

UGA Extension Meriwether County ANR E-Newsletter

January 13, 2017

BACKYARD POULTRY CLASS

Chicken Coops, Also Known as Poultry Housing

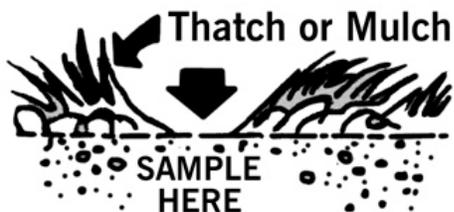
Brian Maddy, ANR Agent in Troup County, has put together an awesome presentation on the design and construction of chicken coops for Tuesday evening; **January 24th** at 7 PM. Topics to be covered are permanent and portable housing, space requirements, design, location, building materials, and security. Even if you already have poultry housing I highly recommend that you attend to make sure that it is adequate or to learn how it can be improved. And if you are just thinking about getting chickens, come learn how to get construction of your housing done right from the beginning. The class is free.

We will be meeting at the Greenville Public Library at 2323 Gilbert Street in Greenville. To preregister please call Susan at 706-977-0882 or email her at sci24262@uga.edu

SOIL TESTING

If it's time to have your soil tested again and you didn't get it done this past fall there is still time. Now that we've had rain it should be a lot easier to take a sample. Vegetable gardens should be sampled every 1-2 years. Lawn and ornamental areas should be tested every 2-3 years. Commercial producers of crops should soil test their fields annually. If you have a recommendation to apply large amounts of lime, it's a good idea to retest the following season or year to make sure the pH has been corrected. If it's been longer than 4 years since your soil was tested, it really is time to get it done!

You don't have to have a soil probe; you can use a shovel. And you don't have to have one of our bags; you can bring us the soil and we will bag it for you. What is important is taking the soil sample correctly. Your soil test result will only be as good as the sample that you submit. When using a shovel be sure to take a slice of soil through the whole 4 or 6-8 inch depth below any surface thatch or mulch. We recommend making a V-shaped hole and taking the slice from one side of the V.

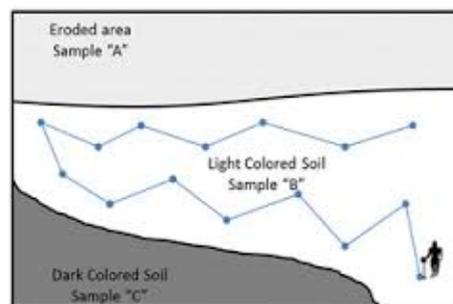
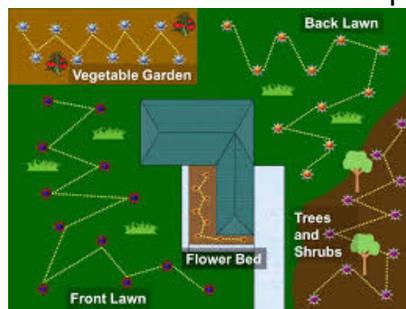


Make sure that you take enough subsamples to make up the composite sample. Make sure that your probe or shovel is clean and the bucket or container that you mix the soil in is also clean. Be sure to bring a minimum of 2 cups or fill the bag to the line. More is

better than less. Spread wet soil out on a pan or newspaper to dry before placing in our bags. Cost is \$12 each for 1-3 samples and \$8 each for 4 or more samples.

Below are some other steps to follow to be sure your samples are adequate.

- Sampling Depth
 - For lawns you want a core or slice of soil from a 4 inch depth
 - For gardens and crops, sample to a 6-8 inch depth
- Sampling Pattern
 - Try to make a zigzag pattern as you take subsamples to make up the composite sample
 - Try to zigzag over most of the area that you testing (see below)
- Number of subsamples in a sample
 - For large fields 20-30 subsamples should be taken to make up the composite sample
 - For smaller areas at least 8-10 subsamples should be taken
- How to determine if an area should be sampled separately
 - Any areas that have been treated differently in the past including applications of lime, fertilizers or amendments should be sampled and tested separately
 - If the soil appears to be different (color and/or texture) sample and test those areas separately
 - If plants are not growing well in an area then sample and test that area separately (it's also a good practice to submit soil from where plants are thriving so you can compare the two)
 - Areas with very different drainage patterns should be sampled and tested separately
 - For commercial production, one composite sample can be adequate for up to 10-20 acres if fields are uniform. If your fields are larger than that submit more than one sample



LIVESTOCK

I think everyone who attended this week's Cattlemen's meeting enjoyed the presentation given by Dr. Dennis Hancock, UGA Forage Specialist. Dennis made a few comments that I would like to share.

For folks thinking that the drought is over, guess what? The USDA Drought Monitor is forecasting that there will be around normal precipitation this winter in our area. It will take 150-200% of our "normal" rainfall to mitigate the drought. So don't expect to see impacted ponds and streams recovering soon and give thanks if your ponds did not drop. <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

I've talked to quite a few folks in Meriwether County about rotational, or as Dennis put it, rational grazing. One of the excuses that I get from people is that it is too expensive to put up the fencing. You can use less expensive fencing, such as electric, to get started. You can save up to 30% on your feeding costs and have healthier animals by using rotational grazing so it will pay over time for the cost of implementation. Having animals graze over a shorter period not only helps the plant recover and regrow faster above the soil (what you can see) but it also improves growth of the plant roots (the part that you can't see). **Healthy roots are as critical as healthy top growth.** The more you overgraze the more the plant roots will die back. Overgrazed pastures are also prone to water run-off (instead of capturing rainfall) and that will further stress plants. In a drought period like we have experienced overgrazing can mean the death of your pastures.

