



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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The UF/IFAS Extension Office is available to help you with your farming, gardening, landscaping, and 4-H youth development needs by providing educational programming, free consultations and information. Contact us at:

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

1025 W. Macclenny Ave. Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

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

County Agents

Alicia Lamborn Horticulture Agent

Shaina Spann 4-H Youth Development Agent

Alicia Halbritter Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

[http://
baker.ifas.ufl.edu](http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu)

[Blog http://
blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco](http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco)

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

[Check out our Livestock
Google Site!](#)

Programs & Events

- Feb 10 **Small-Scale Mushroom Production**, February 10, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Hands-on workshop on shiitake and oyster mushroom production. \$135. [Register here.](#)
- Feb 17 **Tomato Gardening Class**, February 17, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. Learn tips for successful tomato growing and take home 10 varieties of tomato seed to start your spring crop. \$10. [Register online](#) or at the Baker Co. Extension Office.
- Feb 24 **Microgreens 101**, February 24, 9:00 am—3:00 pm. \$125 (includes class materials + meals). [Register here.](#)
- Mar 11 **North Florida Outdoor Expo**, March 11, 9:00 am—3:00 pm, Austin Cary Forest, Gainesville. Family fun event for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds. \$5 [Register here.](#)
- Mar 25 **Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale**, March 25, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon, Baker County Extension Office Arboretum. Mega plant sale featuring trees, shrubs, fruits, veggies, herbs, flowers, houseplants, and more!
- April 4 **Landowner Financial Assistance Expo**, April 4, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Farm & forestry financial assistance programs. Meet with agencies offering cost-share & other assistance. \$10. [Register here.](#)
- Online **Growing Strawberries** (Self-Paced Course — Free!) [Register here.](#)
- Online **Growing Blueberries & Blackberries** (Self-Paced Course — Free!) [Register here.](#)
- Online **Selling Backyard Poultry Products** (Self-Paced, Online Course) [Register here.](#)
- Online **Backyard Chicken Class** (Self-Paced, Online Course) [Register here.](#)

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Highlights in Horticulture

By: *Alicia Lamborn,*
Horticulture Agent



EDIBLES TO PLANT IN February

	North	Central	South
 Easily Survives Transplanting	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Beets, Boniato, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Gingers, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Pepper, Swiss Chard, Sugarcane, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Chinese Cabbage, Eggplant, Endive, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Pepper, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes
 Transplant Carefully	Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach	Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes
 Use Seeds	Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Squash, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onion (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squash, Turnip, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Chayote, Cucumbers, Okra, Onion (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squash, Watermelon




For more information, please visit GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

COLOR YOUR LANDSCAPE: FEBRUARY

WHAT TO PLANT:

- ALYSSUM - BABY'S BREATH
- CALENDULA - CALIBRACHOA
- DELPHINIUM - DAHLBERG DAISY
- DIANTHUS - DUSTY MILLER
- FOXGLOVE - HOLLYHOCK
- ORNAMENTAL CABBAGE/KALE
- PANSY - PETUNIA
- SNAPDRAGON - VIOLA

Dahlberg Daisy *Annuals to plant in North Florida



Caring for Cut Flowers

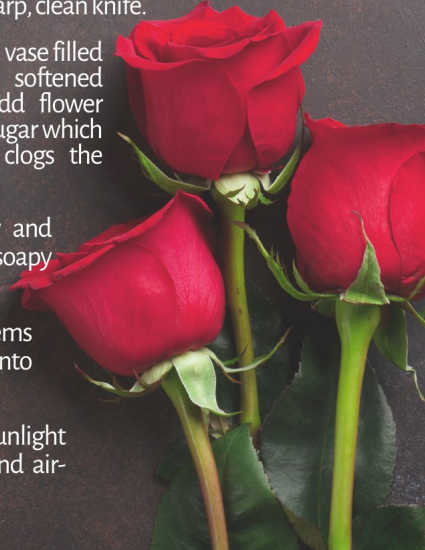
Remove leaves that will end up underwater, and cut one-half to one inch off the stems with a sharp, clean knife.

Place your flowers in a clean vase filled with fresh water (avoid softened water). If you have it, add flower preservatives. Do not add sugar which encourages bacteria and clogs the stems.

If the water turns yellow and cloudy, wash the vase with soapy water and add fresh water.

Re-cut and rinse the stems before placing them back into the vase.

Keep flowers out of direct sunlight and away from heating and air-conditioning vents.





Raising Pigs for Meat

Considering raising your own pigs for meat? Pigs require less space than other livestock species and can be harvested in 5-6 months, making this a more short term project than say raising cows. One hog will yield something around 140 lbs of meat in the freezer, so you may be able to raise multiple hogs at once and feed your entire family for the year!

Selecting Pigs & Housing

First you'll need to determine how you'll acquire the pigs. Will you breed your own sows and harvest some of the litter for yourself while selling others to generate a profit? Will you purchase 50 lb. feeder pigs to simply feed up and harvest? Or potentially some other method. This will be the determining factor of where you may get pigs and what breeds may be available to you.



