

UF/IFAS EXTENSION ALACHUA COUNTY **UPDATE**

2800 NE 39TH AVENUE • GAINESVILLE, FL 32609 • (352) 955-2402

JANUARY 2017

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SAVE THE DATE:

**AG FEST &
MASTER
GARDENER
PLANT SALE**

MAY 20, 2017



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Greetings from UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office

by: Dr. Cynthia Sanders, Director/Livestock Agent

Happy New Year from the UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office!

It is hard to believe that 2016 has come and gone and 2017 is here! We are busy at the UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office preparing 2017 Extension programs to fit your needs. In this newsletter you will find the upcoming Extension programs for February, March, and April 2017. Mark your calendars now for the Ag Fest & Master Gardener Plant Sale on May 20th!

UF/IFAS Extension Welcomes New Ag & Natural Resources Agent

The UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office is now fully staffed with Extension Agents. Our newest hire is Dr. Kevin Korus.

Kevin is a native of Nebraska where he received all three degrees: a Bachelor's in Horticulture, Master's in Plant Pathology, and a Doctor of Plant Health. He has spent the last four years as the Coordinator of the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Center and an Extension Educator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Kevin has extensive expertise in soybeans and corn, and is excited about learning our ag row crops and natural resources. He will be working with all row crops (corn, soybean, peanuts, tobacco, cotton, grains, etc).



Dr. Kevin Korus

So please call him to make an appointment to visit your farm. Kevin's contact information is: Dr. Kevin Korus, Ag & Natural Resource Agent, at 352-955-2402 or kkorus@ufl.edu.

2017 Alachua County Youth Fair & Livestock Show

The 2017 Alachua County Youth Fair & Livestock Show will be held March 3-7, 2017, at the Alachua County Fairgrounds. This event gives our 4-H & FFA youth the opportunity to exhibit their projects both livestock and non-livestock. Each year we have approximately 400 youth that participate in this event with livestock and non-livestock projects.

We must rely on our community to help sponsor our event. I certainly appreciate all of the community support that we have received in the past. Without contributions from the local community and beyond, we would not be able to provide the educational experience for these young people.

I look forward to seeing you at the fair again this year to support our youth of today and the leaders of tomorrow. For a 2017 Youth Fair Schedule visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ze3tmwy>.



Pond Health Update

by:

*Dr. Kevin Korus
Ag & Natural Resources Agent*

The extremely dry weather this Fall lead to low water levels in many of the area ponds, especially sink ponds not fed by spring water. As a result, algal blooms were common.

Algae that proliferate on pond floors take advantage of increased sunlight penetration and may grow tenaciously if the pond also contains excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. Algal blooms are not only aesthetically displeasing but can lead to other problems in the pond that will displace the healthy balance.

Copper products are available for immediate control of algal blooms; however, several precautions need to be taken when applying copper to treat algae. Copper toxicity to fish is an issue if alkalinity levels are too low. Water samples should be taken prior to any treatment to assess alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and other important parameters. Also, algae (via photosynthesis) contribute to a large portion of the available oxygen in a pond. Sudden algal kills can reduce the amount of dissolved oxygen in a pond to levels that can result in fish kills. Furthermore, when algae decompose, oxygen is consumed in the process. It is important to test for oxygen levels after treatment as well. Pond aeration can help stabilize oxygen levels.

Algal blooms can be controlled by applying phosphorus chelating agents or by adding pond dyes to decrease sunlight penetration to the pond floor.

For more information on pond management please see the following references: "Use of Copper in Freshwater Aquaculture and Farm Ponds" <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/FA/FA00800.pdf>, "Dissolved Oxygen for Fish Production" <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/FA/FA00200.pdf>.

UPCOMING EXTENSION PROGRAMS

Please call (352)337-6209 (voicemail) to register, (352)955-2402 or visit <http://alachua.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml> for additional information. Unless otherwise stated, programs will be held at the UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office, 2800 NE 39 Avenue, Gainesville.

