



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

Welcome to 2012. I hope that everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year. We are looking forward to another year of serving the citizens of Baker County. We have many programs planned for the year and I am happy to report that Ms. Shaina Bennett, our new 4-H Agent, is off to a running start. If you are interested in 4-H, please come by and visit with her to talk about all of the options that are available. As always, if we can be of assistance to you or your family, 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.

Agriculture Agent



Alicia Lamborn

Horticulture Agent



Melanie Thomas

Family & Consumer
Sciences Agent



Shaina Bennett

4-H Agent



Highlights in Horticulture

By:

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*Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent*

You Should Be Liken' Your Lichen

Lichens become more noticeable this time of year as deciduous plants lose their leaves for winter, leaving many gardeners concerned about the health of their trees and shrubs. Lichens are usually gray or greenish gray and grow in different forms. Some have a feathery, moss-like appearance, while others have a ruffled type of growth, or even a leaf-like form with flat sheets of growth held tightly to the bark or leaves.



Photo by Alicia Lamborn

These unusual creatures often get mistaken for a harmful fungus or algae that kill our beloved plants. But the truth is that lichens are actually a combination of both an alga and a fungus growing together, each one helping the other. Since the fungus is unable to produce food through photosynthesis, it is dependent on its algal partner which can produce enough food for both to survive. In turn, the alga receives water and nutrients from the fungus.

Thus, lichens growing on plants are not parasites and do not harm the trees in any way. They are only using the plant as a home. In fact, lichens will grow almost anywhere: on soil, rocks, wood fences, brick houses, plants, and on other lichens. Usually lichens are most prevalent on plants which are unthrifty or declining in health for one reason or another. As the canopy of the plant becomes sparse, more sunlight is able to reach the inside branches, which makes a perfect location for lichens to grow.

The best method for controlling lichens is to keep the plants in a good growing condition. If lichens do occur, even on healthy plants, they may easily be removed by hand during dry conditions. However, since most lichens will not grow in areas with air pollution, gardeners should be glad to see a lichen here or there, as this is a sign that the air is relatively clean!

Master Gardeners...at your service!

Do you have questions about your lawn, trees, flowers, vegetables, or how to manage landscape pests?



Let The Master Gardeners Help You!



They can identify your plants and insects, answer your questions, or offer you suggestions.

January Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to Noon

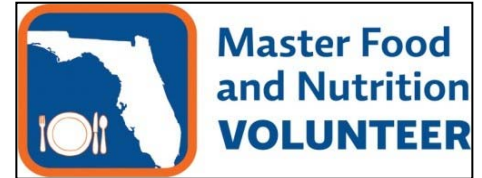
If you would like their assistance, just give them a call or schedule an appointment. And if they don't know the answer, they will research it for you!

Living Well in Baker County

By:

Melanie Thomas,
FCS Agent

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MASTER FOOD AND NUTRITION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Would you like to develop expertise in the area of food and nutrition and be able to share that expertise with others?

A Master Food and Nutrition Volunteer program is being offered by the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. The program is designed to provide food and nutrition training for selected individuals in Florida.

Master Food and Nutrition Volunteer is a title given to individuals who receive in-depth food and nutrition training from County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agents and agree, in return, to give a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service to their local County Extension Office during the next year.

The Baker County Extension Office is accepting applications for volunteers. If you are a resident of Baker County, the program is open to you.

Master Food and Nutrition Volunteer training will be held at the Duval County Cooperative Extension Service on Wednesdays, beginning January 18, 2012 and ending March 14, 2012. Training sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and last until 4:00 p.m. Training will include topics such as basic nutrition, nutrition and health throughout the lifecycle, food safety, and the latest food preservation updates in dehydration, canning, pickling, jelly making, and freezing techniques.

Master Food and Nutrition Volunteers give their volunteer hours to their County Extension Offices in many ways. These include assisting residents with food-related questions, assisting with agent demonstrations and educational projects, teaching nutrition classes and working with the 4-H youth program.

