



## The Baker Bulletin

A  
Baker County  
Extension  
Service Monthly  
Newsletter

### Baker County Extension Service

1025 W. Macclenny Ave.  
Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

Hours: M—F 8:30am to 5:00pm  
(Closed Noon to 1:00pm for Lunch)

#### County Agents

**Alicia Lamborn**  
Horticulture Agent

**Shaina Spann**  
4-H Youth Development Agent

**Alicia Halbritter**  
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Dear Extension Friends,

This month's newsletter is full of news and updates which may be of interest to you. From farmer assistance programs to new policies for in-person Extension activities, and even what to do if you receive those mystery seeds or other unsolicited items from China. Also new this month, is our updated phone system which now has a greeting menu. We hope this menu will help streamline calls and allow us to provide more prompt service.

Sincerely,

*Alicia*

Alicia Lamborn, County Director  
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

<http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco>

[Baker County Garden Spot](#)  
[Baker County 4-H](#)

Search "Baker County 4-H" in your app store

## UF/IFAS Extension Offices will now serve as collection sites for unsolicited seed packages sent from China



The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is now collaborating with UF/IFAS on the reporting of suspicious seed packets from China.

As part of this collaboration, the Baker County Extension Office (and other Extension Offices) will serve as collection sites for these seed packages provided that certain criteria are met.

See page 2 for more details...

Photo courtesy of FDACS

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# Highlights in Horticulture

By:  
*Alicia Lamborn,*  
*Horticulture Agent*



## August Gardening Tips

### Flowers

- Fertilize annuals and perennials that are heavy bloomers to encourage more flowers.
- Prune roses, hydrangeas, salvias and other perennials to remove spent flowers, encourage more blooms, shape the plant and/or reduce plant size, and reduce diseases problems.

### Trees & Shrubs

- Minimize pruning on spring flowering shrubs and trees by removing only broken, damaged, or rubbing branches. Heavy pruning or shearing this late in the year will reduce the number of blooms next spring.
- Don't overprune palm trees – remove dead leaves and flower/fruit stalks only. A properly pruned palm should have a round canopy, not a feather-duster crown.
- Scout ornamental plants for pests like scale, grasshoppers, caterpillars, and whiteflies. If treatment is needed, treat only the affected area and use a product that targets the pests and not your beneficial insects (like insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, neem and Bt). If large grasshoppers are a nuisance, the only control is to stomp them or drop them into a jar of rubbing alcohol.

### Lawns

- Now that regular summer rains have set in, take advantage of mother nature and turn sprinkler systems off. Excess irrigation during rainy weather will cause disease problems and weaken turf.
- If lawns need greening up, apply iron (Fe) instead of nitrogen (N). This will green up the lawn without causing excessive growth. If applied as a foliar spray at 1–5 pounds of Fe per acre (2 oz of Fe per 3-5 gallons of water over 1,000 sq. ft. area), Fe sulfate generally improves turfgrass color for up to 4 weeks.
- Watch your mowing height! Lawn grasses are growing quickly, and it may be tempting to mow low so that you don't have to mow as often. But scalping the grass can be detrimental to your lawn. Use a sharp mower blade and only remove one third of the grass blade to reduce stress on the lawn.



What's my recommended mowing height?

Bahia 3-4"  
Centipede 1.5-2.5"  
St Augustine standard 3.5-4"  
St. Augustine dwarf 2-2.5"  
Zoysia 1.5-2.5"

## Seed packages sent from China, continued

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) have alerted Floridians about unsolicited packages of seeds received through the mail. The USDA has also made FDACS aware that items (such as spoons, forks, spinners etc.) other than seeds have been reported in some unsolicited packages. The USDA believes this to be a type of "brushing" scam where unsolicited items are sent to allow the vendor to post false customer reviews and boost online sales.

