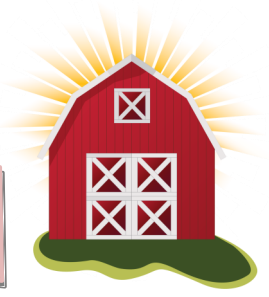


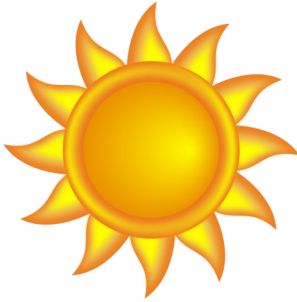
# BARNYARD BULLETIN



Volume 1, Issue 4

UF/IFAS Duval County Extension

July/August 2017



Has the summer heat got you down?  
Come join us for some fun summer activities!

**Chicken Treats and Toys Workshop**  
**July 8th 10am-12pm \$10**

This class is going to be a blast! We will be going over treats to feed chickens in order to cool them down during the grueling heat without ruining their diet. We also will be going over ways to entertain backyard chickens who may not get a chance to free range, you'll get to build your own chicken swing! Youth will also have a chance to make a chicken treat to take home. More information and purchase tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicken-treats-and-toys-tickets-34796027856>

**Livestock and Forage Field Day—July 27th 8am-2pm**

**Topics include:** Smutgrass control demonstration, Equipment demonstrations, Chute-side Body Condition Scoring, Calibration of back-pack sprayers, Soil fertility, and Forage and poisonous weed exhibits. Pre-registration, \$10. At the Door: \$15  
More info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/livestock-and-forages-field-day-tickets-34672951732?aff=eac2>

*Alicia Halbritter*  
Alicia Halbritter  
Livestock/Forage Agent

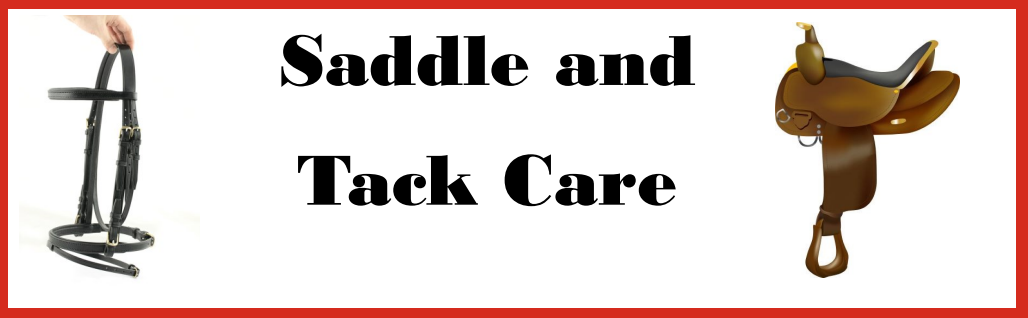
Prefer to receive this newsletter as an email? Please send an email to me (alicia1221@ufl.edu) and I will add you to the list!  
Receiving emails saves paper and printing costs!

***IN THIS ISSUE***

- Saddle and Tack Care.....Page 2
- Pond Muck.....Page 3
- Poultry Biosecurity .....Page 3
- Selling Beef Calves.....Page 4
- Scalloping Season.....Page 5
- Upcoming Events.....Page 6

Visit our Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/DuvalCountyAgriculture>





Florida weather is perfect for horse related activities, but not perfect for tack longevity. Heat and humidity are two challenges equestrians face when battling mildew in the tack room. Here are some ways to combat the dreaded mold & mildew.

Items used daily may need additional cleaning, even if this includes a simple wipe down at the end of a ride and proper storage. Several times a year each piece of equipment should go through a thorough cleaning and disassembling the piece if need be. Saddle soap can be found in bar, cake, and liquid varieties but liquids are easier to apply and remove. If scrubbing is necessary, choose a soft, plastic bristled brush and scrub lightly. Water is okay to use in the cleaning process but pieces generally should not be fully submerged.

Allow the tack to dry before oiling. Blended oils generally are less prone to mildew when compared to pure neatsfoot oil. Avoid corn or vegetable oils as they can promote mold growth. Warm the oil in the sun for best application and penetration. Apply a lacquer or conditioner to finish the tack.

During the summer, store the tack in an area that allows for moisture removal. Add a dehumidifier or air conditioner to your tack room to decrease moisture levels and prolong your tack life.

