



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

I hope that everyone is off to a wonderful start to 2015. The Extension Office is proud to serve the citizens of Baker County. Spring is just around the corner and we have quite a few programs to get your lawn and garden ready for the growing season. Please see the calendar and program list on pages 4 and 5 for additional information. As always, if we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis
County Extension Director / Ag Agent
Baker County Extension Service



Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520, FAX: (904) 259-9034

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu Hours: M—F 8:30am to 5:00pm (Closed Noon to 1:00pm for Lunch)

Michael Davis, Ph.D.
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Agriculture Agent

Alicia Lamborn
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Horticulture Agent

Shaina Bennett
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4-H Agent



Winter Lawn Care

Manage Winter Weeds: Winter weeds should be managed now to prevent re-seeding. Spraying can be effective while plants are young, while mowing is more effective once plants start to flower and produce seed. You may need to employ both strategies for good control. If you need a weed identified or other weed management advice, please contact our office.

Prepare for Summer Weeds: Get ready to apply a pre-emergent weed killer (not a “weed and feed” fertilizer) to prevent warm-season weeds. The general rule of thumb is to apply around March 1st in North Florida, when temperatures rise to 65°F for 4–5 consecutive days. Timing is important for good control and generally coincides with blooming of landscape plants such as azalea and dogwood. If you need assistance selecting a herbicide for your grass type, please contact our office or see: *Weed Management in Home Lawns* <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep141>

Once you have good control over the weeds this spring, you will need to fill bare spots with some type of grass. Otherwise the weeds will just return. A soil test can help you determine which grass type may be a better fit for your soil type. Remember, a dense thriving turf will prevent weeds from moving in.

Soil Test: If you are planning to fertilize this spring, planting a new lawn, or just filling bare spots with plugs, having your soil tested will take the guess work out of lawn care and can save you time and money.

In general, lawns should be fertilized in April. A good rule of thumb is to wait until after you’ve had to mow your grass twice. Growing grass means your lawn has completely come out of dormancy and will be able to take up and use the fertilizer that you put down. For newly planted lawns, fertilizer should be applied after establishment (30-60 days after planting).

Soil test kits are available through the Extension Office and all results come with a free consultation for interpretation. Please call if you have any questions.

Plant of the Month: Taiwan Cherry

While we do not meet the chill hour requirements needed for edible cherry trees to produce fruit in Florida, we do have an ornamental cherry tree that will grow beautifully for us.



The Taiwan cherry (*Prunus campanulata*) produces gorgeous bright pink flowers in late winter that cover its bare branches. The flowers often mature into small red



fruits that attract songbirds. Dark green leaves provide shade all summer, turning a bronze-red in fall. Even after dropping its leaves, Taiwan cherry offers good winter interest, thanks to its reddish-brown bark.

Of the many species of flowering cherry trees, the Taiwan cherry is the most heat tolerant. A hybrid version, ‘Okame’ cherry is commonly available and has lighter pink flowers.

Growing only to 20 feet tall and wide, this tree should fit in even the smallest of landscapes. It does however require well-drained, acidic soil and irrigation during dry spells. Plant it in full sun or light shade, and be prepared to do some minor pruning to shape the tree during early development.

Taiwan cherry has no major pest problems, although one drawback is that it’s relatively short lived. The general life expectancy is just 10 to 15 years, but that’s still plenty of time for you to enjoy its beauty.

Excerpts from *Gardening in a Minute: Taiwan Cherry*, <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>



4-H County Events

Saturday, March 07, 2015

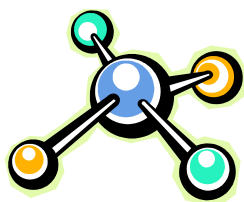
Registration 9:00am

Categories to participate:

- Photography
- Demonstration
- Fashion Revue
- Public Speaking
- Talent (Share-The-Fun)
- Educational Poster

Register on line at florida.4honline.com under your family profile.

Should you need assistance, please contact Shaina Bennett, slbennett@ufl.edu or 904-259-3520
If you would be interested in judging please contact the extension office!



4-H STEM FAIR



The District STEM Fair is
February 27th at 9:00am,
Suwannee Co. Extension Office



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Are you or someone you know 4-H Alumni?

We are having a 4-H Alumni event on Saturday, May 16th at 4:30pm
Please fill out the information below if you would like to be included in the event!

Are you 4-H Alumni?







