



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

Can you believe that we have already completed one third of the year? Time, it seems, is flying by. I want to go ahead and wish everyone a Happy Memorial Day. Please remember those in uniform that have given their lives for our freedoms. While fire risk has been low because of rain, please remember to watch out for causes of wildfires and keep those to a minimum. As always, if we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis
County Extension Director / Ag Agent
Baker County Extension Service



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Carpenter Bees: Friend or Foe?

Carpenter Bees get their name from their nesting habits, excavating tunnels in wood. While most carpenter bees are considered "friends" some large carpenter bees can become economic pests or "foes" if nesting takes place in structural timbers, fence posts, furniture, or the like.

Carpenter Bee Activity and Nesting

Carpenter bees are active in Florida from November to January and from April to summer. Female bees may choose to refurbish old nests, or start new ones, by chewing their way into wood, excavating a burrow, and using the tunnel to protect their brood. Often these bees go unnoticed until you enter a nesting area, but not to worry since they are more of an annoyance to humans rather than an actual threat. Females have the ability to sting, but rarely do. Males do not have the ability to sting, but may hover or dart at humans who venture into the nesting area. So in general, carpenter bees are not much of a problem.

Carpenter Bee Damage and Management

Carpenter bees cause damage by weakening structural timbers, gallery excavation in wooden water tanks, and defecation streaking on houses or painted structures.

Carpenter bees rarely attack painted or varnished wood, so applying a finish to the wood may solve the problem. Most often, these bees cause problems on structures by boring into the back face of the trim under the eaves, as this surface is usually not painted. A buzzing or drilling sound can be heard but if the hole is not visible, look for sawdust on the ground under the hole.



If problems do arise, use a small amount of insecticide that is labeled for bees and wasps. The labeled pesticide should be blown into the nesting holes (more safely done with aerosols than with the other formulations). After a few days, to allow the female to be exposed to the pesticide, the holes should be plugged with plastic wood or putty.

Frizzle Top in Sago Palms

Most females can relate to the term "frizzle top" as we are well familiar with bad hair days. But did you know that Sagos can also get frizzle top? Only theirs is a more serious condition!

The term "frizzle top" refers to how Sago palms tend to look when they are experiencing symptoms of Manganese (Mn) deficiency. This is different from Magnesium (Mg) deficiency which exhibits symptoms in the lower palm leaves instead of the top. In the early stages of Mn deficiency, Sagos will appear light green or yellow and frizzled in the top portion of the canopy (shown below). But as the deficiency worsens, these symptoms progress down into the lower leaves while the top leaves turn brown and begin to die. Without treatment, the plant becomes stunted and eventually dies.

Of course, the best management for this nutrient deficiency is prevention, but once symptoms begin to develop, there are treatment options. Manganese sulfate fertilizer can be purchased from any garden center supply store, either in a granular or liquid formulation. Granular products should be applied to the soil by broadcasting, while liquid (spray) applications should be applied to the leaves (liquid applications are more helpful if roots are damaged). Severely affected plants may benefit from a combined treatment: foliar spray for immediate response and soil applications for long term treatment. Recurring symptoms are often an indication that the soil pH is high (meaning too alkaline or "sweet"), which affects uptake of certain nutrients, including Mn, by the plant. A simple soil pH test can confirm this and your local County Extension Agent can make recommendations for changing the soil pH.



Florida Farm to School

The Florida Farm to School Partnership is a program funded by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and The University of Florida-IFAS

Florida's 47,000 farms lead the nation in the production of oranges, green beans, sweet corn and watermelon—food kids like to eat. Smart food choices are delivered fresh to your school's kitchen and prepared in a way that kids think is delicious.

Farm to School is a creative, interactive way to help children learn about food, agriculture, nutrition and the environment. Serving local, seasonal foods and revamping school menus as a part of the Farm to School Program promotes fruit and vegetable consumption, as well as increased participation in the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program.



IFAS will engage farmers, state and federal agencies, land grant institutions, school food authorities and families through facilitated discussions, training and technical support to strengthen FDACS Florida Farm to School Program and improve the health and welfare of children while contributing positively to Florida's agricultural economy.