Suede on a saddle should be cleaned with a stiff plastic brush to remove dust and dirt. Suede typically does not need to be conditioned.

Rough-Out saddles should be cleaned like normal but generally do not need a finish. However, conditioner may be useful on the back side of tenders, stirrup leathers, and any rigging that may contact the horse.

Always remember:

- All leather products have a useable life expectancy.
- Evaluate leather pieces regularly to check for cracks that may need replacing.
- Without routine care, leather products may become too dry and may be in danger of breaking. Source: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/AN/AN30300.pdf>



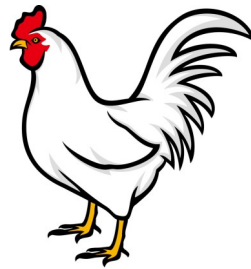
# Pond Muck:

## What To Do About It

What exactly is pond muck? You know... that slimy, mushy, smelly layer of mud at the bottom of your pond. Pond muck is a breeding ground for midge and mayfly larvae which will swarm around mating time and could be a nuisance. The muck also carries that classic “rotten egg” odor. However, muck is not all bad... the perfect amount of muck in your pond is essential for a healthy and diverse ecosystem. Muck provides habitat for many organisms that provide food for a variety of fish, insects, amphibians, and water birds. These insects are essential food for sport fish like bream and perch.

But what happens when too much muck accumulates and is impacting the body of water negatively including the human use? Removal is really the only way to get rid of muck, but it must be done carefully to not disrupt the aquatic ecosystem. Dredging is generally the best option for removing muck and can be done in many ways. First of all, one must determine if they need to receive a permit from the state in order to dredge. Before deciding on any approach for muck removal, determine the magnitude of the muck problem and the amount of money available for the muck-removal project. For the homeowner concerned with a small area, vacuuming the bottom and removing most of the sediments with a self-cleaning wedge-wire screen might be a workable solution. Alternatively, an outboard engine to blow the muck into deeper water may be the quickest and most inexpensive solution for the homeowner. Both approaches, however, will have to be repeated. Source: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/FA/FA20000.pdf>

## Poultry Biosecurity



**Did you  
wash them?**



Hand washing prevents disease.

Salmonella is on the rise, and backyard chickens may be at fault. Salmonella can be present on the wings, feet, and droppings of chickens and although this bacteria does not affect the birds it can make humans very sick. It is important to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after you handle your birds or their equipment, every time. Young children are more prone to putting their hands in their mouth and therefore especially need to wash their hands when around chickens. Try not to kiss or snuggle chickens, as cute as they may be, in order to reduce contact with your mouth. Never allow chickens into your home to prevent the spread of bacteria. Always cook collected eggs thoroughly. For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/salmonellapoultry/index.html> or <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian-influenza-disease/birdbiosecurity>

# **Selling Beef Calves: Tricks of the Trade**

Florida is considered a “cow-calf” state in the beef production industry, meaning we generally produce calves for market that will go on to feed lots in other areas of the country. Therefore, many of our farmers and ranchers make their profits off of selling calves, so how do we do that to the best of our ability? The answer is, play the game. Buyers are not willing to pay more for a calf and will find reasons to “discount” the price in order to pay less. Sellers must try to get their calves as close to the “standard” as possible in order to not be discounted, however this standard may vary from market to market. In a study of 9 years worth of video auctions, researchers have found there are key elements to marketing calves for the best price.

Many factors significantly affect calf selling price, regardless of the market channel. These factors are as follows:

1. Date of marketing within the year (Highest prices generally during June and July)
2. Base sale weight of the calf lot (As calf weight increases, sale price decreases)
3. Sex of calf (steers generally bring higher prices)
4. Cattle breed (English breeds perform better than Brahmans in market settings)
5. Number of calves in the sale lot (Buyers prefer larger lots than trying to purchase many small lots and mixing groups)
6. Inclusion of certified health programs (Verifiable vaccines, health management strategies)
7. Uniformity of calves in the lot (Same frame size, weight, and upbringing)
8. Presence of calves with horns (Dehorned or naturally polled calves bring higher prices)

Ways to increase the selling price of a calf crop include the following:

1. Selling crossbred steers.
2. Producing medium- or large-frame calves.
3. Having a large lot size.
4. Ensuring uniformity of quality, weight, and breed.
5. Having light to medium flesh score

Beef cattle producers are rewarded when they produce calf crops that minimize the amount of additional processing and risk that subsequent production segments must undertake. Likewise, producing uniform marketing groups can increase production efficiency and result in increased profit potential.

