



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,

As of June 1st, County offices will reopen to the public. However, with limited staffing, in-person consultations at the Extension Office will be by appointment only. County agents will continue to answer questions and provide information by phone, email and social media and this method of communication is encouraged. If you need to pick up a soil test kit or drop off a sample for identification, please call to coordinate a pick up/drop off time. This will streamline services and reduce wait time. Distance learning will also continue. Check out the 4-H summer camps being offered on page 3, as well as another learning opportunity below.

Sincerely,

Alicia

Alicia Lamborn, County Director
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County



**Extension Office
COVID-19 UPDATE**

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



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

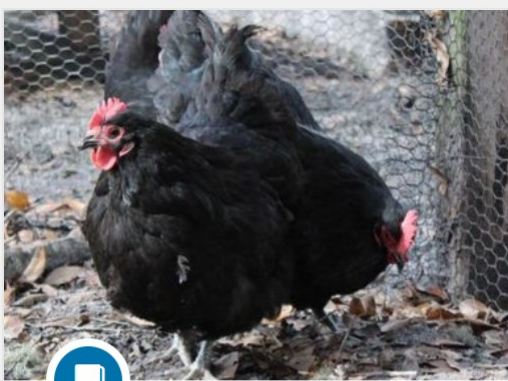


[Baker County Garden Spot](#)
[Baker County 4-H](#)



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

Backyard Poultry Basics On-line Course & More



Backyard Poultry Basics

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County is online! Online learning opportunities are available from your local extension agents. These courses are a great way to get the information you need, such as backyard poultry basics, or other upcoming topics.

The backyard poultry course offers a beginners guide to raising chickens for eggs and covers topics such as breed selection, housing, egg care, and much more. 8 guided modules with a range of course content for you to complete at your own pace. A certificate of completion is offered after passing the final quiz. The certificate can be used to fulfill the educational requirement for many cities' Backyard Hen Permit. Backyard Poultry Course Registration: <https://ifas-baker.catalog.instructure.com/courses/backyard-poultry-basics>

You can access the course and others like it here:
<https://ifas.catalog.instructure.com/>

Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



June Gardening Tips

Flowers

- Prune back tall growing perennials to control height and create a bushier plant.

Trees & Shrubs

- Scout frequently for pest problems like aphids and scale. Lace bug and spider mite problems often increase during hot, dry weather.
- If your azaleas, camellias, or gardenias need down-sizing, prune them as soon as possible. The general rule is to prune before July 4th—after that they begin forming next season's flower buds. This means that the longer you wait, the more you will see a reduction in flowering come spring. If they don't need major pruning, just cut back shoots that are out of control along with any dead and/or declining portions.

Lawns

- Mow at the appropriate height to help control weeds and develop a deep root system. Bahia: 3-4" / Bermuda: 0.5-1.5" / Centipede: 1.5-2" / St. Augustine standards: 3.5-4" / St. Augustine dwarfs: 2-2.5" / Zoysia: 1-3"
- Calibrate the sprinkler system to deliver ½" to ¾" each time you water. Water when the grass blades fold or when foot-prints remain in the grass.
- If the "spring green" look of your lawn has started to fade, apply iron this month rather than a general purpose lawn fertilizer. It will turn the grass green, but without excessive growth. For acidic soil, use iron sulfate at 1 pound per 1000 square feet. For alkaline soil, use chelated iron at the rate recommended on the label. For liquid applications, use ferrous sulfate at 2 oz in 3-5 gallons of water per 1000 sq feet.

Vegetables & Herbs

- Continue planting heat-loving crops like lima beans, southern peas, eggplant, okra, sweet potato, and swiss chard.
- Use low volume irrigation like drip tubing or soaker hoses to supply water to the garden. This helps conserve water and reduce disease problems by keeping water off the leaves.

Fruits & Nuts

- Peach, nectarine and plum trees should be pruned lightly after harvest to maintain the open center of the canopy which allows light in to stimulate growth of new fruiting wood.
- Established fig trees can be pruned after fruit harvest to eliminate dead or diseased limbs, limbs that cross or rub together, and to remove long slender "water sprouts". Larger plants can be trimmed back to maintain the bushy shape and make reaching fruit easier.
- Many fruit trees get fertilized this month. See information (right) on fertilizing in the orchard.

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Fruit Care Calendar

for North Florida

To be used as a guide when caring for fruit and nut trees in the home garden. All fertilizer recommendations are for optimum growth and fruit production. Gardeners may choose to apply less fertilizer than the recommendation, but should never apply more. When referring to the age of a plant, consider year 1 to be at planting or the first year after planting.

JUNE

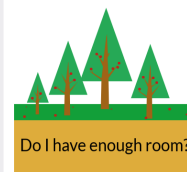
Tips for Growing Fruits

Most edibles require at least 6-8 hours of full sunlight a day and prefer well-drained, slightly acidic soil.



Does the plant require cross-pollination or is it self-fertile??

If not self-fertile, you will need 2 or more plants to produce fruit.



Avoid low-lying areas to minimize flood injury and frost injury to flowers and developing fruit.



Select recommended varieties based on pest/disease tolerance, cold tolerance and required chilling hours.

