

October 2024

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<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/bradford/>



Dear Bradford County Extension Clientele,

The last few weeks have been difficult ones with the recent hurricanes. I know that many folks in Bradford County suffered damage and power outages, as well as some crop damage. We have provided several resources in this newsletter for Agricultural producers as they relate to crop damage and assistance. Hurricanes Helene and Milton have caused catastrophic damage to our neighbors in surrounding counties and states. It is hard to grasp the amount of damage that mother nature inflicted in just a couple of hours. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone during this horrific tragedy.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the 4-H Auction rescheduled for Thursday, November 7th.

Cynthia B. Sanders, Ph.D.
UF/IFAS Bradford County
Interim Extension Director

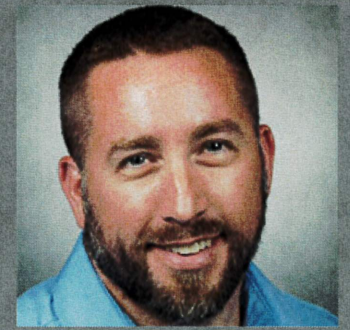


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Lizzie Whitehead, Livestock & Natural Resources Agent
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Pick Up Sticks: Playing the Game of Clean Up After a Hurricane

Luke Harlow
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If you live in the state of Florida, you are all too familiar with hurricanes and the burdens that go with preparing for them and cleaning up after they pass by. Yards and Home can be flooded, trees snapped in half, and orchards blown over. If your landscapes have been affected by recent hurricane and storm damage, here are some ways to pick up the sticks afterwards and make sure the landscape heals properly.

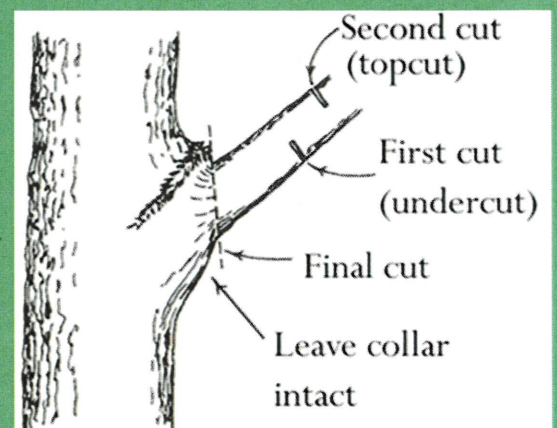
First, after the hurricane has safely passed, do a walkthrough of your property, taking any note of downed trees, affected buildings, downed power lines, or other issues that might become a safety hazard.

Ornamental Landscapes cleanup: Remove any broken tree branches, leaves, or other debris, that may have blown into the landscape beds. Assess the condition of the shrubs for broken branches. Any snapped or broken branches will start to turn a dull green to brown color shortly after damage occurs. Prune out these affected branches. Assuming the hurricane came with a large amount of rain, make sure to shut off the irrigation for a few days to let the shrubs dry out a little.

Trees cleanup: Many trees can be affected by high winds and may have several snapped branches. If major structural damage has occurred, you may want to consult a certified tree arborist to see if the tree should be taken down or if it will recover naturally. Small snapped branches may still be slightly attached and will turn a dull green to brown color. These will naturally fall out of the tree over time. If they are low enough to access, you can prune or cut out these branches. Use the three-step pruning guidelines (shown in the picture) to properly cut off a branch without damaging the tree.



Fruit tree cleanup: If fruit trees have not been established and have smaller root systems, they may not longer be standing straight, or may have blown over entirely. These trees can be straightened, taking care to make sure the soil level of the root ball is at the same level of the ground soil. Make sure to add soil around the root ball, making sure there are no air pockets under the roots. Prune off any snapped branches as needed.



