



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

After a short cool spell at Easter, it seems that Spring has arrived in Baker County. I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the Baker County Extension Service. We have lots of good information for you in this issue, including water quality for your pond. Please make sure to check out the calendar section for upcoming events and if you are involved in 4-H, please make sure to read Ms. Shaina's information on camps and the fair. 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

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension
Baker County Extension

Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

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4-H Agent



Highlights in Horticulture

By: ²
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

Jadera Bugs

Jadera bugs are harmless creatures that give people cause for concern when they show in up in large numbers in yards and gardens each spring.

Jadera bug adults are black with red along their shoulders. Nymphs (the young, immature stages of the insect) are mostly red.

They feed on the seeds of the goldenraintree and chinaberry tree. Large colonies of them can occur, but they don't cause plant damage. They are so common under the goldenrain trees that some people call them "goldenrain tree bugs."

Jadera bugs sometimes stain clothing red when children play among them in the yard or when you crush them while working in the area. They may become a nuisance if they enter buildings in search of shelter.

Need advice on replacing your goldenrain tree or chinaberry tree with a Florida-Friendly species?

Check out the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Trees for Baker County list at:

http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/documents/TreesForBakerCounty_FFL.pdf

Copies are also available free of charge from the Baker Extension office.



Chemical control is not recommended since they are not considered a plant pest. However, removing the goldenrain tree and chinaberry trees are recommended since both species are considered invasive exotic trees that impact Florida's environment in a negative way. If you aren't willing to give up your tree, you can rake the seeds and destroy them to cut down on the number of Jadera bugs in your yard.

Tips for Propagating Your Prize Camellias

Each year our office receives calls about propagating camellias. But usually these calls come in winter while the plants are blooming, which unfortunately isn't the right time of year to be taking cuttings or air layering plants.



Instead, propagation should take place in spring or summer, depending on your technique.

Here are some tips to help you make more of your prized plants to plant in your yard, or give away to friends:

Camellia Propagation Techniques

Cuttings — Most Camellia cultivars and hybrids are produced commercially from cuttings. Cuttings are taken from midsummer to mid-fall from the flush of growth after the wood has matured somewhat and changed from green to light brown in color. Tip cuttings 3-6 inches long are used, with 2-3 leaves. Cuttings should be treated with rooting hormones such as an IBA quick-dip, IBA+NAA, or IBA talc. These types of rooting hormones are not commonly used by home gardeners and typically need to be special ordered from garden supply companies. Wounding the base of the cuttings before they are treated with hormone sometimes improves rooting. Cuttings root best either in a polyethylene closed frame or under mist.

Air layering — Air layering is a method of plant propagation used to induce plant stems to root while they are still attached to the mother plant. Layers are started in spring and removed in September or October.

For step-by-step instructions on air layering camellias, be sure to visit: http://jefferson.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/pdfs/camellia_layer.pdf



Photos by
Alicia Lamborn

***You are invited to the
Baker County 4-H Benefit Auction***

May 17th, 2014

***Baker County Agricultural Center
Auditorium***

***Doors open:
5:30 pm***

***Auction begins:
6:30 pm***















***\$5 admission fee
(includes dinner,
drink and
dessert)***

***Give your support to Baker County 4-H for
Camp Scholarships, 4-H Club & School Enrichment
Resources and Much More!***

***If you would like to donate an auction item or monetary gift to
Baker County 4-H, please contact:
Shaina Bennett, Baker County 4-H Youth Development Agent
904-259-3520 or slbennett@ufl.edu***

***Thank You to our local businesses who have
already donated!***

May 2014

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 

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 7-9** **63rd Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course**, *Straughn IFAS Extension Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville FL 32611*. This course is designed for cattle owners and producers in Florida. For additional information about the course and to register, please visit <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/beef/index.htm>
- May 13** **Pond Management 101**, *6:00pm to 8:00pm, Dove Ranch, 76458 Dove Rd., Yulee, FL 32097*. This workshop is designed for pond owners and will include the following topics: 1) Water Quality & Testing, 2) Aquatic Plants & Pond Weeds, 3) Introducing Fish to Your Pond, and 4) Aeration and Measuring Pond Dimensions. Registration is \$10 per person and dinner will be provided. To RSVP or for additional information, please contact Amanda Burnett at 904-879-1019 or mandab@ufl.edu
- May 17** **Encouraging Pollinators, Beneficial Insects and Other Good Guys**, *Live Oak, FL*. To register online go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/encouraging-pollinators-beneficial-insects-and-other-good-guys-registration-10527882179?aff=eorg> . For more information contact Sarah White at 386-362-1725, ext. 102 or sewhite@ufl.edu.
- May 31** **Equine Workshop**, *9:30am to 3:00pm, UF/IFAS Horse Teaching Unit, 1934 SW 63rd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32608*. This workshop is designed for horse enthusiasts at both the beginner and advanced levels. There will be two tracks for the workshop with topics including: 1) Basic Horse Nutrition, 2) Hoof Care & Shoes, 3) Horse Rations & Formulations, 4) Hay Quality & Testing, 5) Legal Liability for Horse Owners, 6) Toxic Weed Identification, 7) Deworming and 8) Equine Dentistry. There is no registration fee, but prospective attendees need to RSVP to 352-955-2402 to register.
- Aug. 1-2** **2014 Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference**, *Osceola Heritage Park, 1875 Silver Spur Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744*. The purpose of this conference is to provide farmers with up-to-date, research-based, in-depth educational information. For registration or additional information, please visit <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/index.html> or contact Mandy Stage at 352-392-5930 or mstage@ufl.edu



4-H Club Meetings & Events:

All County 4-H Club — Tuesday, May 20th at 6pm, 4-H Classroom

Livestock Club — Tuesday, May 27th at 6pm, Auditorium

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Every Monday at 7pm at Fabulous Footwork

JUDGES NEEDED!

