



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

I want to wish everyone a happy beginning to the Holiday Season and an early Happy Thanksgiving. There will be many get-togethers and parties over the next couple of months, so be safe. We are still conducting our newsletter survey, please see page 8 of the newsletter for more information. Congratulations to our newsletter sign-up winner, Ms. Dot Shepard (also on page 8). Please see pages 4 & 5 for upcoming programs in the area. 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



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.

Agriculture Agent



Alicia Lamborn

Horticulture Agent



Melanie Thomas

Family & Consumer
Sciences Agent



Shaina Bennett

4-H Agent



Highlights in Horticulture

By:

Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

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Master Gardener Volunteer Training Coming in February - Apply Now!

The Master Gardener program is a national program of volunteers who help the Extension Service by extending unbiased, research-based horticultural information to people in our community. This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys helping others and wants to volunteer their time.

In Baker County, Master Gardener volunteers work in the Extension office answering homeowner questions, creating educational materials, and planning educational programs. Volunteers also help plant and maintain demonstration gardens at the office and help conduct gardening programs for adults and youth.

The training will take place at the Baker County Extension Office starting February 5th through March 21st on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. The cost of the training is \$50 (\$60 for couples).

For more detailed information on the Master Gardener Program, please read the 2013 Master Gardener Application Packet, available on our website (baker.ifas.ufl.edu) or from the Baker County Extension Office.

Sulfur Shown To Boost Tomato Yields

Florida tomato farmers may increase their yields by adding sulfur to their soil before planting, according to a University of Florida study published in the current issue of the journal HortTechnology. Adding 25 pounds of elemental sulfur per acre (1 acre = 43,560 sq. feet) boosted yields by 1.7 tons per acre in the study. Sulfur is an important major nutrient and some farmland may not have the same sulfur content it once did. There are no field tests available for soil sulfur content so adding a sulfur amendment to the soil once each year may be beneficial. Adding more sulfur had little additional benefit in the study. Possible sulfur sources include gypsum, elemental sulfur and sulfate-based fertilizer.

Adapted and excerpts from: Nordlie, T. (2012). *Sulfur Shown to Boost Tomato Yields*, Western Farm Press, Retrieved from: <http://westernfarmpress.com/vegetables/sulfur-shown-boost-tomato-yields>



A Few Additional Words on Sulfur

Elemental sulfur and sulfate-based fertilizers containing ammonium sulfate, iron sulfate, or aluminum sulfate, will also decrease soil pH (1 pound of elemental sulfur per 100 sq. feet of soil will decrease pH by 1 unit), if only for a short period of time. Never apply sulfur in excess of 5-10 pounds per 1000 sq. feet per application. Thoroughly water-in sulfur after application, taking care to wash off all aboveground plant parts. Repeat applications should not be made more than once every 3 months. Sulfur oxidizes in the soil, reacting with water to form sulfuric acid, which can severely damage plants roots, so it must be used cautiously (unless used in extremely low doses as in the 25 pounds per acre mentioned above).

Source: Shober, A. & Denny, G. (2008). *Soil pH and the Home Landscape or Garden*. University of FL, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss480>

Proper Hand Washing

The weather is changing and we will soon be experiencing the cold and flu season. Hand washing is essential to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. Germs from humans and animals can be transmitted to hands and then on to people, foods, and other things that are touched.

By proper hand washing we mean using soap and water and scrubbing all areas sufficiently for enough time that will help reduce bacteria. Hands should be washed on a regular basis when visiting the restroom and after covering the nose or mouth while coughing and sneezing, gardening or working outdoors, handling pets, working with raw foods, changing baby diapers, or doing any activity which could dirty the hands. It is also advisable to wash frequently during these activities as well.

While cooking, hands should be washed as jobs are changed such as, working with one food and changing to another or wiping off surfaces and then beginning to work with food. Washing is particularly critical when changing from raw foods to cooked foods. This will help prevent cross contamination of bacteria-transferring germs from raw foods to those that are cooked or will be consumed raw. Here are some simple tips for proper hand washing:

- Remove jewelry if possible.
- Use soap and warm running water.
- Rub the hands together and wash between fingers and up wrists and lower arms.
- Washing should last at least 20 seconds-longer is better.
- Rinse thoroughly under running water.
- When in a public restroom with paper towels available, use them to turn off the water.
- Dry hands and wrists with clean, disposable paper towels.
- If possible open public restroom doors with elbows or paper towels to avoid touching dirty surfaces.













Water and soap are best for proper washing but hand sanitizers are suitable substitutes. The time that we scrub is very important. Twenty seconds is the general rule. Singing the Happy Birthday song twice is a close estimate to the twenty second rule. Of course, if you are in a public restroom, it might be wise to sing to yourself!

