

# **UGA Extension Meriwether County ANR E-Newsletter**

## **September 9, 2016**

### **PESTS OF THE WEEK**

**Fall armyworms are still active in the area!** So you should be vigilant about scouting your pastures and making timely insecticide applications. You can use the IGRs (insect growth regulators) diflubenzuron (Dimilin 2L) or methoxyfenozide (Intrepid 2F) for small size larvae that are still molting. Use other recommended products for late instar larvae. All recommendations can be accessed at:

<http://www.ent.uga.edu/pest-management/Commercial/GA-Pest-Management-2016-Commercial-PASTURE-FORAGE.pdf>

**Armadillos are everywhere in Meriwether County.** There are few management practices that are recommended for armadillos. They include trapping and shooting (be sure to check local regulations on discharging firearms). Since armadillos feed on soil inhabiting fauna such as grubs, recommendations used to include treating the soil to get rid of the grubs. That recommendation no longer applies since the armadillos are just as likely to be feeding on the good guys like earthworms and other soil inhabiting beneficials. What may be more helpful is eliminating overwintering habitats. Armadillos are susceptible to freezing temperatures and will die if exposed to them for extended periods. Be sure that they can't get under your home or other structures where temperatures will remain above freezing. My guess is that many armadillos in this area survived this past winter due to the mild temperatures. They were probably able to survive in burrows in the natural landscape as well as under structures.

Last winter there were 34 days between November 25<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup> that fell to 32°F or below. There were only three periods where the freezing temperatures lasted 4-5 days (data from the UGA weather station in Williamson). For folks closer to Pine Mountain there were 41 days of freezing and below temperatures in the same time period and one stretch of 7 days of below freezing temperatures (data from the UGA weather station in Pine Mountain). It may be that armadillos are able to survive these shorter periods of cold especially if the ground is not frozen. On sunny days they can still get out and forage in the soil for food. One of their food sources is fire ants so armadillos are viewed as beneficial by some folks.

For a thorough overview of armadillo biology please visit:

[https://ugaurbanag.com/armadillos/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1473346155.1166388988494873046875](https://ugaurbanag.com/armadillos/?doing_wp_cron=1473346155.1166388988494873046875)

For a good image of the recommended trap please visit:

<http://extension.missouri.edu/p/g9456>

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### **SOIL PREPARATION FOR PLANTING**

At the Wildlife Program last week there seemed to be some confusion concerning soil preparation for food plots. The information below can be applied to most planting situations.

The first thing that should be done is to have the soil tested. The UGA Agricultural & Environmental Services Laboratories (AESL) **ROUTINE SOIL TEST** gives results for pH, Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), Manganese (Mn), and Zinc (Zn) using the Mehlich I extract. There is also a **MICRONUTRIENT & OTHER EXTRACTABLE ELEMENT TEST** for soils but the best way to tell if there is a micronutrient deficiency in a crop is to submit plant tissue for analysis.

Once you have your soil test results you are set to go.

### **Lime Application**

The results will let you know if the pH needs to be adjusted (usually upwards) and what to apply and how much to apply to make the adjustment. Raising the pH is a task that should be started 1-6 months prior to the planting date. Soil temperature and moisture will have a large impact on the ability of a material to change the pH. In general the warmer the temperature the faster a change will occur. In cooler weather it happens much slower. That is why we recommend soil testing in the fall for a spring garden or for establishing warm season turfgrass. If you make the lime application in the fall there will be time (4-6 months) for the pH to change. The opposite would be the case for establishing a cool season turfgrass, fall garden or summer wildlife food plot. Testing for those should be done in the spring or early summer. In this case the change will occur more quickly with the warmer temperatures but soil moisture (drought) might slow the process. You can soil test and apply lime on bare ground at any time of the year though. Other factors that can impact raising the pH include the fineness of liming material and the degree of incorporation into the soil. Research has shown over and over that lime applied on soil surfaces generally only moves downward about two inches which means that the pH will only change within a two inch soil profile. Research in Brazil showed a vast improvement in lime mobility down to 4 inches with the addition of plant residues. Most plant roots will be in the soil profile from the surface down to 8 inches, though. So it is still best where possible to incorporate lime applications into the whole plow zone. Obviously this isn't possible with perennial plantings or pastures but it can and should be done before their establishment to give the plants the best growing conditions to get started in. Future lime applications will be necessary as the pH drops over time. With annual crops, incorporation should always be done if possible. Below are the recommendations from the AESL SOIL TEST HANDBOOK FOR GEORGIA on how often to sample:

