



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

Baker County Extension Service

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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,

This month, the Extension Office welcomes Ms. Gloria Finley to our office staff! Gloria is our new administrative assistant, taking the place of Cindy Tomas who retired in February after 18 years of service to Baker County and UF/IFAS Extension. We, of course, congratulate Ms. Cindy on her retirement and will miss her dearly! But, we are also excited to have Gloria join our team! Please say hello to Ms. Gloria the next time you call or stop in for a visit.

Sincerely,

Alicia

Alicia Lamborn, County Director
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County



Gloria Finley,
Administrative Assistant

<http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco>

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

Check out our Livestock
Google Site!

Upcoming Programs



4-H & You— May 6th, 6:00pm on Zoom

Join the 4-H and You Crew as we learn about making Pop-Up Greeting Cards. Learn the basics of Pop-Up Card theory, and learn how to make your own! Register here: <https://forms.gle/vVVHvydimhCH4FmD8>



Selling Backyard Poultry Products (Self-Paced, Online Course)

Selling Backyard Poultry Products is a course designed for those seeking to start a business selling poultry or poultry products. This course will walk you through how to legally start your business of selling eggs, meat, or live poultry in the state of Florida. The course will also cover business management topics such as licensing/registration, record keeping, filing taxes, marketing your product, and drawing an income. Whether you are looking to start a business or improve an existing business, this is the course for you!

Register here: <https://ifas-baker.catalog.instructure.com/courses/selling-backyard-poultry-products>

Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



May in the Garden

Flowers

- Plan for summer color with angelonia, coreopsis, pentas, salvias, torenia, and wax begonia (to name a few).
- Plant a mix of early-, mid-, and late-blooming daylilies for months of color in the garden. Other bulbs blooming this month include blackberry lily, crocosmia, and rain lily.



Angelonia, also known as Summer Snapdragon. Credit: A. Lamborn, UF/IFAS

Trees & Shrubs

- Trees and shrubs that have finished flowering for spring can now be pruned lightly as needed to shape and remove dead, diseased or rubbing branches. Cutting limbs back to another branch rather than leaving a stub is recommended. Save heavy pruning for the dormant season (January-February).

Lawns

- Stay ahead of the weeds by hand pulling or spot treating as needed. For information on weed control, go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP141>.
- Plant turf plugs now to fill those bare spots in the lawn. If left bare, weeds will fill the void.
- 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"
- Keep mower blades sharp and consider keeping an extra, ready-to-use blade handy as a replacement.
- If the rain continues this month, turn irrigation systems off to conserve water and prevent harmful diseases.

Vegetables

- When spring crops begin to fade, replace them with lima beans, southern peas, okra and sweet potato.



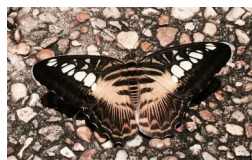
Canva Images

- 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.

Tips for Florida-Friendly Yards

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices to have a beautiful landscape or bountiful garden that saves you time, energy, and money.

Attract Wildlife: No butterfly garden is complete without a butterfly puddling station! Because butterflies cannot drink free-standing water, they seek out places with mud and wet sand to sip liquids and minerals through their proboscis.



Credit: A. Lamborn, UF/IFAS

A **puddling station** that holds sand and pebbles, and collects rain or irrigation water, will entice adult butterflies to stop for a drink.

A large, plastic plant saucer (16+ inches in diameter) works great as a dish, as it will hold water longer, enable butterflies to find it easily, and allow room for multiple butterflies. Once you've filled your dish with sand you may cover the top with pebbles. To make your puddling dish more attractive to butterflies, sprinkle a pinch of table salt over the top before adding water, and occasionally add a capful of natural fish emulsion. An alternative to fish emulsion is to add a thin layer of composted manure or compost to the top.

Manage Yard Pests Responsibly: Don't treat by default. Plants with aesthetic damage do not always need to be treated. Consider the amount of damage you are willing to accept. Remember that there will always be insects in any healthy landscape, and don't worry about minor damage.

Protect the Waterfront: Whether you live on a natural or man-made water body, it's important to designate a "maintenance-free zone" of at least 10 feet between your landscape and the riparian zone.

This area helps to protect the water from runoff. Don't mow, fertilize, or apply pesticides in the maintenance-free zone. Select plants that will do well without fertilization or irrigation after establishment. If your landscape already features a buffer zone that's larger than 10 feet, you don't need to create an additional maintenance-free zone.



Designate a "maintenance-free zone" of at least 10 feet between your landscape and any body of water.

Photo credit: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS

Florida's Native Flora & Fauna

By: Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

Featuring some of Florida's native flora (plant life) and fauna (animal life) so you can learn to recognize, appreciate, and protect native species. We'll also aim to dispel myths and provide tips for managing conflicts with wildlife.