Program	Date	Time	Instructor	Cost	Registration	Description
Financial Fitness	February 1, 8, 15 & 22	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Brenda Williams	No cost	Bishop James Dixon jdixon@ccgnv.org 352-372-0294, ext. 111	This 4-part series covers how to make a spending plan, how to make credit work for you and how to get out of debt or build an emergency fund. This series will be held at Catholic Charities, 1701 NE 9 St., Gainesville, 32609.
Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance	February 3	8:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Tatiana Sanchez	\$30.00 (lunch) \$10.00 (no lunch)	Register through Eventbrite with an additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/zedsfzt	The LCLM workshop trains commercial landscape maintenance personnel to make correct pesticide applications to ornamentals and plant beds only. CEUs will be available. No refunds.
Alachua County Non-Livestock Judging	February 4	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Amanda Morgan	No cost	Pre-registration is not required	Open to all active 4-H & FFA Members. This event will be held at the Straughn Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, 32611.
Pruning Your Fruit Trees	February 4	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Denise DeBusk & Dr. Jeff Williamson	\$10.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/juz7htv	This workshop provides demonstrations and hands-on practice pruning various fruit trees, including grapevines, peaches, nectarines, persimmons, apples, and many more. This class will be held at 1679 NE CR 337, High Springs, 32643. No refunds.
FFL Series: Introduction to Florida-Friendly Landscaping™	February 7	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/z66yd83	This class will introduce you to the 9 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles. Participants will receive handbooks and materials. No refunds.
Green Industries BMP	February 9	8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Tatiana Sanchez	\$25.00 (lunch & materials)	Register through Eventbrite with an additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/hg54jrf	Florida law states that all commercial fertilizer applicators must have a certificate from FDACS. To get this certificate, each commercial applicator must be trained in the GI-BMPs and receive a certificate of completion. No refunds.
Grow Your Own Potatoes	February 9	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Master Gardener	No cost	Register through Eventbrite (no cost) at http://tinyurl.com/hdb9l4s	Potatoes are easy to grow in the garden. Soil preparation and variety selection will be covered in the class. This class will be held at Newberry Branch Library, 110 S. Seaboard Drive, Newberry, 32669.

Upcoming programs continued on the next page.

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Food Safety & Quality Program (ServSafe®)	February 15 March 13 April 20	8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Brenda Williams		For further information and to register, please call toll-free at 1-888-232-8723 or visit http://tinyurl.com/gp3xyrf	This program is dedicated to providing training which enables food managers and staff to offer Florida consumer's food that is prepared in a clean and safe environment.
FFL Series: Choose the Right Mulch	February 16	6:00- 8:00 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/z66yd83	The class provides information on the types and characteristics of various mulches. It includes activities on calculating the proper amount of mulch. Participants will receive handbooks and materials. No refunds.
Vegetable Gardening for Beginners	February 16	7:00- 8:00 p.m.	Master Gardener	No cost	Register through Eventbrite (no cost) at http://tinyurl.com/gugcyxs	Learn to start a vegetable garden using the square foot gardening technique. Bed construction, soil preparation, vegetables that can be grown, and pest control will be covered. This class will be held at Tower Road Branch Library, 3020 SW 75 St., Gainesville, 32608.
Beekeeping Classes: Introductory Beekeeping (2/18) & Colony Mgt. & Swarm Control (4/29)	February 18	8:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.	Tatiana Sanchez	\$10.00	Register through Eventbrite with an additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/havwm52	Classes are designed for beginner and intermediate beekeepers. The classes are scheduled to help you manage the needs of the hive throughout the year. Live bees will be used; please dress in protective clothing. Registration costs and program locations vary, please see http://tinyurl.com/hv7voav for more details. No refunds.
	April 29	9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.		\$5.00		
Gardening Tips & Tricks	February 23	2:30- 3:30 p.m.	Master Gardener	No cost	Register through Eventbrite (no cost) at http://tinyurl.com/h6pl2hf	This class focuses on making gardening easier for your abilities. It will describe and demonstrate tools, methods, and tips that can help reduce aches and pains while enjoying the outdoors. This class will be held at the Senior Recreation Center, 5701 NW 34 Blvd., Gainesville, 32653.
FFL Series: Recycle Yard Waste & Compost	February 23	6:30- 7:30 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/z66yd83	Learn how to recycle your yard waste & compost your food scraps to decrease your amount of garbage and replenish your soil. Compost bins and food scrap containers will be available. No refunds.
Growing Peaches, Plums & Apples	February 28	6:00- 8:00 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/haub694	Learn how to grow apple, plum, nectarine, and peach trees in Alachua County. Planting, pruning, fertilization, watering, and pest control will be covered. Participants will develop a management plan for growing the fruit. No refunds.
Alachua County Youth Fair & Livestock Show	March 3 - March 7		Cindy Sanders	No cost		Come out and support our 4-H & FFA youth! This event will be held at the Alachua County Fairgrounds.
Managing Pests on Your Favorite Plants	March 4 & 5	TBA	Denise DeBusk	No cost	No registration required.	Some of your favorite plants, such as podocarpus, gardenia, camellia, and pyracantha, have a variety of insects and diseases that can affect them. Learn about these pests & how to manage them without using harsh pesticides. The class will be held at the Gainesville Home & Garden Show, Stephen O'Connell Center, 250 Gale Lemerand Dr., Gainesville, 32611.
Vegetable Gardening 101	March 11	9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$35.00 pp \$50.00 per couple	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/hxqc8k4	This workshop is for the beginner gardener that wants to create a productive vegetable garden. Topics include setting up your garden space, fertilization, microirrigation, and pest and disease control. Lunch & snacks will be provided. No refunds.
Home Buyer's Education Program	March 13 March 20 March 27	6:00- 8:00 p.m.	Brenda Williams	\$10.00	Pre-register by March 7th. Subject to cancellation if less than 8 people registered.	This 3-part series offers resources that can help with buying, maintaining and keeping a home. Upon completion of this program, participants will receive a certificate of attendance. No refunds.
Irrigating Your Edible Garden	March 14	5:30- 7:30 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/hutgo4v	Increase your vegetables chance of success by applying the appropriate amount of water on them. This workshop will teach you about the different water needs of vegetables & fruit. Water Regional Specialized Agent, Dr. Charles Barrett, will lead the class. No refunds.
4-H Day at the Capital	March 23		Amanda Morgan	\$30.00	Register before March 1st	Open to all active 4-H members. Registration fee includes lunch & polo shirt. For more information go to http://florida4h.org/programsandevents/capitoday/ .
Self-Watering Container Gardening	March 23	6:00- 7:30 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$20.00 (container & class) \$5.00 (class only)	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/hs7ds8z	This workshop teaches you how to build self-watering tomato containers with supplies that can easily be found locally. A self-watering container is provided as well as a tomato transplant with everything you need to grow healthy, tasty tomatoes. No refunds.
Growing for Profit - Spring Series	March 25 April 1	8:50 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Tatiana Sanchez	\$15.00 per class	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/h4jgegy	Thinking about starting a new farm? Attend the Growing For Profit Spring Series and get the basics about business development, agricultural financing and more. No refunds.
Dallas Osborne Benefit Trail Ride	March 25	10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Amanda Morgan	\$25.00 (early) \$30.00 (day of event) \$15 (youth)	For more information call 352-955-2402.	Enjoy a ride & lunch (potluck) with Alachua County 4-H. Proceeds will go towards scholarships. Must bring your own horse with current coggins. Event will be held at San Felasco Preserve Park, 12720 NW 109 Lane, Alachua, 32615-6741.

