



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RAIN GARDENS

GROWING PINEAPPLES

TRAIL RIDING SAFETY

4-H DAY CAMP

**APPLY NOW—MASTER GARDENER
VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

FRESH FROM FLORIDA RECIPE

4-H VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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



Programs & Events

- July 7 **Apply Now—Master Gardener Volunteer Training**, Baker County Extension Office. Applications due July 7. <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/plants-landscapes-edible-gardens/master-gardener-program/>
- July 20 **24th Annual Livestock & Forages Field Day** at Santa Fe River Ranch 29220 NW 122nd St. Alachua, FL 32615 8:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Lunch Included. For questions contact Tyler Pittman (352) 463-3174 or pittmanh1@ufl.edu Register here: <https://livestockandforages23.eventbrite.ca>
- Sept 8 **Horticultural Tree Grafting 101** at UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley Farm 9am-12pm. Register here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/horticultural-tree-grafting-101-tickets-632932918397?aff=erelexpmlt>
- 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.](#)

Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

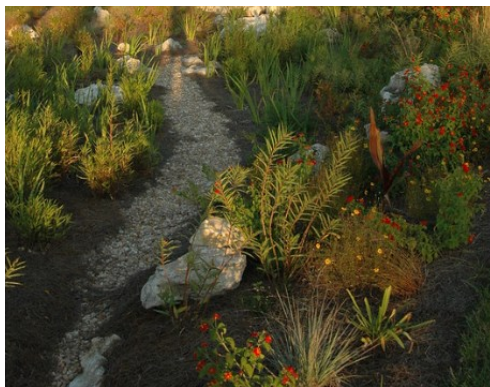


Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are an easy way to return water to our aquifer while reducing erosion and helping prevent pollution, simply by diverting excess water to plants who like to get their "feet" wet.

A rain garden is basically a low section of the landscape with plants that don't mind temporary flooding. The garden collects rainwater, giving the plants a chance to "strain" out impurities such as lawn chemicals and pesticides before draining into the aquifer.

Rain gardens work best when they're placed near downspouts or naturally low spots in the landscape. They are especially useful for collecting run-off from paved surfaces, and berms can be used to direct the water to the garden instead of running into the nearby storm drain or ditch.



Rain garden on the University of Florida campus.
Photo credit: UF/IFAS

Rain gardens can be large or small but should be no deeper than 12 inches, with 6-8 inch depths preferred. A general rule when it comes to size is to create a garden no less than 20-30% of the square footage that collects the water. For example, if you have 200 sq. ft. of roof directing water to your garden, then the garden size should be between 40 and 60 square feet.

When selecting plants, consider how much sun your site gets and how much space is available. Then, select plants that are both water-tolerant and drought-tolerant. There are many plants appropriate for rain gardens; examples include Anise, Buttonbush, Virginia Willow, Muhly and Fakahatchee grass, Scarlet Hibiscus, Swamp Sunflower, Blue Flag Iris, Canna, Spider Lily, Goldenrod, Milkweed, and more!

Article adapted and excerpted from: Rain Gardens. University of Florida. <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/types-of-gardens/rain-gardens.html> Photo credit:

Growing Pineapples

Pineapple is in season and great for eating fresh or grilling! But don't throw away that pineapple top if you want to grow your own. Here's how:

Planting: Cut the crown of the pineapple off and let air dry in the shade for a couple days. In North Florida, our cold winters prevent us from growing pineapples in the ground, so plant in a container with good potting soil so that only the spiky top is sticking out. Alternatively, the crown can be rooted in water.



Care: Keep the soil moist for the first month or two, and once well-rooted, begin fertilizing with 2 TBSP of 6-6-6 every 8 weeks or so. It's best to select a site that receives full sun, but be prepared to move your pineapple indoors come winter. Plant growth slows when temps drop below 60°F and plants can be killed by freezing temps below 28°F.



Harvest: Harvest when the bottom of the fruit starts to change from green to yellow.



For more info, check out:
[Pineapple Growing in the Florida Home Landscape](#)

Photo credits: Canva

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Trail Riding Safety



Tell Someone

Always tell a few people about your planned trail ride. Make sure they know when you plan to leave, where you are going, what trails you intend to take, and when to expect your return. Keep them updated on when you are heading home or make it back safely.



Watch the Weather

It is important to be aware of weather conditions. Wear a hat and sunscreen if it going to be sunny, or cold/rain weather gear if needed.



Dismount if Needed

If your horse is spooked or experiencing something for the first time (crossing a bridge or stream) don't be afraid to dismount and handle things from the ground. Situations can turn bad quickly if a rider is thrown.



Most Importantly, Have Fun!

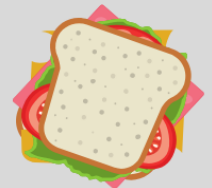


Map it Out

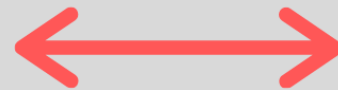
Most public trail riding locations have a physical map you can view to plan your trail ride beforehand. Private land owners can use online applications like google maps satellite image to plan their ride. Stay on the trails and do not vary too far from your planned route in case something happens.



