

**Hamilton County
Extension Newsletter**

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Notes From Gregory T. Hicks...

Please allow me this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all of you who helped make the 2009 Hamilton County Fair Swine Show/Sale and BBQ a success. Your cooperation and support helps make everyone's job much easier. We are fortunate to have such commitment to our youth and adult programs. Check out page 12 for Swine Show results.



December 2009

Also, we have a limited supply (approximately 100) of UF/IFAS Extension Calendars available on a "first come first serve" basis. If you are interested in having one, just stop by and pick one up.

What's Inside...

Farm Safety	2-3
Livestock	4-5
Forages	5-7
Pesticide	8
4-H	9-15
Family and Consumer Science	16
Coming Events Calendar	17

Notes From Allen B. Tyree...

Some meetings we plan to have in early 2010 are a field corn, peanut, and a beef cattle/forages meeting. Landowners, let me know if you want to have a soybean or other meetings. With soybean prices over \$10.00 a bushel, they look more attractive to grow. Can our yields get above 30 bushels an acre, however? It seems that, lately, we can't get above this mark. For those of you who get "The Jasper News," I am writing articles for it at least twice a month. "Keep an eye out" for them. Wishing You a Prosperous New Year!

Notes From Heather M. Futch...

Be sure to check out our Dog Show article in this issue - you may find pictures of you or your dog.

Soon the Holidays will be upon us. Check out page 15 for details on the 2nd Annual Hamilton County 4-H Holiday Bake-Off scheduled for December 7th.

Also with the holidays, comes turkey cooking time!! Page 17 provides information about keeping your family safe from food-bourne illnesses during these special times with family.

Our 2nd Annual Hamilton County 4-H Science Fair will be in January. See Page 14 for details.



Happy Holidays

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

Table of Contents

Holiday Visitors to the Farm or Acreage	2
Tractor Safety Reminders	3
Time of Castration Impacts Quality	4
Sort Very Young and Very Old Cows For More Efficient Winter Feeding	5
Costal Plain Region - Tifton, GA: Short-Season Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Nonirrigated	5
Costal Plain Region - Tifton, GA: Mid-Season Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Nonirrigated	6
Costal Plain Region - Tifton, GA: Short-Season Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Irrigated	6
Costal Plain Region - Tifton, GA: Mid-Season Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Irrigated	7
Costal Plain Region - Tifton, GA: Preliminary Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Irrigated	7
Properly Dispose of Your Pesticide Wastes	8
Hamilton County 4-H Fact Sheet	9-10
Suwannee County Fair - Live Oak, Florida	10
4-H Embryology Program	10
Novel H1N1 Q & A For Swine Fair Exhibitors	11
2009 Hamilton County Fair Swine Show Winners and Participants	12
Ginger Selph Award	12
2nd Annual Hamilton County 4-H Dog Show	13
Florida 4-H Centennial Poster Contest	14
4-Her Competes In Area B Horse Show	14
Hamilton County 4-H Science Fair	14
Hamilton County 4-H Holiday Bake-Off	15
The Holidays are Lurking around the corner: Talking Turkey	16
Coming Events Calendar	17

Holiday Visitors to the Farm or Acreage

"Over the hills and through the woods, to grandmother's farm we go..." Even in the Garfield Cartoon, Jon, Garfield, and Odie often go to visit the family on the farm for the holidays.

Over the holidays one may have family and friends visiting your farm or acreage who are not familiar with the hazards that may be present in a rural setting or where agricultural operations are conducted. Now may be a good time to do a walk-around with family members to point out situations that you are all too familiar with, but someone new may not realize are hazards.

Develop for yourself a basic farmstead safety checklist. Immediately you'll think of machinery, ladders, etc., but also include animals — not just large ones, but also family pets. And how about the wildlife who may be lurking in the barn or machine shed? Remember new animal 'babies' are cute, but mom can be pretty protective.



Source: Safety News and Notes, UF/IFAS, Vol 9, No. 8, November 2008

Submitted by: Gregory T. Hicks

Tractor Safety Reminders

Agriculture is one of the nation's most deadliest workplaces. Statistics show that in the USA there are 300 to 400 tractor-related deaths each year. Fifty percent of these deaths are attributed to rollovers. Other types of tractor deaths result from falls, crushes and PTO entanglement. Although tractor safety features improve with each new model, tractors are still involved in many accidents. Below are "Ten Commandments of Tractor Safety" that we all are aware of but sometimes need to be reminded.

1. Know your tractor, its implements and how they work.

New equipment owners and new employees should read the manufacturer's instruction manual. Assign an experienced employee to take a new employee "under their wing" and orient them on all facets of safe operation and all the daily maintenance checks. This is good insurance and good farm management practice. Proper maintenance will give equipment extended life as well as safer to operate.

2. Use ROPS (Roll Over Protective Structures) and seat belt.

If your tractor has a foldable ROPS, fold it down only when absolutely necessary and fold it up and lock it again as soon as possible. Do not wear the seat belt when the ROPS is folded. Most tractor fatalities are caused by overturns.

3. Be familiar with your terrain and work area - walk the area first to be sure and drive safely.

Steep slopes compromise the stability of the tractor. If it is necessary to operate on slopes, keep the spacing as wide as possible and work with the attachments on the uphill side of the tractor. Operate at slow and manageable rates of speed with the tractor in low gear for added help.

Avoid operating a tractor within six feet of holes, ditches and embankments. Anything closer may be soft and cause a cave-in. When you are turning onto or off a road or at row ends, slow down and avoid high speeds. Tractors, unlike trucks or cars, will turn over at high speeds.

4. Never start an engine in a closed shed or garage.

Exhaust fumes contain carbon monoxide, which is colorless, odorless - and deadly. Always open doors when you start a tractor inside. Closed spaces fill up with carbon monoxide gas very quickly. Always maintain adequate ventilation.

5. Always keep your PTO properly shielded.

Make it a habit to walk around your tractor and PTO driven implement - never step over, through or between the tractor and implement, particularly if either is running. A PTO running at 1,000 rpm will pull clothing at a rate of 8 feet per second. You cannot react that fast and the PTO cannot be stopped.

