Features:

Crops:

Soybean Rust Update................................. Page 2
Use Recommended Small Grain Varieties........ Page 3

Forage:

Excess Hay: To Feed or To Store? ............... Page 3

Weed: Control:

Weed Control in Overseeded Pastures .......... Page 4

Miscellaneous:

Looking for Information on Pesticide Tolerance... Page 2
Soil test for Nematodes and Fertility
Status in the Fall........................................ Page 5
Operation Cleansweep 2010-2011 ............... Page 5
Calendar ......................................................... Page 6

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity-Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service-Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences/University of Florida/Millie Ferrer-Chancy, Interim Dean.

“Agronomy Notes” is prepared by: Maria Gallo, Interim Chair and Y. Newman, Extension Forage Specialist (ycnew@ufl.edu); J. Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist (jferrell@ufl.edu); Fred Fishel (weeddr@ufl.edu); J. Marois, Plant Pathologist (jmarois@ufl.edu); D. Wright, Extension Agronomist (wright@ufl.edu). The use of trade names does not constitute a guarantee or warrant of products named and does not signify approval to the exclusion of similar products.
**Soybean Rust Update**

Asian soybean rust (ASR) has been slow to establish in 2010 due to the cold winter and lack of host plant (kudzu) for an extended period of time. We have monitored sentinel plots throughout the season and as well as kudzu patches that have had the disease in the past few years. Dry weather in late August, September, and October and the lack of ASR spores have kept the disease in check. No commercial fields of soybeans have been confirmed with ASR this year unlike in the past 2-3 years. Most commercial fields in Florida were sprayed and apparently due to high soybean prices and other diseases that are normally prevalent. Asian soybean rust has stayed in the south this year being found in a few kudzu patches. No other legumes or plants have been found to have rust. Fungicide trials are being conducted for ASR control and breeding work from the mid-west states is still in full swing. Growers will want to keep an eye on the disease in the future if the inoculum builds up to the previous years level. Disease incidence had been increasing about 20% per year in about 80 kudzu sites that had been monitored each year since 2006.

Soybeans above grown in shade have thinner cuticles and more soybean rust. Photo by David Wright.

**Pesticides**

EPA has updated an online tool that allows users to easily search for pesticide tolerance information on food and feed commodities. Users can now locate the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section numbers (for example 180.220 for atrazine) to determine whether a pesticide ingredient has a permanent tolerance or exemption from the requirement of a tolerance by the pesticide common name (e.g., dicamba, thidiazuron) or by pesticide type and family (e.g., acaricide, carbamate family). The index contains the following information for each chemical:

- 40 CFR part 180 section
- Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number and name
- Pesticide type and family
- EPA pesticide chemical (PC) code
- Tolerance-specific information about pesticide chemicals and crop groups by commodity, crop group, or crop subgroup

This new tool can be found at [http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/regulating/part-180.html](http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/regulating/part-180.html) and will be updated yearly.
Use Recommended Small Grain Varieties

For those growers who have been checking on small grain seed for grain or forage, you know that seed supplies are tight this year. Prices are up and last fall’s planting season was too wet to get much small grain planted. This led to a shortage of seed of good varieties for this fall with prices at a near all-time record. Select recommended varieties when planting to get highest yields of grain or forage. Generally, November is the time to plant small grain for highest grain yields. Small grain for forage can be planted earlier. Recommended planted date for forage is Nov. 15- Dec. 15 and care has to be taken in planting some varieties late if they have a high vernalization requirement. Check variety trial lists at http://www.swvt.uga.edu/ for yields. Some of the Florida results are listed in these trials.

Excess Hay...To Sell or to Store?

With the excess hay we currently have in Florida, the question is: should I plan on selling, or should I keep it?

Although it may seem that we have a surplus, we may just have enough supply to withstand developing drought conditions. If planning on selling, and depending on your operation type, consider the latest reports on weather forecast from climatologist and meteorologists. These scientists are predicting a stronger than usual La Niña year, which means cooling waters in the Pacific Ocean that have a warming and drying effect for Florida’s winter and spring seasons.

Drying conditions are associated with failed winter ryegrass that is rain fed, because the high moisture demands of this crop are not met. It is also associated with overgrazing of pastures, high demands for hay, and hay supply that shrinks very rapidly.

