection to occur. To manage this disease remove and destroy (burn or bag) diseased leaves before the lower leaf surface turns white. This practice will reduce the inoculum source for next year's infection. Do not leave infected leaves or branches on the ground after pruning because spores can be dispersed from them. Fungicide applications are seldom necessary and will only provide limited control.

I've seen powdery mildew on roses (below on right) and crape myrtles. It may be showing up on other ornamental trees and shrubs such as dogwood. This problem is one that some people may choose to ignore. Usually certain varieties of these ornamentals are more susceptible to powdery mildew and will get infected almost every year. Large trees are difficult to spray for most homeowners. If you have a prize rose that is infected you can spray to protect the new growth. The potential for infection diminishes as temperatures get above 80°F.



Below is what I believe are grape sawfly larvae, *Erythraspides vitis*, on muscadine leaves and their feeding damage. These larvae were pretty small-around ¼ inch long. If you have muscadines in your garden please be sure to check them for damage and also be sure to look on the underside of the leaves for larvae.

Apparently there has been very little research work done on this insect beyond confirmed records in limited locations. Either presence of this insect has been very isolated or it has come and gone unnoticed. Thanks to Ed Rocereta of the Warm Springs Winery for noticing it and giving the heads up on this pest.



SMALL RUMINANTS

Fecal Egg Count Workshop

Dr. Niki Whitley is giving a fecal egg count workshop on June 27, 2017 at 6:00 PM. It will take place in the Upson County UGA Extension office located at 305 S. Hightower Street Suite 170, Thomaston, GA 30286. The seating is limited due to the number of available microscopes. Please let me know if you want to attend by emailing sci24262@uga.edu or calling 706-977-0882.

The training will focus on identifying parasites, tracking heavy worm-carriers in the herd, understanding refugia, and using these tools in genetic selection. Participants are encouraged to bring samples from their herd. Directions on how to collect a fecal sample using a latex glove are below.

- Put on a clean glove. Apply a nickel size amount of water or water-based lubricant to index and middle fingers.
- Insert index and middle fingers into the rectum of the animal, one finger at a time. No need to go very deep. Spread fingers to allow air into the rectum. The air duplicates fullness in the rectum and a wave of muscular movement will often move feces out into your hand.
- Remove ~4 grams of fecal matter. A good sized adult pellet is about 1 gram.
- Peel the glove off your hand keeping the fecal sample encased within it.
- Squeeze as much air as possible out of the glove. Twist the wrist portion of the glove and fasten with a label (farm and animal ID) making sure the label sticks to itself, as it won't stick to the glove. You can also twist and tie off the glove and label the glove itself with an indelible marker.

- Store the sample in the refrigerator until it can be analyzed (the sooner the better, but samples can be stored in the refrigerator for a week). If you are collecting many samples at one time, have a cooler with ice on hand to keep the samples cool until you can get them into a refrigerator.

NEXT UP FOR SMALL RUMINANT PRODUCERS

Mr. Terrell Hollis of the Fort Valley State University Meat Technology Center will be speaking on the evening of July 20 at a small ruminant meeting. We will begin at 6:00- place still to be determined. But go ahead and get it on your schedule. After his visit here we will plan a trip to visit their facility in Fort Valley.

FORAGES

GrassMasters

Steve Morgan, ANR Agent for Harris County and member of the UGA Forge Team, helps teach the GrassMasters training course. We are looking at possibly offering the program locally. The course focuses on the forages proven best for northeast Georgia and strategies for grazing, maintaining soil fertility and health, and managing pests.

Members of the UGA Forage Team and U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service staff members teach the classes. The cost for all seven weeks is \$25, and the course is open to anyone interested in improving his or her knowledge of pastureland health or forage and hay production.

If you would be interested in attending the program please let me know by emailing me at scj24262@uga.edu.

Steve will also be speaking at the next **Meriwether County Cattlemen's** meeting which is Thursday, May 11th. So if you have forage questions please join us for the evening. We will meet at the Meriwether Steak Co. at 4776 Nebula Rd, Warm Springs at 7:30.

DROUGHT

I'm already having conversations with folks about drought. According to the US Drought Monitor most of Meriwether County is still in a moderate drought (D1). Hopefully everyone in the county got rain on Thursday but in some places it was only ¼ inch. Right now the 3 month forecast is that we have an equal chance of less than, more than or the same amount of precipitation as normal. The expected trend though is for the drought to persist. So think hard about how you plan to manage your herds. I know some folks are buying hay as fast as it can be cut right now. The link to Dennis Hancock's presentation from January is below on rotational grazing and options for stretching hay.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>

<https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/support/drought/dmrpt-20170427.pdf>

http://georgiaforages.caes.uga.edu/documents/170110meriwethercograzingandstretchinghay_notes.pdf

CATTLE

Meriwether County Cattlemen's Association is selling raffle tickets for a **Stihl MS251C Wood Boss Chainsaw** with a retail value of \$349.99. Raffle tickets are \$10.00. To purchase tickets please contact Brian McDaniels (678-850-6640) or Emmett Collins (706-977-9819).

Lemmon Cattle Enterprises will be auctioning all of its registered Angus during a sale on May 27, 2017 at the farm at 16810 Woodbury Hwy, Woodbury, GA 30293. The sale begins at 10:00 AM.

UGA Calhoun HERD Sale is on Wednesday, May 31 at 12:30 PM at the NW GA Livestock Pavilion at 1282 Hwy 53 Spur, Calhoun. Offered will be approximately 100 heifers-Angus, Hereford, Simmental, SimAngus and Commercial. Videos will be available May 18 at www.ugabeef.com/programs



I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend. I will be spending this Saturday watching our 4-H Archery Team compete at Rock Eagle. The team includes Tristan Irvin, Hunter Pike and Jack and Michael Underwood. Coach Drew Pike has done a phenomenal job with the team as well as drumming up support from the community. I was disappointed to miss Chloe Dukes and Delia Rogers compete in the Shotgun Qualifier last Saturday because of the Keep Meriwether Beautiful cleanup day. Congratulations to Delia and her coaches, Terry Strickland and Shannon Dukes, for qualifying to attend the State Modified Trap Match!

Susan