



## 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

**(Position Vacant)**  
Agriculture Agent

Dear Extension Friends,

The Extension Office would like to thank Mike Davis for his service to the community and wish him success as he moves on to pursue another career. And while we wait to fill his position, we will continue to do our very best to serve the community with their agricultural related questions.

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn  
Interim Director / Horticulture Agent  
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County



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



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



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



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

### Upcoming Programs & Events

- Feb 5** 4-H Criminal Justice Academy—Ages 12+, Baker County Sheriff's Office. Meets every Monday, 6:30pm-7:30pm. More information [here](#).
- Feb 23** Florida Forest Stewardship Tour, South Prong Plantation, Baker County. Reserve a space at the AM or PM tour including lunch by calling (904) 259-3520; more info on page 4; online registration [here](#).
- Feb 24** Baker County Hazardous Waste Collection Event, Baker County Courthouse, 9am—3pm. Drop off pesticides, paints, chemicals, used oil, fertilizers, electronics, batteries and much more. Info: 904-275-2373
- Mar 10** 4-H County Events. 10am (Location TBD). The time and place for members to showcase what they know!
- Mar 12** Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business. Info & registration [here](#); 386-362-1725.

# Highlights in Horticulture

By:  
Alicia Lamborn,  
Horticulture Agent

## Valentine's Day wouldn't be the same without the Cacao or Chocolate Tree

Valentine's Day may be the one day that you allow yourself to indulge in chocolate treats without any guilt. But have you ever thought about where chocolate comes from?

Cacao, or cocoa, is an ancient crop having been harvested and used by the indigenous people of Central and South America for thousands of years. It was introduced to Europe during the 16th century, but it wasn't until the early 1800s that solid chocolate was manufactured. Then, the invention of milk-chocolate by the Swiss in 1876 led to the world-wide multi-billion-dollar chocolate processing industry. Cocoa is now grown in 58 countries and on more than 17 million acres world-wide and is worth in excess of \$4 billion to the world's economy annually.

Cocoa are small trees (25-30 feet) with few branches. At the tips of the branches are rather large leaves (up to 24 inches long by 4 inches wide) attached by a long petiole or leaf stem that allows the leaf to swivel to catch sunlight. The cocoa tree produces flowers on the older branches and trunk. A special tissue called the cushion produces up to 5 small flowers and the cushion may flower repeatedly.

After pollination the fruit that follows is called a pod. The pod takes 5 to 7 months or more to fully develop. It may be green or red, turning yellow when ripe. It has a thick peel and may be 4 to 13 inches long with a round or cylindrical shape. Pods contain 20 to 60 seeds and seeds are covered with a mucilage that tastes sweet. After seeds are extracted, the sweet mucilage can be consumed and the seeds can be processed to make chocolate.

Want a chocolate tree for Valentine's Day instead of a bouquet of roses? Cocoa plants are best adapted to hot, humid tropical environments with year round temperatures above 68°F, no freezing temperatures, and regular rainfall. So unless you are willing to move to a more tropical location, you can keep dreaming.

Reference: Crane, J. H., Balerdi, C. F., and Joyner, G. (2005). Cocoa (Chocolate Bean) Growing in the Florida Home Landscape. University of Florida. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs307>



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### An Endangered Treat

Our increasing demand for chocolate combined with a decrease in supply due to drought, disease, and changes in farming practices have people calling the world's most delectable treat "endangered".

But before you run out and begin stockpiling candy bars, there are reports that top chocolate companies are helping to train farmers in sustainable production and working with scientists to battle crop disease in order to save the delicious confection.

For now though, I recommend you savor every bite!

# Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Spann,  
4-H Agent

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## County Events—March 10th

County and district level presentations provide a valuable teaching and learning situation. They give members an opportunity to:

- Practice making oral and visual presentations.
- Learn presentation techniques from observing others.
- Receive constructive suggestions for improvement.
- Receive recognition for efforts.

The County 4-H program receives additional recognition and visibility through these activities. All 4-H events should foster a strong educational 4-H program by providing physical, mental, social, and emotional growth experiences for individual 4-H members. Events should give 4-H members positive, meaningful experiences in leadership and citizenship development.

Competitive events are a planned part of the 4-H curriculum, designed to allow youth to:

- Gain experience and develop skills in gathering, preparing, and presenting educational information.
- Enhance decision making capabilities.
- Make public presentations.
- Learn standards by which comparisons are drawn.
- Develop good sportsmanship.

Competitive events are just one of the many teaching methods used by 4-H leaders and Extension Agents.

County Events are a very important part of participation in 4-H beyond the club level. At county events you can compete in the following activities: Demonstrations, Illustrated talks, Fashion Revue (fashion show/sewing), Horse Public Speaking, Photography, Graphic Design, and Share-The-Fun (talent show).