4-H is looking for adult volunteers to judge in the Animal Science category for District Events on May 10th in Gainesville.

If you are interested in judging or for more information, please contact:
Shaina Bennett, 4-H Agent at 259-3520.

Baker County 

Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

*Shaina Bennett,
4-H Agent*

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Summer Camps!!

School will soon be out and what do you do?! As a 4-H member you should attend 4-H Summer Camps which are a great way to learn new, fun, and exciting things!

SPACE EXPLORERS CAMP – JUNE 9–11 - Ages 8 & up

Cost: \$65.00 - Deadline to register: June 2nd

Explore to infinity and beyond! Youth will see space from many viewpoints, including experiments and visits to the planetarium and Kennedy Space Center.

CAMP CHERRY LAKE – JUNE 16-20 – Ages 8 & Up

Cost: Members \$200.00 / Non-Members \$215.00 -

Deadline to register: June 9th

Camp Orientation Meeting: June 9th @ 6pm

“Welcome To Our Jungle” is the theme for this weeklong overnight camp in Madison County.

EVERYTHING CRAFTY – JULY 7-10 – Ages 8 & Up

Cost: \$50.00 – Deadline to register: June 30th

This week is all about being creative! Youth will learn to embrace their crafty side by making spa scrubs, crocheting, floral arranging and more!

CSI: BAKER COUNTY - JULY 14-17 – Ages 8 & Up

Cost: \$50.00 – Deadline to register: July 7th

Youth will explore the judicial system and learn what it is like to be a detective and forensic scientist! Tour the historic jail, our local courthouse, and visit University of Florida's crime scene van. In addition, youth will get to learn about crime scenes and solve their very own mystery.

BLUEBERRY COBBLER DAY CAMP - JULY 22-25 – Ages 8-13

Cost: \$50.00 – Deadline to register: July 14th

Youth will explore the dairy industry and blueberry production including making delicious dishes, visiting farms, and visiting an ice cream parlor.

Remember all registrations are now online! Visit our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/> for more information on how to register for a day camp!



Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h

Events:

May 02– **Auction Items deadline! Please turn them in!**

May 05– 4:30pm WJXT Tour, Leave from Office

May 07– Pullet orders in

May 10– District Events, Kanapaha Middle School, Gainesville, FL, Registration 8:45am

May 17– 4-H Auction, 5:30pm, Auditorium, be early to help!

May 20– Loom Bracelets, 4-H Classroom, 6pm

May 20– Livestock Meeting, Auditorium, 6pm

May 21– Counselor Training Meeting

May 29– 4-H University Registration Closes

June 9-11 Space Explorers Day Camp

June 16-20 Camp Cherry Lake

Birthdays for May:

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

May 04– Blaine Turner

May 04– Cody Bennett

May 12– Ms. Janet Lawson

May 27– Tommy Allbright

May 28– Keilley Sweat



Livestock Members

Just a reminder:

To be eligible to show in the Baker County Fair for the 2013-2014 4-H Year you must have:

- A signed contract of the given 4-H year and are between the ages 8 and 18 (on or before 9/1 of given 4-H year). Members must be enrolled in the 4-H specific animal projects.
- Fair record book completion
- Attendance at 4 out of 7 club meetings between the months of November through May
- Attendance at 2 out of 4 club meetings between the months of June through September
- Thank-you letters mailed out **prior to the December 31** following the October Fair
- Notice will be given at the May meeting regarding current year fair eligibility. Attendance is recommended.
- Members must attend the Baker County Fair Mandatory Parent/Exhibitor Livestock meeting conducted by the Baker County Fair Association Livestock Committee.

By signing the Livestock Contract, you agreed to abide by these guidelines. Otherwise, you will not be able to show in the Fair.

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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Email: michael.davis@ufl.edu

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

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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).

New Newsletter Available



The Baker County Extension Service is pleased to announce the availability of a new newsletter, *Feathered Facts*, that focuses on poultry topics and information.

The newsletter is available in electronic format only and is accessible from the Baker County Extension website. You may also sign up to receive an email reminder of new issues via the website.

This monthly newsletter will focus on topics related to backyard poultry production, including general questions and answers, hot topics concerning poultry, nutrition, management and others.

Please visit <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu> to access the latest edition.

Have you heard the news?



Alicia Lamborn will be on maternity leave for several months starting in June. While she is away, Dr. Kyle Brown, a retired horticulture professor, will be filling in to assist residents with their plant questions and problems. Baker County Master Gardeners will also be available to assist you during this time.

Dr. Brown's Office Hours will be:
Monday — Friday
1pm to 5pm
Beginning in June

Email: bakermg@ifas.ufl.edu

