



Baker County Extension Service Monthly Newsletter

October 2011

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Dear Extension Friends,

It is October, so that means that it is Fair Time. Please come out and support the Baker County Fair, which runs from September 30 until October 8. There will be good times had by all. We are now in the last couple of months for hurricane season, so while it is winding down, it is by no means over. Please visit our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu> for disaster preparedness tips and links to the Baker County Emergency Operations website. Finally, a big THANK YOU to our sponsors and participants for the 2011 4-H Kick-Off Event.

Sincerely,

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



Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

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Michael Davis, Ph.D.

Agriculture Agent



Alicia Lamborn

Horticulture Agent



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Family & Consumer
Sciences Agent



Michael Davis, Ph.D.

Interim 4-H Agent



Highlights in Horticulture

By:

2

*Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent*



Grow Your Own Strawberries!



Strawberries should be planted during the months of October and November!

VARIETIES: There are three varieties recommended for the home garden: 'Camarosa', 'Festival', and 'Sweet Charlie'. All three produce attractive, flavorful berries suitable for eating fresh, canning or freezing, and are capable of producing 1 to 2 pints of fruit per plant over the season. During fall, the plants will continue to grow larger and put on new leaves, followed by flower formation and later fruit production in response to the shorter days and cooler nights of winter. The fruit is ready for harvest about a month after flowers are formed, and protecting plants from freezes will bring you early fruit (January).

SITE: Strawberries grow best in a location receiving at least 8 hours of direct sunlight per day. If a full sun location is not available, try to choose a spot that is sunny during the morning and early afternoon. The soil should be well drained and slightly acidic (pH 5.5-6.5). Most strawberry plants grown in Florida are planted in double rows on raised beds, but can also be grown in planter boxes, hanging baskets, barrels and in other types of containers. Raised beds (as compared to flat beds) create a well-drained soil environment and make hand harvesting easier.

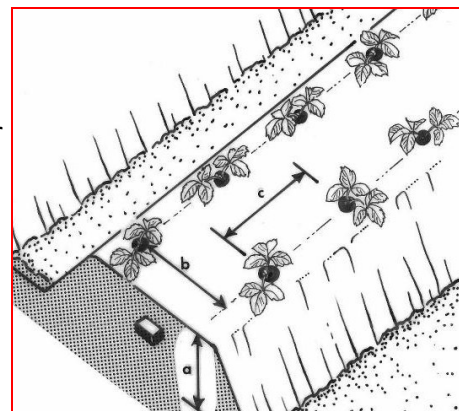
FERTILIZER: A fertilizer formula containing nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) is essential for successful strawberry growth and fruiting. A 10-5-10 or similar garden fertilizer with micronutrients (i.e. zinc, copper, iron, manganese and boron) and at least 30% to 50% slow release nitrogen is recommended. For each ten feet of row, incorporate 1 cup of the fertilizer evenly across the top of the bed with a rake and band 3 cups of fertilizer approximately 1 inch deep down the middle of the bed (above the drip line or soaker hose, if they have been placed in the bed). Applying fertilizer directly under plants will cause foliar wilting due to salt burn and placing fertilizer under the soaker hose will cause nutrient leaching and therefore nutrient deficiencies in your plants.

MULCH: Mulching is not necessary, but is recommended. While straw and other natural organic materials may be used, black polyethylene plastic mulch (1 to 1.5 mils-thick) has proven to work best, providing excellent weed control and keeping the fruit cleaner. If plastic is used, cover the top and sides of the beds just before planting. Soil can be placed on the edges to hold it in place and holes can be cut at the proper intervals for plants to be inserted.

PLANTING: Now you're ready to plant! Bareroot plants are the most common type of transplant available, just make sure they are planted at the correct depth—deep enough so roots aren't exposed, but not so deep that the crown is covered. This will ensure your plants get off to a good start.

WATERING: Overhead irrigation will fill in the soil around the roots and keep the tops from drying out until the roots can get established. Once established, a drip irrigation line can be used. When plants are small, one to two short watering per week should be sufficient. Later in the season, when plants are larger and weather is warmer, two or three longer watering per week will be needed.

