



## The Baker Bulletin

A  
Baker County  
Extension  
Service Monthly  
Newsletter

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*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!**



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



<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco>



[Baker County Garden Spot](#)  
[Baker County 4-H](#)



Check out our Livestock  
Google Site!

## Programs & Events

- Sept 8 **Horticultural Tree Grafting 101** at UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley Farm, 9am-12pm. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/horticultural-tree-grafting-101-tickets-632932918397?aff=erelexpmlt>
- Sept 14 **Follow the Water** Follow a drop of water from southern Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico to see first hand how natural hydrology, watersheds, and the urban environment affect Florida and our everyday lives. This 4-day adventure occurs on consecutive Thursdays from September 14—October 5. See page 2 for 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://persimmonfieldday.eventbrite.com>
- 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. <https://citrusfieldday.eventbrite.com>
- Online **See page 6 for online classes:** Butterfly Gardening, Growing Strawberries, Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries, Backyard Poultry Basics, and Selling Backyard Poultry Products.

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JOIN UF/IFAS EXTENSION AND

# FOLLOW THE WATER

**\$100**  
per person

Attendees should plan to attend all four days, carpool if possible, and bring a brown bag lunch.

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE\*

### SEPTEMBER 14

OKEFENOKEE WILDLIFE REFUGE 10:00  
4159 SUWANNEE CANAL ROAD,  
FOLKSTON, GA 31537

CHESSER ISLAND BOARDWALK TOUR 4:00  
(10:30-NOON)  
BOAT TOUR (2:00-3:45)

### SEPTEMBER 21

BIG SHOALS STATE PARK 8:30  
CR 135 TO SE 94TH ST ENTRANCE  
WHITE SPRINGS, FL 32096

BIG SHOALS TRAIL - 2 MILE HIKE 4:00  
EXPLORE WHITE & SUWANNEE  
SPRINGS (9:00-1:00)  
UF/IFAS NFREC-SUWANNEE VALLEY  
FARM TOUR (2:00-4:00)

### SEPTEMBER 28

UNIV OF FL - EAST CAMPUS 8:30  
2046 NE WALDO RD,  
GAINESVILLE, FL 32609

SWEETWATER WETLANDS & DEPOT 4:00  
PARK TOURS (9:00-NOON)  
NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR & FFL  
LANDSCAPES (2:00-3:30)

### OCTOBER 5

NATURE COAST BIOLOGICAL 9:30  
STATION  
552 1ST ST, CEDAR KEY, FL 32625

BOAT TOUR (10:30-12:30) 4:30  
LIVING SHORELINE TOUR (2:00-3:00)  
FLORIDA SHELLFISH TRAIL WALKING  
TOUR (3:00-4:00)

\*RESERVED WEATHER MAKE-UP DAYS ARE 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, AND 10/9



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/follow-the-water-registration-699270716537>

# Barnyard Bulletin

By:  
*Alicia Halbritter,*  
*Agriculture Agent*



## Estimating Winter Hay Needs

If you do not intend to plant cool season forages for your livestock to graze this winter, it's time to start estimating your winter hay needs.

### Species Needs

Horses, cows, and small ruminants will have different needs in terms of amount and quality of forages provided during the winter.

Species	Percent of Body Weight	Estimated Daily Intake
<a href="#">Cattle</a>	2.5%	20-30 lbs
Horses	1-2%	10-20 lbs
Sheep/Goat	3-4%	2-4 lbs

### Purchasing Hay

Purchasing hay can be a tricky street to navigate. There are plenty of different types of grass hays, different size bales, and different types of quality hay. Purchasing a size hay bale that is easily managed on your operation is important. Horse owners often buy small square bales so they can individually feed animals and possible a large round bale in the pasture. Cattle operations generally feed large round or large square bales in order to feed more animals at once.



Price, storage, and availability are all factors that can affect what type of hay is purchased. Choose the type of hay and size of hay that best fits your operation. Find more information on hay bale size and weights [here](#).

### Testing Hay

Before hay is purchased, or if you bale your own hay, always have it tested for quality. The University of Florida provides a low cost forage test for producers to get a good idea of the nutrition their animals will be getting from the hay. Collection is easy and many county extension offices offer this service to producers.

Selling hay? Having your hay tested can allow you to use the nutritional results as a marketing tool, think "Proven Quality Hay".

Learn about [Forage Testing](#) and [Forage Quality](#).



### Feeding Hay

Only put out what your animals can eat in a short amount of time. Hay exposed to the elements will decrease in quality and will more be susceptible to waste by the animals. Feeding in a hay ring or hay feeder will decrease



# Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:  
*Shaina Spann,*  
*4-H Agent*



## What makes 4-H work for so many?

Everyone has something that they are passionate about. Passions guide us in directions that can give us purpose and bring joy. That is a Spark. Sparks are self-discovered and self-identified. Sparks come from within ourselves and give us energy and direction. Some examples of sparks are:

- Music, art, and sports (skill or talent)
- Vintage films, cars, or fishing (an interest)
- Social justice, environmental advocacy, pet adoption (passionate commitment)
- Empathy, intelligence, spirituality (a special quality)

## How do youth find the Sparks?

Through 4-H experiences! 4-H offers so many ways for kids to find what interests them. Whether it is a community club, special interest (SPIN) club, day camp, and even school programs 4-H has something that can help youth find their spark.