There continues to be several reports from Florida residents that have received unsolicited packages, some of which have contained seeds. The types of the seed in the packages remains unknown at this time. The introduction of plant seeds into the United States is tightly regulated by the USDA. Seeds of unknown origin may constitute agricultural smuggling, may be invasive, may introduce pathogens, toxins, or plant and animal diseases, may pose a risk of foodborne illness, and may pose a threat to plant and animal health.

### Criteria for dropping off seeds at Extension Offices:

- Extension offices are to accept ONLY opened packages known to contain seed material.
- Bring seed/plant material packets and their original packaging materials to the Extension office, all sealed in a plastic zip bag.
- Upon arrival, complete a form/questionnaire which will be attached to your specimen for further investigation.
- Although not mandatory for drop offs, it is also recommended to file a report with FDACS at [FDACS.gov/seedbyemail](https://www.fda.gov/seedbyemail)

**Unopened packages and packages containing other non-agricultural items** should be maintained by the homeowner and they should contact USDA APHIS Anti-Smuggling hotline at 1-800-877-3835 or [SITC.mail@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:SITC.mail@aphis.usda.gov)

# Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:  
*Shaina Spann,  
4-H Agent*



## NEW UF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVENTS

As we move into August, we are able to conduct 4-H events again. However, there are some policies for our new normal. They are:

- Pre-registration is required for everyone attending an event. Indoor events are limited up to 50\* individuals (4-H members, parents, and volunteers). Due to capacity limits, non-member attendance may be restricted, based on the event. We want each member to have the chance to attend their meeting.
  - In accordance with UF policy, facial coverings must be worn indoors and outdoors for all (4-H members, parents, and volunteers) at all times. No exceptions. Individuals with special needs must contact the 4-H office 10 days prior to request alternative means of participation (e.g., virtual). Facial covering waivers will not be granted.
  - Social distancing of six feet must be maintained between participants of different households.
  - Avoid the use of communal supplies, participants should bring their own.
  - Non-essential foods and beverages should be avoided during programs and activities.
- \*Indoors up to 50 people (or less based on the room's fire code) outdoors up to 250 people (social distancing still applies).



### WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR THE FAIR?

- If an entity (fair board) invites a 4-Her to participate in a fair event, they are welcome to participate as a 4-H member.
- Do not attend the fair if you, anyone in your family, or your animal is sick.
- Do not wipe or sanitize your animal with any products not approved for animal use.
- People can spread SARS-COV-2 to animals in close contact. Only have contact with your animal at the fair.
- Currently there are no known cases in horses, cows, pigs, chickens or ducks.
- Small mammals, such as rabbits, have shown to be susceptible to the virus.

For more information, please visit the CDC's site here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/events-animal-activities.html>

### Points Updates

In an effort to relieve additional stress with everything that has been going on, the Livestock Leadership Team met and decided that all meeting points for the 2019-2020 4-H year will be forgiven. In addition, new families only need 2 points. Return families need 4 points (2 of which can come from the previous fair).

**Remember to turn in the final project report and Clover Points due on September 1st.**

### NEW LIVESTOCK WEBPAGE

Since we have not been able to have in-person meetings. We have been diligently working on a webpage with information and resources. Our Agriculture Agent, Alicia Halbritter, and myself have been putting together ALL kinds of educational materials for livestock animal participants all in one place!

Some sections are already live, we will be adding new materials every couple weeks. So be sure to check back! The page has content for rabbits, poultry, goats, cattle, pigs, horses, curricula, how-to's, and forms that you would need. Each animal specie will have pages with information and activities on breeds, nutrition, health, exhibiting, and more. To check it out here's the link: <https://sites.google.com/ufl.edu/baker-county-4h-livestock-club/home>.



# Barnyard Bulletin

By:  
*Alicia Halbritter,*  
*Agriculture Agent*



## Ranching: It's More than Beef

Cattle ranching has been a pillar in the American community since its founding, but ranching isn't just about the beef.

