



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

While the winter season is not officially over, it is time to start thinking about springtime. This could mean preparing your backyard garden for planting, performing landscape maintenance around your home, or setting up your forage areas for spring green up. We are here to help. If you have questions regarding your agriculture or horticulture operation, please stop by, give us a call, or send us an email with your questions. Don't forget that 4-H County Events are coming up. Please see Ms. Shaina for details. As always, if we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis
Director / Agriculture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County



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)

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Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

WHAT TO PLANT IN NORTH FLORIDA



MARCH

FLOWERS

Alyssum	Calendula
Calibrachoa	Carnation
Dahlberg Daisy	
Dianthus	Dusty Miller
Gaillardia	Hollyhock
Marguerite Daisy*	
Pansy	Petunia
Phlox	Rudbeckia
Snapdragon	
Verbena	Viola

VEGETABLES

Arugula	Onions, shallots
Beans*	Peas, English/Snow
Beets	Peas, southern*
Cantaloupe*	Peppers*
Carrots	Radish
Corn*	Spinach
Cucumber*	Sweet Potato*
Eggplant*	Swiss Chard
Kohlrabi	Squash*
Okra*	Tomato*
Onions, bunching	Watermelon*

PLANTING & FERTILIZING TIPS

Most Florida soils benefit greatly from the addition of organic matter such as compost.

RESOURCES :

Gardening with Annuals in Florida
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/MG/MG31900.pdf>

Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/VH/VH02100.pdf>

*Tender plants will require protection when frosts and freezes threaten this month.

Some plants can be grown in portable containers and transplanted into the garden after the danger of frost has passed. Others will require a quality row cover frost cloth for early planting.

Controlled-release fertilizers provide a continuous nutrient supply over an extended period of time. For best results, apply at the labeled rate or based on your soil test results.

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County
presents

8th annual Spring Garden Festival

Saturday, April 2, 2016
9 am - 2 pm

IN THE ARBORETUM & GARDENS

1025 w. macclenny ave
macclenny ag center

plant
SALE

KIDS
Activities

gardening
EXHIBITS

Florida-Friendly
Landscaping
ADVICE

FREE
ENTRY

The Foundation for the Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution

New vendors welcome, call (904) 259-3520 for info.



Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business

WHEN: March 14-15 or 18-19, 2016 • (9:00am - 5:00pm/ D1) (8:00am - 4:30pm/ D2)

WHERE: Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center (8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL 32060)

COST: \$295 (Primary Participant), \$210 (Secondary Participant) - (by 02/25)
 \$325 (Primary Participant), \$240 (Secondary Participant) - (after 02/25)
 \$30 Optional Tour Fee (4:30 pm - 6:30 pm/ D2)

Topics will include:

- Structures for Protected Culture
- Starting Transplants
- Developing a Marketing Plan
- Soiless Media Systems
- Solution Systems (No Media)
- Integrated Pest Management
- Water and Nutrient Management
- Traditional Crops
- Specialty Crops

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 8

Registration includes lunch and refreshments. Secondary participant does not receive class materials.

To register online, visit: <http://smallfarmsacademy.eventbrite.com>

To register by mail, send form and payment to:

(checks payable to) University of Florida: 7580 County Road 136 • Live Oak, FL 32060

For more information, contact:

Dilcia Toro
 dtoro@ufl.edu
 386-362-1725, ext. 102

Karen Hancock
 khancock@ufl.edu
 386-362-1725, ext. 101

UF | IFAS Extension
 UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

SMALL FARMS ACADEMY

Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business

Check date that applies:

Name(s): (Primary Participant) _____

March 14-15






(Secondary Participant) _____

March 18-19

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 	5
6	7 	8	9	10 	11	12
13	14 	15	16	17 	18	19  County Events
20	21 	22 	23	24 	25	26
27	28 	29 	30	31		April 2  Spring Garden Festival

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.