Adapted from:  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/4H/4H24900.pdf>

**ALL 4-H MEMBERS SHOULD PARTICIPATE!** Registration for County Events is done through your family profile in the 4-H Online System. **County Events will be March 10th, 2018 at 10:00am. Location: TBD.**

### 4-H Activities & Club Meetings

Feb 5– Criminal Justice Academy 6:30pm @ BCSO  
Feb 10– Chick Day 10:00am @ Bennett’s Feed  
Feb 12- Criminal Justice Academy 6:30pm @ BCSO  
Cloverleaf Cloggers 7:00pm @ Ag Center Auditorium  
Feb 15– Baker Ropers 6:30pm @ 4-H Classroom  
Feb 19- Criminal Justice Academy 2:00pm @ Courthouse  
Feb 20– 4-H Open House, 6pm Ag Center Auditorium  
Feb 23– District Lock-in \$15, 6:00pm-8:00am, Alachua County  
Extension Office, register [here](#)  
Feb 24– CJA collection drive 2:00pm-5:00pm, Tractor Supply  
Feb 26- Criminal Justice Academy 6:30pm @ BCSO  
**Photo/Graphic Design Entries DUE @ 4-H Office!!!**  
Feb 27– Livestock Club 6:00pm @ Ag Center Auditorium  
Mar 5- Criminal Justice Academy 6:30pm @ BCSO  
Cloverleaf Cloggers 7:00pm @ Ag Center Auditorium  
Mar 10- County Events, 10:00am, Location: TBD  
Mar 12- Criminal Justice Academy 6:30pm @ BCSO  
Cloverleaf Cloggers 7:00pm @ Ag Center Auditorium  
Mar 19- Criminal Justice Academy 6:30pm @ BCSO  
Cloverleaf Cloggers 7:00pm @ Ag Center Auditorium  
Mar 22– District Council 6:00pm, Bee Hotels!  
Mar 26- Criminal Justice Academy 6:30pm @ BCSO  
Cloverleaf Cloggers 7:00pm @ Ag Center Auditorium

### JUST A REMINDER!

Club meetings should begin promptly at the planned time. Arrive just a few minutes early so you can be ready when the meeting begins!  
Remember the saying: “If you’re early, you’re on time, if you’re on time, you’re late, and if you’re late, you’re left!”



The Criminal Justice Academy is holding a collection drive for items that would go to the Sheriff’s Office Victim Advocacy Program.

**We are collecting diapers, wipes, children’s clothing, blankets, stuffed animals, toiletries, and more for the months of February and March! Drop off your items at the Extension Office or visit with us at Tractor Supply on February 24th from 2-5pm!**

### 4-H OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 @ 6pm  
Ag Center Auditorium  
Light refreshments  
Bring a friend!



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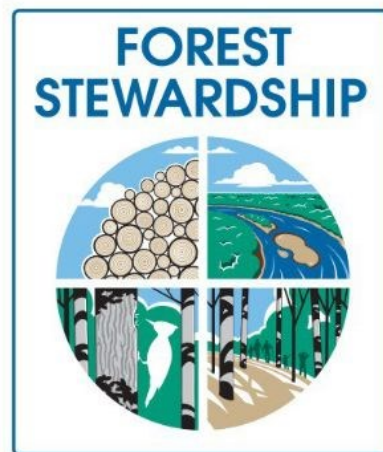
# Florida Forest Stewardship Tour:

## South Prong Plantation

### Property of Doug Moore

### Baker County, FL

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**Date:** Friday, February 23, 2018

**Morning Tour:** meet at the property at 9:00 AM ET, lunch at noon

**Afternoon Tour:** meet at 11:30 am for sign in and lunch, tour at 1:00 pm

**Tour:** South Prong Plantation is located at the headwaters of the South Prong of the St. Mary's River in Baker County. Doug Moore, South Prong owner and manager, purchased this timberland in 2002 because it was close to his farm in Duval County, and most of all, because the property was diverse. South Prong Plantation encompasses over 2,400 acres of pine flatwoods, cypress swamps and hydric hammock that is home to a wide variety of wildlife. While Doug's primary objective is managing for high-quality wildlife habitat, the plantation also produces timber and is a great example of integrating timber and wildlife habitat management, and prescribed fire is an important tool here. We will tour the property on trailers. Wear appropriate clothing for the field.



**Register:** Cost is \$10 per person, lunch and materials included. Register for the morning or afternoon tour online <https://fsp-tour022318.eventbrite.com>. You can also reserve a space at the morning or afternoon tour and lunch by contacting UF/IFAS County Extension Baker County at (904) 259-3520, and pay at the event with cash or check payable to University of Florida. *Space is limited so register soon.* A map and directions to the property are on the back. Please share this announcement with others who may be interested.



Funding for this event is provided by the USDA Forest Service via the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Florida Forest Service and the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee.