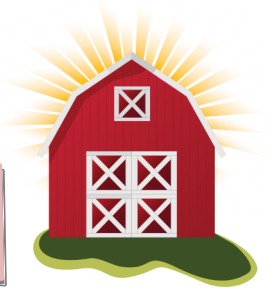


# BARNYARD BULLETIN



Volume 1, Issue 2

UF/IFAS Duval County Extension

March/April 2017



It's that time of year when calves and foals are on the ground and an abundance of chicks are hatching from their shells. New life is springing up everywhere which means new opportunities as well! This issue of Barnyard Bulletin focuses on new opportunities for your operation, whether that be focusing on changing current practices or adopting new practices. It is important to reevaluate your operation frequently, a bit of spring cleaning if you will, in order to make it the best it can be.

Interested in raising backyard hens? Attend the backyard poultry program for information on basic chicken care, biosecurity, nutrition, housing, and much more. The seminar meets educational requirements for the City of Jacksonville and Atlantic Beach Backyard Hen Permits. Only \$5 for a wealth of information! Call 904-255-7450 to register today!

Own horses? Attend the Equine Management Short Course on March 18th for information on pasture management, equine health and nutrition, and current recommendations on equine hot topics. Call for more information on how to register.

Searching for information on a certain topic? Make sure to contact me about specific information you are interested in and I will be sure to include it in my upcoming bulletins. It is important for you to educate me on what you see as the needs for Duval County, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Alicia Halbritter  
Livestock/Forage Agent  
alicia1221@ufl.edu  
904-255-7450

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!

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# Deworming a Nursing Calf

Mature cattle often have built up an immunity to parasites and can withstand low to moderate infestation levels, however young cattle are susceptible to the negative impacts of parasite populations. Good pasture management, including adequate vegetation coverage, rotational grazing methods, and minimum rest periods are the best ways to maintain low internal parasite numbers and give your cattle the best advantage. Nevertheless, those young cattle will still acquire parasites and show the negative effects from them. A University of Florida study shows that deworming cattle around branding time (3 months of age) gives them a competitive edge they otherwise would have lost. The study involved injecting calves with 1 mL of doramectin per 110 lb. of Body Weight (subcutaneously) 90 days prior to the projected weaning date. Calves were weighed at the beginning, middle, and end of the study to determine average daily gain (ADG) and overall gain throughout the study. Calves that were dewormed while nursing showed an ADG of 1.46 lbs. and an overall gain of 131 lbs., which was almost 10 lbs. more than the untreated control group.

This study is very important to note in our local agriculture because small herd producers could really see a profit increase from such a minimal task. The increased gains of the dewormed calves resulted in almost \$10 more net revenue per head which could be substantial gains for a small producer looking to make cost effective changes to their management plan. As spring is the most prominent calving season, it is time for producers to begin thinking about how to manage calves in order to produce a better product and in the long run, a better return on investment.



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Have questions about how to better manage your cow/calf operation? Feel free to give me a call and I would be happy to visit your farm!

Find more information at:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an183>

Studies show that deworming calves around 3 months of age increases total weight gain and increases your return of investment.



# Chickens & Gardens:

## Something to Crow About

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/keeping-garden-chickens-in-north-carolina>

Just another reason you should consider getting those chickens you have always wanted! Not only are backyard chickens great for fresh eggs and teaching opportunities for younger household members but can also be utilized as free (or almost free) labor in your garden! Chickens provide fertilizer, weed control, pest control, and are also great tillers. Professionals have shown that one chicken can till and fertilize around 50 sq. ft. in 4-6 weeks, chickens use their feet to scratch the ground in search of potential grubs which will help disrupt soil and prepare new ground, free of weeds, foreign seeds, and pests. Chicken manure should be composted before being used as direct fertilizer, so why not use your chickens to turn over your compost pile too?

Already have an established and flourishing garden? Keep chickens out of the garden while your new sprigs are coming up and allow them access once plants are grown and established, chickens will gladly take over weed control (eating new emerging plants) and pest control (eating all sorts of bugs and deterring others from entering the garden at all). (Chickens should be given very limited access to your veggie garden due to salmonella concerns, but they can still help!)

The main components that need to be planned out before allowing your chickens access to the garden are, when and where they will gain access as well as how. Will they be free range, have supervised access, or only used around the perimeter? Will they be utilized in certain seasons or all year? The possibilities are endless and it is definitely something to think about. Is it right for you? Contact Alicia Halbritter with questions on how to get started today!