For most situations soils need to be tested every 2 to 3 years. However, test the soil when there is a suspected nutrient deficiency, once per crop rotation, or once every other year if the soil is fertilized and cropped intensively. Annual sampling is recommended (1) on areas where high-value cash crops such as tobacco and vegetables are grown, (2) on areas testing high in P and K where no phosphate or potash is recommended and none is applied, and (3) on areas where the annual nitrogen application rate exceeds 150 pounds of N per acre. Soil samples should also be taken following crops where large amounts of nutrients are

removed in the harvested portion of the plant, particularly silage crops, hybrid Bermuda hay, and when peanut vines are used for hay.

If your land is sloped, which makes cultivation difficult, NRCS recommends using contour farming which is effective on slopes between 2 and 10 percent:

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143\\_026017.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143_026017.pdf)

### **Fertilizer Application**

Typically all elements other than nitrogen can be applied preplant and incorporated into the soil. Nitrogen is often recommended to be applied in split applications. Depending on the crop, two or three split applications may be recommended. In commercial plasticulture production of vegetables and some fruits small amounts of nitrogen are applied daily through drip tape. If the nitrogen application should be split your soil test results will tell you that. Below is an example of the nitrogen recommendations from a soil test for cool season annual grasses grown in a deer food plot:

Small grains of rye, wheat, and oats: These crops can utilize about 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre during the growing season. **Split** the nitrogen application, applying 50 pounds per acre **at planting** and the other 50 pounds **in late winter**.

Ryegrass alone or small grain-ryegrass: Apply 50 pounds nitrogen per acre **in the fall** at planting, 50 pounds per acre **in late winter**, and 50 pounds per acre **in early spring**. Since ryegrass has a longer than normal grazing season **three** applications of nitrogen for a total of 150 pounds instead of two for a total of 100 pounds will help extend the grazing period.

A couple of problems might occur if you apply all of the nitrogen at once instead of splitting the applications. Plants may not get the full benefit of the nitrogen application. Some of the nitrogen is likely to leach into groundwater before plants are large enough to utilize it, especially nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) forms of nitrogen. If using an ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) form of nitrogen up to 30% may be lost to volatilization if the fertilizer is not incorporated or at least covered with soil. Liquid fertilizers were mentioned the other night. All fertilizers must in solution for plants to take them up, so liquid fertilizers can be very effective. Typically they are used for plasticulture production where fertilizers are injected through a drip tape. They are also frequently used in nursery production. Usually it is only high value crops like these that justify the use of liquid fertilizers since they are more expensive. Organic matter in composted manures and plant material will slowly contribute nitrogen to soils through a process called mineralization. This process occurs more slowly in colder weather which is actually a good thing for spring planting. If you apply compost in the fall nitrogen should be mineralized and available for plants by the spring. Anyone who uses compost or cover crops to increase organic matter knows how fast it breaks down during our hot and (usually) humid summers. So just like conventional fertilizers, compost must be applied regularly also.

If you have questions about liming or fertilization practices, you can read the AESL SOIL TEST HANDBOOK FOR GEORGIA at:

<http://aesl.ces.uga.edu/publications/soil/STHandbook.pdf> or contact me at 706-977-0882 or [scj24262@uga.edu](mailto:scj24262@uga.edu)

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## WEEKLY WATER AND CLIMATE UPDATE

If you'd like to get depressed by seeing how much rain we did **not** get from Hurricane Hermine you can visit: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/support/drought/dmrpt-20160908.pdf>

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## HOME GARDENING

### **Home Gardening, Food Production and Nutrition Seminar**

#### **Hosted by Harris County Extension and Chipley Coop**

Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM-3:00 PM

Chipley Coop at 204 N. King Street Pine Mountain GA 31822

Topics covered include basics of planting a vegetable garden; variety selection; organic production; and food nutrition, preservation and safety.

Pre-registration is required by September 14<sup>th</sup> by calling the Harris County Extension office at 706-628-4824.

