



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PEANUT BUTTER CHALLENGE

MEAT GOATS

LUCKY CLOVER 4-H

FLORIDA'S NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA

**ONLINE CLASSES FROM
UF/IFAS EXTENSION BAKER COUNTY**

STRAWBERRY PLANT FUNDRAISER

The UF/IFAS Extension Office is available to help you with your farming, gardening, landscaping, and 4-H youth development needs by providing educational programming, free consultations and information. Contact us at:

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

1025 W. Macclenny Ave. Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

Hours: M—F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (Closed Noon to 1:00 pm for Lunch)



The Peanut Butter Challenge is coming!

Support the farmers and our local food bank by donating jars of peanut butter to the Baker County Extension Office!



Programs & Events

- October **Strawberry Class & Plant Sale** — See page 6 for class info & plant sale fundraiser details.
- Oct 10 **2023 Ag Irrigation Expo FREE** — Enjoy irrigation exhibits, field demonstrations, educational sessions and a tradeshow. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-ag-irrigation-expo-tickets-675344913817>
- Oct 20 **2023 Persimmon Field Day FREE** workshop on growing persimmons in North Florida. Visit the persimmon grove; light refreshments provided. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/persimmon-field-day-tickets-694769262567>
- Oct 26 **2023 Cold Hardy Citrus Field Day \$5** A fun and informative day exploring the world of cold hardy citrus, featuring expert speakers, & touring citrus groves. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cold-hardy-citrus-field-day-tickets-664612161867?aff=oddtcreator>
- Online **See page 6 for online classes:** Butterfly Gardening, Growing Strawberries, Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries, Backyard Poultry Basics, and Selling Backyard Poultry Products.

PEANUT BUTTER *Challenge*

Our county
is competing
in the Peanut
Butter
Challenge
in October!

Bring
unopened
peanut butter
jars to our
office and
help us feed
our hungry
neighbors.



Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Meat Goats in Florida

Goats are a popular choice for those with smaller acreage operations or wish to have smaller livestock with less financial investment. Meat goats are preferred to dairy goats if you are looking for a financially viable operation since there is little resources for commercial goat dairies.

Breeds

- Boer—High growth rate, muscling, lower health traits.
- Kiko—Hardy, low input, large framed
- Fainting Goats—Smaller framed, very heavy muscled, hardy goats
- Nubian—dual purpose (dairy/meat), more meat than most dairy breeds.
- Savanna—Growth and survival, little research related to this breed.
- Spanish—High sur viability, moderate frame, good mothers

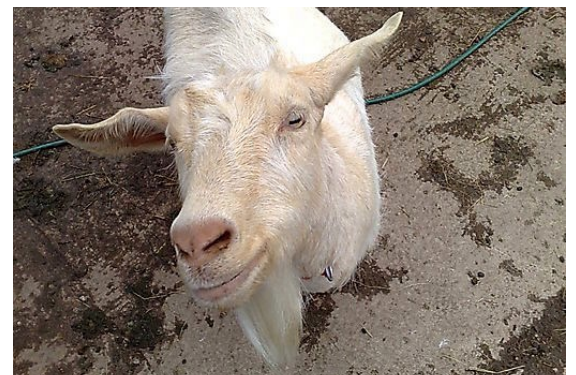


Types of Operations

- Commercial—This is the largest segment of the industry. These operations produce animals for the commercial meat market. Breeds may be mixed. Financial sustainability depends on the ability to keep costs low, they are beholden to market prices.
- Seed Stock—These operations develop breeding stock for the industry. They strive to develop better animals which will be sold to the commercial market.
- Elite—These operations are producing elite/high-end stock that you will find winning livestock shows and in AI catalogs.

Selling Kids

No matter which segment of the industry you decide to participate in you will be generating profit by selling kids (goat babies). Small ruminants are capable of having multiple kids in one birth (2-3) which makes each breeding animal more profitable. Kids sold for meat will generally be taken to market when they reach 70-90 pounds. In north Florida, most profit will be at the livestock auction as there is not a large market for goat meat in the area.



Risk Factors

- Disease & Parasites affecting animals
- Loss of kids at birth
- Lack of marketing ability
- Market price not suitable for profit

[Find a sample budget for 25 does HERE](#)
[Oklahoma Basic Meat Goat Manual HERE](#)
[Basic Goat Production for Kentucky HERE](#)



How Does the Overall 4-H Program Work?

According to *The ABCS of 4-H*, "The 4-H Youth Development Program aims to be youth-centered, professional-led, and volunteer-delivered. To make this happen, 4-H encourages the teamwork of county- and campus-based faculty, staff, and volunteers to offer youth and adults high-quality personal growth opportunities. Volunteers, as full partners in 4-H, contribute their unique talents, skills, and knowledge of their communities to assist county 4-H faculty in offering a comprehensive local 4-H youth development program. "

What this means is every local 4-H program has a 4-H Professional leading the county program, volunteers delivering high-quality youth programs that are centered around interests of the youth in the community. The 4-H Agent in the county is helping to train volunteers to lead community clubs for members.

How Does 4-H Reach Youth?

4-H provides safe, inclusive, and fun learning environments for youth ages 5-18 through clubs, school programs, short-term (SPIN) clubs, school-age child care programs, day and residential camps, individual study, and instructional videos. These are done in the 'Learn By Doing' method, youth-adult partnerships (a relationship with a positive caring adult!), contests, community service and collaborations with other youth organizations.