Source: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/AN/AN27800.pdf>



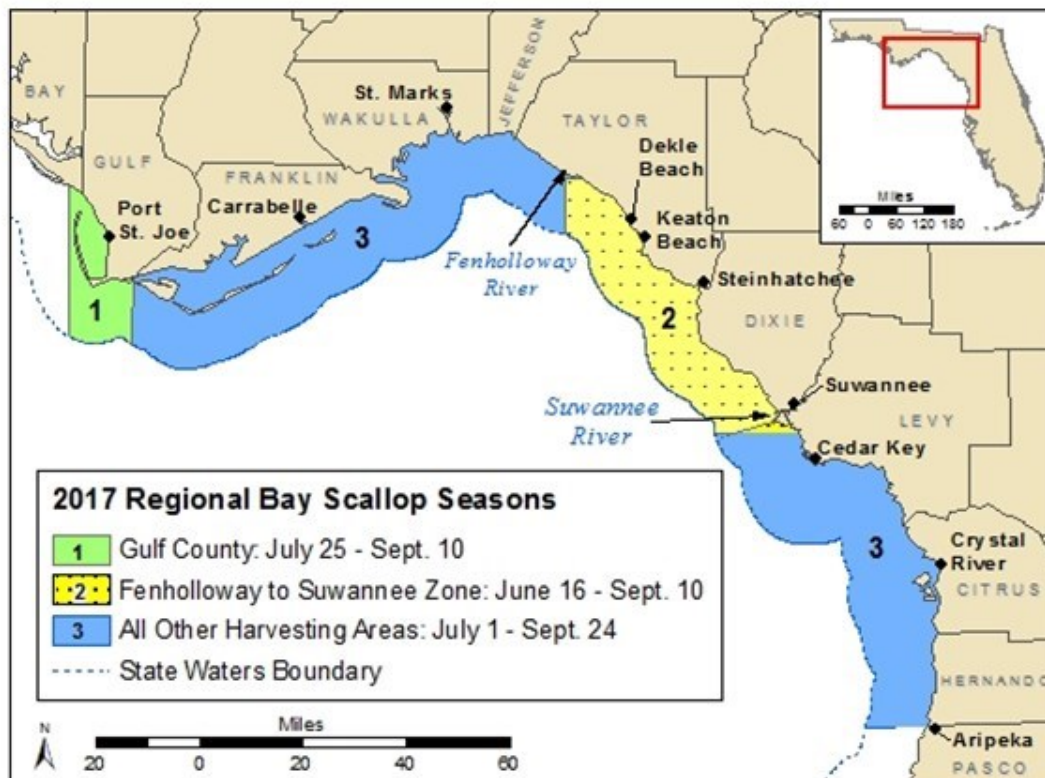
# Scallop Season is upon us!

Scalloping is a great, family fun summer activity! We want to make sure you are doing it correctly and safely! Materials you will need: A snorkel mask, fins, and a mesh bag. That's it! Some areas are accessible from the beach but most grass beds where scallops live are located off shore and are only accessible by boat. Make sure to follow diver & boater safety, display diving flags and have your saltwater fishing license before diving down.

Always follow state regulations on harvest seasons, locations, and daily bag limits (2 gallons of unshucked scallops per person, or 10 gallons per vessel) in order to preserve this recreational activity for years to come! You can also report your scallop catch to FWC in order to create better studies and informational reports! Our goal is to preserve the bay scallops population while still allowing everyone to participate in this activity.

Scalloping has become a very popular recreational activity and is a great way to acquire local, hand harvested seafood to prepare. Hope to see you on the water!

For more information visit: <https://www.flseagrant.org/fisheries/scalloping/>  
<http://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/bay-scallops/>



Duval County Extension  
1010 N. McDuff Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32254  
(904) 255-7450  
Fax: (904)387-8902  
Website: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Jacksonville, FL  
Permit No. 1482

### Address Service Requested



# UPCOMING EVENTS

### Backyard Poultry Basics

\*pre-registration required, \$5

July 11th 9-11 AM

July 13th 6-8 PM

Call for August dates.

### Chicken Treats and Toys Workshop

\*pre-registration required, \$10

July 8th, 10am-12pm

### Livestock and Forages Field Day

July 27th 8am-2pm, \$15 at the door

29220 NW 122nd Street  
Alachua, 32615

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.