You will need about 8 sq. ft. of space per hog for growing pigs. Pigs housed completely outdoors will need more space to spread manure and rooting behaviors around. Some form of shelter will be required, and supplemental cooling or heating may be required depending on the time of year you are raising the animal.

Feeding Pigs

To grow pigs efficiently, they must have access to feed and water 24 hours a day. A self-feeder can be purchased and continually topped off so they animals will eat as much as they desire in a day. Many diets are formulated to maximize growth and minimize feed intake. For beginners, it is best to buy a commercial hog feed rather than trying to craft your own. Feed should be high in protein, lysine, and energy (fat). Automatic waterers should be available to provide fresh, cool water. These waterers are available in a variety of types, buckets and troughs are typically not suitable for pigs as they have a tendency to push them over.

Harvesting

A pig can reach market weights at 5-6 months old depending on the environment and growing conditions. Temperature will play a big role in how much a hog eats and therefore how quickly they reach the desired weight. Never take a sick pig to the butcher. Try and reduce any incidence of stress on the pig, especially during transport to the butcher as this can severely impact meat. You must choose a butcher that is able to harvest your hog humanely and provide a clean, safe environment when processing the meat to ensure animal welfare and food safety. If you intend on selling the meat to others your animals must be harvested at a USDA inspected facility, however if the meat is just for your family there are many small non-USDA butchers available.

You can get more information on raising small groups of pigs here: <https://extension.psu.edu/raising-small-groups-of-pigs>



New 4-H Project Record

What is the new record? In previous years, participants had to complete both a project report and a points form. With this record, participants will input their activities along with the life skills they learned throughout their project year. For the 2022-2023 4-H Year, points will correlate to the activities and life skills. For the 2023-2024 4-H Year, members will only put their activities meeting 4 of the 5 Project Goal Areas.

Those areas are:

- Education– this is where 75% of club meetings fit in.
- Presentation– For every project, there should be some type of presentation, speech, demonstration, or illustrated talk. These can occur at club meetings, County Events, or even a local group (classrooms too!).
- Service– Every member should participate in some way to help the community. This can be independent, with your club, or a county-wide project.
- Exhibit– This includes animals, plants, crafts, photography, or graphic design. These can be entered in the county fair, other fairs, participating in a contest, etc.
- Leadership– This will be difficult for younger and 1st year members, and that’s okay! This can come in many forms. Mentoring new members, being a club officer, teaching a lesson at a club meeting, being a camp counselor, as well as serving on County, District, and State Councils.

Accomplishing the Project Goals is how members can be successful in their 4-H experience. This will be what qualified members as members in good standing to exhibit animals at the current year’s fair.

Project Goal Areas

Choose 4 out of 5 to achieve for the 4-H year.

Education	Presentation	Service	Exhibit	Leadership
Club Speakers Practice working with project UF/Local Organization Workshops Curriculum Books	County Events Demonstration/Speech/ Illustrated Talk Demonstration at club level Presentation to local group about project	4-H club organized service project Participation in county-wide service Independent service project related to project area	Showing project at the County Fair Show Showing at another local show or contest See 4-H calendar for opportunities	Teaching/mentoring other club members Elected and served in a club officer role *Cloverbuds, Juniors, and first-year members might not have leadership activities.*

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- February 6 – 4pm, Cloverbuddies Club, 4-H Classroom
- February 28 – 6pm, Livestock Club, Ag. Center Auditorium
- Hog and Ham (ages 12+) - Zoom Info Session on February 20, 2023, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. **Register in 4-H Online by February 15th.** Harvest dates: August 8 & 10 in Gainesville.



BAKER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
CITRUS TREE SALE

Sugar Belle[®]

Mandarin Hybrid

(HLB-tolerant, cold tolerant, harvest Nov/Dec)

PRE-ORDER YOUR TREES TODAY

\$35 EACH

**PLACE YOUR ORDER AT THE BAKER COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1025 W. MACCLENNY AVE, MACCLENNY FL 32063**

*IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE PAY IN PERSON - MAILED CHECKS MAY BE RETURNED IF TREES RUN OUT
CALL 904-259-3520 FOR MORE INFORMATION

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

TREES: _____ X \$35 EACH TOTAL: _____

I'M LOCAL - WILL PICKUP WHEN TREES ARRIVE (FEB-MARCH, DATE TBD)

I'M NOT LOCAL - WILL PICKUP AT THE MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE ON MARCH 25



2023
Master Gardener

PLANT SALE



FEATURING

-  Trees & Shrubs
-  Flowering Perennials
-  Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs
-  Houseplants & Foliage
-  Grasses & Groundcovers
-  Vines, Succulents, & More!

A fundraiser for the Baker County Arboretum

- Free entry!
- Shop for a cause!
- Stroll through the gardens!
- Enjoy free activities for the kids!
- Don't forget your wagon!

MARCH 25

8AM - NOON

Agricultural Center
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County
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