



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

I would like to express my thanks to Alicia and our wonderful Master Gardeners for another successful Spring Garden Festival. This annual event allows the Extension Office to showcase our lawn and garden offerings and it also allows local vendors a venue to reach customers. Since we are getting close to the end of the school year, it is also time to think about Summer Camps. Please contact Ms. Shaina for information on 4-H Residential Camp and Day Camps that will be offered this year. Thank you for your continued support of your local Extension Office. 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

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension
Baker County Extension

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)

Michael Davis, Ph.D.
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Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

WHAT TO PLANT IN NORTH FLORIDA



FLOWERS

VEGETABLES

- Ageratum
- Amaranthus
- Angelonia
- Balsam
- Begonia, wax
- Coleus
- Crossandra
- Dahlberg Daisy*
- Dusty Miller
- Gaillardia
- Gomphrena
- Impatiens
- Marigold
- Moss Rose
- Melampodium
- New Guinea Impatiens
- Ornamental Pepper
- Pentas
- Rudbeckia
- Salvia
- Torenia
- Tropical Sage
- Verbena
- Vinca
- Zinnia

- Beans, lima
- Eggplant
- Okra
- Peas, southern
- Sweet Potato
- Swiss Chard

PLANTING & FERTILIZING TIPS

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

A good rule of thumb is to add 2-3 inches of organic matter such as compost, to the soil surface. Next sprinkle a controlled-release fertilizer and thoroughly mix it into the top 6 inches of soil.

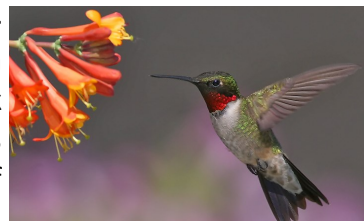
Controlled-release fertilizers provide a continuous nutrient supply over an extended period of time. For best results, apply at the labeled rate or based on your soil test results.

*Indicates annual that typically begins declining in July as temperatures soar.

Gardening For Hummingbirds

To be successful in keeping hummingbirds around your house, you must garden for them.

- ◆ Choose plants that produce tubular flowers in red, orange, and pink colors. Tubular flowers hold large amounts of nectar at their base.



- ◆ Select a variety of plants to provide nectar throughout the growing season. Nesting hummers need nectar from March to September and are aggressive/territorial around their food source. Plant a variety of species and arrange these flowers in several groupings to allow several hummers to feed at the same time without conflict.

- ◆ Artificial feeders can supplement your plant nectar sources but should not replace them, and can also be dangerous. Artificial feeders will attract hummingbirds, but should not be the sole source of food provided since they provide little nourishment. Nectar is much more than just water and sugar! If you use them, sugar solutions must be kept fresh. Florida's hot weather can cause rapid bacterial growth and birds that drink contaminated water could die. Change the solution every 3-5 days and clean the feeders with hot water and white vinegar. Do not use soap or chlorine bleach.

Hummingbird Plants:

Red Buckeye*, Bottlebrush, Coral Bean*, Butterfly Bush, Firebush*, Red Star Hibiscus*, Firespike, Wild Azalea*, Cross Vine*, Trumpet Vine*, Coral Honey-suckle*, Butterfly Weed*, Red Basil*, Shrimp Plant, Cardinal Flower*, Obedient Plant*, Scarlet Morning Glory*, Cypress Vine*, Standing Cypress*, Four O'Clock



Butterfly Weed (*Asclepius tuberosa*)

*Native to Florida

Master Gardener Volunteer Training Coming Soon!

If you live in Baker County and enjoy helping others, the Baker County Master Gardener Program could be for you.

The Extension Office provides extensive training for volunteers who provide service to the community in return.

Volunteer training classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 6 hours a day during a 5-week period starting July 26th.

The cost of the training covers class materials, reference books, and supplies; payment plans are available.

Download the application and program guide at:
http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html

Questions? Call Alicia at (904) 259-3520.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
BAKER COUNTY 4-H
ASSOCIATION

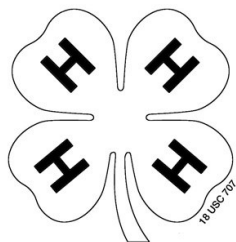
3RD ANNUAL AUCTION & DINNER

FOOD • ENTERTAINMENT • FUN

May 21, 2016 | 6pm
Baker County Agricultural Center Auditorium
1025 West Macclenny Avenue

Dinner tickets available for presale or day of event.

Honoring Armed Forces Day
















**Baker County 4-H
Benefit Auction
Chance Drawing
for
YETI Hopper**



**One ticket is \$5 or \$20 for 5 tickets.
Drawing will be at end of auction. Value \$350.
You do not have to be present to win.**

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9 	10	11 Staff Training Extension Office Closed	12	13	14
15	16 	17  	18	19 	20	21  4-H Auction 6pm
22	23 	24  	25	26 	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day Holiday Extension Office Closed	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.

