November 2006

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**Dear Extension Friend**

Our Farm-City Luncheon will be held on November 20th, be sure to participate and show your support for agriculture in Baker County. (see related article)

Baker County had our first light frost on October 21st and 22nd this year. However, our average first killing frost in the area is around November 30th. Keep this in mind when transplanting tender vegetables and flowers into the garden.

As always, if our office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Mike Sweat  
County Extension Director

**Farm City Luncheon**  
**November 20th**

The Baker County Extension Office is proud to co-sponsor the annual Farm-City Luncheon on Monday, November 20th from 11:45 am - 1:15 p.m. in the Agriculture Center Auditorium. Farm-City Week is designated nationally each year to recognize the important relationship that exists between producers and consumers of agricultural products. The free luncheon, courtesy of the Baker County Farm Bureau, is open to anyone with an interest in agriculture.

In order to plan the meal we would request you call our office by November 13th, and let us know you will attend.

**Agricultural Enterprise Workshops**  
**for North Florida November 8th**

The Suwannee Valley Research & Education Center will host a series of Agricultural Enterprise Workshops for North Florida on Wednesday, November 8th from 8:00 am until 2:30 pm. Participants will have the opportunity to choose to attend educational sessions of their choice during the day. Program topics include Pesticide Applicator Training, Best Management Practices for water Quality, Greenhouse Crops, Food Plots & Native Plants for Wildlife, Cover Crops, Equine Management, Goat & Sheep Production, Deciduous Fruit Crops in Florida, Selling Value Added Products, and Featuring Southern Heritage Vegetables on your Farm.

The registration fee is $15 per person which includes lunch, tour program booklet, refreshments, and other tour materials. Call 386-362-3067 to pre-register. A detailed program is available on our web site or by calling the Extension Office. Registration deadline is October 30, 2006.

The Suwannee Valley Research & Education Center is located on Suwannee County Road 136. From Macclenny take I-10 West to I-75, go north on I-75 to White Springs/Live Oak, exit #439 (CR 136); go west approximately 6 miles to County Road 417, go left on CR 417 one mile, farm is on the left.

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Special Interest  
Check out the University of Florida’s new website:  
[www.solutionsforyourlife.com](http://www.solutionsforyourlife.com)  
This new website will give you more answers and help you find the solutions you need. We will be making updates and changes to our website in the months following.
Vegetable Planting for November

**Beets** - Early Wonder, Detroit Dark Red, Cylindra

**Broccoli** - Early Green Sprouting, Waltham 29, Atlantic, Green Comet, Green Duke

**Cabbage** - Gourmet, Marion Market, King Cole, Market Prize, Red Acre, Chieftan Savoy, Rio Verde, Bravo

**Carrots** - Imperator, Chantenay, Nantes, Gold Pa, Waltham Hicolor, Orlando Gold

**Collards** - Georgia, Vates, Blue Max, Hicrop

**Kohlrabi** - Early White Vienna, Grand Duke

**Mustard** - Southern Giant Curled, Florida Broad Leaf, Tendersgreen

**Onions, Bulbing** - Excel, Texas Grano, Granex, White Granex, Tropicana Red

**Onions, Bunching** - White Portugal, Evergreen Beltsville Bunching, Perfecto Blanco

**Onions, Multipliers** - Shallots

**Radishes** - Cherry Belle, Comet, Early Scarlet Globe, White Icicle, Sparkler, Red Prince, Champion

**Spinach** - Virginia Savory, Melody, Bloomsdale, Longstanding, Tyee

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Gardening Guide for November

- Cooler temperatures will slow the growth of our lawn-grasses but this doesn’t mean you should stop watering. Be sure to water lawns 1/2 to 3/4 inch per week during dry weather to ensure a healthy lawn going into the winter.

- If you like a green lawn in the winter and don’t mind mowing, you might consider overseeding the lawn with ryegrass. Mow the lawn closer than normal and apply seed over the top of the lawn-grass at the rate of four pounds per 1,000 square feet. If a weed and feed product was applied in the fall, don’t overseed because the seed will not germinate.

- Check ornamental plants for scale insects and if present, spray with dormant oil or a Malathion and dormant oil combination. Be sure the plant you are spraying is on the label and follow all label precautions.