6. Keep your hitches low and always on the drawbar.

Always hitch to the drawbar; anything higher, like the axle or seat bracket, can cause the tractor to backspin very quickly and possibly flip over backwards.

7. Never get off a moving tractor or leave it with its engine running.

Shut it down before leaving the seat. A runaway tractor, the risk of fire or inattention can far outweigh the benefit and be extremely dangerous. If children are around, it is a good practice to remove the keys and take them with you when you leave the tractor.



8. Never refuel

while the engine is running or hot. Additionally, do not add coolant to the radiator while the engine is hot; hot coolant can erupt and scald.

9. Keep all children off and away from your tractor and its implements at all times.

Children are generally attracted to tractors and the work they do. However, a tractor's work is not child's play. Remember, a child's disappointment is fleeting, while your memory of his or her injury or death resulting from riding the tractor with you, or being too close, will last a lifetime.

10. Never be in a hurry or take chances about anything you do with your tractor.

Tractors don't get tired, but operators do. Fatigue leaves openings for errors and inattentiveness. Operating a tractor in the field can get fatiguing and sometimes monotonous. When this happens, forget the time. Get down off the tractor, stretch or walk a little to "loosen up." Think safety first, then take your time and do it right.

Sources: Safety News and Notes, UF/IFAS, Vol 9, No. 8, November 2008 Ted Gordon - Risk Mgmt / Loss Control Manager, MAFES / Mississippi State University-ES

Edited by: Gregory T. Hicks

Time Of Castration Impacts Quality

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions on the effects of age and method of castration on performance and stress response in beef cattle.

- **Why is it so important to evaluate the effects of age and method of castration?** Bull calves are castrated to reduce meat toughness, aggressive behavior, sexual interest and dark cutting. However, the process of castration can be stressful and can lead to weight loss and lowered growth performance. The age and method of castration has a significant impact on growth performance and stress response, making it important to choose the right age and method.

- **How does age of castration affect performance and stress response?**



During puberty, the testes produce androgens that promote muscular development by increasing nitrogen retention. After castration, calves lose weight and their average daily gain drops. Studies have found that cattle castrated after puberty lose weight for up to 4 1/2 months. This weight loss is because of lower daily feed intake as well as the muscular developments of the young bull shrinking because of the natural testosterone withdrawal.

Castration at birth or close to birth reduces this weight loss. Calves castrated at birth achieve similar weights as calves left intact and castrated at weaning followed by a prolonged setback due to late castration. It's better to castrate calves at birth or a short period after birth because they recover quicker. It is spread over time.

- **It is good to castrate bull calves at weaning time?** No. To castrate calves at weaning time, which is already a stressful time, often causes calves to succumb to sickness. By castrating well before weaning, stress can be handled better because it is spread over time.
- **What about the method of castration?** The two most common methods for castrating bulls are surgical and rubber banding. When using plasma cortisol concentrations as a measure of stress response, there is no significant difference between surgically castrated and banded cattle. However, when measuring haptoglobin levels (a serum protein) to quantify discomfort, the surgical procedure causes higher levels. If done appropriately, banding is the less stressful and safer of the two options.
- **Is it advisable to band bulls one year or older?** Although banding bulls at one year of age or older is considered less stressful than surgery, both options cause significant stress to the animal. Rather than fitting the animal to the production system or the marketplace by castrating, it's often more profitable to change the handling system, feeding environment and marketing system to fit the intact animal, feeding and selling the animal as a bull.
- **When is the best time to castrate calves?** Calves suffer less when castrated earlier, whether it be by banding or surgery. Any advantage to improved growth by leaving them intact as they get older is lost from losses due to stress from castration. As bull calves get older, banding becomes more advantageous than surgery.

Source: Bretschneider, G. 2005. Effects of age and method of castration on performance and stress response of beef male cattle. Liv. Prod. Sci. 97, 89-100.

Edited by: Allen B. Tyree

Sort Very Young and Very Old Cows For More Efficient Winter Feeding

First calf heifers have historically been the toughest females on the ranch to get rebred. They are being asked to continue to grow, produce milk, repair the reproductive tract, and have enough stored body energy (fat) to return to heat cycles in a short time frame. Two-year old cows must fill all of these energy demands at a time when their mouth is going through the transition from baby teeth to adult teeth.

If these young cows are pastured with the larger, mature cows in the herd, they very likely will be pushed aside when the supplements are being fed in the bunk or on the ground. The result of these adverse conditions for young cows very often is a lack of feed intake and lowered body

condition. Of course, lowered body condition in turn results in delayed return to heat cycles and a later calf crop or smaller calf crop the following year.

Long-term data clearly show that the average 2 year old is about 20% smaller than her full grown herd mates. There is little wonder that the younger cows get pushed away from feed bunks, hay racks, or supplements fed on the ground. The results of the size differences and the need to continue to grow are manifest in the lower body condition scores often noted in the very young cows. In addition, the very old (10 years of age and older) cows are experiencing decline in dental soundness that make it difficult for them to maintain

feed intake and therefore body condition.

If pasture availability will allow, it makes sense to sort very young cows with the very old cows and provide them with a better opportunity to compete for the feed supplies. By doing so, the rancher can improve the re-breeding percentages in the young cows and keep the very old cows from becoming too thin before culling time.

Source: Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist

Edited by: Gregory T. Hicks

Coastal Plain Region - Tifton, Georgia: Short-Season Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Nonirrigated

Company or Brand Name	Hybrid Name	Yield ¹			Ears/	Ear	Grain Quality ²	Grain Moist ³	Plant Pop.	Erect Plants
		2009	2-Yr Avg	3-Yr Avg	100 Plants	Grain Wt.				
		----- bu/acre -----			no.	lb	rating	%	no.	%
Terral Seed	RV2539HR	207.2	-	-	99	0.47	-	19.7	26136	99
AgraTech	645RR	198.6	-	-	101	0.42	-	19.3	27334	88
Pioneer	33M57(Hx1/LL/RR2)	190.1	138.8	133.1	101	0.42	-	21.4	26789	94
DynaGro	57N73	185.9	-	-	89	0.46	-	19.8	27443	95
NK	N78BCB/LL	184.3	-	-	98	0.45	-	21.7	25265	99

Bolding indicates entries yielding equal to highest yielding entry within a column based on Fisher's protected LSD (P = 0.10).