- May 17 Cold Hardy Citrus Workshop** Perry, FL. More information and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/commercial-citrus-for-n-florida-tickets-21641718964>
- May 21 4-H Public Auction** Dinner and silent auction begin at 6pm; live auction begins at 6:30pm. \$8 dinner and free public auction, held in the Agricultural Center Auditorium. For more information or if you have items to donate, please contact Shaina Spann, 4-H Extension Agent at slbennett@ufl.edu or (904) 259-3520.

Lunch - n - Learn Gardening Series



Join the County Horticulture Agent during your lunch break to learn about gardening!

When: 4th Tuesday of April – May – June @ 12:15pm to 12:45pm

Where: Baker County Extension Office (Ag Center) Classroom,
1025 W. Macclenny Ave, Macclenny, FL



RSVP to ensure class materials: 904-259-3520
Website: <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>
Facebook: UF IFAS Baker County Garden Spot



4-H Club Meetings

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

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Every Monday at 7pm in 4-H Classroom.

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

See page 6 for more upcoming 4-H events.



Mandatory Market

Animal Meeting

May 3rd & 17th at 7pm at Fairgrounds

Parent and child must attend one of the meetings to participate at Fair.

Livestock Commitment Forms

Due May 31st. No Exceptions!!

Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

*Shaina Spann,
4-H Agent*

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Upcoming 4-H Events

May

02- 4-H Legislature Reg. CLOSES

16- Auction Items DUE

20-22- Intermediate State

21- 4-H Auction, 6:00 pm

26- STEM Fair 6-7 pm

31- Livestock Animal Commitment Forms DUE, NO EXCEPTIONS

June

04- Counselor Training, 10 am-3 pm, Camp Cherry Lake

06- Camp Cherry Lake Orientation, 6:30, Auditorium

13-17- Camp Cherry Lake

21-24- Buggin' Out with 4-H Day Camp

27-July 01- 4-H Legislature, Tallahassee

30-July 01- Dancing with the Clovers Day Camp

July

01- 4-H Bug Collection Registration Due

12-15- PB&J Day Camp

18-21- Kitchen Chemistry: The Science of Baking Day Camp

25-29- 4-H University, Gainesville

Birthdays for May:

Wishing you all a **Happy Birthday!**

04- Blaine Turner

04- Cody Bennett

06- Allison Bennett

06- Manny Duke

08- Braioun Ruise

11- Asher Jay

12- Chloe Johnson

13- Hannah Johnson

18- Katie Sluski

20- Emely Bruckner

22- Tori Crawford

26- Matthew North



Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h

How to Participate in a Livestock Project

- Youth ages 8 and older wanting to show animals (commercial beef, horse, market steer and swine, pullets, rabbits, goats and poultry) in the fair will be required to earn a minimum of 15 points.
- Youth 5-7 need a minimum of 10 points.
- These points will be earned by participating in club, county, district, and state level 4-H events & activities. This system has been developed to help 4-H youth become well rounded program participants.
- Complete a 4-H animal specific project book portion (not the fair record book). (5 points)
- Attend 75% of club meetings. (4 points)
- Attend mandatory meetings.
- Commitment Form turned in by May 31st.

Example of points earned:

Holiday Bake Off (2 points) and Party (1 point)- total of 3 points

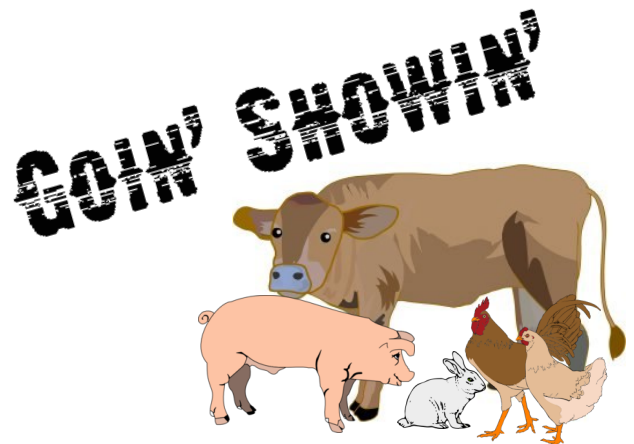
Summer Day Camp- 2 points

Present a photo at County Events- 1 point

Help with the 4-H Auction- 1 point

Attend meetings- 4 points

Complete project book- 5 points



Measuring Pond Water Quality



Baker County has an abundance of small bodies of water that are used for many activities, including recreational fishing. These ponds also provide water for livestock, water for irrigation, and aesthetic enhancement. For fish to thrive in a pond, there are certain water quality parameters that have to be in the correct range, or the fish population will decline. These parameters and their optimum levels are listed below.