Buttonbush

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), also sometimes called Button Willow, is a shrub or small tree native to the swamp margins, pond edges, and river floodplains throughout Florida.

Typically growing 10 to 20 feet tall, this plant has up to 6-inch long, pointed leaves arranged oppositely on the stem or in whorls of 3-4 leaves. The leaves are deciduous in winter, often revealing rough, bumpy bark on older specimens.



Photo credit: Niels Proctor, University of Florida

Once the flowers fade, each ball-like fruit develops many nutlets (individual fruits). The nutlets turn from green to red, then brown at maturity.

The flowers are attractive to a variety of insects including butterflies and bees. Several moth species rely on this species as a host plant in the larval (caterpillar) stage.

Deer browse the foliage. Ducks and other birds including jays, cardinals, nuthatches, titmice, warblers, and mockingbirds consume the seed. The twisted trunks and branching limbs often lean and droop, providing cover to waterfowl and other wildlife.

The plant certainly has ornamental value for landscapes containing wetlands or ponds. However, one consideration should be that this plant's foliage is poisonous to livestock and people.

Fragrant flowers appear from spring through summer. The ball-shaped blooms consist of a round head (up to 1.5 inches in diameter) with many tiny, white 4-petaled flowers, each with the reproductive flower parts protruding from the center.



Photo credit: Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, Bugwood.org

Spiny Orb Weaver Spider

One of the more colorful spiders in Florida is the spiny orb weaver, *Gasteracantha cancriformis*, which also goes by the name spinybacked orbweaver. Due to its shape and size, it is often called a crab spider. But it is not related to any of the families of spiders commonly called crab spiders.



Female spinybacked orbweaver. Photo credit: UF/IFAS

With one possible exception, the spiny orb weaver is the only species of its genus to occur from the southern United States to northern Argentina.

Up to 13 mm (1/2 inch) wide but not nearly as long, females have 6 pointed spine-like abdominal projections. The legs and underside are black with some white spots on the abdomen. In Florida specimens, the dorsum (topside) of the abdomen is typically white with black spots and red spines. Males are much smaller, reaching only 2-3 mm long and only slightly longer than wide. Their color is similar to the female, except the abdomen is gray with white spots and the large abdominal spines are lacking (replaced by small humps).

Oval-shaped egg sacs are deposited on the undersides of leaves adjacent to the female's web from October through January. Several layers of silk are produced to create the egg sac, which may hatch up to 250 spiderlings.

These layers vary in color (white, yellow, green) and texture (fine and coarse). Eggs take 11 to 13 days to hatch.



Egg sac of the spiny orb weaver. Credit: Lyle J. Buss, UF/IFAS

Webs reach 12 to 24 inches in diameter (catching area only) and feature visibility district tufts of silk that are believed to serve as little flags to prevent birds from flying into and destroying the web.

The spiders prey on whiteflies, flies, moths, and beetles that are caught in the webs. The bite of this common species is not known to cause serious effects to humans.



DAY CAMPS 2021

This year we will be having 2 in person day camps. The camps will be Monday through Friday, each day will be 9am-12pm. There will be a snack, but no meal times since camp ends at noon. We will be following the Universities policies for social distancing and face coverings. There will be areas/times set aside for mask breaks.



Makers Camp Cost \$50 June 7-11 9am-12pm Ages 9-12 10 spots available

This camp will focus on making creations! Learn about working with wood, gaming, paint, storytelling, drawing, and more! Registration is at [4-H Online](#) and payment can be made by cash or check at the Extension Office, or credit card at [Eventbrite](#), cc fees will apply. Total payment is due 2 weeks (no refunds after May 24th) prior to start of camp.



Jr. Paleontologist Camp Cost \$50 June 14-18 9am-12pm Ages 7-12 10 spots available

Explore the history of the earth through fossils! Meet a paleontologist, learn about archeological digs, make some dino themed crafts, and more! Registration is at [4-H Online](#) and payment can be made by cash or check at the Extension Office, or credit card at [Eventbrite](#), cc fees will apply. Total payment is due 2 weeks (no refunds after June 1st) prior to start of camp.

Please make note that if youth have been exposed to COVID-19 or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, they should refrain from attending camp.

County Events 2021

Thanks to those who submitted County Events Entries!

We had 23 photos, four Share-The-Fun (talent), and eight demonstrations/illustrated talk entries. We received some really awesome submissions and are awaiting the judges' responses. The winners will be announced in June's newsletter.

LIVESTOCK YOUTH

Those who plan on showing swine need to purchase their project animal by the end of May.

As a reminder, **Commitment Forms are due May 14th.** If these are not turned in, you WILL NOT be eligible to show in the fair for 2021.

2021 Florida State Fair Results



Cooper Clark wins Jr Beef Showmanship!