GRAZING MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR YOUR PASTURES



Lizzie Whitehead
Livestock & Natural Resources Agent
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Introduction

Grazing management involves strategically planning and coordinating livestock grazing methods to enhance pasture health, boost animal productivity, and promote environmental sustainability. When considering grazing management techniques, several factors should be taken into account, including:

- Animal nutrient requirements
- Forage species
- Forage nutrient requirements
- Input costs
- Estimated return on investment
- Desired outcomes



Figure 1: Cattle grazing cool season forage (Credit: Lizzie Whitehead)

Grazing Considerations

Grazing decisions are often guided by stocking rate or stubble height. The stocking rate refers to the number of livestock per acre of land and can be adjusted to ensure that the nutritional needs of the animals are met without overgrazing the pasture. The appropriate number of animals per acre depends on the species of livestock you have. Stubble height indicates the length of forage remaining after grazing. Delay grazing until your pasture has reached at least 6-8 inches in average height. Allow for a period of rest when the pasture is 3-4 inches in average height as shown in figure 2.

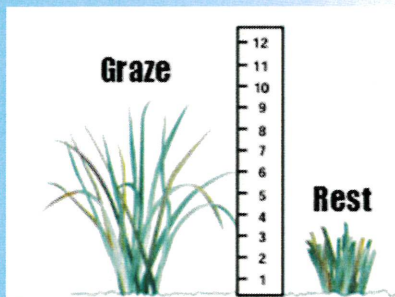


Figure 2 by Lori K. Warren, PhD, UF/IFAS

Continuous Grazing

Some producers prefer continuous grazing due to its lower input costs and minimal labor requirements. In continuous grazing, livestock have uninterrupted access to a pasture without rest periods for plant regrowth. The livestock will determine the stubble height and grazing frequency in that area, as shown in Figure 3. However, a major drawback of continuous grazing is the risk of overgrazing.

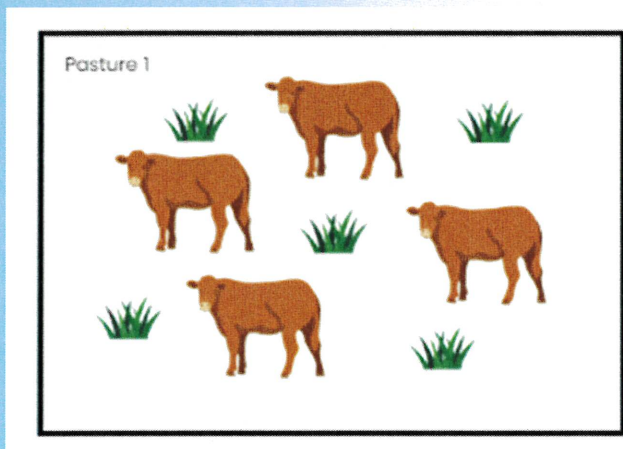


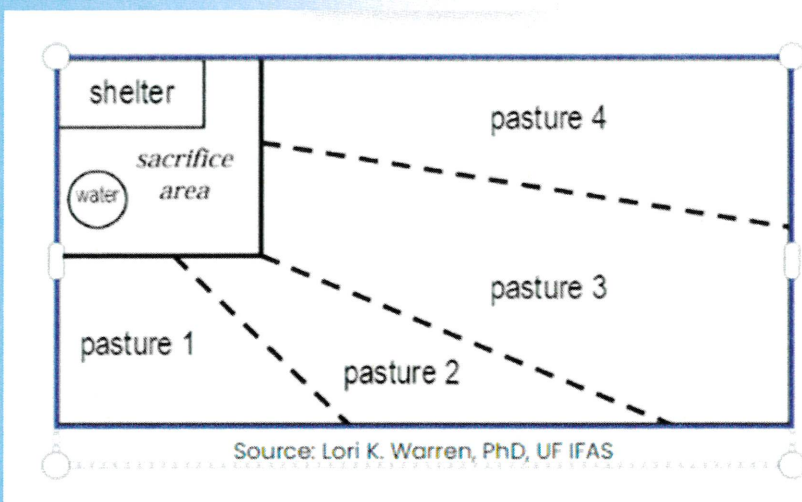
Figure 3 by Lizzie Whitehead, UF/IFAS Extension Agent.