Correct spacing is key for optimum growth, health, and fruit production.

FERTILIZING



Apples

Fertilize using 10-10-10 with micro-nutrients, esp Zinc and Boron; apply 1 lb (2 cups) for each year of age, up to 7.5 lbs (15 cups).



Blueberries (Newly Planted)

After the soil is well settled from irrigation/rainfall, give un-mulched plants 1 oz. (2 TBSP) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). If plants are mulched heavily, use 1/5 oz. (3 TBSP) per plant. Spread fertilizer evenly over a 2-foot diameter circle.



Blueberries (Established)

Fertilize with 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Year 2: Apply 2 oz. (4 TBSP) per plant spreading evenly over a 3-foot diameter circle. Year 3+: Apply 3 oz (6 TBSP) per plant spreading evenly over a 4-foot diameter circle, or broadcast in a continuous band 3-4 feet wide, centered on the plant row.



Chestnuts (Year 2+)

Apply 1 lb (2 cups) of 10-10-10 fertilizer for each year of age with a maximum of 7.5 lbs (15 cups) per tree.



Loquats

Apply a 6-6-6 or similar fertilizer this month, only as needed. Healthy, established trees require little to no fertilizer.



Muscadine Grapes (Year 1)

Fertilize this month after growth begins using 1/4 lb. (1/2 cup) of 8-8-8 or 10-10-10; apply fertilizer in bands about 1 foot to either side of the vine. Micro-nutrients can also be beneficial.



Pears

Apply 1/2 lb (1 cup) of 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 per year of age, up to 5 lbs (10 cups) total.



Pecans

Fertilize using 10-10-10 with micro-nutrients (esp. Zinc) as follows: Year 1: 1 lb (2 cups) per tree; Year 2: 2 pounds (4 cups) per tree; Year 3+: 2 lbs (4 cups) per inch of trunk diameter, measured 1 foot above the soil (2-4 lbs for bearing trees). Large trees (30+ inches in diameter) may require 60 to 120 lbs. of fertilizer. Note: Beware of over-fertilization which can exacerbate pecan scab problems.



Persimmons

Apply 1/2 to 1 lb (1-2 cups) of 10-10-10 with micro-nutrients per year of age, up to 10 cups total. If fruit drop is a problem, consider using a 5-10-10 or reduce fertilizer amounts.

MORE
INFORMATION

For additional information on fertilizing, pruning and other resources, visit the Fruits page of the UF/IFAS Baker County Extension website:
<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/>

Lucky Clover Chronicle

By: *Shaina Spann, 4-H Agent*



Summer Camp's Gone Virtual!

4-H always has amazing summer offerings. This year is no different! There are a total of 46 different virtual camp offerings for all youth, not just 4-H members, ages 5+ (as of 09/01/2019). From entomology to robotics, from sewing to adulting, there is a camp for every kid! Most camps are FREE for everyone.

Are you missing camp songs and playing camp games with your favorite camp friends this summer? Worry no more! We are very excited that 4-H Adventures is offering County Camp Night for our Cluster (Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee, Union) will be on **July 16th at 6:30PM!** If we were at camp, this would have been during our talent show at camp!

List of offerings here: http://florida4h.org/programsandevents/_4-h-adventures/

Register here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgDsgHmp5voCWLfy45AMJSYEag50cgk8ZiLeK7J69406hVTw/viewform>

4-H @ Four –

Graphic Design Made Simple- June 5th from 4:00-4:30 EST to learn tips and tricks to enhance your graphic design skills. This virtual workshop is designed for 4-H Intermediates and seniors, but juniors, parents, and club leaders may find it useful too! Register [here!](#)

Entomology- June 19th from 4:00-4:30pm EST—Registration information to follow





Avoiding Water Tank Slime

In Florida we are blessed with warm summers, but as a livestock owner the sun can cause us much heartache. Not only does the heat affect our livestock but also promotes algae, or “summer slime” growth in our water tanks. Here are some tips on keeping your livestock water tank clean:

First, you’ll need to empty out the water tank. If this is a small bucket or relatively small tank it may be easy to dump out the water. For larger tanks, simply turn off any automatic watering system and all the livestock to drink it down until you can dump out the remaining water.

Next you’ll need to make a simple 10% bleach solution to help kill any bacteria and deter growth of algae. Scrub down the sides and bottom of the tank using the bleach solution and then rinse twice with clean water. Fill back up with clean water and repeat cleaning again when needed.

It is possible to disinfect water in the tank which can help lengthen the time between cleanings. Use the following ratios of bleach per gallon of water to disinfect. Water should stand for 30 minutes-1 hour after mixing bleach before livestock have access.

Gals. of water to disinfect	Amount of bleach needed*
1	2 drops
5	11 drops
50	1 3/4 tsp.
100	3 1/2 tsp.
500	6 Tbs.

Goldfish are also an easy way to maintain a clean water tank. The fish do not need any supplemental food and are generally left alone by livestock. The goldfish eat bacteria and other particles that can cause summer slime.

Sources: <https://burke.ces.ncsu.edu/2016/05/controlling-algae-in-livestock-water-tanks/>
<https://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/care/cleaning-water-and-tanks/>