Why Does 4-H Need Volunteers?

4-H needs volunteers to provide leadership for clubs. A **club organizational leader** establishes annual club goals and objectives, planning meetings and activities, and disseminates information to club members. **Club activity leaders** assist with group activities like community service, fundraisers, or social activities (parties, kick-off, etc...). They also work with other volunteers to meet club goals and keep the membership informed of scheduled activities. **County Association Members** contribute to the success of the county 4-H Youth Development program by assisting the County 4-H Staff and other volunteers with the planning and evaluating educational programs and activities for county 4-H youth. Provides input into the setting of program priorities.

Without volunteers, clubs and community events would cease to exist! That's why we need YOU! We need caring adults to inspire sparks in our community's youth to continue the 4-H program. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to the extension office.

We need volunteers!

For Baker County 4-H to grow we need more opportunities for youth and for that to happen, we need more volunteers!



4-H Friendsgiving

November 16, 2023 6-7pm
Awards & Recognition Night
Please RSVP by 11/09/23
Bring a family sized side dish!

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- October 2– 4-5pm, Cloverbuddies, 4-H Classroom
- October 3– 6-8pm, National Night Out, Memorial Park
- October 24-29– Baker County Fair
- November 16– 6-7pm, Friendsgiving, Location TBD

Members showing at the Baker County Fair or North Florida Fair **MUST re-enroll to be bona fide members!**

Florida's Native Flora & Fauna

By: Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

Featuring some of Florida's native flora (plant life) and fauna (animal life) so you can learn to recognize, appreciate, and protect native species. We'll also aim to dispel myths and provide tips for managing conflicts with wildlife.

Turkey Tangle Fog Fruit

Don't you just love plants with fun names? This long-lived native perennial (*Phyla nodiflora*) also goes by the names Frogfruit, Matchweed, and Capeweed.

And while some may consider it to be weed, the species has become increasingly popular in landscapes where it is used as a low-growing groundcover, a turf substitute in low traffic areas, and even planted in mixed lawns that desire pollinators.



Photo credits: Canva

In addition to having a fun name, it is adored for its evergreen leaves, year-round flowers, wide range of soil tolerances, and ease of maintenance (dare I say no maintenance?).

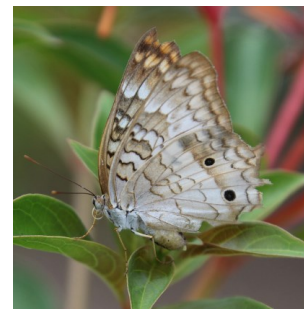
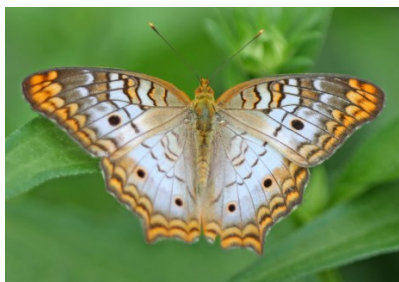
And did I mention pollinators? The purple and white flowers provide nectar for many species of butterflies. Additionally, the common buckeye, phaon crescent, and white peacock butterflies all rely on the species as a larval host plant.

Maxing out its height around 6 inches, it can easily blend in with turf. In fact, you may already have this plant intermingling in the lawn. If not, just ask a friend to share some with you. It can be propagated by division and planted in full sun or partial shade. It grows naturally in dry, moist, or wet sites and readily makes itself at home in disturbed areas (landscapes).

White Peacock Butterfly

The White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*) is a member of the Nymphalidae family, otherwise known as the brush-footed butterflies.

Both males and females appear similar, having white with brown markings and orange margins. The forewing has a small black central spot, while the hindwing has two small black spots and a short tail.



Adults fly low to the ground in search of nectar and larval host plants. Light green eggs are laid singly (or sometimes in small clusters) on host leaves of water hyssop (*Bacopa monnieri*) and Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*).



Mature larvae are black with small white spots and black spines.

The chrysalis is green.



Common throughout Florida, the preferred habitat for this species includes wet ditches, pond edges, canal banks, roadsides, and disturbed sites.

Photo credits: Canva (adult butterflies) and Sara Bright, Alabama Butterfly Atlas (egg, larvae, chrysalis).

Butterfly Gardening

Learn the basic garden design elements for a successful butterfly garden.

[Register Here](#)



Free

Growing Strawberry Plants

Includes variety selection, planting, and care through the strawberry growing season.

[Register Here](#)



Free

Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries

Variety selection, planting, and maintenance, plus a section on raspberries.

[Register Here](#)



Free

Backyard Poultry Basics

A beginner's guide to raising chickens.

[Register Here](#)



\$15

Selling Backyard Poultry Products

Learn how to start a business selling chickens, other poultry, or poultry products.

[Register Here](#)



\$20



STRAWBERRY PLANT FUNDRAISER

'Chandler' Strawberries

- A favorite due to good flavor, high yields, and long harvest season.
- Fruit are large and juicy - suitable for eating fresh, canning or freezing
- Well-suited for North Florida gardens

All orders come with planting and growing instructions. Plus, we have a free online (self-paced) class available:



10 plants - \$6

50 plants - \$25

**PRE-ORDER TODAY
PAY AT PICK-UP**

259-3520