Overgrazing

If your pastures have a short stubble height, have bare spots, and are not producing like you think they should be, your pasture is most likely overgrazed. Overgrazing can be detrimental to a plant for many reasons. If the forage is cut to short the plant can not replenish its stored nutrients and is unable to regrow, therefore your grass will start dying. If your desirable grass species start dying off, less desirable weeds will start to take over. Restoring an overgrazed pasture can require significant time, money, and labor.

Rotational Grazing

In a rotational grazing system, livestock are rotated between pastures, allowing rest periods for plant regrowth. Rotational grazing is a highly recommended management technique and there are several different ways you can design a rotational grazing system on your property. However, this system does have higher input and requires more labor as livestock must be monitored and moved from pasture to pasture as needed. The livestock manager has control over the stubble height and frequency of grazing that is helpful to prevent from overgrazing. Rotational grazing is particularly beneficial for producers looking to utilize cool-season forages, as it enables designated areas for planting and growth. Figure 4 illustrates a setup for rotational grazing, including a sacrifice area where livestock can be fed or watered, providing access to the pasture intended for grazing.



Contact Lizzie Whitehead if you are interested in designing a rotational grazing system that can work for your livestock operation at liz.whitehead@ufl.edu or 904-966-6224.

BRADFORD COUNTY 4-H NEWS



The Perfect Balance: How a 4-H Club Meeting Works

Bailea Scarbrough
4-H Youth Development Agent
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Curious about what happens during a 4-H club meeting? Each one is carefully structured to keep things fun, educational, and engaging, giving members a well-rounded experience.

Each meeting is split into three key components: 50% educational, 25% business, and 25% recreation. Here's how it all comes together!

- **Education (50%):** Learning by doing is at the heart of 4-H. During the educational portion, members get hands-on with their projects, whether that's preparing for an upcoming livestock show, experimenting with STEM activities, or exploring creative arts. This time is all about developing skills, learning something new, and sharing knowledge with others through demonstrations or guest speakers. It's engaging, interactive, and tailored to the interests of the group.
- **Business (25%):** Every 4-H club is run by its members, giving them a taste of leadership and responsibility. The business portion of the meeting is where members handle club affairs, like planning upcoming events, making decisions on fundraisers, and discussing important issues. It's a great opportunity to practice leadership skills, learn how to run a meeting, and take part in democratic decision-making. From electing officers to voting on activities, it's youth leadership in action!
- **Recreation (25%):** No 4-H meeting is complete without some fun! The recreation time allows members to bond through games, team-building exercises, or other activities that spark creativity and laughter. This helps foster friendships, encourages teamwork, and brings a spirit of fun to the group, making each meeting something to look forward to.

You may be wondering, does this structure work for every 4-H club? While each club may have different project focuses and members of varying ages, we believe this format can be adapted to suit any community club. Take the Green Acres 4-H Club, one of the largest in Bradford County, which focuses on livestock projects of all sizes—chickens, rabbits, goats, swine, and beef. In this club, all ages come together for business and recreation, but the educational portion is tailored to specific project areas and age groups, so we split into smaller groups for more focused learning.

This structure keeps our club meetings lively and purposeful, offering something for every member. Through a balance of learning, leadership, and fun, our Bradford County 4-H clubs provide a space where youth can thrive together!