When teaching young children to wash hands, it is especially important for them to understand how to wash the backs of their hands and rinse well. These seem to be the areas where children have a problem. Soap which is ingested can cause stomach and digestive problems. The Happy Birthday song or Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, sung twice are good time factors for the little ones to go by. Hand washing seems so simple and can do a great deal to reducing bacteria transfers. It is just a matter of being aware and not forgetting to do it well and often.

Source: Adapted from Jackie Schrader, FCS Agent III, Clay County IFAS/Extension

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Extension Office Closed—Veterans Day</div>	13 	14	15 	16 	17
18	19	20  	21	22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Extension Office Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday Observation</div>	23	24
25	26	27 	28	29	30 	DEC 12  

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.



Upcoming Programs & Events

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

Nov. 12 2012 Small Ruminant Production Conference—9:00am to 5:00pm, Marion County 4-H Farm, 4931 Baseline Rd., Ocala, FL. Topics include: 1) Small arm pasture management, 2) Sheep & goat health and parasite control, 3) Manure management and benefits, 4) Marketing alternatives for small ruminants, 5) Legumes for your farm and others. Registration is \$15.00 per participant. Please visit http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/2012_1112_SmallRuminantConference.pdf or call Donna Redner at 352-671-8400 for additional information.



Nov. 16 Food Preservation Workshop—9:30am to 2:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063. The program will emphasize the proper techniques in canning food safely. Registration is \$7.00 per person to cover supplies. The deadline to register is Tuesday, November 13th. Contact the Extension Office at 904-259-3520 to register.



Nov. 20 Drip Irrigation School—8:30am to 5:00pm, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, 8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL 32060. Topics to be covered include: 1) Design, components and installation of drip irrigation systems, 2) Scheduling irrigation events, 3) Fertigation and Chemigation, 4) Movement of water in mulched beds, 5) System maintenance and 6) Troubleshooting. There is a registration fee for this event. For additional details, please visit http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/2012_1120_DriIrrigation.pdf , or contact Sarah White at sewhite@ufl.edu or 386-362-1725, ext. 102.



Nov. 30 Food Preservation Workshop—9:30am to 2:00pm, Bradford County Extension Office 2266 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL 32091. The program will emphasize the proper techniques in canning food safely. Registration is \$7.00 per person to cover supplies. The deadline to register is Tuesday, November 27th. Contact the Bradford Extension Office at 904-966-6224 to register.



Dec. 12 Forest Stewardship Polycom Workshop: The “Green Value” of Your Woods (plus a Greenbelt Update) 1:00pm to 4:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063. Get a more complete picture of the value of your woods! Florida's private forest lands provide many economic and environmental benefits to society such as protecting water quality, wildlife conservation and carbon storage. Until now we have known little about the dollar value of these environmental benefits. The University of Florida recently identified and quantified the economic values of environmental benefits, or “green value”, provided by lands enrolled in Florida’s Forest Stewardship Program. Join us to get a more complete picture of the value of your woods. We will also get a review and update on greenbelt assessment policy for property taxes. The workshop will be recorded and made available online for those who are unable to attend. This workshop is free and open to the public; please call (904) 259-3520 to register if you plan to attend.



4-H Events & Club Meetings for November:

Cooking Club—November 15th—Extension Kitchen—6:00pm

Livestock Club—November 15th—Extension Classroom—6:00pm

Cloverleaf Cloggers—Nov. 13th & 27th—Keller Intermediate—7:00pm

Horse Club—TBA—Contact Mary Pregler for details



Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,
4-H Extension Agent

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Another fair has come and gone! Baker County 4-H had a very successful week! From winners in showmanship to champion animals all aspects were well represented. Be sure to thank your club leaders for all of their help throughout the week, as well as thanking the local businesses that helped to support Baker County 4-H members this year.

The Open Horse went off without a hitch and was successful as well! A special THANK YOU to all who showed up to help make it possible, it is greatly appreciated, and the show would not have happened without them.

In December, on the day of the Christmas Parade, 4-H is going to have a fundraiser to give clubs a chance to raise funds as well as meet other 4-H members from other clubs. Please contact the Extension Office for more information.

Also, on December 15, 4-H is going to host "Santa's Little Helpers" in the auditorium, which is a day of crafts, games, and other activities to do for students while parents can go Christmas shopping. Youth can participate for the whole day or for a few hours. The hours of operation are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be snacks, but bringing a sack lunch is preferred. The deadline to sign-up for this event is December 10th, with 25 seats available. The cost is \$35 for the day, or \$6 per hour. Payment is required at the time of registration to hold place on list. Youth do not need to be a 4-H member attend.

If you have not re-enrolled for the current 4-H year please do so. You can fill out paperwork for this new year or you can go online to <https://florida.4honline.com>.