Name: _____ Years Active: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please remit to: Baker County 4-H, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave. Macclenny, FL. 32063

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11	12 	13	14
15	16	17  	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24 	25	26 	27	28

Upcoming Programs are marked with a Program Area Symbol. Please match these symbols with the list on the following page for more information about the program.



Horticulture



Agriculture

Upcoming Programs & Events

Programs will be held at the Baker County Extension Office (Agricultural Center) unless otherwise noted.

- February 17 **25th Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update**, 5:00pm to 9:00pm, Lake Butler Community Center, 155 NW 3rd St., Lake Butler, FL. This program is designed for Restricted Use Pesticide License holders. Registration is \$10 per person and is due by February 10 to the Union County Extension Office. Late registration is \$15 per person. A total of 4 CEUs have been applied for (2 CORE + 2 Private Applicator/Ag Row). To register or for additional information, contact Union County Extension at 386-496-2321.
- February 20 **Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries**, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Topics include variety selection, preparing to plant, care and maintenance, and pest management. \$2 registration fee due by February 13th.
- March 6 **Florida-Friendly Landscaping: Digging Deeper into Your Lawn**, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. This event includes a class on basic lawn care, a personalized yard visit to discuss lawn problems, a soil test with consultation, and a follow up evaluation. \$10 registration fee due by Tuesday, March 3rd. Call 904-259-3520 for more information.
- March 20 **Spring Has Sprung—Master Gardener Plant Clinic**, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office (Parking Lot), Macclenny, FL. Need a plant identified, a garden problem solved, or just want to learn something new? Stop by the office to celebrate the first day of spring with the Master Gardeners and enjoy garden demonstrations, free information, and a vegetable seed giveaway!
- April 18 **Spring Garden Festival**, 9:00am to 2:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. For vendor information, please contact our office at 904-259-3520.



If you are interested in becoming a Baker County Master Gardener in 2015, we want to hear from you!



Please submit an interest form at:

http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html

and you will be contacted by a program representative.



4-H Club Meetings & Events:

All County 4-H Club — 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month, 6pm in the 4-H classroom

Livestock Club — 4th Tuesday of the month, 6pm in the Auditorium

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Tuesdays at 7pm— Fabulous Footworks.

Important Dates: February 2015

20– 4-H District STEM Fair Reg. **DUE**

27– 4-H District STEM Fair, Live Oak, FL



Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

*Shaina Bennett,
4-H Agent*

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4-H Events

4-H has so much more to offer than just local county clubs. Below are details on common 4-H State Events that happen every year.

4-H Day at the Capitol March 26 Reg. Due: March 13; \$15-25

In total, more than 750 youth and adults have participated in 4-H Day at the Capitol. 4-H Day at the Capitol is an educational event that provides youth an opportunity to tour different parts of Tallahassee and the Capitol. Youth will have an opportunity to visit with their Legislators and watch them in action on the floor of the Senate and House. 4-H youth also have the chance to come together and share the positive impacts of the Florida 4-H Program. Participants meet and hear from their elected officials.

4-H Legislature June 15-20 Reg. Due: May 1st; \$230

Senior 4-H'ers come together to develop their skills debating, analyzing legislation, and speaking publicly all while making new friends and having a whole lot of fun. At this civic education event, youth write bills, then act as lobbyists, Representatives, or Senators to pass the bills through committee and then present, and debate, them on the Capitol House or Senate Floor. They have the opportunity to debate issues and experience the legislative process hands-on while having a great time with their friends! Legislature is traditionally open to Senior 4-H'ers ages 13 to 18 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. This is for one week during the summer, youth will stay for the week at Florida State University Dormitories.

4-H University July 27-31 Reg. Due: May 31st; \$230

"4-H University puts the You in University." By participating in 4-H University, youth will: Discover the University of Florida campus, explore career possibilities, interact with faculty, volunteers, and teens throughout the state, meet new friends, help others and the neighboring communities, have fun, and make a difference when you return home. University is traditionally open to Senior 4-H'ers ages 13 to 18 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. This is for one week during the summer, youth will stay for the week at University of Florida Dormitories.

Ms. Shaina will be offering 2 scholarships to Legislature and University. Youth must provide an essay saying why they would benefit from attending.