WHAT DOES THE FDACS AND UF-IFAS PARTNERSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

A compilation of best practices from throughout the state related to:

- Wellness Policies
- Nutrition Education
- Procurement
- School Gardens



Support provided by the grant includes:











- Two (2) Statewide Coordinators
- Five (5) District Coordinators
- Funding for supplies for school gardens and other Farm to School necessities

STATEWIDE GOALS FOR 2012-2013

- Establish 40 New School Gardens
- Certify 50 Schools for the Healthier U.S. School Challenge (HUSCC)
- Improve HUSCC Ratings for 20 Schools
- Establish 25 New Farm to Cafeteria Partnerships



May 2013

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	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 	31	June 3 

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



Family &
Consumer Sciences



Agriculture

Upcoming Programs & Events

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

- May 8—10** **62nd Annual FL Beef Cattle Short Course**, *Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611*. The FL Beef Cattle Short Course is one of the premier beef cattle educational events in the Southeast and Gulf Coast regions. The course addresses issues for beef cattle enterprises at an elevated level of management skill with practical applications for every beef cattle producer. For additional info and to register, please visit <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/beef/index.htm>.
- May 14** **Encouraging Pollinators, Beneficial Insects & Other Good Guys—A Whole-Farm Approach to Managing Pests**, *5:00pm to 8:30pm, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, 8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL 32060*. This program will be beneficial to beginning, small and large farmers who want to take a whole-farm approach to managing pests on their farm. Topics include insect identification, birds, bats and pollinators habits, cover cropping and trap crops, and more. The cost is \$30 per person before May 3 and \$40 after May 3. For more information or to register, contact Sarah White at (386) 362-1725, ext. 102.
- May 16** **Rain Barrel Workshop**, *6:00pm to 7:00pm*. Build a rain barrel to water garden and landscape plants. \$40 per barrel due by Friday, May 10th. We provide the materials and tools, and help you build!
- May 30** **Evening in the Arboretum: Attracting Wildlife**, *6:00pm to 7:30pm*. From bees and butterflies to birds, bats, and mammals, we'll teach you how to provide food and habitat for Florida's wildlife in your own backyard and door prizes will help get you started. \$5 registration fee for materials is due by Friday, May 24th. Class will be held in the arboretum behind the Extension Office; call (904) 259-3520 for more info.
- June 3** **Northeast Florida Equine Culture Seminar**, *5:30pm to 9:00pm, Clay County Fairgrounds, 2497 SR 16 W, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043*. The Northeast Florida Livestock Agents Group (NFLAG) presents a program on equine management. Topics include: 1) equine first aid, 2) nutrition and feeding, 3) hay quality and 4) a panel discussion covering participant questions. Registration begins at 5:30pm and the cost is \$5.00 per person (meal included). To register, please contact David Nistler, Clay County Extension, at (904) 284-6355 or contact your local County Extension Agent.

Master Gardener Volunteer Training— Applications due by July 1st

To help meet the demands of the local community, the Extension Service provides training for volunteers who assist in offering educational information and advice on garden-related topics. Master Gardener Volunteer Training will take place at the Baker County Extension Office in Macclenny on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am - 1pm during a 7 week period of starting at the end of July (official schedule released this month). The cost of the training is \$50 (\$60 for couples) and payment plans are available. There is no cost for returning Master Gardener Volunteers who completed the training in previous years. Please refer to the updated Baker County Master Gardener application packet for full program details and requirements. For an application packet, visit the Master Gardener page on our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu> or stop by our office to pick one up. Please call (904) 259-3520 if you have questions about the training or concerns regarding volunteer requirements after reading the application packet.

4-H Events & Club Meetings for May:

Cloverleaf Cloggers—May 9 & 23, 7:00pm, Keller Intermediate*

Cooking Club—May 9, 6:00pm Extension Classroom*

Livestock Club—May 23, 6:00pm Extension Classroom

***Please note that these will be the last meetings of the school year for the Cloggers and the Cooking Club. Meetings will resume after the start of the new school year.**

Upcoming 4-H

Events in May:

May 4– District Events, Lake Butler High School, 9 am



Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,

4-H Extension Agent



The Camp Issue!