- March 4** **Master Gardener Lunch-n-Learn, 11:00am to 2:00pm, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave, Macclenny, FL.** Join the County Horticulture Agent and Master Gardeners during your lunch break to learn about various gardening topics and techniques. Gardening demonstrations will include do-it-yourself tower gardens, grow buckets, container gardens and companion planting. The Master Gardeners will also be giving away free vegetable seeds for your spring garden just for stopping by the event. In addition, you are invited to bring your brown bag lunch, sit down in the classroom, and enjoy a 30 minute talk on “Tips for Growing Tomatoes” which will begin promptly at 12:15 pm. For more information, please call (904) 259-3520.
- March 29** **Private Applicator Pest Control Workshop, 8:30am to 4:00pm, UF/IFAS Extension Clay County, 2463 SR 16 W., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.** The UF/IFAS Extension Baker and Clay County Offices will be presenting a workshop for current Restricted-Use Pesticide license holders to receive continuing education units (CEUs) for their license. Potential new license applicators can also attend to take the CORE and Private Applicator Exams. Registration is \$20 per person and is required. Please contact the UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Office at (904)284-6355 to register for this event. The registration deadline for the workshop is March 25, 2016 at 5:00pm. A total of 6 CEUs (3 CORE + 3 Private Applicator) have been requested for this program. Registration fees are payable by cash or check only. For additional information, please contact the UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Office at (904)284-6355 or the UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Office at (904)259-3520. A current program announcement and tentative agenda can be found at:
http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/PesticideWorkshopFlyerandAgenda3_16.pdf
- April 2** **Spring Garden Festival, 9:00am to 2:00pm, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave, Macclenny, FL.** See page 2 for details. New vendors welcome. Call (904) 259-3520 for more info.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM USDA

Due to staffing issues, the Duval-Baker-Nassau County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office located at 260 U.S. 301 N, Room 102, Baldwin, FL will be **CLOSED on Fridays**. The office will continue to be open Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 4:30pm. Producers that need to contact the office on a Friday may call the Columbia-Union County FSA Office at 386-752-8447, ext. 2.



4-H Club Meetings & Events

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

Cloverleaf Cloggers — *New location!* Every Monday at 7pm at Baker County Extension—Ag Center Auditorium. (No club meeting on March 14th)

Livestock Club — 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in Auditorium

Baker Creation Explorers—3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30pm in the 4-H Classroom.

4-H Events for March

01 – Legislature Registration Opens

18 – Forest Ecology Contest Reg. Closes

19 – County Events, Auditorium, 10am

21 – MAD Monday; Healthy Living , 7pm

<http://florida4h.org/madmonday/>

Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

*Shaina Spann,
4-H Agent*

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Events

March

01– Legislature Registration Opens
18– Forest Ecology Contest Reg. Closes
19– County Events, Auditorium 10am
21– MAD Monday; Healthy Living 7pm,
<http://florida4h.org/madmonday/>

April

9-14– National 4-H Conference
15-17– Third Executive Board, senior
4-H'ers, Camp Cherry Lake
30– District Events, Glen Baptist Church

May

2– 4-H Legislature Reg. CLOSES
14– Tailgate BBQ Contest, Gville
16– Auction Items DUE
20-22– Intermediate State
21– 4-H Auction, 6:00 pm

June

04– Counselor Training, 10am-
3pm, Camp Cherry Lake
06– Camp Cherry Lake Orienta-
tion, 6:30, Auditorium
13-17– Camp Cherry Lake
27-July 01– Legislature

Birthdays for March:

Wishing you all a **Happy Birthday!**

03—Garrett Bridges	05—Dalton Crawford
09—Mrs. Emily	09—Ryan Webb
11—Veronica Bridger	14—Jacob Ballinger
16—Elijah Williamson	16—Morgan Padgett
17—Ashton Bridger	18—Kyra Stewart
20—Graci Padgett	21—Will Briner
23—Haylee Sands	26—Bryce Cole
25—Angelina Troshyna	
26—Amber Owens	



The Purpose of County and District Events

County Events is approaching! Every year at County Events 4-H members come together to participate and compete with one another. County and district level presentations provide a valuable teaching and learning situation. They give Junior, Intermediate, and Senior participants an opportunity to:

- Practice making oral and visual presentations.
- Learn presentation techniques from observing others.
- Receive constructive suggestions for improvement.
- Receive recognition for efforts.

The County 4-H program receives additional recognition and visibility through these activities. All 4-H events should foster a strong educational 4-H program by providing physical, mental, social, and emotional growth experiences for individual 4-H members. Events should give 4-H members positive, meaningful experiences in leadership and citizenship development.