Planted: March 25, 2009, but due to excessive rainfall and seed displacement, replanted April 21, 2009

Soil Test: P = Low, K = Medium, and pH = 6.3.

Fertilization: 75 lb N, 75 lb P₂O₅, and 75lb K₂O/acre as preplant; 125 lb N/acre as sidedress.

Previous Crop: Peanuts.

Management: Subsoiled, bedded, and rototilled. Prowl, Atrazine, and Basagran used for weed control.

Test conducted by A.E. Coy, R. E. Brooke and D. G. Dunn.

Source: UGA

Edited by: Allen B. Tyree

**Coastal Plain Region - Tifton, Georgia:
Mid-Season Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Nonirrigated**

Company or Brand Name	Hybrid Name	Yield ¹			Ears/ 100 Plants	Ear Grain Wt.	Grain Quality ²	Grain Moist ³	Plant Pop.	Erect Plants
		2009	2-Yr Avg	3-Yr Avg						
		----- bu/acre -----			no.	lb	rating	%	no.	%
DeKalb	DKC68-06(RR2/YGCB)	174.1	-	-	97	0.45	-	22.5	24285	100
NK	N82V3000GT	173.5	-	-	99	0.44	-	23.3	24720	87
Dyna-Gro	58V24	171.5	-	-	98	0.44	-	23.6	24503	91
Terral Seed	RV2820HR	168.5	-	-	98	0.42	-	23.8	25265	97
Pioneer	31N28(YGCB)	161.8	133.3	141.7	94	0.41	-	22.6	25592	94

Bolding indicates entries yielding equal to highest yielding entry within a column based on Fisher's protected LSD (P = 0.10).

Planted: March 25, 2009, but due to excessive rainfall and seed displacement, replanted April 21, 2009

Soil Test: P = Low, K = Medium, and pH = 6.3.

Fertilization: 75 lb N, 75 lb P₂O₅, and 75lb K₂O/acre as preplant; 125 lb N/acre as sidedress.

Previous Crop: Peanuts.

Management: Subsoiled, bedded, and rototilled. Prowl, Atrazine, and Basagran used for weed control.

Test conducted by A.E. Coy, R. E. Brooke and D. G. Dunn.

Source: UGA

Edited by: Allen B. Tyree

**Coastal Plain Region - Tifton, Georgia:
Short-Season Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Irrigated**

Company or Brand Name	Hybrid Name	Yield ¹			Ears/ 100 Plants	Ear Grain Wt.	Grain Quality ²	Grain Moist ³	Plant Pop.	Erect Plants
		2009	2-Yr Avg	3-Yr Avg						
		----- bu/acre -----			no.	lb	rating	%	no.	%
DynaGro	57N73	256.0	-	-	101	0.49	3.0	19.3	30383	100
AgraTech	1777	251.6	-	-	104	0.48	3.0	19.4	29839	100
Terral Seed	RV2539HR	248.3	-	-	102	0.50	2.0	19.2	28641	100
NK	N78BCB/LL	237.6	-	-	100	0.47	2.0	21.6	30492	100
Croplan Genetics	7131VT3	236.8	-	-	110	0.42	2.0	20.1	30710	100

Bolding indicates entries yielding equal to highest yielding entry within a column based on Fisher's protected LSD (P = 0.10).

Planted: April 20, 2009.

Soil Test: P = High, K = Medium, and pH = 6.9.

Fertilization: 70 lb N, 70 lb P₂O₅, and 110 lb K₂O/acre as preplant; 170 lb N/acre as sidedress.

Previous Crop: Soybeans.

Management: Subsoiled and bedded. Atrazine, Prowl, and Basagran used for weed control. Irrigated 5.5 inches.

Test conducted by A.E. Coy, R. E. Brooke and D. G. Dunn.

Source: UGA

Edited by: Allen B. Tyree

Coastal Plain Region - Tifton, Georgia: Mid-Season Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Irrigated

Company or Brand Name	Hybrid Name	Yield ¹			Ears/ 100 Plants	Ear		Grain Moist ³	Plant Pop.	Erect Plants
		2009	2-Yr Avg	3-Yr Avg		Grain Wt.	Grain Quality ²			
		----- bu/acre -----			no.	lb	rating	%	no.	%
Terral Seed	RV2820HR	264.1	-	-	103	0.54	2.0	20.3	28423	100
NK	N82V3000GT	259.7	-	-	101	0.53	3.0	19.7	28423	100
Pioneer	31D58	256.1	256.4	261.0	102	0.51	3.0	19.6	29185	100
Pioneer	31N28(YGCB)	254.7	256.5	258.5	105	0.48	1.0	20.0	30177	100
Terral Seed	RV2830R	253.9	-	-	102	0.56	2.0	21.6	26790	100

Bolding indicates entries yielding equal to highest yielding entry within a column based on Fisher's protected LSD (P = 0.10).

Planted: April 20, 2009.

Soil Test: P = High, K = Medium, and pH = 6.9.

Fertilization: 70 lb N, 70 lb P₂O₅, and 110 lb K₂O/acre as preplant; 170 lb N/acre as sidedress.

Previous Crop: Soybeans.

Management: Subsoiled and bedded. Atrazine, Prowl, and Basagran used for weed control. Irrigated 5.5 inches.

Test conducted by A.E. Coy, R. E. Brooke and D. G. Dunn.

