



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

With all of the hot weather that we have had, it is important to keep vigilant about heat stress, both for you and your animals. Hot summer days with humidity can really take a toll on children, the elderly and animals. It is also important to keep an eye out for wildfires. Information about wildfires, courtesy of FDACS, can be found at <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire/Current-Fire-Conditions>. 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

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension
Baker County Extension

Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

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Plant of the Month:

Bulbine

Bulbine (*Bulbine frutescens*) is a South African native that is perfect for Florida since it performs well in hot temperatures, dry conditions, and sandy soils — all while blooming throughout the warmest Florida months.

Spreading clumps of succulent, grass-like foliage provide a nice texture contrast to surrounding plants. Yellow or orange flowers dance above the leaves, attracting butterflies in spring and summer. Make a statement by planting in masses, or use as an accent plant, container plant, or in a rock/cactus garden.



The species is fast growing, reaching 2 feet tall when flowering and has a 3-4 foot spread. The cultivar 'Hallmark' is smaller, topping out at 8-10 inches with only a 2 foot spread. Its flower buds have a unique green center stripe, opening to deep orange flower spikes with frilly yellow stamens.

Bulbine is a perennial in zones 8b to 11 and grows best if planted in a spot that receives full sun and has well-drained soil, though it will tolerate light shade. Dead-heading spent flowers is not necessary, but will encourage the plants to produce more flowers. Clumps can easily be divided and shared with friends.



Photos by Alicia Lamborn

Summer Fruit Pruning

While most fruit pruning jobs are completed during the winter dormant season, some fruiting plants also require attention during the summer and fall months.

Peaches/Nectarines/Plums: May - August

In the dormant season, major pruning involves maintaining the overall height of the tree canopy as well as maintaining the open center of the canopy which allows light in to stimulate growth of new fruiting wood and improve fruit quality. Lighter pruning for the same reasons can be accomplished during the summer after fruit is harvested. For videos on peach pruning and more, visit: http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/fruitscapes/Fruitscapes-videos/peaches/playlist1/peach_tree_pruning.shtml

Figs: June - July (after fruit harvest)

Established plants can be pruned after fruit harvest to eliminate dead or diseased limbs, limbs that cross each other especially if rubbing together, and to remove long slender "water sprouts". Larger plants can be trimmed back to maintain the bushy shape and make reaching fruit easier.

Blueberries: July – August

Established plants can be topped to control height and encourage branching after fruit is harvested. Depending on the size of the bush, the canopy height can be reduced by several inches up to a foot or more. This prevents plants from becoming too tall and will stimulate new growth that will become next year's crop.

Blackberries: Late Summer to Fall

Blackberries produce fruit on one year old canes, known as floricanes. These were vegetative canes (called primocanes) the previous year. After fruiting, floricanes dry up and die. They should be pruned out and removed at the ground or crown level as soon as they die. In a healthy blackberry stand, five to six remaining canes per foot of row is ideal after pruning, and blackberries can form a solid hedgerow.

UF/IFAS EXTENSION

HAY FIELD DAY

JULY 9, 2015 ☞ 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

SANTA FE RIVER RANCH

29220 NW 122 STREET

ALACHUA, FL 32615



The Northeast Florida Livestock Agents Group will be hosting its 17th Annual Hay Field Day. There will be dealers present to demonstrate their latest equipment. The two keynote speakers will include Dr. Matt Hersom, Extension Beef Specialist & Dr. Jason Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Heifer Performance on Tifton-85 vs. Coastal
- Chute side handling
- Hayfield insecticides
- Weed identification
- Equipment demonstrations
- Pasture herbicide update

REGISTRATION:

\$10.00 in advanced, \$15.00 day of event (lunch will be served by Farm Credit)

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., Programs/Exhibits at 9:00 a.m. & Equipment Demonstrations at 11:00 a.m.

Register at Eventbrite: <http://tinyurl.com/p3x6dno>

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For more information, contact Barton Wilder at
352.955.2402 or email bwilder@ufl.edu.