Bring Water & Snacks



Always bring fresh water for riders when trail riding, snacks and water for the horses are helpful on rides lasting longer than an hour.

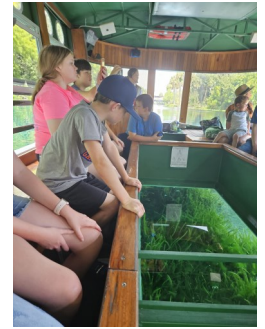


Keep your Distance

Keep at least one horse length in between you and other riders in the group. Switch horses from the front to the back often to teach horses good trail riding manners. If your horses have never been around other group riders, give them more distance in between.

Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:
*Shaina
Spann,
4-H Agent*



Florida Through the Times Day Camp

We visited SO many place for our history themed camp! On Monday we went to Silver Springs, Tuesday we went to Fort Clinch and the Amelia Island Museum of History for a tour of the Eight Flags over Florida. Wednesday we went to St. Augustine to the Colonial Quarter to see what living during the Spanish occupation was like. We also visited the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. On Thursday we visited the Beaches Museum and the Merrill House. Participants learned about the Timucuan natives, Huguenot French occupation of Florida, The Spanish in Florida, and finally, the development of North Florida with the railway and life in 1903.



4-H Club Meetings & Events

- July 5th (Wednesday, not Monday)– 4pm, Cloverbuddies Club, 4-H Classroom
- July 25th – 6pm, Livestock Club, Ag. Center Auditorium



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

WHO ARE THE MASTER GARDENERS?

Master Gardeners are volunteer educators of the horticultural arts and sciences. With training from UF/IFAS Extension, Master Gardeners are active in their communities, offering leadership and guidance in gardening projects of all types and sizes.

The Florida Master Gardener Program has been around since 1979, and each year, approximately 4,700 Master Gardeners contribute a total of 365,000 hours of service, helping to make their communities better informed, more sustainable, and more beautiful.

WHAT DO MASTER GARDENERS LEARN?

If you're accepted into the Master Gardener training program, you'll receive 50 hours or more of practical horticultural training, on topics such as:

- Botany
- Plant pathology & integrated pest management
- Soil management & plant nutrition
- Growing garden vegetables, fruit crops, trees, & turf
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
- Working with the public

WHAT DO MASTER GARDENERS DO?

Once you've successfully completed the training, you're required to volunteer a minimum of 75 hours during the first year to achieve Master Gardener certification. Master Gardeners work with the public to answer questions, give talks, write newsletter columns, help maintain the demonstration gardens, and many other activities.

Master Gardeners that continue in the program beyond the first year are asked to volunteer 35 hours annually and attend advanced trainings to keep up to date on the latest horticultural information.

2023 BAKER COUNTY TRAINING DATES

TRAINING *Hybrid Class of Online & In-Person Learning*

DATES *August 7 - September 22*

SCHEDULE *Complete Weekly Training Modules Online & Attend In-Person Sessions 1 day per week*

In-person Sessions: 9 am to 12 pm on Tuesdays: Aug 15, Aug 22, Sept 5, Sept 12
(Reserved make-up days on Thursdays: Aug 17, Aug 24, Sept 7, Sept 14)
Baker County Extension Office (Ag Center) 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063

COST *\$120 Includes student manual, field guides, and all training supplies*

APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 7

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/plants-landscapes-edible-gardens/master-gardener-program/>

COORDINATOR

*Alicia
Lamborn*

Horticulture Agent & Master
Gardener Coordinator
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Extension Tidbits

Florida Tomato and Sweet Pepper Flatbread

INGREDIENTS

1 large Florida bell pepper, seeded and sliced thin
2 medium Florida tomatoes, sliced thin
2 medium or 1 large baked flatbread or pizza crust
2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded (or your favorite)
1/4 cup fresh basil, hand torn
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
5 cloves fresh garlic, minced
1 tablespoon olive oil
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste



PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spread olive oil and garlic evenly over the flatbread. Evenly distribute three-fourths of the 2 kinds of cheese over the flatbread. Evenly distribute the bell pepper and tomato over the cheese. Add remaining cheese to the top of the flatbread. Season the flatbread lightly with salt and pepper. Bake flatbread on a cookie sheet for 7 to 10 minutes until cheese is melted and bubbly. Remove flatbread from oven and garnish with the hand-torn basil. Cut flatbread into several servings and serve warm.

<https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-flatbread-with-tomatoes-and-sweet-peppers>

4-H Volunteers Needed for 2023-2024 Year

Do you have a passion or talent you would like to share with youth?

4-H is in need of volunteers in the following areas:



- Beekeeping
- Horses
- Arts & Crafts
- Fishing/shooting sports
- Cooking

Volunteers must be able to pass an FBI Level 2 background check.