Events:

February

- 07- 4-H Day at the State Fair
- 16- Make A Difference Monday (for Volunteers) 7pm go to x.co/mad4h to join in!
- 20- Hog & Ham forms DUE District STEM Fair Reg. **DUE**
- 27- District STEM Fair, Live Oak, FL

March

- 07- 4-H County Events, Registration at 9:00 am
- 13- 4-H Day at the Capitol Reg. CLOSSES
- 26- 4-H Day at the Capitol, Tallahassee, FL

April

- 03- Good Friday Office CLOSED
- 04- State Horse Judging Contest
- 20-May 11- Ms. Shaina will NOT be in the office. Please email or leave messages, but do not expect an answer until May 11th at the earliest.

May

- 09- District Events, Kanapaha Middle School, Gainesville Reg. 8am, **ON YOUR OWN**

Birthdays for February:

Wishing all of you a very **happy birthday** from the Baker County Extension Office!

- 02-Mr. Ed McCreary
- 10-Keelie Turk
- 14-Ms. Shaina
- 19-Matthew Turner



Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h

MAD Mondays

Make a Difference Mondays

An opportunity for volunteers in different counties to engage in a consistent training program. 2 sessions are left for this 4-H year. They happen at 7pm.

February 16th:

Creating Welcoming Environments in 4-H Clubs

March 16:

Languages of Appreciation and Recognition for 4-H Clubs

If you interested let Shaina know and she can assist with getting involved.

Grazing Management



With spring green up just around the corner, cattle managers should be thinking about their grazing plan for the coming year. Grazing management is simply defined as the manipulation of livestock grazing to achieve a desired result. Typical decisions that are involved when deciding on a grazing management plan include the type of forage that is to be grazed, the type of animal(s) that will be placed into the grazing area and their nutritive requirements, any input costs associated with the plan (such as fencing, gates, etc.) and the likely

return on investment. Listed below are some things to think about when deciding on a grazing management system and some useful information for making these choices.

What forages to graze? - What forages you decide to graze should be based on a few things, including the previous establishment of pasture, the soil requirements for the forage and the amount of nutrition that it will provide to the animal(s) that you will be grazing. Make sure to choose what is best for your type of area.

How Close to Graze? - When deciding on how close to graze, managers typically look at one of two things: 1) pasture height or 2) stocking rate. Which one of these factors that you use will most likely depend on your setup. Either of these scenarios can work but you should always remember that during cool or dry weather pastures may be overgrazed and that during warm or wet weather, pastures may be undergrazed. It is also important to remember that the type of forage that you are using may determine your pasture grazing height. Tall grasses that elevate their leaves can be grazed to a taller height than low growing grasses. Stems are less nutritious than leaves so keep this in mind if you are using pasture height to determine when to move your animals to another grazing area.

How Often to Graze? - When considering how often to graze, there are two options that are available: 1) continuous grazing (stocking) or 2) rotational grazing (stocking). Continuous grazing is the unrestricted, continuous access to the pasture area by the livestock. In these cases, the livestock decide how close to graze. Continuous grazing also does not allow for a rest time for the forage area. This can be very detrimental to the pasture if a high stocking rate is used. However, this type of grazing has lower input costs and results in fewer management decisions. Rotational grazing uses two or more areas, or paddocks, that are grazed in sequence. This allows for new growth during the rest period for the area. Using rotational grazing is more management intensive, but can allow for increased longevity of a forage area and potential increased stocking rates. Rotational grazing also has a higher input cost than continuous grazing because of the cost of fencing and gates.

Summary - Grazing management is an important tool to use to get the best efficiencies out of your forage area. It is important to keep both the plant and animal nutritive requirements in mind when deciding on a grazing management system to use. It is also important to keep in mind costs of inputs such as fencing and the time that you will need to set aside for management of the herd. A good grazing management plan is one tool that can help you get the most out of your pasture and your herd. For additional information, please visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> or contact your local County Extension Agent.

Baker County Extension Service

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Extension programs are open to all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap, or national origin. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in any activity, should contact the Baker County Cooperative Extension Service at 1025 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063 or telephone (904) 259-3520 no later than five (5) days prior to the event. Hearing impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

SECOND REQUEST

If you would like to remain on the **Baker Bulletin** mailing list in 2015, please complete the form below and mail it or bring it to our office. *Highlights in Horticulture* and *Feathered Facts* will continue to be produced individually and distributed electronically through email. You may also renew any newsletter subscription by visiting our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE: _____ **RACE** _____ **GENDER** _____

I would like to receive *The Baker Bulletin* by email.

I would like to receive *Highlights in Horticulture* by email.

I would like to receive *Feathered Facts* by email.

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please return this form to our office or mail it to: Baker County Extension Service
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063