FREEZE PROTECTION: Strawberry flowers and fruit can be damaged by freezing temperatures, while the leaves and crowns of the plants usually do not sustain any permanent damage unless they are exposed to air temperatures in the low 20s. The most practical method for the Florida gardener to protect flowers from freeze damage may be to cover plants with old sheets or blankets or a commercial polypropylene row cover during the afternoon preceding an expected freeze. The covering should be anchored down on all sides to prevent wind from blowing it off the plants. If you do lose flowers and early fruit due to a freeze, a later crop will develop.



Raised bed design:

a=7-9 in. b=12 in. c=12-18 in.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. This means that you may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, or approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide and appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions were based on your being Hispanic, or your being female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims packet, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4426 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov.

In 2011, a claims administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the call center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

For guidance, you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community. **USDA CANNOT PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE TO YOU.**

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429;

Pigford - The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547;










Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

Baker County Farmers Market

The Baker County Farmers Market has re-opened for the fall season! Please come out and support local growers, producers and craft-makers at the Baker County Farmers Market. The Market is at Memorial Park (next to the football stadium). There will be many attractions during the fall along with all of your favorite vendors and their wares. If you are interested in booth space at the Farmers Market, please contact the Baker County Chamber of Commerce at (904) 259-6433 or visit the Chamber at their office at 20 E. Macclenny Ave. The Market will be open on Saturday mornings from October 15 until November 19, 2011.



October 2011

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.



Upcoming Programs & Events

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

- Oct. 3—5 Southeast Herbicide Applicator Conference**, *Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City Beach, FL*. Please see website for details: <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/sehac>. Questions can be directed to Jhanna Gilbert, Conference Coordinator, UF/IFAS at 352-392-5930 or jhanna@ufl.edu.
- Oct. 14 Forestry Webinar: Longleaf Container Grown Seedlings—What’s Good, What’s Bad, What to Look For in Your Shipment**, 12:00pm—1:00pm. To participate, please go to www.forestrywebinars.net on the day of the webinar and join in.
- Oct. 17 2011 Tri-County Wildlife Management Workshop—Coyotes & Hogs**, 5:30pm—8:00pm, *Bradford Sportsmens. Farm, 11394 SW 106th Ave., Graham FL*. This is the second in a series of workshops designed to provide enthusiasts, hunters and managers with the information they need to enhance their experiences in the field. Presentations provided by Dr. William Guiliano, UF/IFAS Wildlife Specialist and County Extension Agents from Bradford, Baker and Union Counties. \$5 per person registration fee. Please RSVP no later than noon on the day of the event to be included for dinner. RSVP to the Bradford County Extension Office at 904-966-6224.
- Oct. 18 Florida Tree Farmer of the Year Tour**, *property of Ellis and Sara Smith, Leon County*. The tour is free, but please call ahead to reserve a spot. Contact Phil Gornicki, Florida Forestry Association at 850-222-5646 or phil@forestfla.org for additional details.
- Oct. 22 Horticulture Open House & Strawberry Festival**, 8:00am—Noon, *Baker County Extension Office*. Fall is the perfect time for planting strawberries and the Master Gardeners want to teach you to be successful at growing your own. Other activities include: Baker County Arboretum Tours and Greenhouse Tours. Please contact the Baker County Extension Office at 904-259-3520 for further details.
- Oct. 26 WFREC Fall Specialty Crop Production Field Day**, *UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center, Jay, FL*. For more information, please contact Robin Vickers at 850-983-5216 ext. 113 or rvickers@ufl.edu.
- Oct. 27 2011 Tri-County Wildlife Management Workshop—Deer & Cattle** 5:30pm—8:00pm, *Bradford Sportsmens. Farm, 11394 SW 106th Ave., Graham FL*. This is the third in a series of workshops designed to provide enthusiasts, hunters and managers with the information they need to enhance their experiences in the field. Presentations provided by Dr. William Guiliano, UF/IFAS Wildlife Specialist and County Extension Agents from Bradford, Baker and Union Counties. \$5 per person registration fee. Please RSVP no later than noon on the day of the event to be included for dinner. RSVP to the Bradford County Extension Office at 904-966-6224.