Cooper also placed second in his class and received a blue ribbon for his animal.

Jessa Hilson places 2nd in class with her red bull & heifer!

Jessa also won 3rd in her class with her gray bull, and 5th in class with her grey heifer. All were Brahmas.



Brenna Hilson wins Reserve Int. Champion in the Open Brahman Show!

Brenna also won 5th in class with her grey heifer, 1st in class with her grey bull & red bull, 4th in class with her red heifer, and 2nd in class with her cow/calf pair. All were Brahmas.

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Stocking your Fish Pond

Do you have a pond on your property you'd like to fish from? Here are some tips for stocking it:

Stocking Desirable Species

In Florida we typically stock ponds with 4 species: Largemouth bass, bluegill, red-ear sunfish, or channel catfish. Grass carp can also be stocked (with a permit from the Florida Department of Agriculture) to control vegetation growth. Speckled perch and common carp should not be stocked in a pond.

What Sizes to Stock

In new or reclaimed ponds that do not currently have fish you can purchase and stock fingerlings which are 1-4 inches long. This is the least expensive option and harvestable fish are available in 1-2 years depending on species.

In ponds with fish present it is recommended to stock larger fish to ensure their survival. These fish should be at least 4-12 inches long. Although this is the most expensive option, it ensures you will have harvestable fish in less than a year and your investment will not be wasted.

How Many to Stock

Per acre	New Ponds Fingerlings	Establish Ponds Larger Fish
Bass	100	50 8-12 inch
Bluegill	500 (no more than 150 red-ear sunfish)	200 4-5 inch (no more than 60 red-ear sunfish)
Catfish	100	50-100 8-12 inch

When to Stock

Stock bluegill, red-ear sunfish, and channel catfish in the fall. This allows these species to gain some size and potentially have one spawn before largemouth bass are stocked. Stock largemouth bass the following spring. This allows the bass to have a ready food source but still allow bluegill/catfish populations to maintain themselves.

Maintaining your Pond

Feed fish floating pellets, no more than they can eat in 10-15 minutes. Do not feed if water is not within 60°-95° F. Only harvest bass 15 inches or larger. Harvest 25lbs of bass per acre/year and 4-6 lbs of sunfish for every lb of bass to maintain healthy population levels.

Extension Tidbits

Fresh from Florida Recipe

Florida Blueberry Icebox Pie

Ingredients:

- 4 cups fresh Florida blueberries
- 1 tablespoon Florida sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon fresh squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- 3 cups heavy whipping cream
- ¼ cup confectioners sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 8 to 10 full sheets of graham crackers, roughly crushed



Directions:

In a small sauce pan over medium-low heat, combine 2 cups berries, corn starch, lemon juice, sugar, & lemon zest. Cook, while stirring, until a sauce has formed, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. In a large mixing bowl add the heavy cream, confectioners sugar, and vanilla extract. Whisk to form stiff peaks. Line the inside of a 9 x 5-inch loaf pan with plastic wrap. Extend the plastic wrap over edges, for easier removal. To assemble, spread an even thin layer of the whipped cream on the bottom. Next add a layer of crushed graham crackers, then a layer of berries then drizzle a layer of the berry sauce. Repeat this process until the pan is full. Cover the pie using the extended plastic wrap and freeze. Before serving, place the frozen pie in the refrigerator for 1 hour. Use the extended plastic wrap to remove pie from the pan and place on a platter. Slice and serve cold. Garnish with whip cream, crushed graham crackers or berry sauce.

Florida Blueberry Icebox Pie : Fresh From Florida (followfreshfromflorida.com)

Local Fact Sheets of Interest

Check out some of the recent fact sheets authored by Baker County Extension Agents.

Raising Goats as Pets: [https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/media/animalifasufledu/images/small-ruminant/Raising-Goats-as-Pets-Fact-Sheet_Halbritter-\(2\).pdf](https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/media/animalifasufledu/images/small-ruminant/Raising-Goats-as-Pets-Fact-Sheet_Halbritter-(2).pdf)

Raising Calves: [https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/media/animalifasufledu/dairy/docs/Dairy--Small-Ruminant-Fact-Sheet-\(1\).pdf](https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/media/animalifasufledu/dairy/docs/Dairy--Small-Ruminant-Fact-Sheet-(1).pdf)

Tips for Fertilizing the Vegetable Garden: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/baker/docs/pdf/horticulture/educator-resources/Tips-for-Fertilizing-the-Vegetable-Garden.pdf>

Tips for Growing Sweet Corn: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/baker/docs/pdf/horticulture/educator-resources/Sweet-Corn.pdf>

Citrus Care Basics: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/baker/docs/pdf/horticulture/educator-resources/Citrus-Care-Basics.pdf>