An Equal Opportunity Institution. Extension Service, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Nick T. Place, Dean. Single copies of Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county Extension offices. Information about alternate formats is available from IFAS Communications, University of Florida, PO Box 110810, Gainesville, FL 32611-0810.

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4 
5	6  First Responders Camp Begins	7	8	9  	10	11
12	13	14  Seafood Day Camp Begins	15	16	17	18
19	20  Budding Artist Camp Begins	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27 	28	29	30	31	

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.



4-H




Horticulture



Agriculture

Upcoming Programs & Events

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

- July 1** **Master Gardener Volunteer Training Course (Applications Due)** Classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am to 1pm, August 4th to September 24th at the Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Florida Master Gardeners are professionally trained volunteers who assist the county agent by sharing unbiased, research-based gardening information with the community. Applications for this program are being accepted through July 1st. Applications are available online at: http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html
- 
- July 9** **17th Annual Hay Field Day, 9:00am to 2:15pm, Santa Fe River Ranch, 29220 NW 122 St., Alachua, FL 32615.** The Northeast Florida Livestock Agents Group will host its 17th Annual Hay Field Day on July 9, 2015. Topics include: 1) Heifer performance on Tifton-85 vs. Coastal, 2) Chute-side handling, 3) Hayfield insecticides, 4) Weed identification, 5) Equipment demonstrations and 6) Pasture herbicide update. Keynote speakers will include Dr. Matt Hersom, Extension Beef Specialist, and Dr. Jason Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist. Registration is \$10 in advance or \$15 day of event. Lunch is provided by Farm Credit. Register online at: <http://tinyurl.com/p3x6dno>. For additional information contact Barton Wilder at 352-955-2402 or bwilder@ufl.edu.
- Aug 14,15** **First Coast Specialty Crop Conference**, Student Union Building, UNF, Jacksonville, FL. This conference is designed to provide multiple networking and educational opportunities for farmers and other stakeholders in the regional food system. This conference is the first of the new regional events created by a team of UF/IFAS Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises extension team. The training program has been carefully crafted to attend the needs of the local farmers. Whether you are interested in improving your farming skills by enhancing your soils and pest management, obtain practical knowledge for food safety and post-harvest practices, or diversifying your farm through cut flower production, mushrooms or microgreens, this is the place for you. For online registration and more information visit www.firstcoastconference.eventbrite.com. Early bird registration ends July 28th. Regular registration ends August 10th.



4-H Club Meetings & Events:

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

Livestock Club —

July 9th and 23rd at 7pm are parent mandatory meetings at Fairgrounds for those with market animals for Fair. You only need to attend one of these meetings. Check with Club Leaders.

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Meetings will resume in July. Every Tuesday, 7pm Fabulous Footworks

Important Dates: July 2015

06-09 – First Responders Camp

14-17 – Seafood Day Camp

20-22 – Budding Artists Camp

24 – Budding Artists Field Trip

27-31 – 4-H University, Gainesville, FL

For more information on Baker County 4-H Summer Camps, go to <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/SummerDayCamps2015FINAL.pdf>



Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,
4-H Agent

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Camp Fun!

Summer is now in full swing! We have been having a blast! At All About Animals Camp we explored animals that live on a farm, in the forest, and in extreme climates. We also made some really awesome animal crafts. Mr. Randal brought in chickens and ducks on Monday and Ms. Emily brought a goat and rabbit. Everyone had a fantastic time!

At Wild About Weather Camp we learned about natural disasters and made homemade weather measurement tools. The Florida Automated Weather Network manager visited with us as well as meteorologist Bill Quinlan with WCJB 20.