What happens when hay is in high supply? Usually, prices are low but they will be hiking as the demand increases. What may be an excess now can turn into an opportunity to market hay when prices increase.

Most Hay growers are having a surplus of hay this year.
Many cattle producers plant temporary grazing areas with ryegrass, wheat, oats, or other small grain varieties since pastures will soon be dormant. A successful winter pasture can be a highly productive and somewhat inexpensive way to improve animal performance during the winter months. However, many do not consider weed management as an important part of winter pasture production. This often results in rampant infestations of wild radish (aka wild mustard), geranium, and other winter weeds.

Control of winter weeds is relatively inexpensive and easy if it is done in a timely manner. Wild radish seeds begin to germinate when soil temperatures reach 65 F. As temperatures begin to decline, it is important to begin scouting the winter pasture areas to determine your level of winter weed infestation and plan your herbicide application timing.

For small wild radish, 1 pint of 2,4-D ester will provide near 100% control if it is applied prior to flowering when rosettes are small. Delaying the application until the plants are fully flowering and large will result in less than 50% control. Other herbicides such as Banvel and Weedmaster may be used, but these will also be ineffective on large weeds.

Timing the herbicide application relative to the winter pasture should also be considered. Applications made soon after emergence will cause significant leaf rolling and yellowing. Applications made too late can cause lodging and additional injury symptoms. Therefore, herbicides should be applied after the plants have fully emerged and begun to tiller, but prior to head formation. Additionally, application rates of 2,4-D, Banvel, or Weedmaster should not exceed 1 pt/A. But if the weeds appropriately small, 1 pt/A will be more than enough herbicide to provide effective control.
Soil Test for Nematodes and Fertility Status in the Fall

Soil tests taken immediately after harvest of cotton or peanut can be used to determine lime as well as fertility requirements for crops for the coming year. If areas of the field did not yield as well as expected, compare those samples to those that did well. Fall of the year is a good time to lime before soils get saturated. This will allow time for soil reaction creating a change in pH for the next crops. Although some reactions occur slowly, this doesn’t mean that applications should be delayed if planting season is near. Bacteria that fix nitrogen for legumes do better and form more nodules with an adequate calcium level and with pH of 6.0 or higher.

Operation Cleansweep 2010-2011

Between November 2009 and June 2010, Operation Cleansweep provided pickup and disposal service to 62 participants in 26 counties and collected more than 103,000 pounds of cancelled, suspended and unusable pesticides for proper disposal.

Operation Cleansweep, which previously has been a free service to pesticide users, was not funded by the Legislature for State Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011). As a result, Operation Cleansweep will not be a free service this year. However, the state disposal pricing contract is still in effect and will be honored by the contractor for any pesticide user who wants to take advantage of this greatly reduced price for disposal. The state contract price for disposal of pesticides is $0.89 per pound ($100 minimum per participant).

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), with the help of UF/IFAS Extension agents, county solid waste personnel, product dealers and trade associations, will collect names, addresses, quantities and types of cancelled, suspended and unusable pesticides from participants and verify this information. When the FDACS have a sufficient quantity of product in a defined area, the contractor will be dispatched to each participant's farm or business facility to package, transport and dispose of cancelled suspended and unusable pesticides. A flyer provides details and instructions on how to sign up for this reduced “state contract” price pick-up service: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick_topics/publications/shw/cleansweep-pesticides/CleansweepFlyerSep2010.pdf. Contact either Robin Waddell at Cleansweep@doacs.state.fl.us of the FDACS or call toll-free at 877-851-5285 to sign up. Pick-up collection and disposal services are expected to begin in the winter of 2010-2011.
To follow the link, press “Ctrl” and put cursor over link, and “click.”

Nov. 10  
2010 Florida Ag Expo, Balm (Gulf Coast REC)

Nov. 12  
Advanced Topics in Hydroponics, Live Oak (North Florida REC)

Nov. 16-18  
Tomato Disease Workshop, Balm (Gulf Coast REC)

Nov. 18  
Cow/Calf BMPs Field Day, Cherokee Ranch, Marianna, FL

Dec. 16-17  
Drip Irrigation School, Live Oak (North Florida REC)

Jan. 20  
UF/IFAS Cattlemen’s Institute and Allied Trade Show, Kissimmee

Happy thanksgiving!