This year the summer is going to be under one theme, Space! All of our day camps have a "Spacey" title! But don't let that fool you! They won't all be about space so please take

a look and see if they interest you!

Mad Scientist Day Camp—June 10-13

June 10: 8:45am to 4:00pm UF Tour... Bring Lunch

June 11: 9:00am to 2:00pm Sally Corp. Tour...Bring Lunch

June 12: 9:00am to 2:00pm MOSH Trip..... Bring Lunch

June 13: 9:00am to 2:00pm Experiment Day.....Bring Lunch

Mad Scientist Day Camp will provide an opportunity for youth to explore the areas of engineering, robotics, science, history, and have fun experimenting with different scenarios! Youth will tour the University of Florida and its College of Engineering, see robots at Sally Corp. in Jacksonville, and enjoy a field trip to the Museum Of Science and History. \$15/day or \$55/week, ages 8-13. Deadline to register is May 14th.



Exploring Florida & Beyond Day Camp

June 18-21 (Camp A) and August 6-9

(Camp B)

Camp A Camp B

June 18 & Aug. 6: 9:00am to 3:00pm Stephen Foster St. Park

June 19 & Aug. 7: 8:30am to 3:00pm FLMNH & Butterfly Rainforest

June 20 & Aug. 8: 9:00am to 2:00pm Heritage Park Tour

June 21 & Aug. 9: 9:00am to 2:00pm Beaches Museum

This day camp will introduce youth to the exciting world of Florida! Starting with the Stephen Foster State Park and Florida friendly gardening, then onto the Florida Museum of Natural History and Butterfly Rainforest and experience Heritage Park and lastly, the Beaches Museum in Jacksonville which has a real steam engine on sight! \$15/day or \$55/week, ages 8-13. Deadlines to register A: June 1st, B: July 15th.



Food: It's Out of This World Day Camp

June 25-28 (Camp A) and July 8-11

(Camp B)

Camp A Camp B

June 25 & July 8: 9:00am to 2:00pm Mediterranean Day

June 26 & July 9: 9:00am to 2:00pm Caribbean Day

June 27 & July 10: 9:00am to 2:00pm Asian Day

June 28 & July 11: 4:00pm to 7:00pm Family Dinner

This day camp will explore the different cultures and foods from different countries from around the world.



Youth will "travel" from country to country throughout the day and learn how to make authentic dishes from those countries. On the final day, we will decide on what foods were best and make a big family dinner introducing the new cultures and foods to the family. Lunch will be provided. \$15/day or \$55/week, ages 8-13. Deadlines to register A: June 1st, B: June 17th.

Parents: If you can drive for any of these events please let us know when registering.

Payment must accompany registration.

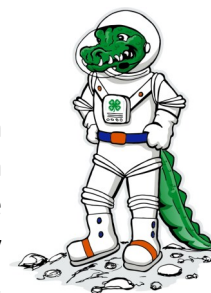
Camp Cherry Lake—July 15-19

Camp Cherry Lake is a place to grow, find peace and make friends. Located on scenic Cherry Lake, rustic cabins, an open-air pavilion and a dining hall are nestled among live oaks on a gently sloping bank. Enjoy kayaking, swimming, archery, outdoor cooking, campfires, and much, much more! Youth ages 8-18 can enjoy a wonderful week long experience!

Cost: 4-H Member, \$205 Non 4-H Member, \$215

Deadline to register: July 1st

Payment plans are available upon request.



Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h

Birthdays for May:

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

May 04– Blaine Turner and Cody Bennett

May 11– Zoie Hoopes

May 14– Samantha Fink

May 24– Rayleigh Combs

May 31– Maci Rhoden



Did You Know: The only U.S. President to be present at a Shuttle Launch was President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton watched John Glenn's return to Space on STS-95 on Oct 29, 1998 from the Kennedy Space Center.