After completing the training, each participant will be given the best food and nutrition reference books available. These books are a compilation of Extension Service fact sheets and bulletins that apply specifically to our region.

There will be a charge of \$70.00 to cover lab supplies for the course. Application for a limited number of openings in the class are now being taken at the County Extension Office.

For further information about the program in Baker County, please contact Melanie Thomas, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent at 904-259-3520 or via email at mlthomas@ufl.edu.

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 Holiday: Extension Office Closed	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11 	12 	13	14
15	16 Holiday: Extension Office Closed	17 	18	19  	20	21
22	23	24 	25	26 	27	28
29	30	31		Feb. 2 	Feb. 16 	Feb. 21 

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.



Upcoming Programs & Events

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

- Jan. 11 Forest Stewardship Workshop: Invasive Exotic Plant ID and Control, 9am—3pm CT, Okaloosa County Extension Office, 5479 Old Bethel Road, Crestview FL 32536.** Registration fee of \$10 covers lunch and materials. Approved for Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Units, Forestry CFEs pending. Details and registration online at <http://fsp-workshop011112.eventbrite.com/>.
- Jan. 19 How to Monitor Plant and Animal Phenology, 9am—12pm, UF/IFAS Levy County Extension Office, 625N. Hathaway Ave. (Alt.27), Bronson, FL 32621.** The term phenology refers to recurring plant and animal life stages, such as flowering or seeding, bird migration or insect emergence. Monitoring phenology can help to understand how plants and animals are responding to climate change and variability. The USA National Phenology Network (www.usanpn.org) is asking people of all ages and backgrounds to observe and record phenology via Nature's Notebook. The data collected is entered into a national database accessible to all and will help us to understand how we can adapt to changing climates and environments. This training is free. To register, please call 352-486-5131 or email Emma Willcox at ewillcox@ufl.edu.
- Feb. 2 Baker County 4-H Club Leader and Volunteer Training, 6pm—8pm, Baker County Extension Service, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063.** This is a mandatory meeting for 4-H Club Leaders and Volunteers. Please contact Ms. Shaina Bennett at 904-259-3520 to confirm your attendance.
- Feb. 16 Tri-County Pesticide Update, 5:45pm—9pm, Union County.** This program will be held for Restricted Pesticide Applicators in the Baker, Bradford and Union County area. CEUs for this training have been applied for and more details will follow in the February newsletter and via press release. Please contact the Baker, Bradford or Union County Extension Office for additional details beginning in mid-January.
- Feb. 21 Tri-County Beef Update, 5:45pm—9pm, Union County.** This program will be held for cattle producers in the Baker, Bradford and Union County area. More details will follow in the February newsletter and via press release. Please contact the Baker, Bradford or Union County Extension Office for additional details beginning in early February.

Get Your 2012 UF/IFAS Extension Calendar

Stop by the Extension Office to pick up a free 2012 calendar filled with colorful photos and solutions for your life!

Available while supplies last.



4-H Events & Club Meetings for January



- January 3—Hoof-N-Around, 6:30pm, classroom
- January 10 & 24—Cloverleaf Cloggers—7:00pm, Keller Intermediate
- January 12—HorsePower, 6:30 pm, classroom
- January 17—Jr. Master Gardeners, 6:00 pm, classroom
- January 19—Forestry, 6:00pm, classroom
- January 26—Livestock, 6:00pm, classroom

Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

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*Shaina Bennett,
4-H Extension Agent*



Hello Everyone!

4-H Motto: To Make The Best Better!

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday break and are ready to begin this new year! My name is Ms. Shaina Bennett, and I am the new 4-H Agent. I wanted to give you a little bit of information on myself and my background if I haven't met with you already!

I am originally from the small town of Crescent City, FL. When I was in school I was in 4-H, FFA, played tennis, and did many other things! After high school I moved to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida where I received my Bachelor's of Science degree in Agricultural Education. I interned at Okeechobee High School where I taught Ag. Foundations, Horticulture, and Animal Science. I now live here in Macclenny, and I look forward to the new year together! I encourage all of you to participate and hope we will make my first year one to remember!