Dissolved Oxygen—The amount of dissolved oxygen in the pond will have a direct effect on the health of any fish that are in the pond. Fish need oxygen to survive and they use dissolved oxygen in the water the same way as land animals use the oxygen in the air. A lack of dissolved oxygen is one of the most common causes of fish kills. It is also important to note that as water gets warmer, its ability to hold oxygen decreases. This is especially important during hot summer months when there is little to no rainfall. A majority of dissolved oxygen in a pond will be produced by plant life within the pond, so it is actually good if your pond has some plant life. However, overgrowth of weeds in a pond can also cause issues. Dissolved oxygen levels are lowest just before sunrise, and at that time the level is recommended to be 5 mg/L or higher.

pH—The pH of the water is a measure of its acidity. Pure water is neutral and has a pH of 7.0. Since many of the soils that we have in Northeast Florida are acidic, ponds that are built on top of them will be acidic as well. Most freshwater fish can tolerate a pH range of 6.0 to 9.0 (slightly acidic to slightly basic). Like dissolved oxygen, pH levels can vary during the day and will have a low point in the early morning and a high point in late evening. Ponds that have a low pH (< 6.0) can be treated with calcitic or dolomitic lime to increase the pH of the water.

Alkalinity—Pond water alkalinity is related to its pH. Alkalinity in a pond system refers to the ability of the pond water to buffer changes in its pH (given that the alkalinity is at the correct level). Freshwater ponds are recommended to have an alkalinity level of 100 mg/L or higher, although most ponds in this area have a hard time reaching that level. It is also important to note that it is not advisable to use copper-based treatments for algae or weed control if the alkalinity is below 50 mg/L.

Ammonia—High levels of toxic ammonia are another common cause of fish kills. High ammonia levels can also cause very rapid growth in aquatic plants, which can also lead to problems. The main source of ammonia in ponds is via animal wastes, most commonly from the fish themselves, but it can also come from livestock and other animals that use the pond. High ammonia levels are common if the pond is overstocked or if the fish are being overfed. Fish feeding is recommended to take place no more than 3 times per week. In a healthy pond, the ammonia level should be 0.05 mg/L or less. Flushing the pond with well water can help to decrease ammonia levels, but you should make sure that the well water is well-aerated so that you do not lower the oxygen levels in the pond.

There are many commercial water testing kits available for pond owners which will allow you to test the levels of oxygen, alkalinity, pH, and ammonia. The Baker County Extension Office offers this service free of charge, but an appointment is required. Before bringing your water to have it tested, make sure to call the Extension Office to make sure that you are taking the sample at the correct time of day and will be bringing the correct amount for testing. The UF/IFAS Extension Baker County office can be reached by calling 904-259-3520. We also have an informative video that will show you the correct way to take a water sample from your pond. The video is located on our YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/user/BakerCountyExtension/videos>.

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).

4-H SUMMER CAMPS 2016

CAMP CHERRY LAKE 2016



Ages 8+ Must be 4-H member as of 4/1. Register by: June 6th
Early registration due May 23: Member \$215; Non-Member \$250
Late registration after May 23: Member \$240; Non-Member \$275
Camp Orientation June 6th at 6:30 pm, Ag Center Auditorium.

Baker County



BUGGIN' OUT WITH 4-H DAY CAMP JUNE 21-24

Register by: June 6th Ages 8+

We will be exploring the world of entomology! Youth will make insect collections, learn about bees, and plants. There will be a trip to UF's entomology department, the Bee Unit, and more!



DANCING WITH THE CLOVERS DAY CAMP JUNE 30-JULY 01

Register by: June 20th Ages 8+

Come and learn how to clog, line dance, and learn dances from around the world!



All ages are as of 09/01/2015.

Payment is required to secure registration.

Payment plans available upon request.



PB&J DAY CAMP JULY 12-14

Register by: June 27th Ages 10+

Explore Florida's peanut industry. Make your own peanut butter, can jelly, and make bread! We will visit farms in North Florida.



KITCHEN CHEMISTRY DAY CAMP JULY 18-21

Register by: July 6th Ages 10+

This camp will explore the science behind baking. Learn how to make breads, pastries, main & side dishes, and desserts! The finale for this camp is a family dinner prepared by YOU! Participants MUST have basic kitchen skills.



Register at florida.4honline.com

Pay at Baker County Extension Office
1025 W Macclenny Ave. 904.259.3520

Make checks payable to: Baker County 4-H Association

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

