

HARVEST TIMES - A NEWSLETTER FOR PERENNIAL PEANUT PRODUCERS

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5TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY SUCCESSFUL DISPISTE WEATHER

The 5th annual Perennial Peanut Field Day was held in Moultrie Georgia, Saturday June 11, the day tropical storm Arlene made land fall in the Florida panhandle. Despite the weather there were over 100 in attendance.

Proceedings of the field day will be published and set to members later on this summer.

Topics presented at the field day included “**Relative Forage Quality**” by Dr. John Andre, Agronomy Department, University of Georgia, “**Establishment Considerations for the Planter**” by Mr. Richard Cone, of Cone Farms in Greenville FL “**Sprayer Calibration**” by Mr. Clyde Smith, Jackson County Extension, “**Herbicide Trials for Perennial Peanut**” Mr. Clyde Smith Jackson County Extension, and “**Perennial Peanut Fertilization- Putting the Puzzle Together**” by Dr. Cheryl Mackowiak, University of Florida, Soil Science Department

Thomas County 4H prepared

a delicious smoked pork chop lunch provided for by field day vendors.

Evaluation of the event showed it was very well received by attendees and that a paper proceedings would be appreciated.



Additionally attendees ranked future field day topics in order of importance as 1st weed identification and control, 2nd information on haying techniques, and 3rd was a tie for establishment information and fertility management. This evaluation will be used to set up next years program speakers. When the date is set, we'll let you know.

IN THE NEWS

The perennial Peanut Producers Association is active in promoting and participating in perennial peanut research. Early this winter and spring, members collaborated to donate enough sprigs to plant ten acres at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Marianna Florida They coordinated the digging, hauling and planting with research faculty as well as county extension faculty involved in the project

Dr Ann Blount and Dr Cheryl Mackowiak are coordinating research across the panhandle of Florida at Marianna, Quincy and Live Oak looking at various issues involved in crop establishment ,management and production.

Additionally, Dr. Curt Lacy, University of Georgia is completing a detailed budget for establishment and production of perennial peanut to be available on the website

(<http://taylor.ifas.ufl.edu>) soon.

PERENNIAL PEANUT EDUCATIONAL WEBSITE RENOVATION

Taylor County Extension is in the process of making as much perennial peanut information as possible available on the web for your access and convenience This will take some time, but currently there are several publications available in pdf format for you

to download in adobe (free software available on this site.)

The plan is to have as many topics covered as possible - hay, balage, ornamental uses etc as well as documented livestock performance. data.

Currently on the site (<http://taylor.ifas.ufl.edu>) are the establishment guide, marketing opportunities, and a couple others with much more planned—So keep checking and if you come across something that needs to be posted to the web let me know-

MARKETING YOUR HAY— DISCOVERING NEW MARKETS

What many of our producers do to market their hay is called “trolling” They simply put ten or fifteen bales of “clean and green” perennial peanut in the back of the pick up truck on a weekend and

then head out to the nearest horse show or competitive horse event. Then they park in a relatively conspicuous location where there is good pedestrian/horse traffic and the hay typically attracts attention.

commerce can usually help locate one, or a local horse-man's association. www.thefloridahorse.com or www.horsedigest.com both list competitive and non competitive events around the state all year long. You can search for polo events or breed registry shows that are going on all the time were the public is invited. Many of your large cities have equestrian centers or parks that attract large numbers of horse owners paying top dollar for legume hay and they would much rather have a local supplier. So throw you the bait and start trolling.



It's usually helpful to take along the horse feeding trial study done by Dr. Sandi Lieb and Dr. Titio French, in case they want to talk science. The trial data shows that horse prefer perennial peanut even over alfalfa. If you don't know where a horse event is taking place, your local chamber of

The price for an 80lb square bale of alfalfa in Ocala this spring,2005 varied from \$14 -\$26

PERENNIAL PEANUT FIELD DAY IN MARIANNA—FALL 2005

The field day planned for this fall is in the beginning stages of preparation and planning. Once plans are finalized the PPPA will send out notices. Much new research is being conducted at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Marianna by Dr. Ann Blount, Dr Cheryl Mackowiak, Mr. Doug Mayo, Mr. Clyde

Smith and others. So it should be a great time to get the latest information on what's happening with perennial peanut Work is going on with herbicide selection and application timing, fertility trials , establishment methods, new variety development, hay harvesting methodology and other

things that will be of interest to the wide audience of producers in Florida and the Southeast. Please provide input in these field days to researchers and county extension faculty so that your interests can be addressed—it's a great time to network with other producers and find out what's working.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY DISASTER