Looking for community service? Youth ages 13-18 that would like to earn service hours please contact Ms. Shaina, at 259-3520.

Water Quality in Your Pond

There are many uses for ponds in Baker County, including 1) as a water source for livestock, 2) swimming, 3) fishing, 4) irrigation and 5) aesthetic enhancement. Most of the residents that come to me with pond questions are using the pond for recreational fishing and/or swimming. With the weather getting warmer and use of these ponds increasing, there are some water qualities that you need to be aware of so that your pond is in good shape for the months to come.

Dissolved Oxygen:

The amount or level of dissolved oxygen that is in your pond water is directly related to the health of the fish in the pond. A lack of dissolved oxygen is one of the most common causes of fish kills. As water warms up, its ability to hold dissolved oxygen decreases. This is especially important during hot summer months with little to no rainfall. Much of the dissolved oxygen in a pond is produced by the plant life in that pond. This is why it is important to treat only a portion of the pond with a herbicide at a given time. Since the plants need sunlight to perform the processes that make oxygen, the dissolved oxygen content of a pond is at its lowest just before sunrise. A test of the dissolved oxygen in the water at sunrise should yield a result of 5.0 mg/L or higher. Adding aeration to the pond will result in higher dissolved oxygen levels.

pH:

The pH of the water is the measure of its acidity. Pure water has a pH of 7.0, which is said to be neutral. Most freshwater fish can tolerate a pH range of 6.0 to 9.0. The pH of the pond will fluctuate during the day. It is usually lowest in the early morning and highest in the late evening. If the pH of the water is low, the addition of dolomitic lime will raise the pH to desirable levels.

Alkalinity:

The alkalinity of pond water is related to its pH. Alkalinity of pond water serves as a buffer to changes in pH (as long as the alkalinity is at the right level). Freshwater ponds should have an alkalinity reading of 100 mg/L or higher. It is also important to note that if the alkalinity is below 50 mg/L, you should not use copper-based treatments in the water as this can cause high mortality in fish.

Ammonia:

High levels of ammonia in a pond are another common reason of fish kills. A high ammonia level can also cause very rapid growth in aquatic plants which lead to other issues. The main source of ammonia in ponds is via animal wastes, most commonly the waste of the fish themselves. High ammonia levels are usually present when the pond is overstocked and/or the fish are being overfed. Fish feeding is recommended to take place no more than 3 times per week. If your fish need more food than this, then the pond is most likely overstocked. Ammonia levels should be 0.05 mg/L or less for a healthy pond. Flushing with well-aerated well water can also help to decrease the ammonia level, but make sure that you are not decreasing the dissolved oxygen content by doing this.

Finally, you can purchase a water testing kit from various sources, but the Extension Office can test your pond water for you. Please contact the Baker County Extension Service at 904-259-3520 to set up an appointment. We also have a video online that will show you how to properly take the sample. It is located on our YouTube page at <http://www.youtube.com/user/BakerCountyExtension>

Baker County Extension Service

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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).

Agricultural Producer Water Use Survey



The University of Florida and IFAS ask for your help in completing a 10 to 15-minute anonymous survey. The survey is designed to ask about your current water use practices and preferred policies in dealing with possible water shortages or variation in water availability. The big benefit to you in completing this survey is that the results might help influence water use policy according to your preference in the future.

The link to the survey is:

<http://is.gd/watersurvey>

Thank you for your cooperation in this survey.

A paper survey is available at the UF/IFAS Baker County Extension Service Office.

FL Firewood Law in Effect

A new Florida firewood law prevents locally produced or harvested firewood and unprocessed wood products from being moved or distributed more than 50 miles from the point of origin.

The reason for this new law stems from the on-going problems that Florida has with invasive species. We currently have several non-native insects and diseases killing Florida trees, with more threatening to invade our state and wipe out tree populations.

Both live and dead wood can harbor these insects and diseases, and persons transporting firewood unknowingly spread them to new areas. Protect the trees you love by only using local sources of firewood.



For more information, visit

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/firewood>