Source: UGA

Edited by: Allen B. Tyree

Coastal Plain Region - Tifton, Georgia: Preliminary Corn Hybrid Performance, 2009, Irrigated

Company or Brand Name	Hybrid Name	Yield ¹			Ears/ 100 Plants	Ear		Grain Moist ³	Plant Pop.	Erect Plants
		2009	2-Yr Avg	3-Yr Avg		Grain Wt.	Grain Quality ²			
		----- bu/acre -----			no.	lb	rating	%	no.	%
Croplan Genetics	851VT3	223.7	220.7	231.4	101	0.46	2.0	20.3	28641	100
Greenwood	EX3280RR	222.7	219.4	-	104	0.46	2.0	21.9	28423	100
Pioneer	31D58	222.1	227.7	-	100	0.46	2.0	19.7	28314	100
Agra Tech	1777	221.7	-	-	99	0.45	2.0	19.5	28967	100
Agra Tech	1801	216.7	-	-	91	0.53	2.0	19.9	28750	100

Bolding indicates entries yielding equal to highest yielding entry within a column based on Fisher's protected LSD (P = 0.10).

Planted: April 20, 2009.

Soil Test: P = High, K = Medium, and pH = 6.9.

Fertilization: 70 lb N, 70 lb P₂O₅, and 210 lb K₂O/acre as preplant; 170 lb N/acre as sidedress.

Previous Crop: Soybeans.

Management: Subsoiled and bedded. Atrazine, Prowl, and Basagran used for weed control. Irrigated 5.5 inches.

Test conducted by A.E. Coy, R. E. Brooke and D. G. Dunn.

Source: UGA

Edited by: Allen B. Tyree

Properly Dispose of Your Pesticide Wastes

Do not leave your empty pesticide containers around the irrigation well. This is one of the worst spots you can leave your "jug." If you don't properly rinse the containers, the pesticide from the container can easily and directly leach into our groundwater by the well pipe. Dispose of your agricultural wastes properly.

You can dispose of your pesticide containers at the Hamilton County Landfill. Their hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Saturdays, 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon. Contact Dale at the Landfill at 792-1020 before you go and for further information. Small quantities of a few identifiable pesticides may also be disposed of at the county landfill. They have a waste recovery center.

EMPTY BAGS should be shaken clean. They can be burned. See guidelines below. They can also be taken to the county landfill.

EMPTY DRUMS, BOTTLES, or CANS must be triple- or pressure-rinsed. To triple-rinse, empty the pesticide concentrate into your spray tank and drain the container in a vertical position for 30 seconds. Refill the container about 1/4-1/5 full with water and rinse thoroughly. Add this rinse water to your tank, unless the product is to be applied without dilution. Be sure to let the pesticide container drain for a few seconds. Repeat rinsing and draining two more times. Now add water to your tank to bring it up to the needed level.



Figure 1

Containers can also be cleaned using **Pressure Rinsing**. This is done using a special pressure-rinsing device which is inserted into the container. **Many of you received these devices at an extension meeting I had several years ago.** Water under pressure is used to rinse the inside of the container. The rinse water is added to the application equipment tank. (Figure 1 and Figure 2)

After triple-rinsing, punch holes in the containers to prevent reuse. (The pressure rinse procedure punctures the container.) Properly rinsed containers may then be carried to the county landfill. **Florida regulations allow OPEN BURNING of rinsed containers and bags that have been shaken clean. The open burning is allowed in open fields if:**



Figure 2

1. You are the owner of the crop, the owner's authorized employee or caretaker, or a commercial pesticide applicator hired by the owner or caretaker;
2. The label allows burning of the empty container;
3. The containers are from spray operations ON THAT PROPERTY; and
4. LOCAL REGULATIONS allow open burning (Figure 3). (They do. Allen.)



Figure 3

When burning containers you must:

- Burn only one day's accumulation at a time (500 lbs. maximum).
- Burn in the open 200 feet or more from occupied buildings or farm workers--and 100 feet or more from any public road.
- Burn containers between 9 A.M. and one hour before sunset.
- Have the person responsible for burning in attendance until all flame and smoke have dissipated.
- Make sure open burning does not produce smoke, soot, odors, visible emission, heat, or flame to such a degree as to create a nuisance.
- Place the containers in a noncombustible container or ground excavation covered by a metal grill.

Remember, you can also dispose of your properly rinsed pesticide containers, bags, etc. at the Hamilton County Landfill. Their hours are Monday through Saturday (8:00 am to 4:00 pm Mondays through Fridays and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon). You can call the landfill at 792-1020 for further information.

Source: IFAS & Hamilton County Landfill

Edited by: Allen B. Tyree



HAMILTON COUNTY 4-H FACT SHEET A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

(September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009)

- One hundred sixty-eight (168) youth were taught about the poultry component of agriculture, science and the formation of life through the **Embryology** program/project at North, South, Central Hamilton Elementary Schools and Corinth Christian Academy.
- Obtained **\$300 grant from PCS Phosphate** to help defray expenses for thirty-four (34) youth attending Summer 4-H Camp from Hamilton County.
- Thirty-nine (39) youth participated in the **Swine Project** area by selecting, caring for, record keeping, showing and selling their animals in area shows.
 - Youth participated at the Suwannee County Fair, the Hamilton County Fair and the North Florida Livestock Show & Sale.
 - Sixty-eight (68) youth participated in our Youth Livestock Ethics Workshop.
- Raised **\$859** for the Hamilton 4-H Program through our **4-H Swine Project** held at the Hamilton County Fair. Raised **\$150** for clubs through our 4-H food booth at the Hamilton County Fair. Also raised **\$75.00** in funds for clubs through our 2nd Annual Hamilton County 4-H Dog Show.
- One hundred fifty-three (153) youth were taught to understand the basics of the role animals play in our lives and how to be responsible caretakers through the 4-H Animal Science **“All About Animals”** 5-8 year old curriculum in the 2nd grade classes at North, South, and Central Hamilton Elementary Schools.
- Seventy-nine (79) youth were taught to understand the environmental and stewardship issues associated with soil, air and water conservation and quality through the 4-H **Earth Connections”** 9-11 year old curriculum in the 6th grade classes at North, South and Central Hamilton Elementary Schools.
- Eighty-three (83) youth were taught to understand environmental and stewardship issues associated with soil, air and water conservation and quality in the 4-H **“Earth Connections”** 5-8 year old curriculum in the 2nd grade at South and North Hamilton Elementary Schools
- One hundred twenty-one (121) youth were taught to understand the basic role that animals play in our lives and how to be responsible caretakers through the 4-H Animal Science **“The World of Animals”** 9-11 year old curriculum in the 6th grade at South Hamilton and at Central Hamilton Elementary Schools.
- One-hundred twenty-one (121) youth were taught to understand the role plants play in our lives and how to grow and care for them through the 4-H environmental education **“Plant Connections”** 9-11 year old curriculum in the 6th grade at South Hamilton and Central Hamilton Elementary Schools.
- Worked with county forester to conduct **Florida Arbor Day**, planted 2 trees with ninety-three (93) youth to commemorate Florida 4-H Centennial.
- Coordinated and conducted our Eleventh Annual Hamilton County **“Youth Ag Day”** which is a component of the **Florida Ag in the Classroom** program for 4th grade youth at NHE, SHE and CHE (143 youth participated). Youth were taught about agricultural production and its importance to the local economy by rotating through eight learning stations. Each station had a knowledgeable volunteer present a brief discussion of a farm production system. The 2009 program included: beef, dairy and pork production, peanut production, vegetable production, bee keeping, forestry/timber production, corn production, phosphate/fertilize production, mule demonstrating, and Farm Bureau Presentation.