Disaster payments for hay losses are made through the local Farm Service Agency Eligibility to participate in the program is determined locally as well. You need to have a record of management for the crop, like receipts for crop inputs (fertilizer, lime, equipment cost etc) Yield data is also necessary, like receipts for hay sold that shows tonnage or bales sold and for what price. Until recently dis-

aster payments were not available for perennial peanut production, but due the increased acreage going into production, particularly in North Florida counties. USDA, is taking notice. With proper produc-



tion records a farmer could receive in excess of 200 dollars per ton for disaster payments. Each county in the state of Florida has county offices a appointed boards that determine the level of support for perennial; peanut

RHIZOME QUALITY IMPORTANT FOR STAND ESTABLISHMENT AND PRODUCTION

Rhizome quality is typically identified as thickness or diameter of the rhizome (root). As nutrients are stored in the rhizome through the photosynthetic processes the root diameter increases. The management and understanding of these photosynthetic process by farmers is crucial to the success of the crop. Photosynthesis is the process by which the plant uses sunlight along with soil nutrients, soil moisture and carbon from the air, to grow (make leaves and roots). The longer we leave the leaves on the plant the more

food it can store in the rhizome (root) and the more vigorous it will be when planted. So to maintain maximum vigor many producers will not cut the area for hay that is going to be utilized for planting material so that large roots will be utilized to establish new fields. One other important consideration in selecting rhizomes for propagation is that they be free of perennial grasses such as common Bermuda. Why plant weeds that compete when weed control is so critical



ALFALFA QUALITY DETERMINES PRICE IN FLORIDA

Alfalfa hay prices (retail) this spring in the Ocala ranged from \$14–\$26 dollars for an 80 lb bale, according to some members in the area. Prices will continue to rise as fuel prices increase. Several years ago the Department of Agriculture estimated that the alfalfa coming into the state for the horse hay

market alone, had a value of 200 million dollars. So the market for legume hay in the state is only met by imports, and according to many users, rather inconsistently (see Marketing Opportunities for Perennial Peanut Hay 2003) Many members use the 1992 feeding trial done by Dr. Sandi Lieb UF Animal Science De-

partment to show the acceptance by horses and nutritional value of perennial peanut hay compared to other forages utilized in the state including alfalfa. If you would like a copy of the publication let me know and I can mail you one. 850-838-3508

Florida imports 200 million dollars of alfalfa annually just for the horse industry

BAGGED ALFALFA HAYLAGE PRODUCT

This story reported in the e-mail newsletter from the **Hay and Forage Growers** news Steve Rader is spreading the word about his fermented bagged forage he call Chaff-haye. The product consists of premium dairy quality alfalfa chopped and lightly misted with molasses. The high moisture hay is the compressed into a 50 lb bale, bagged in an air tight bag and fermented for 21 days, This gen-

erally produces 18–20% crude protein, with a50-55% moisture. He currently markets the product to feed stores and livestock owners for \$8-\$13.50 per bag..



The product was originally developed in Europe in the 1970's for the British Royal family when they were sending horses all around the world for various competitive events. Contact Rader at 505-523-1992 or visit

www.chaffaye.com

**U of F Taylor County
Extension Forage News**

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The Perennial Peanut Producers Association, formed June 9, 1987 was developed by IFAS extension, research faculty, and producers to facilitate the development and dissemination of perennial peanut production education.

The Association members work closely with IFAS county and state land-grant institution faculty at the University of Florida as well as those around the southeastern United States developing production strategies to benefit environmental friendly farming of perennial peanut, promoting agromonic sustainability and at the same time maintaining profitability for the family farms of our state and region.

PPPA meetings are held four times per year for the Board of Directors and twice a year for the general membership, dues are \$35 for new members and \$24 annually for renewing members.

HAY COMPETITION IN MOULTRIE GA OCTOBER 2005

Tri State Hay Contest is held in Moultrie annually during the **Sunbelt Ag Exposition, October 18-20, 2005.**

The purpose of the contest is to promote quality and provide education or various quality parameters looked for in top quality hay.

Entry rules and forms for submitting samples are now posted for the 2005 contest at

www.georgiaforages.com

Like last year, entries will be displayed at the Sunbelt Expo in Moultrie.

To sample hay properly, cores must be taken from bale with something like a Penn State forage sampling tool—you can contact your County Extension agent in your county and he



they will be returned to the producer. There is a ten dollar fee to have the forages analyzed at the UGA Forage Testing Lab in Athens. Forage Quality reports will be returned to County Agents immediately after analysis is complete.

This contest is a great opportunity for perennial peanut producers to market their product to the entire southeast production region. The association will have our

exhibit in place during the expo in the livestock area where the contest results are being displayed. We will be distributing educational information on crop production and management. If you would like to assist in helping the association manage the display please contact me and we will set up a schedule.—

will either have one or know where to get one –or you can borrow mine.

When submitting samples, two samples of the same forage are needed— one for analysis and one for display. Display samples will be maintained at the county level until exhibited at the Expo then