

New UF publication helps farmers comply with egg sales regulations

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GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- Florida farmers looking to earn a little extra scratch by selling fresh eggs might feel shell-shocked by the regulations involved – but a new University of Florida publication can help.

Titled, “Complying With Regulations to Sell Farm Fresh Eggs,” it’s available online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FE828>.

The publication is aimed at individuals with flocks of less than 3,000 birds who sell eggs in retail settings, including farmers’ markets. These sellers must have access to processing facilities that meet standards outlined in Florida Statutes Chapter 500, and then obtain a food permit from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The publication outlines basic steps needed to obtain the permit and includes links to helpful information sources. It was a collaborative effort between UF’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, FDACS and the Florida Farm Bureau.

To learn about direct sales, marketing, Florida rules and regulations and more, visit the Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Web site, <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/>. For information on small-scale pastured poultry production, visit http://vfd.ifas.ufl.edu/pastured_poultry.

On July 31-Aug. 1, 2010, the second Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference will be held at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee. It will feature exhibitors, educational sessions and more. All Florida farmers are invited to attend. For information on conference sponsorship or being an exhibitor, contact Bob Hochmuth, 386-362-1725 or bobhoch@ufl.edu.