4-H Events for October



- Oct. 4—Hoof-N-Around Club Meeting, 6:30pm, Classroom
- Oct. 11 & 25—Cloverleaf Cloggers (at Keller Intermediate), 7:00—8:00pm (Tentative)
- Oct. 13—Horsepower Club Meeting, 6:30pm, Classroom
- Oct. 18—Forestry Club Meeting, 7:00pm, Classroom
- Oct. 20—Jr. Master Gardener Club Meeting, 6:00pm, Classroom

*****Livestock Club will not meet this month due to Fair participation.*****

Quick News and Notes:

Carlena Tyson, Extension Program Assistant

4-H Kick-Off Thanks Sponsors and Club Leaders

The Baker County 4-H program hosted the annual 4-H Kick Off on September 20th. A total of 85 people signed in and a total of 65 Children signed up for clubs.



Baker County 4-H has 6 active clubs at this time including:

HORSEPOWER CLUB
LIVESTOCK CLUB
FORESTRY CLUB
CLOVERLEAF CLOGGERS
HOOF-N-AROUND
JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER CLUB



*****Please see page 5 for club meetings scheduled during the current month*****

More Than You Ever Imagined!

A big Thank You to the following Sponsors who helped make the 4-H Kick-Off a huge success:

**Burkins Chevrolet
Food Lion
Gold Buyers of Baker County
Wal-Mart SuperCenter
Winn Dixie**

Also, THANK YOU to all of the leaders for participating. A special thanks goes out to BJ Wilkerson and her family for cooking and serving the food to the community.

If you are interested in signing up for any of the 4-H programs or even becoming a volunteer, call the Extension Office at 904-259-3520 or stop by or you may visit our web site at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu> . Again, thank you to all of the above listed sponsors and to everyone who attended the Kick-Off. We here at the Baker County Extension Office look forward to working with the community and teaching the youth leadership, citizenship and life skills.

- If you have news pertaining to Baker County 4-H, please share. Contact Michael Davis or Carlena Tyson for more details.

The Baker County Extension Service
& Master Gardeners present...

Horticulture Open House & Strawberry Festival

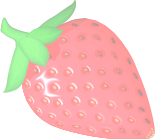
*Saturday, October 22nd
8:00 am — 12:00 noon*

Located behind the Ag Center @ 1025 W. Macclenny Ave (Hwy 90) in Macclenny

Fall is the perfect time for planting strawberries and the Master Gardeners want to teach you to be successful at growing your own!

The Open House includes:

Strawberry Demonstrations



Strawberry Barrels
Grow Boxes
Hanging Baskets
Grow Bags
Stackable Towers

Arboretum Tours

Learn about Florida's
unique tree species
(and enjoy some fall color?)

Greenhouse Tours

See what we have growing in the
greenhouse!



Order Forms at:
baker.ifas.ufl.edu
Or Call
(904) 259-3520

'Festival' Strawberry Plants For Sale:

Sold in Bundles:
10 plants —\$5
50 plants—\$20

All purchases
come with
planting &
growing

Baker County Extension Service

1025 West Macclenny Avenue

Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

FAX: (904) 259-9034

Email: michael.davis@ufl.edu

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

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

PAID

Permit No. 17

Macclenny FL 32063

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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).

STRAWBERRY PLANT ORDER FORM

'Festival' Plants per bundle	Cost	No. of Bundles	Total
10 plants	\$5.00		
50 plants	\$20.00		
	(Pay @ Pickup) Total		

Customer Name:**Phone:**

**You may call
(904) 259-3520 to place
an order by phone or...**

Mail to:

Strawberry Fundraiser
Baker County Extension
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063

Fax to:

904-259-9034
Attention: Strawberry Fundraiser

- All purchases come with planting and growing instructions.
- Funds will be used to support Master Gardener projects, educational activities and youth gardening programs in Baker County.
- DO NOT SEND MONEY – YOU WILL PAY AT PICK-UP
- Plants are subject to availability. Pre-orders are reserved but unclaimed orders will be re-sold.