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FFL Series: Water Efficiently	March 30	4:00-7:00 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$15.00 pp \$20.00 per couple	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/z66yd83	This workshop will provide information on how to water your yard efficiently and use your irrigation system properly. No refunds.
FFL Series: Fertilize Appropriately	April 4	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/z66yd83	This class provides information on how to fertilize your turf and plants appropriately. There will be hands-on demonstrations and activities. No refunds.
FFL Series: Management Stormwater Runoff & Build Rain Barrels	April 6	2:30-4:30 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00 (class)	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/z66yd83	Learn about the effects of stormwater runoff on the environment and how to reduce the amount of runoff from the landscape. Will have opportunity to make & purchase a rain barrel. - cost is \$60.00 to purchase rain barrels. No refunds.
Growing Grapes	April 11	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/h5plxjw	Learn how to grow grapes in Alachua County. Planting, pruning, fertilization, watering, and pest control will be covered. No refunds.
You Can Can	April 13	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Brenda Williams	No cost	Pre-register at least 3 days prior to class by calling 352-955-2402.	Pressure & water-bath canning - process high & low acid foods. Directions will also be given on preparing pickles, jams & jellies. This class will be held at the Millhopper Branch Library, 3145 NW 43 St., Gainesville, 32606.
FFL Series: Right Plant, Right Place	April 15	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$15.00 pp \$20.00 per couple	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/z66yd83	This workshop will provide information on choosing the right plants, planting them, and maintaining them. No refunds.
FFL Series: Attract Wildlife	April 25	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/z66yd83	Learn what can be added to the landscape to attract birds, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other wildlife and some of the plants you can plant. No refunds.
Maintaining Your Citrus	April 27	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Denise DeBusk	\$5.00	Register through Eventbrite with additional fee at http://tinyurl.com/hwpnmp7	Learn to maintain delicious oranges, tangerines, lemons and grapefruit trees in your backyard. Also covers variety selection, fertilization, freeze protection, and pest control. No refunds.