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

- Received **\$100** from PCS Phosphates to pay for use of Bienville Plantations skeet range for shooting sports team.
- Received **\$600** from PCS Phosphate to pay for the meal and other expenses for Youth Ag Day.
- Three **4-H Community Clubs** were sustained in the County (35 **Corinth 4-H Warriors** members/2 leaders, 14 **Jennings Eagles** members/3 leaders, 17 **4-H F.I.S.H.** members/9 leaders). Three new clubs were investigated; one in Jasper, White Springs, and Jennings; all of which were due to either begin meeting at the beginning of the new 4-H year or sometime during.
- Nine different **Summer Classes** were offered to all youth in the county including: Best Foot Forward, Gone to the Dogs, Dig the Earth, Art Attack, Sleepless Slumber Party, Canoeing the Suwannee I, II, Shooting Sports Day Camp, and Hamburger Day Camp; reaching 120 participants.
- Implemented a **4-H Shooting Sports** team by holding a shotgun clinic where six (6) youth were taught gun safety; ecology, and practiced their skills. 6 Hamilton youth participated in this event.
- Held **1st Annual Holiday Bake-off** with 43 entries. 3 Judges volunteered to judge entries that participants and parents had prepared in the Holiday spirit. Youth and parents were invited to return that evening for an awards assembly and taste testing of the entries.

Compiled by: Gregory T. Hicks and Heather M. Futch



**SUWANNEE COUNTY
FAIR
Live Oak, Florida
April 2-10, 2010**

Steer ownership deadline, entry form, and weigh-in will be held on **Saturday, December 12, 2009 -- 8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON** at the Suwannee County Fairgrounds. Keep in mind that steers must either grade Select or Choice, or **MUST HAVE** a minimum Average Daily Gain of 1.75 pounds and **MUST WEIGH A MINIMUM OF 850 pounds** at **FINAL WEIGH-IN**. All steers must be dehorned prior to the initial weigh-in. Implants and de-wormer will be available at the weigh-in.



Hog ownership, entry and ear tagging deadline for Suwannee County is **January 9, 2010**.

Entry forms and rules can be picked up from the Suwannee County Extension Office. Or if you need more information, call the Suwannee County Extension Office at 386-362-2772.

Source: Gregory T. Hicks

4-H EMBRYOLOGY PROGRAM

Approximately 93 third graders at North and South Hamilton Elementary Schools have learned about the formation of life through a 4-H chick embryology school enrichment program, taught by Greg Hicks, CED, Agricultural/4-H Agent. Eggs were set on October 7th and began hatching on October 27th. This program compliments the 3rd grade science curriculum.

A big thanks goes to the following for allowing me to present this program:

- ♦ Ms. Scott, and Ms. Law, South Hamilton Elementary Third Grade Teachers
- ♦ Mr. Waylon Bush, South Hamilton Elementary Principal
- ♦ Ms. Moffses, Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Blue, North Hamilton Third Grade Teachers
- ♦ Ms. Lee Wetherington-Zamora, North Hamilton Elementary Principal



Written by: Greg Hicks

Novel H1N1 Q & A FOR SWINE FAIR EXHIBITORS

Q: What is the current situation with novel H1 N1 flu?

A: In March and April 2009, the novel H1 N1 flu virus appeared in humans in Mexico. None of the individuals with the virus had any contact with swine. The virus has now been diagnosed in multiple states and several other countries.

Q: Are any Florida swine infected with novel H1 N1 flu?

A: The novel H1N1 flu is primarily circulating in humans. There are no known cases of novel H 1 N 1 flu in Florida swine. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDOACS) is closely monitoring the situation and evaluating the health of Florida's swine herds. But remember, there are other forms of swine influenza in pigs.

Q: Can I show my swine at the fair?

A: Currently, there are no restrictions for showing healthy swine at fairs. Swine with signs of respiratory illness, including nasal discharge or coughing, will not be allowed in the fair. If your swine are showing signs of respiratory disease, contact your veterinarian or the nearest FDOACS Animal Health Branch District Office.

Q: How can novel H1 N1 flu spread from swine to people?

A: Novel H1 N1 flu can be spread by:

- direct contact with infected pigs
- contaminated equipment
- contaminated clothing or boots
- respiratory excretions, which become airborne and carried a short distance.

Q: Has novel H1 N1 flu been spread from animals to people?

A: No, there have not been any reported cases of novel H1 N1 flu passed from animals to people in this country.

Q: What signs should I watch for in my fair pig?

A: Pigs with novel H 1 N 1 flu may show some of the following signs:

- coughing
- runny nose and/or eyes
- sneezing
- depression
- lack of appetite
- difficulty breathing fever.

Q: My pig is vaccinated for swine influenza, can it still get sick?

A: Influenza vaccines for pigs can help, but are not 100% effective. There are several strains of influenza that can infect swine and current vaccines do not protect against all strains. There is current no novel H1 N1 flu vaccine available for swine.

