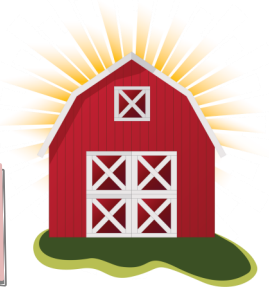


BARNYARD BULLETIN



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Hello Everyone!



New Year, New Beginnings! My name is Alicia Halbritter and I am the new Forage and Livestock Agent in Duval County. Born and raised in Jacksonville, it is great to finally be home and supporting the community I cherish! I graduated from the University of Florida in the spring of 2016 with a degree in Animal Sciences and a specialization in Equine Sciences.

I have been involved in agriculture since I was a kid, working on my grandfathers farm and competing in rodeos and horse associations throughout the greater Jacksonville area during middle and high school.

During my time at UF I worked with all forms of livestock: cattle, horses, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, if you name it I've probably had my hands on it! I served as an intern at the Nassau County extension office in the summer of 2014 and studied abroad in Belize in the summer of 2015. In my study abroad trip I was a veterinary assistant to the only veterinarian in the district (an area larger than all of Jacksonville and outer-lying areas combined!). I have spayed/neutered/castrated livestock and domestic animals, administered vaccinations/supplements/antibiotics, even dressed in full Tyvek suits and boots to work with Avian Flu testing.

My life experiences run far and wide and I am always willing to learn something new! Outside of agricultural work I enjoy hobbies like painting, sewing, crafting, woodwork, fishing, and hiking. I am a frequent flyer to Florida's State parks, particularly San Felasco Hammock and Payne's Prairie; you can find me casting my lines in Cedar Key, Flagler Beach, or the Nassau Sound.

In the coming months you should expect to see programs like spring forage preparation, backyard poultry production, aquatic system management, and livestock biosecurity. Afraid there isn't a program for you? Have any topics you're dying to here about? Questions about your farm/ranch/enterprise? Contact me and I will be happy to address any needs or concerns! I am incredibly excited to begin evolving Duval County agriculture and working with all parties involved!

Sincerely,

Alicia Halbritter

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SEARCHING FOR INTERESTED PARTIES/AGRICULTURALISTS

Members of the Duval County Agriculture Community are encouraged to contact me to express interest in joining the Livestock Advisory Committee. I am in the process of forming this committee and would like to include all forms of agriculture! Meetings will be held twice a year to discuss current topics and needs of the county.



Supplemental Winter Forage

Cattle

You've started to notice your pastures turning brown and your cattle foraging on less palatable options? It is time to start considering supplemental winter forage. There are many factors that go into determining if and how much supplemental feed an operation will need to last through the winter when pastures are dormant. Herd size, breed of cattle, type of operation, and forage type are going to influence forage need the most. Typically a cow will eat 2.5-3% of their weight in dry matter a day, so for an average size cow this can be anywhere from 30-40 lbs. of hay a day! Average round bales can be anywhere from 800 lb. (small size) to over 1,000 (large) lbs. depending on hay type, moisture content, and baling machine. This means one large round bale could feed roughly 30 cows for one day. Taking all these factors into consideration you can arrive at an estimated number of bales needed for your operation to last the expected winter. Make sure to have hay quality tested in order to establish that all nutrient needs are being met and provide mineral blocks throughout the year for cattle.

To get a better estimation specific to your farm, visit: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an244>



Hay rings restrict cattle from pulling out large amounts of hay or walking through the bales which reduces wasted hay.

Horses



Healthy teeth are an important part of horse management. Teeth are vital in breaking up forage and grain!

It is easier to feed horses throughout the winter as the majority of horses are on a consistent supplemental feed year round, whether that be hay and/or grain. Horse hay should be mold and dust free and extra care should be taken to inspect the hay for foreign materials, including weeds and poisonous plants. There are many varieties of hay fed to horses like coastal Bermuda, alfalfa, and perennial peanut; each variety contains different amounts of crude protein which can help determine which is best for your horse. A high performing horse will need higher protein hay and grain in order to maintain body condition whereas a trail or pleasure horse can maintain body condition with a lower quality feed. Feeding amounts vary on an individualized basis taking into consideration factors like size, activity level, and use. Consult your veterinarian or extension office for feeding recommendations.

Source: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa216>

Preventing Colic in Horses

Colic, defined very simply as abdominal pain, is the number one cause of death in horses and is very important to monitor during the winter months when supplemental forage is fed in greater quantities. According to Amanda House, Equine Extension Specialist, signs and symptoms of colic include “pawing, stretching, flank watching, teeth grinding, bloated abdomen, kicking at the abdomen, rolling, and getting up and down.” Horses who are experiencing colic are less likely to eat, drink, or pass stool therefore it is helpful to know your horses general temperament and habits in order to tell when a change is occurring. The best prevention methods are good management and health care. Horses fed grain or concentrate feed should have amounts spread into two or three feedings a day and should always have access to forage/hay and clean water. Horses perform better on routine feedings, exercise, and a regular health care schedule. Health care includes deworming, dental exams, monitoring temperature, and examining behavior. Reducing stress can also limit the risk of colic and gastric ulcers. If colic is suspected a veterinarian should be contacted and the horse should be prevented from laying down for long periods of time or rolling as gastrointestinal twisting can occur and make the situation much worse. It is recommended to walk the horse until stool passes; some medications may be helpful but should only be issued under the care of a veterinarian.

More Information can be found at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vm139>

Preparing for Spring Planting



In order to have strong, successful pastures that provide forage for an extended season it is crucial to plan ahead! Start developing plans now in order to have land ready for spring planting and successful warm season forages! A few factors to begin addressing are forage choice, land/seedbed preparation, and planting dates. Forage choice will depend on varieties successful for North Florida, whether it will be utilized for hay, silage, or grazing, soil type, and season of growth. Begin preparing land now by removing obstructions like trees, stumps, roots, or brush as well as considering liming (dependent on soil test results and forage choice). Till seedbeds early in order to incorporate lime, allow soil to settle, and to reduce weed populations. Purchase materials like fertilizer, seeds, and weed control early to ensure on-time planting and strong establishment. Pasture success is more likely when seedbeds are prepared well and moist when planting, quality seed or vegetative material is used, and seeds are placed at the appropriate depth.

More Information: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag107>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Extension Programs– Call for info!

Backyard Poultry Basics

*pre-registration required, \$5

February 17th– 9am-11am

February 22nd– 6pm-8pm

TBA: Warm Season Forage Update, Basic Pond Care

Local Agricultural Events

Equestrian Center:

No Bull Barrel Race– Jan. 6-8th

Florida Feathered Horse Classic– Jan 12-15th

National Team Roping Finals– Jan 26-29th

For individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact our office (904-255-7450) within a minimum of 5 working days of the program. For persons with hearing or speech impairments, when contacting our office please use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

Extension programs are open to all regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, religion, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no endorsement by the Extension Office is implied.