## Addressing Goat Health



Kids are very susceptible to parasites and should be closely monitored

Goat health is one very tricky topic because many ailments and illnesses that goats acquire produce the same signs and symptoms. If you notice low feed/water consumption, diarrhea, or lethargy, a vet should be contacted as soon as possible. It is important to establish good parasite control within your heard as gastrointestinal parasitism is the leading cause of death and production losses in goats. Practices like targeted deworming, FAMACHA scoring, and smart drenching are all strategies that lead to a healthy goat herd and decrease the likelihood of producing resistant bacteria. Establishing a good working relationship with a veterinarian is recommended as a vet can prescribe medication and treatment quickly for ailments your goats may face. For more information on goat deworming visit: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an294>.

# Best Management Practices

As agriculture entities it is in our best interest to preserve the land and resources we use or else the industry we participate in may not be viable in years to come. Best management practices are one of the many ways producers of all agriculture commodities, hobby farmers, and the low level enthusiasts can participate in creating a sustainable industry.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has instituted best management practices, or BMPs, for many industries that are located right here in Jacksonville. Resource manuals are made available online and outline each practice as well as ways to begin instituting the practice on your farm. Many departments, including the USDA, the NRCS, FDACS, and the extension office, are available to provide advice and help develop plans to implement BMPs. Most of these departments (USDA, NRCS, FDACS) provide cost sharing programs that help existing farms transition to new technologies that are more environmentally friendly and may cover up to 75% of costs incurred! These technologies often help lower the bottom line for farmers and increase revenue in the long run. Registering your operation with the Florida Department of Agriculture is another way of getting started with BMPs. FDACS will evaluate your farm and create plans to transition your current practices into best management practices. You'd be surprised by how many BMPs you're probably already doing! These practices encourage water quality, water conservation, soil health, proper land use, use of new technologies, and so much more. They are a welcome improvement to our industries.

If you'd like to explore BMPs specific to your industry visit:

[Freshfromflorida.com](http://Freshfromflorida.com) and search BMP Manuals.



Local Contacts:

USDA/FSA Office

260 US Highway 301 N,

Baldwin, FL, 32234

904-266-0088 ext. 2

FDACS

[www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com)

Divisions & Offices





# Pond Potential: Sport Fishing

Fishing is one of the most popular recreational activities in Florida. Why not use an existing resource (your pond) as potential income? Repurposing an existing pond into a sport fishing pond may require a slight initial investment, but can easily pay for itself over time as they are low maintenance and low cost incurring.

- Popular breeds to stock for sport fishing include channel catfish, largemouth bass, bluegill, and redear sunfish. It is not recommended to stock crappie (they compete with bass for food) or carps and bullheads (they stir up the bottom of the pond causing a muddy appearance).
- Stocking rates and stocking time vary by fish and depend on if the pond is currently stocked or not, make sure to research properly to avoid stocking unnecessary fish. Stocking the correct size of fish is also essential. Fingerlings are cheaper and great for newly built ponds or restored ponds (no current fish) but fingerlings should not be stocked into a pond that already has full size fish as they will only be eaten (the exception is when you are stocking bass fingerlings into a catfish pond). Make sure to include varying prices for fish sizes in your budget.
- Aeration will be an important factor for any fish pond as this helps increase dissolved oxygen levels, a necessary factor for fish health and survival. Pond size will dictate the size of aerator needed. Make sure to include this in the budget as well.
- Aquatic plants are beneficial in a multitude of ways and should be included in your pond management plan/budget. Plants not only provide a food source, nutrient recycling, and reducing erosion but also can serve as fish attractors as fish will congregate here in search of food and protection.
- Fish Feeding stations can be utilized as fish attractors, especially for bluegill and catfish, and also as a way to provide a feed source for your stock. Feeders should only be used when maximum production is required as this can cause high fish density and extra feed can cause unbalanced nutrient and oxygen levels.
- Be conscious of other wildlife. It is likely at some point ducks, geese, alligators, snakes, etc. will be attracted to your pond. Determine if this is a severe hindrance or acceptable for your pond and act accordingly (within legal and ethical guidelines).
- Water Quality will directly affect your sport fishing potential. Not only does it affect pond appearance but also fish health. Have your water tested at least once or twice a year and make changes according to results.

More information at: <http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/recreation/pond-management/>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fa001>

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1010 N. McDuff Avenue  
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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



Visit our Facebook page @

[https://www.facebook.com/  
DuvalCountyAgriculture](https://www.facebook.com/DuvalCountyAgriculture)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Backyard Poultry Basics**

\*pre-registration required, \$5

March 13th– 6pm-8pm,

March 17th– 9am-11am,

April 12th— 6pm-8pm

April 14th— 9am-11am

### **Equine Management Short Course**

Call for info: 904-255-7450

March 18th 9am-12pm

### **Health Soils are Full of Life**

### **Speech/Poster Contest**

March 15th, 6pm

Info @ [www.duvalsoilandwater.com](http://www.duvalsoilandwater.com)

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).

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