Competitive events are a planned part of the 4-H curriculum, designed to allow youth to:

- Gain experience and develop skills in gathering, preparing, and presenting educational information.
- Enhance decision making capabilities.
- Make public presentations.
- Learn standards by which comparisons are drawn.
- Develop good sportsmanship.

Competitive events are just one of the many teaching methods used by 4-H leaders and Extension Agents.

Adapted from: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/4H/4H24900.pdf> And http://florida4h.org/staff/Project%20Resources/Events/files/planning_events.pdf

County Events is a very important part of participation in 4-H beyond the club level (you can also get Clover Points for participating). At County Events you can compete in the following activities:

- Demonstrations— A 'How to' speech
- Illustrated talks—Telling about speech
- Fashion Revue—Fashion show/sewing
- Horse Public Speaking
- Photography— 8x10, mounted or framed
- Posters— 4-H subject matter, no larger than 14"x22"
- Share-The-Fun —Talent show



Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h

You can do all of these and more at County Events. If you do well, you can advance on to District Events. Following District Events is 4-H University for Senior members the week of July 25-29, 2016 in Gainesville, FL.

Prepping Your Pasture for Spring

Although the winter season is not officially over, it is time to start thinking about spring and green up of your forage areas. This is the time of year that many pasture and forage producers will start to apply fertilizer to help meet the nutritional demands of the livestock. Planning ahead will help you get the optimal performance from your pasture or forage area.

Soil Testing

Soil testing is an integral part of forage management. Not only will a soil test inform you of the amount of fertilizer that you need to apply, it will also give you the current pH and lime requirement of the soil. It is important to know this information as early as you can since it can take lime applications 3 to 6 months before they fully regulate the pH to the desired level. You should also keep in mind that while we generally have acidic soils here in North Florida., repeated lime application to soil without determining pH can raise the pH to an undesirable level.

Walk the Line

Walking your pasture and the fence line can help to identify problem areas. Make sure to look at fences, gates, crossings, lanes, and other areas that your livestock will be using. During this inspection it is also important to note areas that are bare or look like they were overgrazed so that they can be reseeded for the upcoming growing season.

Take Care of Weed Issues

During your inspection of the pasture, you should also make sure to note areas that may be infested with weeds or have the potential to become infested. There are many herbicide options available for common pasture weeds, but they should be applied with the correct timing. Many small, broadleaf weeds can be taken care of with 2,4-D, which is fairly inexpensive. However, if these weeds are allowed to mature, it may take a more expensive option to rid yourself of the problem.

Timing of Fertilizer Application

Fertilizers should be applied when the forage crop is actively growing. Established warm-season grasses such as bahiagrass and bermudagrass typically begin good

growth when the constant nighttime temperature reaches 50°F to 60°F. Once temperatures reach this level, fertilizer can be applied. If you have a new planting in the field, only apply fertilizer after the plants have emerged. You should also split the fertilizer for new plantings so that you don't waste fertilizer or over-fertilize. Applications should be made after plant emergence and 1 to 2 months after the first fertilization.

Plan and Follow Through

Finally, it is important to plan the activities for your pasture or forage area early, especially if you are using a rotational grazing scheme. Having a good plan will help you get the optimum performance from your land while helping to decrease the costs of materials and labor.

UF/IFAS Extension Beef Management Tips for March

The full annual beef management calendar can be found at http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/beef_extension/docs/beef_calendar.pdf.

- Fertilize pasture to simulate early growth
- Prepare land for summer crops.
- Begin grazing warm-season permanent pastures.
- Check and fill mineral feeder.
- Observe bulls for condition and success. Rotate and rest if needed.
- Deworm cows as needed.
- Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.
- Hang force-use dust bags by April 1 for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.
- Identify, vaccinate, implant, and work late calves.
- Put bulls out March 1 for calving season to start December 9.
- Remove bulls March 22 to end calving season January 1.



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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).



The UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County Office, in conjunction with the USDA, invites you to an OPEN HOUSE to discuss Rural Energy and Value-Added Grants that are available through the USDA. These grants are available to Small Businesses and Agricultural Producers.

OPEN HOUSE

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Time: 4:00pm to 7:00pm

Location: UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County
971 W. Duval St., Lake City, FL 32055

For additional information, please contact Elda Rogers (elda.rogers@fl.usda.gov) or Marty Sanders (marty.sanders@fl.usda.gov) or call (386)719-5590.