Q: How can I protect my pig at the fair? A:

Proper hygiene and health management practices should be used when working with animals. The following practices should be implemented:

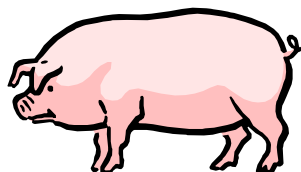
- Limit contact between animals.
- Clean and disinfect equipment between uses.
- Wash hands before and after working with animals.

Q: Is it safe to eat pork?

A: Novel H1 N1 flu is not spread by food. You cannot get novel H 1 N 1 flu from eating properly cooked pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.

Source: (FDOACS) Florida Department of Ag and Consumer Services

Edited by: Greg Hicks



2009 HAMILTON COUNTY FAIR SWINE SHOW WINNERS AND PARTICIPANTS



Grand Champion	Leslie Ann Goolsby
Reserve Champion	Ben Godwin
Jr. Record Book	Diane Carter
Jr. Record Book 2nd Place	Devlin Keeling
Jr. Record Book 3rd Place	Logan Hughes
Sr. Record Book	Heather Morris
Sr. Record Book 2nd Place	Mallory Morgan
Sr. Record Book 3rd Place	Tyler Warfel
Jr. Showmanship	Chasity Arnold
Jr. Showmanship Runner-up	Phillip Miller
Sr. Showmanship	Rachel Morgan
Sr. Showmanship Runner-up	Mallory Morgan



Other participants in the show include: Dawson Adams, Regan Adams, Sarabeth Adams, Seth Adams, Levy Alford, Ciera Burnett, Cory Burnett, Les Burnett, Jessica Carter, Kelli Cashmore, Staci Cashmore, Jordan Curry, Will Curry, Zach Deas, Haley Eatmon, Stacy Erixton, Travis Erixton, Destiny Fennell, Nathan Fry, John T. Harrison, Hannah Godwin, Katie Godwin, Will Godwin, Holly Goodin, Terry Grantham, Brianna Hanlon, Heidi Harris, Maggie Hughes, Devlin Keeling, Chaise McCoy, Cody McCoy, Garien Moore, Victoria Moore, Jared Nichols, Aaron Norris, Cordale Norris, Kaleigh Norris, Trey Norris, Walter Norris, Lane Petty, Ryan Petty, Eric Santana, Hunter Smith, Dalton Tyre, and Natalie Whitt



Source: Gregory T. Hicks

Photos by: Tracy Deas



Ginger Selph Award

Victoria Moore was the recipient of the prestigious 2009 “**Ginger Selph Award**”. This award is given in honor of Ginger Selph who was a most enthusiastic participant in the Hamilton County Fair.

Source: Gregory T. Hicks

Photo by: Marsanne Petty

2nd Annual Hamilton County 4-H Dog Show

Took Place at Hamilton County Arena During Fair Events Day at 5:30PM



Finally the winners were announced:	
YOUNGEST	Dog: Cowboy Shown by: Hayden Allen
OLDEST	Dog: P-Nut Shown by: Gracie Ball Dog: Boy Boy Shown by: Elizabeth Joeris
BEST OF SHOW	Dog: Kip Shown by: Kaleigh Norris
BEST COSTUME	1st Place - Dog: Kip Costume: Banana Shown by: Kaleigh Norris 2nd Place - Dog: Patrick Costume: Lady Bug Shown by: Jordan Curry 3rd Place - Dog: Bell Costume: Fairy Shown by: Samuel Cruce
BEST TRICK	1st Place - Dog: Lady Trick: Sit, Shake, Rolls Shown by: Triston Carter 2nd Place - Dog: Boomer Trick: Sleep, Hide Shown by: Victoria Moore 3rd Place - Dog: Pheobe Trick: Twirls like a ballerina Shown by: Hunter and Taylor Smith
MOST ADORABLE	1st Place - Dog: Boomer Shown by: Victoria Howell 2nd Place - Dog: Bell Shown by: Samuel Cruce 3rd Place - Dog: Patrick Shown by: Jordan Curry

Participants:

Youth

Elizabeth Joeris
Hunter and Taylor Smith
Triston Carter
Jordan Curry
Rachel Fry
Gracie Ball
Victoria Moore
Kaleigh Norris
Matthew Stewart
Braxton Stewart
Cassie Cribbs
Eric Amerson
Hayden Allen
Hayden Allen
Samuel Cruce

Dog

Boy Boy
Pheobe
Lady
Patrick
Pixie
P-Nut
Boomer
Kip
Little Man
Max
Ace
Mitez
Cowboy
Izzie
Bell

Judges:

Nancy Spearman
Jeffrey Dove
Lysandra Lee

MC:

Chuck Burnett

*Special thanks to our sponsors
Huston's Veterinary Clinic*

Source: Heather M. Futch

Photos Submitted
by: Marsanne Petty

Florida 4-H Centennial Poster Contest

Florida 4-H Centennial Poster Contest had many skilled entries and we want to recognize those who participated! Congratulations to all of our participants! Everyone received a ribbon! Cloverbuds are 4-Her's ages 5-7; they may participate in contests but will only receive Green Participation Ribbons.

Rachel Fry	Age 7	Cloverbud Participation Ribbon
Abbey Fry	Age 5	Cloverbud Participation Ribbon
Matthew Hughes	Age 6	Cloverbud Participation Ribbon
Triston Carter	Age 5	Cloverbud Participation Ribbon
Amanda Hughes	Age 10	Blue Award
Diane Carter	Age 9	Blue Award
Jessica Carter	Age 9	Blue Award, Junior Best Overall
Lonnie Pike	Age 10	Red Award
Jacob Wisner	Age 10	Red Award
Aubren Crosby	Age 9	Blue Award
Broxton Crosby	Age 12	Red Award
Michael Pike	Age 12	Red Award
Lindsey Hughes	Age 13	Blue Award, Intermediate Best Overall
Shane Pittman	Age 14	Red Award
Kaila Wisner	Age 16	Blue Award
Morgan Mester	Age 17	Blue Award, Junior Best Overall

Source: Heather M. Futch



4-Her Competes In Area B Horse Show

Kaleigh Norris participated in the Area B 4-H Horse show on May 8th, 2009 in Green Cove Springs, FL. She rode her 7 year old quarter horse, Cool Little Freckles "Fred." Kaleigh won first place in Halter Geldings which made her eligible to compete for Grand Champion. She won Grand Champion and received a rosette for her accomplishments. Congratulations Kaleigh, we are proud of you!