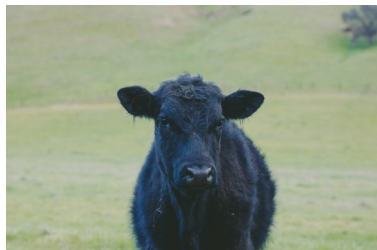
### Nearly 620,000 ranching operations occupy 337 million acres in the US

Cattle pastures account for every 1 in 5 acres of non-urban land in the United States and is home to over 20.4 million beef cattle. Ranches generated \$33.9 billion in gross revenue, owned an estimated \$523.4 billion worth of land, buildings, machinery, and equipment, and employed over 1.9 million workers according to the 2012 USDA Agricultural Census. But money isn't all that ranches have to offer....



### Rural Communities

Beef cattle operations make up a large part of the culture and community in rural areas of the United States. Ranching has been part of the American community since its foundation and the cowboy has always been an American icon. It provides a unique outlet to express the rich history of America. Cattle operations also serve as a vital income source for some rural communities, without it many families would have to move closer to urban areas which would only increase population densities in cities. Livestock operations allow for better utilization of land across the entire United States.



### Wide Open Spaces

Pastures for livestock create beautiful, wide open spaces across the US where nature thrives. Natural vegetation and improved pasture grow simultaneously while wildlife and livestock commingle. Open land allows for natural environmental cycles to occur, allows ground water and aquifer recharge locations, and can help filter pollutants before reaching critical areas. Shear land volume is one of many ecosystem services that ranching provides.

### Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are grouped into four categories: 1) Provisioning, such as production of food and water; 2) Regulation, such as control of climate and disease; 3) Supporting, such as nutrient cycles and crop pollination; and 4) Cultural, such as spiritual and recreational benefits.

Some ecosystem services are easy to measure economic value, we can directly relate pounds of beef developed to the money generated from their sales. Other services are hard to place a dollar amount on, such as providing open land for nutrient cycles, habitat for wildlife, hiking, hunting, and fishing opportunities, and more. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, attempted to take readily-available data and calculate the economic value of the ecosystem services ranching provides to America. [Find The Fact Sheet Here](#)

Ecosystem services provided by cattle ranching in the U.S. has an estimated economic value of \$14,813,875,051. That's \$14 billion dollars that American ranches will never see. For every pound of beef that ranches craft for consumers approximately \$0.86 worth of ecosystem services is generated.

Do you like hunting? American ranches provide almost \$28 billion worth of hunting economic value and opportunity.

Do you like fishing? American ranches provide over \$23 billion worth of fishing economic value across the States.

Appreciate wildlife? American ranches provide for 335,625,000 wildlife watching opportunities equating to \$13 billion in economic value.

# Barnyard Bulletin

By:  
*Alicia Halbritter,*  
*Agriculture Agent*



## Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides (CFAP) provides direct relief to agricultural producers who faced price declines or additional marketing costs due to COVID-19.

### Eligible commodities include:

- Non-Specialty Crops
  - Wool
  - Livestock
  - Dairy
- Specialty Crops

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a 5% or greater price decline or who had at least 5% income loss due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19. Losses must be demonstrated during particular time frames for certain agricultural goods (mid-January to mid-April for most crops).

**Applications are due by August 28th, 2020.**

**Find more information and apply for direct funding relief here:**

<https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>

The graphic features the USDA logo (United States Department of Agriculture) in the top left. The main title 'CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM' is in large, bold, green letters. Below it, a green horizontal line is followed by the text: 'Producers with an eAuthentication account can now apply for CFAP via the CFAP Application Portal.' At the bottom left, there is a green rounded rectangle containing the text 'farmers.gov/CFAP'. On the right side, there is a green line-art illustration of a computer monitor, keyboard, and mouse.



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

# DID COVID-19 IMPACT YOUR FARM?

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USDA's Farm Service Agency may be able to help.

Through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (or CFAP), the Farm Service Agency is providing payments to eligible livestock, dairy, specialty crop, and non-specialty crop operations.

To **learn more**, see if you're eligible, and apply online, visit [farmers.gov/CFAP](https://farmers.gov/CFAP), call our CFAP Call Center at **877-508-8364**, or contact your local FSA office.



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