Post Hurricane Resources

For Ag Debris and Tree Removal:



Aaron Sanders
County Executive Director
USDA-Farm Service Agency
Alachua/Bradford Counties
5709 NW 13th St
Gainesville, Florida 32653
☎ 352-448-2306 (Voice)

County Executive Director
USDA-Farm Service Agency
Marion County
2441 NE 3rd St. #204-3
Ocala, Florida 34470
☎ 352-732-7534 ext. #2 (voice)

Florida Department of Agriculture Natural Disaster Recovery Loan Program

[Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Natural Disaster Recovery Loan Program / Agriculture Industry / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services \(fdacs.gov\)](http://fdacs.gov)

UF/IFAS Disaster Prep and Recovery Resources

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/disaster-prep-and-recovery/>

NEW DATE!!!!

Bradford County 4-H Auction

**Supporting the Bradford County 4-H Association
& Bradford County 4-H Clubs**

November 7, 2024 @ 6:30 PM

Governor Charley E. Johns Conference Center
1610 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091

Reserved Sponsored Tables (seats 8)

Please call for pricing & additional information

Advance Tickets

Adult (18+) - \$15

Youth (5-17) - \$10

Youth (4 & Under) - FREE



Day Of Tickets

Adult (18+) - \$20

Youth (5-17) - \$15

Youth (4 & Under) - FREE

**To reserve a table, purchase individual tickets, or
donate an auction item, please contact the
Bradford Extension Office at (904) 966-6224
or stop by during business hours
Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.**



An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Andra Johnson, Dean. Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.

25TH ANNUAL



LIVESTOCK & FORAGES FIELD DAY

OCT 29TH, 2024
8:30AM - 2:00PM



SANTA FE RIVER RANCH

29220 NW 122nd St, Alachua, FL 32615

DEMOS, INDUSTRY UPDATES, EXPERT PRESENTERS

TOPICS:

- Cattle management and vaccination protocols
- Bull selection and EPDs
- Emerging weed problems and cool-season forages

LUNCH INCLUDED!



REGISTER ONLINE:



Scan with your phone or head to:

<https://2024UFLivestockandForages.eventbrite.com>

\$20 pre-registration

\$40 at the door

Contact Lizzie Whitehead with any questions.

liz.whitehead@ufl.edu

904-966-6224

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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**NORTH FLORIDA
LIVESTOCK AGENTS GROUP**

NORTH FLORIDA FAMACHA CERTIFICATION HYBRID COURSE

In-person training will be held
FRIDAY, DEC. 6TH
10AM - 12PM
GAINESVILLE, FL

**BRING HOME
YOUR OWN
FAMACHA CARD!**

This course includes a self-paced online class and certification exam to be completed before the hands-on training.

WHAT'S FAMACHA?

The **FAMACHA score** is a method of measuring anemia in small ruminants infected with Barber Pole Worms. Scores can be used to inform deworming protocols and prevent parasitic resistance from developing in herds and flocks.



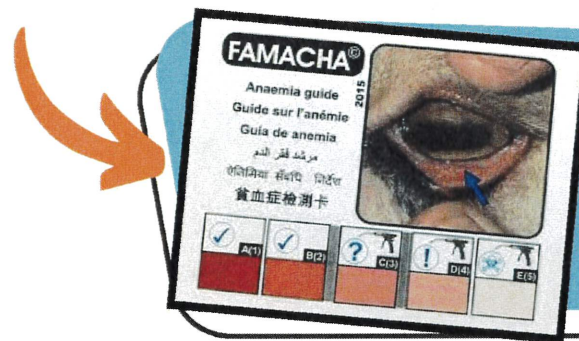
\$35

REGISTER HERE:
<https://bit.ly/NFLAG-FAMACHA-Cert>
or scan with your phone!

Registration includes:

- online class*
- hands-on training
- Q&A session
- FAMACHA certificate and card

*All information for the self-paced online class and exam will be sent to your email once you sign-up.



CONTACT US

Contact Cassidy Dossin with any questions at cdossin@ufl.edu or (904) 284-6355.

**ALL SHEEP AND
GOAT PRODUCERS
NEED THIS
TRAINING!**



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An Equal Opportunity Institution. The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact us at least 1 week in advance of the event. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.