For more information please visit:

<http://ugaextension.org/county-offices/harris/agriculture-and-natural-resources.html>

### **Fall Care for the Home Lawn**

Meriwether County Extension Is Offering a Free Class on Lawn Care

Thursday evening, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30-7:30 PM

Manchester Public Library at 218 Perry Street Manchester, GA 31816

Topics will include:

- soil testing and liming
- pre-emergent herbicides for annual weed prevention
- perennial weed management
- correct cultural practices
- cool season turf versus warm season turf

To register please contact the Meriwether County Extension office at 706-672-4235 or [uge2199@uga.edu](mailto:uge2199@uga.edu)

For more information please contact Susan James at 706-977-0882

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## POULTRY

### **Backyard Poultry Flock Management Program**

Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 PM

**Dr. Casey Ritz**, UGA Poultry Science Department  
Basic Management, Breed Selection, and Disease Prevention

Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 PM  
**Dr. Brian Kiepper**, UGA Poultry Science Department  
Meat Chicken Processing and Food Safety

Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 PM  
**Dr. Claudia Dunkley**, UGA Poultry Science Department  
Bird Behavior, Housing and Management, Layer Production

**Bogle Farms**  
1785 Harman Road  
Greenville, GA, 30222



Cost:

\$20 for attending all 3 classes (includes all course materials and a certificate, if all classes are attended)

\$10 per single session class (includes course material but no certificate)

Coffee, drinks and snacks will be available.

To register please contact the Meriwether County Extension office at 706-672-4235 or [uge2199@uga.edu](mailto:uge2199@uga.edu)

**Egg Candling Class**

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM  
Georgia Department of Agriculture: **Ben Pitts**, Instructor  
Manchester Public Library Meeting Room  
218 Perry Street ~ Manchester, GA

If you plan to sell your eggs to individuals, or at a farmers market, an egg candling certificate from the Georgia Department of Agriculture is required.

The class will last about four hours, including one hour of classroom instruction, followed by a written examination and a hands-on candling examination.

There will be a one-hour lunch break on your own. The class is free and open to any interested Georgia resident.

To pre-register for the class and **to get a copy of the required affidavit of lawful presence**, please call the Meriwether County Extension office at 706-672-4235. If you have any questions please contact Susan James at [sci24262@uga.edu](mailto:sci24262@uga.edu) or Ben Pitts at [Benjamin.Pitts@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Pitts@agr.georgia.gov)

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**LIVESTOCK and FORAGES**

## **Meriwether County Cattlemen's Association Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM

**New location:** Blackbird Café in Woodbury 18118 Main Street

The program includes Cathy Rice of the L & K Farmers Livestock Market; Robert Allen, Vice-chairman of the Farm Service Agency County Committee (including Meriwether); Kaytlyn Malia, Director of Industry Information and Public Relations for the Georgia Beef Board; and Michele Creamer, Vice President of Operations for the Georgia Cattlemen's Association and Georgia Beef Board.

## **Calving Techniques Class**

Presented by **Dr. Lee Jones**, UGA College of Veterinary Medicine

October 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 6:30 PM

**Lemmon Cattle Enterprises** at 16810 Woodbury Hwy, Woodbury, GA 30293

Lee will be teaching simple calving-difficulty assistance techniques. **He will also talk about lambing and kidding difficulties for those who are interested, so small ruminant folks should attend also!** Coffee, drinks and snacks will be available. This class is free.

To pre-register please call our office at 706-672-4235 or for more information please contact Susan James at [scj24262@uga.edu](mailto:scj24262@uga.edu)

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## **BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP**

Tuesday evening, September 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 PM

Presented by **Dr. Keith Delaplane**

The workshop will focus on the major problems private and commercial beekeepers are facing today with large hive losses and what the best options are for improving our beekeeping success. Subjects covered include: varroa mites – progression and management; large numbers of winter and summer hive losses; best treatment options for pests and diseases; and keeping the honeybee industry alive and well for the future.

Cost is **\$15** which includes refreshments and reference material. Proceeds go toward establishing a local beekeepers association. To attend the workshop, please let us know by emailing Richard Littleton at [rlittle@uga.edu](mailto:rlittle@uga.edu) or calling Carroll County Extension at 770-836-8546.