Events:

Nov- 25 Thanksgiving!
Dec- 1 Christmas Parade
Dec- 15 Santa's Little Helpers
Club Meetings—See Page 4 & 5

Birthdays for November:

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

Nov 15- Cassie Taylor
Nov 19- Brie Miller
Nov 28- Weston Sands



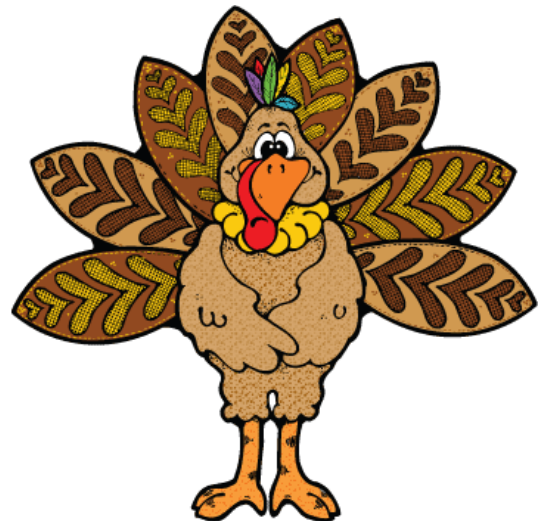
Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h



Did You Know:

President Franklin D. Roosevelt restored Thursday before last of November as Thanksgiving Day in the year 1939. He did so to make the Christmas shopping season longer and thus stimulate the economy of the state.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!



JOIN | THE REVOLUTION
OF RESPONSIBILITY

Common Fall Weeds for Northeast Florida

Mimosa Tree

Description—Mimosa trees are very distinctive because of their leaf pattern. They have alternate compound leaves with pink, showy blooms in the spring. The mimosa tree also has large seed pods that can reach 6 inches in length. It is often found along fence lines, road sides and other disturbed areas.

Control—Apply Remedy in a 15% solution with basal oil applied to the lower 12-15 inches of bark around the entire stem. Spray until the bark is wet, but not to the point of runoff and do not apply to wet bark. The leaves can be spot treated with 1% Imazapyr or 2% Triclopyr. Large trees should be cut down and the stump treated with 50% Garlon3A immediately to prevent regrowth.



Chinese Tallow

Description—The Chinese Tallowtree has simple leaves with a distinct point at the tip. The sap from the tree is milky and the fruiting body is 3-lobed with a capsule that stays on the tree through the fall. It is also known as the 'popcorn tree'.

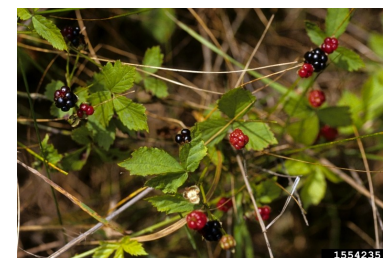
Control—Apply Remedy in a 15% solution with basal oil applied to the lower 12-15 inches of bark around the entire stem. Spray until the bark is wet, but not to the point of runoff and do not apply to wet bark. The leaves can be spot treated with 1% Imazapyr or 2% Triclopyr. Large trees should be cut down and the stump treated with 50% Garlon3A immediately to prevent regrowth.



Blackberry

Description—Blackberry is a woody, perennial bush that forms thickets and can invade grazed pastures. Also found along fence lines and distressed areas. It can be very hard to control due to the large underground root system.

Control—Multiple applications are often needed. Remedy (1qt/ac) or Pasturegard (2qt/ac) will give rapid brown-out, but 20-30% regrowth is expected. Control is best achieved when applied late in fall, prior to the first frost with a reapplication in spring.



Spiny Amaranth

Description—This plant is also called 'carless weed'. It is common within heavily trafficked areas of pasture. Each weed can produce thousands of seeds multiple times during the year. Therefore, it can out-compete existing grass.

Control—Many herbicides are effective, including: 2,4-D; Weedmaster; GrazonNext and Telar.



Photo Credits:

Mimosa—Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org; **Chinese Tallow**—Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org; **Blackberry**—Ohio State Weed Lab Archive, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org; **Spiny Amaranth**—John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

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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).

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ms. Dot Shepard of Glen St. Mary. Ms. Shepard won our gift basket drawing for signing up for our newsletter. The basket included a food preservation book with recipes, a 4-H gardeners tote and grocery bag, a water savings kit and other goodies. Congratulations, Ms. Shepard, and thank you for supporting the Baker County Extension Service.



Reminder

We have a request for our readers this month; we need your feedback via a survey. By including your contact information in your response you will be entered to win a gift basket that includes:

- Simply Florida cookbook
- Outdoor Water Saving Kit
- 4-H Day Camp Voucher
- a 6 oz. jar of local Gallberry Honey
- IFAS Calendar & Bookmarks
- a Pinecone Ginger Plant

**The survey can be found online at
<http://bit.ly/Qxax1J>.**

The link is also on our webpage or you can drop by the office and get a paper copy. The survey closes at 8:00am on November 26th.