Source: Heather M. Futch

HAMILTON COUNTY 4-H SCIENCE FAIR

JANUARY 21ST, 2009

PROJECT DROP OFF: 8AM UNTIL 4:30PM @ HAMILTON COUNTY EXTENSION

(AWARDS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT INDIVIDUAL CLUB MEETINGS)

Requirements: Youth must be a member of a Hamilton County 4-H Club or a another 4-H club which has been invited to participate.

The purpose of the Science Fair is to encourage youth to actively explore science and to understand the scientific method and its purpose.

Youth will construct a display that explains their project including pictures. Displays are encouraged to be tri-fold boards which will stand on table tops for judging. Boards must include the following descriptions of the project: **Abstract, Problem or Question, Hypothesis, Materials, Procedure, Data or Results, Conclusion.** Youth will need to try and make their experiment as clear as possible since they will not be present to explain the project to judges. Pictures, graphs, tables, charts, and/or diagrams may be used to explain the project.

Projects will be divided into categories based on age group: Cloverbuds (5-7), Juniors (8-10), Intermediates (11-13), Seniors (14-18).

Please include name, club name, age as of September 1, 2009, and phone number on the back of your display board.

Source: Heather M. Futch



Hamilton County 4-H Holiday Bake-Off December 7, 2009



The purpose of the Holiday Bake-Off is to encourage adults and youth to work together on a project, for the adult to teach the 4-H'er how to prepare a family favorite, and for the 4-H'er to learn and improve their cooking skills.

This is not a traditional 4-H contest where a 4-H member must do all of the work themselves. Recipes using basic ingredients **do not** have to be used. Mixes, precooked, and non-cooked items may be used in the finished product. Work done by youth under the supervision, direction, and help of an adult to make a delicious dish with a festive holiday appearance is **required!** All entries must look festive for the holidays, either by the food itself or the way it is displayed. No live plant materials may be used (such as Holly, Poinsettia, etc)! Product will be disqualified! Name of your exhibit needs to be on a 3x5 card to display beside the item and major ingredients need to be listed on the back of that card.

One item in each of the categories may be entered. The amount of one recipe for each entry must be submitted in

order that everyone may sample the product after the awards presentation. Exception: Gift baskets and specialty items will not be sampled, cut or opened by judges or audience.

Cloverbuds will not be judged, but will receive a participation ribbon.

Products will be judged on appearance, taste, (except in cases where Baskets and Specialty Items may not be sampled), and display.

Awards in each category will be a Blue, Red, or White Ribbon.

Bring in exhibits on Dec. 7th from 8:30am to 12 noon. Awards Ceremony will start at 6:30pm that evening.

All entries will be recognized for participation.

Source: Heather M. Futch

Categories

- Appetizers • Breads • Brownies/Bar Cookies • Cakes • Candies • Cookies
- Decorated Cakes (Please enter in specialty items if you wish to not be judged on taste)
- Pies • Specialty Items (non-edibles such as Ginger bread Houses) These will not be tested.
- Gift Baskets from the kitchen (include items you and the adult have made-food items, jellies, etc.)
You may also include handmade crafts, embroidery, etc.)
- Lite Recipes (these are recipes for the health conscious, that use less sugar, salt, and fat than the traditional holiday recipes use).

ENTRY FORM MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ITEM
HAMILTON COUNTY 4-H 2nd ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE-OFF
DECEMBER 7, 2009

Name _____ Phone _____

Birthdate _____ Age as of Sept 1, 2009 _____

Circle: Cloverbud (5-7) Junior (8-10) Intermediate (11-13) Senior (14-18)

Category of Product _____

Name or Description of Item _____

Please List Recipe on Back

Additional entry forms can be obtained from the Hamilton County Extension Office or call 386-792-1276 for more information.

The Holidays are Lurking around the corner: Talking Turkey

During the holiday season, consumers are buying turkeys for that big family meal. Everyone wants to find the perfect bird, but cooking it properly is even more important. These tips can help you create a safe and delicious main course.

STORING A FROZEN TURKEY

A frozen turkey can be stored indefinitely in a home freezer set at 0°F. However, it should be cooked within one year for best quality.

Most turkeys are sold in vacuum-sealed plastic wrap. Leave the turkey in the original packaging and keep it frozen until you are ready to cook it. Unless you thaw the turkey gradually in the refrigerator, you will not be able to refreeze it once it has thawed.

PREVENTING CROSS-CONTAMINATION

When handling fresh and frozen raw meat, wash your hands, utensils, dishes, and kitchen surfaces frequently with hot, soapy water.

To avoid spreading the turkey's juices around, open the packaging carefully and dispose of it right away. Wash any surfaces that the meat, juices, or packaging might have touched, including refrigerator or freezer shelves.

Even heavy-duty freezer bags can leak. If you use the kitchen sink to thaw the turkey, be sure to drain and sanitize the sink immediately afterward. If you thaw any raw meat in the microwave, sanitize it as well.

Use separate knives and cutting boards when preparing the turkey and stuffing. Wash the cutting boards and utensils frequently. These precautions are a very important part of preventing cross-contamination.

METHODS OF THAWING

In the Refrigerator

The safest—but slowest—way to thaw a frozen turkey is to keep it in the refrigerator in its original packaging, with a pan underneath to catch any drips. The turkey will need to thaw one day for every five pounds. Turkey thawed using this method can be kept in the refrigerator for one to two days and even refrozen if necessary.

In the Kitchen Sink

To thaw your turkey more quickly, submerge it in potable water in the kitchen sink. Clean the sink thoroughly. Put the turkey in a heavy freezer bag and close it tightly. Place it in the sink, and fill the sink with cold water—70°F or lower—until the turkey is completely submerged.

Change the water every half hour to keep it cool. The turkey should thaw for about thirty minutes per pound. Cook the turkey immediately after thawing it, and do not refreeze it.