- With pine needles and leaves falling, recycle by using them as mulch in your garden. Lay 4-6 inches between rows of vegetables.

- Now is the time to plant strawberries in the home garden for spring fruiting. Best varieties for our area include Chandler, Camarosa, and Sweet Charlie. The old variety of Florida 90 is also still a favorite but will yield considerably less. Plant strawberries on double rows 12” apart. Most growers choose to raise the bed 4-6” and use plastic mulch or pine straw to keep the fruit off the ground.

- Cooler temperatures will soon be here to stay. This is the best time of the year to create color in the landscape. Flower colors are brighter when the night temperatures are cool. Also, by planting now, many cool season plants will survive all winter long until replaced next spring. Cool season annuals to plant include calendula, carnation (dianthus), delphinium, foxglove, larkspur, ornamental cabbage, ornamental kale, pansy, petunia, shasta daisy, snapdragon, and stock.

- Bulbous plants for fall planting include African lily (agapanthus), moraea, amaryllis, anemone, Aztec lily, buttercup (ranunculus), calla, daylily, Dutch iris, elephant ears, freesia, hurricane lily, hyacinth, iris, ixia, kaffir lily, narcissus, snowflake, spider lily, walking iris, wat-
Fall Forage Options

Now is the time to begin planting fall forages. Dry weather conditions have delayed planting many winter pastures. Winter legumes and small grain pastures make excellent forage to supplement livestock. They are frost tolerant and can supply highly nutritious feed during the winter and early spring months. In addition, legumes if inoculated properly, can supply their own nitrogen and provide nitrogen for other plants growing with them.

Rye is probably the most popular of the small grains for forage. It will produce earlier than rye-grass, however it requires plowing or disk- ing the seedbed. There is no set planting date for winter forages, rather it is best to wait until cooler weather arrives to lessen the chance of disease fungi attacking the young seedlings. These fungi are more active when soil temperatures are warm and sometimes the entire planting can be lost.

Oats are less susceptible to the fungi and can be planted a little earlier to provide early forage. Producers should seriously consider incorporating legumes such as clover into their winter pasture. Remember clover and other legumes require a higher target pH (6.0) and liming should be done well in advance of planting.

Planting winter forages on a clean, well prepared seedbed has been shown to result in earlier and more total production as compared to overseeding on a grass sod, especially if the grass is not dormant at planting time. If overseeding is the only option, mow or graze as close as possible and disk the bahiagrass sod to expose the seed to the soil. For bermudagrass, a pasture drill or no-till drill may be used without disking with good results. Rainfall in the first few weeks after overseeding is important to success.

The most efficient use of cool season forages would be as a protein and energy supplement through the use of “limit grazing” (allowing the animals to graze for only a limited amount of time at each event). Another option would be to increase the access by younger animals that need a higher quality forage by “creep grazing” (only allowing those animals access to the forage).

For specific recommendations, planting rates and dates, call our office, or visit our beef forage website at:
(http://nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu)

Beef Cattle Management Calendar

- Re-evaluate winter feeding program and supplies.
- Observe cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
- Use mineral with high level of magnesium if grass tetany has been a problem in the past.
- Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
- Maintain adequate nutrient level for cow herd.
- Calve in well-drained pastures.
- Survey pastures for poisonous plants.
- Start summarizing your annual records, both production and financial, then you will have time to make adjustments for tax purposes.
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Master Gardeners to Graduate

Baker County will soon have two newly certified Master Gardeners. The new trainees have been attending the ten week training and will formally graduate at a ceremony on the University of Florida campus on November 8th.

Master Gardeners receive 50 hours of college level training in horticulture related topics and must volunteer the same amount of time back to the local Extension Office during a one year period.

Congratulations to our new graduates!

Baker in USDA Disaster Area

Baker County is one of 29 Florida counties designated primary natural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture due to losses caused by drought and strong winds that occurred from March 1, 2006 and continuing. All qualified farm operators in the designated areas are eligible for low interest emergency loans from the USDA Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met.

Interested farmers should contact the local FSA office at 266-3291 or stop by the office at 260 US Hwy 301 North in Baldwin.