When youth find their spark, they will hopefully find a sense of belonging. When they feel like they belong, they stick around. From their 4-H experiences, they will master the subject of that spark. Increase in self-esteem from confidence in their subject area will inspire independence. Lastly, using everything they've learned, youth can use their spark to give back to their community.

Sparks create opportunities for youth to have a positive interaction with a caring adult in an area of expertise. What is your spark? How can you share your spark with youth in Baker County? We are in need of 4-H club volunteers. If you or someone you know is passionate about a subject, PLEASE reach out to the Extension Office and we can start a 4-H club! From: <https://helping-youth-thrive.extension.org/what-are-sparks/>

## 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 Club Meetings & Events

- **September 01 – ENROLL FOR THE NEW 4-H YEAR!!!**
- September 11 – 4pm, Cloverbuddies meeting, 4-H Classroom
- September 26 – 6pm, Livestock Club, Ag. Center Auditorium
- October 3– 6-8pm, National Night Out, Memorial Park
- October 24-29– Baker County Fair



## WAYS TO VOLUNTEER



### CLUB/PROJECT LEADER

ABOUT 15-30 HOURS PER YEAR

### 4-H COMMITTEES

4-H FOUNDATION, ULC, HORSE, FAIR (6-30 HOURS PER YEAR)



### CHAPERONE

OVERNIGHT TRIPS OR 1 TIME EVENTS

### RESOURCE LEADER

HELPING IN A SPECIFIC WAY SUCH AS FAIR CONCESSION STAND OR EVENTS (1-10 HOURS PER YEAR)



### JUDGE

INTERVIEWS, LIVESTOCK, FOOD, AND DEMONSTRATIONS (1-10 HOURS PER YEAR)

# 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.

## Sweetgum

The Sweetgum tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) grows in a narrow pyramid to a height of 75 feet and may spread to 50 feet. The beautifully glossy, star-shaped leaves turn bright red, purple, yellow, or orange in early winter. On some young trees, branches are covered with corky projections (like those on the Winged Elm).



Sweetgum makes a nice shade tree, developing a more oval or rounded canopy as it grows older. But this tree is best for large landscapes where it can be placed away from cement and foot traffic. Its resinous leaves can stain cement and car finishes, the roots may lift nearby driveways and sidewalks, and the bur-like fruits (gum balls) are considered by some to be a litter problem.

While the seeds do provide food for wildlife, there is a fruitless cultivar called 'Rotundiloba' that may be of interest. Even without the gum balls, this tree provides cover for birds and mammals, and serves as the larval host plant for Luna moths.

Sweetgum grows well in full sun to partial shade, is rarely attacked by pests, and tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions. It is most noted for its fall color, interesting foliage, and hurricane wind resistance.

Photo credits: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

## Red Fox

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is one of two species of fox in Florida (the other being the gray fox). While their red tone can vary from dark chestnut to golden, they are most commonly a rusty red, with white underbelly, black ear tips and legs, and a distinctively white tipped tail. Resembling a small dog, this animal weighs 10-15 pounds and measures up to 2 feet long not including its long, bushy tail.



The red fox is most active at dawn and dusk, hunting small mammals such as rabbits, rats, and mice. If food is plentiful, they may kill more than they immediately need, and cache the extra in the ground.

Breeding takes place in late fall, with breeding pairs usually mating for life. Females give birth to an average of 5 pups, which are blind, helpless, and brownish black in color. They will nurse for the first 2 months and will stay with the adults until about 6 months of age. The red fox usually digs its own burrow (sometimes enlarging a gopher tortoise or armadillo burrow instead), creating a den 20-40 feet long and 3-4 feet deep with multiple entrances.

The red fox avoids heavily wooded areas and is normally found in uplands mixed with fields and weedy pastures. Foxes are beneficial because they control populations of rodents, but may be a nuisance in certain situations. It is best to prevent or solve problems with foxes by securing attractants and deterring the animals from becoming comfortable around residences and domestic animals.

Photo credit: Canva

### 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](#)

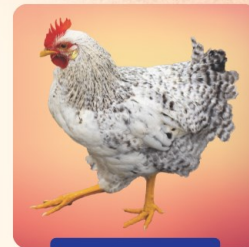


Free

### Backyard Poultry Basics

A beginner's guide to raising chickens.

[Register Here](#)

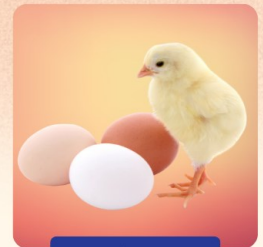


\$15

### 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**