Remember to disinfect the sink immediately after removing the thawed turkey. Do not use the sink again until it has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

In the Microwave

If you're really in a hurry, you can use a microwave—if the turkey will fit. Check the microwave owner's manual for the recommended power level and amount of time per pound. Remove all packaging and place the bird in a microwave-safe dish. The turkey must be cooked immediately after thawing. It is not safe to refrigerate or refreeze a microwave-thawed turkey.

COOKING

Fresh or Thawed Turkey

Be sure to remove the giblets immediately after thawing. Giblets should be cooked separately.

Preheat the oven to at least 325°F. Place the turkey in a shallow roasting pan. For the meat to be safe to eat, the inside of the turkey must reach at least 165°. You may cook the turkey to a higher temperature if desired.

Use a food thermometer to check the temperature at the thickest part of the turkey breast and at the innermost part of the thigh and wing. Even if your turkey comes with a "pop-up" thermometer, double-check the temperature with a food thermometer.

Cook an unstuffed turkey for approximately fifteen minutes per pound. Allow a few extra minutes per pound for a stuffed turkey.

Cooking the turkey uncovered will give it a

great roasted flavor, but it can also dry out the meat. Put the turkey in an oven cooking bag for more tender meat and faster cooking. Follow the manufacturer's directions on the bag. Other options include pouring half a cup of water into the bottom of the pan or covering the turkey with the roasting pan lid aluminum foil. Covering the turkey will reduce oven splatter and overbrowning.

After removing the turkey from the oven, let it stand for fifteen to twenty minutes before carving to allow the juices to settle.

Frozen Turkey

You can safely cook a frozen turkey without thawing it first. A frozen bird will take fifty percent longer to cook than a thawed or fresh turkey. Remove the giblets with tongs or a fork while the turkey is cooking.

EARLY PREPERATION

Some people prefer to cook their turkeys a day or two in advance. Once the bird has been cooked, carve it and refrigerate the

meat in small, shallow containers.

The wings, legs, and thighs may be left intact. You can also refrigerate the juices that collect in the bottom of the pan during cooking.

On the day you plan to eat the turkey, reheat the meat in an oven heated to at least 325°F. To keep the meat tender while re-

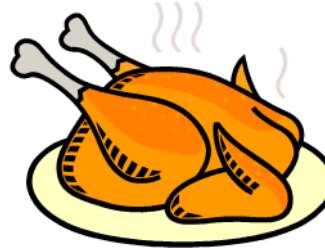
heating it, cover the dishes with lids or cover the meat with gravy or the cooked juices.

LEFTOVERS

Throw away turkey, stuffing, or gravy that has been sitting at room temperature for more than two hours. If room temperature is over 90°F, food should be thrown out after one hour.

Cooked turkey may be eaten cold or reheated in the oven or microwave. The oven should be heated to no less than 325°F. Follow the owner's manual instructions for reheating turkey in the microwave.

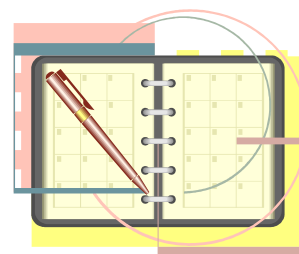
Leftover meat should be eaten within three to four days; gravy, within one to two days. You can also freeze leftovers, but they will not retain their quality for more than six months.



Edited by: Heather M. Futch

Source: UF/IFAS

Coming Events Calendar



When	What	Where	For More Information, Call:
December 7, 2009	Hamilton County 4-H Holiday Bake-Off	Hamilton County Extension Jasper, Florida	386-792-1276 Heather Futch
January 21, 2010	Hamilton County 4-H Science Fair Entries Due	Hamilton County Extension Jasper, Florida	386-792-1276 Heather Futch
January or February 2010	Field Corn Meeting	Hamilton County Extension Jasper, Florida	386-792-1276 Allen Tyree
February 6, 2010	Father Daughter Valentines Day Ball	Jasper Women's Club Jasper, Florida	386-792-1276 Heather Futch
February 2010	Beef Cattle Meeting	Hamilton County Extension Jasper, Florida	386-792-1276 Greg Hicks or Allen Tyree
February or March 2010 (Tentative)	Soybean & Grain Sorghum Meeting (Tentative)	Hamilton County Extension Jasper, Florida	386-792-1276 Allen Tyree
February 15-18, 2010	North Florida Livestock Show & Sale	Madison County Extension Madison, Florida	850-973-4138 Madison Co. Ext.
April 2010	Peanut Meeting	Hamilton County Extension Jasper, Florida	386-792-1276 Allen Tyree
April 2-10, 2010	Suwannee County Fair	Suwannee County Fair Grounds Live Oak, Florida	386-792-1276 Greg Hicks 386-362-2771 Suwannee Co. Ext.
April 16, 2010	Relay for Life	Old Hamilton County High School Football Stadium Jasper, Florida	386-792-1276 Heather Futch
April 22, 2010	4-H Day at the Capitol	State Capitol Tallahassee, Florida	386-792-1276 Heather Futch

The Hamilton County Extension Newsletter is published quarterly by the Hamilton County Cooperative Extension Service. For extra copies or for more information, call 386-792-1276. You can also view this digitally at our web site <http://hamilton.ifas.ufl.edu>.



Written and/or Edited by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory T. Hicks".

Gregory T. Hicks

CED, Extension Agent IV, 4-H/Agriculture

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen B. Tyree".

Allen B. Tyree

Extension Agent III, Agriculture

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Heather M. Futch".

Heather M. Futch

Extension Agent I, 4-H/Family and Consumer Science

Hamilton County Cooperative Extension Service

UF/IFAS

Layout and Design By Tracy D. Deas

Senior Staff Assistant

In compliance with the ADA act, participants with special needs can reasonably be accommodated by contacting the Hamilton County CES Office at least five working days prior to the meeting or other extension activity. We can be reached by phone at 386-792-1276 or by Fax at 386-792-6446 weekdays 8:00 am to 4:30 pm or 800-955-8771 for the hearing or speech impaired.