Carroll County Ag Center/Extension Office  
900 Newnan Road  
Carrollton, GA 30117

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## **GEORGIA CLEAN DAY-PESTICIDE WASTE COLLECTION EVENT**

**Georgia Department of Agriculture**

Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Cordele State Farmers Market at 1901 State Rt. 41 North Cordele, GA 31015



**In order to participate in the program pre-registration is mandatory and must be completed by September 26<sup>th</sup>.**

- ALL PESTICIDES BROUGHT TO THE COLLECTION SITE MUST BE LISTED ON THE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM.
- ITEMS NOT REGISTERED WILL BE REFUSED AT THE COLLECTION SITE.
- EMPTY CONTAINERS OR RINSATES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- NO COMPRESSED GASES CAN BE ACCEPTED. (METHYL BROMIDE, CHLORPICRIN, VIKANE, ETC.).

**PROGRAM COLLECTION**

Participants will deliver their waste pesticides to the collection site where the disposal contractor will unload them. There are no forms to sign-you do not have to exit your vehicle. The contractor will accept sole responsibility for the waste and will provide handling, packaging, and disposal of the waste pesticides at the collection site.

Please contact me for pre-registration forms and pesticide transport tips at 706-977-0882 or [scj24262@uga.edu](mailto:scj24262@uga.edu)

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**OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual First Responder Luncheon**

Sunday, September 11th 12-3 PM  
American Legion Post 186  
Gay Road, Greenville, GA 30222

You can help by dropping off a dish or dessert or by being on hand to help serve the meal. Please contact Larry Dunaway for more information at [lsdunaway@wirelesshometown.com](mailto:lsdunaway@wirelesshometown.com)

**Covered Dish Supper for First Responders**

The luncheon will be followed at 6 PM by a Covered Dish Supper for First Responders at Fellowship Community Church at 4871 Roosevelt Highway in Warm Springs. The Children's Department of Manchester First Methodist will offer a 'thank you' by passing out snack bags to the First Responders. Contributions of side dishes and desserts are welcome.

**2016 Meriwether County Teen Maze**

**Volunteers Needed**

Friday, September 23 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

At the old Greenville Middle School auditorium

**TEEN MAZE** is an organization that promotes awareness about various issues and problems facing adolescents within the community. Ninth graders will navigate through a life-size maze that offers real life choices in order to discover the consequences of

their behaviors. Along the path, professionals in their field of expertise present information to students. The TEEN MAZE is designed to allow young people the opportunity to explore lifelike situations and their consequences without real-life permanency.

Teens will be given a scenario and then experience the consequences of the fate dealt to them, whether it is pregnancy, STD from unprotected sex, texting while driving, sexting or death from driving under the influence of alcohol. Our goal is for youth to understand their choices regarding sex, alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

Lisa Parker at 706-672-1118 or [lparker@pathwayscsb.org](mailto:lparker@pathwayscsb.org) for the necessary forms or you can contact me ([scj24262@uga.edu](mailto:scj24262@uga.edu)) and I will email them to you.

### **Racing for Roosevelt 5K “FUND RUN”**

#### **Roosevelt Warm Springs Georgia Hall**

Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> Registration starts at 8:00 AM Race begins at 9:00 AM  
All proceeds benefit the Roosevelt Warm Springs vocational rehabilitation programs.  
Entry fees: Early registration is \$20 with shirt and \$10 without. Late registration is \$25 with shirt and \$15 without.

For registration and more information please contact Erin Young at 706-655-5666

### **International Professional Rodeo Association**

#### **Southeast Region Finals Rodeo at Quercus Farms**

October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM

Flat Shoals Road, Gay Georgia 30218

The rodeo benefits veterans through RACE FOR THE WOUNDED:

<http://raceforthewounded.com/>

Tickets go on sale Oct 1<sup>st</sup>

Tickets are \$12; 6 and under free

Get advanced tickets at Shady Days in Gay Arts and Craft Festival on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> for only \$10

Come ride a horse before the show. Bring the kids to have their face painted. Lots of food and fun so don't miss out. Gates open at 6 and the action (bareback and saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, bull riding, roping and steer wrestling) starts at 8. Free parking

For more information contact:

Susan Pritchett, SRFR Representative, at 678-603-0038 or [susan@srfrodeo.com](mailto:susan@srfrodeo.com) or visit: <http://www.srfrodeo.com/>

### **Great American Clean-Up in Meriwether County**

#### **Volunteers Needed**

Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

It's time to start signing up again! Help Keep Meriwether Beautiful by cleaning up trash around your home or business on this day.

We have sign-up forms on our table outside our office or you can contact me at [scj24262@uga.edu](mailto:scj24262@uga.edu) and I will email them to you.

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Have a great weekend!

Susan