If anyone (who didn't already receive one) would like a copy of Dr. Hancock's presentation I can email you a pdf.

More on rotational grazing:

<http://sustainagga.caes.uga.edu/grazing/pdf/AnIntroductiontoIntensiveGrazing.pdf>

Electric fencing:

http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/forages/documents/Electric%20Fencing_low.pdf

Water systems:

https://prod.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1144213.pdf

ROW CROPS-SOYBEAN and COTTON

Auxin-Herbicide Technology

To my knowledge, no one in Meriwether County is planning on using the new auxin herbicide technology for soybean or cotton production. If you are thinking about it though, I highly recommend that you attend one of the trainings listed below!

Cotton and soybean varieties with tolerance to auxin herbicides (2,4-D or dicamba) are being commercialized. Prior to making applications of dicamba to dicamba-tolerant cotton/soybean or 2,4-D to 2,4-D-tolerant cotton/soybeans **in Georgia, growers will be required to attend the training “Using Pesticides Wisely”**. The training will focus on helping applicators/growers make wise decisions when applying not only 2,4-D and dicamba but all pesticides. **Growers are strongly encouraged to bring their applicators with them.** Attendance is suggested for all on-farm applicators to confirm that they have been provided the best management practices when applying all pesticides. Once you have completed the training you will receive a “Using Pesticides Wisely” card from the Georgia Department of Agriculture or if you have a GA pesticide applicator’s license, you will be issued a new card with “Using Pesticides Wisely” added to it.

Select a training and **RSVP, at least 2 days in advance**, to the specific location for attendance. The training will take about 2 to 2.5 hours and pesticide re-certification credits will be given. Snacks and drinks will be provided but no meal. ***I’ve put the closest trainings to Meriwether County at the top of the listing below.***

| Area of GA | Date | Time | Location | RSVP | County Agent |
|---------------|--------|------|--|--------------|-----------------|
| North | Mar 7 | 1 pm | Olin Tatum Ag. Bldg. 320 W. Cherokee Ave. Cartersville, GA 30120 | 770-387-5142 | Paul Pugliese |
| South-Central | Feb 17 | 9 am | Houston County Ext. 801 Main Street Perry, GA 31069 | 478-987-2028 | Charlotte Meeks |
| Southeast | Feb 13 | 9 am | Pierce County Ext. 705 College Ave. Blackshear, GA 31516 | 912-449-2034 | James Jacobs |
| Southwest | Feb 15 | 1 pm | Moby Dicks Restaurant 200 Martha Berry Hwy. Colquitt, GA 39837 | 229-758-4106 | Brock Ward |
| East | Feb 2 | 3 pm | Screven County Ext. Office 321 Rocky Ford Road Sylvania, GA 30467 | 912-564-2064 | Ray Hicks |

4-H PROJECT SAFE

Modified Trap (Shotgun) and Archery Teams-Meriwether County

Skills for Life - Activity for a Lifetime

Practice for the Meriwether County 4-H Shotgun Team will begin this month. Any student in the 7th-12th grade can participate in either the Junior or Senior Division. For more information about joining the shotgun team, please contact **Terry Strickland** at 706-881-2414 or tstrickpiq@aol.com.

The new coach for the archery team is **Drew Pike**. Practice for archery will start this month too. You can reach Drew at 678-708-6277.

For general information about Project Safe please visit:
<http://www.georgia4h.org/safe/disciplines/shotgun.htm>

EGG CANDLING CLASS in HARRIS COUNTY

Thursday February 16, 2017 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Harris County UGA Extension office
121 N College St
Hamilton, GA 31811

There is no cost but you must preregister by February 10, 2017. Please call 706-628-4824 or email uge2145@uga.edu

2017 GEORGIA AG FORECAST

The keynote topic for the **January 20** meeting will be the **Veterinary Feed Directive** (VFD), given by Dr. Brent Credille of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. with seminars starting at 10 a.m. followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will take place at the Carroll County Ag Center at 900 Newnan Road in Carrollton.

Cost is \$30 per person or \$200 for a table of eight. Advance registration is required. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.georgiaagforecast.com>, call 706-583-0347 or email carlam@uga.edu.

The VFD final rule outlines the process for authorizing use of VFD drugs (animal drugs intended for **use in or on animal feed** that require the supervision of a licensed veterinarian) and provides veterinarians in all states with a framework for authorizing the use of medically important antimicrobials in feed when needed for specific animal health purposes. The rule goes into effect January 1, 2017.

For more information on how this rule will impact your animal production facility or farm please visit:

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm449019.htm>

Or you can watch a video at:

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/AnimalFeedSafetySystemAFSS/ucm529868.htm>

FSA NEWS

UPCOMING ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA County office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for the entire state of Georgia:

January 15, 2017: Apples, Blueberries, Canola, Peaches, Rye, and ALL Fall-Seeded Small Grains

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policyholders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA County Office.

For Meriwether County farmers please contact the Carrollton FSA office at 770-834-2097 for more information. To receive email updates from FSA please visit: https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USFSA_15

Have a great weekend-enjoy the big change in weather from last weekend!
Susan