For more information on upcoming Baker County 4-H Summer Camps, go to:

<http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/SummerDayCamps2015FINAL.pdf>



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Baker County 

Events:

July

- 06-09– First Responders Camp
- 09 & 23—Mandatory Market Animal Meeting at 7pm at Fairgrounds. Check with Livestock Club Leaders.
- 10– Senior Retreat, Ichetucknee * Contact Ms. Shaina
- 14-17– Seafood Day Camp
- 20-22– Budding Artists Camp
- 24– Budding Artists Field Trip
- 27-31– 4-H University, Gainesville, FL

August

- 13– 4-H Awards Banquet, Auditorium 6:30pm
- 31– End of 4-H year!

Birthdays for July:

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

- 01– Jacquez Ruise
- 02– Cadee Crawford
- 10– Emma Snodgrass
- 15– Karsyn Crews
- 15– Taylor Nielson
- 21– Riley Rungruang
- 22– Gabe Lewis
- 24– Nathaniel Matthews
- 25– Daniel Robinson
- 25– River Chauncey



Avoiding Heat Stress in Your Poultry Flock

Chickens, like most other animals, can be prone to heat stress during periods of high temperature and high humidity, both of which are in ample supply during summer in Florida. It is important to be able to recognize the signs of heat stress in your flock and how to avoid placing them in danger from the heat.

The normal body temperature for a chicken is around 105°F. Unlike humans and some other animals, chickens do not possess sweat glands and thus cool themselves by panting. This panting will evaporate moisture from the throat allowing the bird to lower its body temperature. It is important to note that older birds are more susceptible than younger birds to heat stress because of their larger body size and the insulation provided by fully formed feathers.

Signs of heat stress in your flock include: gasping, lethargy, pale combs and wattles, increased thirst, decreased appetite, decrease in body weight, and potential increase in cannibalism. While these signs are not exclusive to heat stress, they can indicate the condition, especially if we have had prolonged hot weather. As a flock manager, you should keep in mind that heat stress can cause various issues within a flock including: drops in production, increased mortality, decreased egg size, thin egg shells, poor egg quality, and poor egg functionality.

There are many proactive measures that you can take as a flock owner/manager to decrease the chance of heat stress in your birds. Good management of the flock and understanding how the flock is reacting to temperature changes will help to avoid the risk of heat stress in your birds.

WATER

- Always provide plenty of cool, fresh drinking water in many accessible locations for your flock.
- Add electrolytes to the drinking water
 - The act of panting will change the electrolyte balance within the bird. Adding electrolytes will help to maintain the needed balance within the bird and will help to increase water intake. However, you must be vigilant in adding electrolytes to the water as adding too much can upset the balance within the bird and cause problems as well.

FEED

- Feed intake will naturally decrease during hot weather. To help counteract this, provide feed during the cool parts of the day such as early morning or late evening before roosting. The digestive process produces extra heat that can cause stress within the flock during the hottest parts of the day.

ENVIRONMENT & MANAGEMENT

- Make sure to provide adequate ventilation for the flock. Install fans, if necessary.
- Consider installing an evaporative cooling system. These systems provide a mist or fog that moves water through the air. A small amount of water on the birds will help to cool them, but don't soak the birds.
- Avoid overcrowding. Overcrowding in the flock increases the ambient heat in the area and will reduce the effectiveness of cooling systems.
- Birds may tend to rest during the hottest part of the day. Don't disturb them.
- Remove accumulated litter from the confinement area. Decomposition of litter will increase the ambient temperature in the area.
- Radiant heat from direct sunlight can also be an issue for the confinement area. Insulation and shade will help.
- Forage areas should not be bare or have too tall grass.



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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).



Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program Applications Accepted through July 1.

The Master Gardener Program was created in 1972 when an innovative Extension Service Agent in Washington State realized that well-trained volunteers could respond to many homeowner questions. Since that time, the Master Gardener Program has grown to include all 50 states and Canada.

The Baker County Master Gardener Program began in 1992. As a Master Gardener volunteer you will be able to: answer homeowner's plant questions, create and maintain school garden projects, work to grow a crop in our green house, continue your gardening education, and much more.

Applications and additional information for this program can be found online at:

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