If anyone has questions or concerns please call the extension office or email me at slbennett@ufl.edu!

Be Sure To:

◇ Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bakerco4h> and  us!

◇ **Leaders and volunteers!** A mandatory meeting for you is going to be held on **February 2, 2012 at 6:00 pm**. If you cannot attend please call the extension office ASAP.

Jr. Master Gardeners having fun harvesting lettuce at their December Club Meeting



Upcoming Events:

* Leadership Adventure Weekend (LAW), for ages 13-18, will be held at Camp Ocala. January 20-22, 2012. Cost \$95. **Deadline: January 3, 2012.** Contact the extension office for more details.

*4-H & FFA Livestock Judging and Meat Judging Clinics, ages 11-18, Friday & Saturday, January 13-14, 2012. At the University of Florida. Cost \$15. **Deadline January 5, 2012.** Contact the extension office for more details.

* Shooting Sports Training. Adults & youth. Levy County Extension Office. January 27-28. Cost \$45. **Deadline: January 23, 2012.** Contact the extension office for more details.



More Than You Ever



Did You Know:

- The first 4-H emblem was actually a 3-leaf clover, it stood for head, heart and hands.
- 4-H is the largest non-formal education program in the United States.

Soil Testing



Consider having your soil tested before liming, fertilizing or installing new plants this spring.

- ◆ Soil testing is available through the Baker County Extension Office and the University of Florida's Soil Testing Laboratory.
- ◆ A simple pH test will determine the pH of your soil and the amount of lime needed (if any) to adjust the soil's pH. The pH and lime requirement test is \$3.00.
- ◆ A soil fertility test will determine the pH and lime requirement of the soil, but will also tell you the amount of nutrients currently available to your plants. Based on the results, you will be given specific recommendations on how to fertilize for optimum plant growth. The soil fertility test is \$7.00.
- ◆ Of course, all recommendations are specific to your lawn, garden, or crop.
- ◆ You will also have the option of discussing your results with your county agent.

Stop by the Baker County Extension office today to pick up your free soil testing kit!



Weathering the Winter



So far, North Florida has been experiencing a fairly mild winter. But since it isn't likely to last till spring, here are some tips for weathering your plants through winter:

- If a freeze is predicted, water plants 24-48 hours before a freeze (unless it rains). Keep in mind however, that prolonged periods of saturated soil can cause root rot problems.
- Overhead irrigation should not be used for freeze protection. This method is tricky and is best left to professional growers since many people end up doing more damage than good. Instead, cover your cold sensitive landscape plants with blankets or plastic to trap heat inside. If you decide to use this method, make sure your cover is long enough to reach the ground and use a stake (cut bamboo sticks work well) to keep your cover from touching your plant. Some contact is unavoidable, but too much can transfer heat resulting in burnt foliage. When using plastic, remove as soon as the freeze has ended to avoid cooking your plants.
- Citrus fruit is damaged when temperatures stay at 28 degrees or less for 4 hours so be sure to harvest ripe fruit (fruit won't ripen once picked) prior to a hard freeze. You will want to protect the graft union during a hard freeze to prevent damage, especially if you have young citrus. To do this, you can bank clean sand around the base of the tree, use a special tree wrap product, or use foam pipe insulators. Young trees prone to bark splitting also benefit from the tree wrap products (available in garden centers).
- If you're growing strawberries in the ground, these plants can take the freezing temperatures but will likely lose any flowers and fruit unless covered. If growing them in containers, consider moving them to a protected location to prevent cold damage to the roots, flowers and developing fruit.
- Most perennials can handle freezing temperatures but if a hard freeze is predicted, pile fallen leaves and pine straw on top to provide extra protection to the crown and roots without smothering your plant.

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).

FIRST REQUEST

If you would like to remain on the **Baker Bulletin** mailing list in 2012, please complete the form below and mail it or bring it to our office. Individual program newsletters, such as Horticulture and FCS will continue to be produced individually on an electronic basis. You can renew any newsletter subscription by visiting our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

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

Please check this box if you prefer to receive the newsletter 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