



# The Mayo Clover Leaf



February 2023

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News

Vol 5 No 2

## Up-Coming Events

**Tuesday Feb 1:** 4-H Home School Club 10:00 AM Extension Classroom

**Tuesday, Feb 1:** 4-H Community Club 3:00 PM Extension Classroom

**Tuesday, Feb 7:** Cooking Club, 3:00PM Extension Classroom

**Thursday, Feb 9:** 4-H Public Speaking Contes Lafayette Elementary School, 6:00 PM

**Monday, Feb 13:** Strengthening Families Team Meeting, Extension Classroom 3:00 PM

**Tuesday, Feb 14:** Anglers 4-H Club Meeting, 3:00 Alton Lake (call for directions)

**Saturday, Feb 18:** Toxic Round Up, Mayo Community Center 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

**Monday, Feb 27:** Peanut Production Meeting, 5:00 PM, Mayo Community Center (earn Pest license CEUs)

**Tuesday Feb 28:** Archery Club Meeting, Extension Classroom 3:00 PM

**Wednesday March 1,** Senior Commodity pick-up, Mayo Community Center 2:00 – 4:00 PM (Feb. commodities)

**Wednesday April :** Deadline to purchase Chick Chain chicks

## Weather and Agricultural Report

Emily Beach

As you can see from the chart, our rainfall this month was a little over an inch above the monthly totals from years before. This is helpful for cover crops and winter forages as

well as preparing soil for spring planting.

The only thing that should be pruned in Febru-

ary is roses. Be sure to hold off on everything else to encourage recovery from the cold damage back in December. After pruning roses, be sure to fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch and this should encourage blooms in around 8-9 weeks. Also, fertilize citrus and pecan trees. February is the month for planting potatoes so be sure to get your area ready and get those seed in the ground. Lastly, it looks like after this weekend dips down in temperature, the weeks following should be above 65° which is perfect weather for applying a pre-emergent (NOT a “weed and feed”) herbicide on your lawn for preventing those warm season weeds. If you have questions about what weed killer is recommended for your specific lawn, feel free to contact me at [elbeach@ufl.edu](mailto:elbeach@ufl.edu) or (386)294-1279.

January Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2023	2022	2021
<b>Cooks Hammock</b>	2.83	1.74	2.12
<b>Mallory Swamp</b>	2.85	1.58	1.43
<b>Midway Tower</b>	2.65	1.65	1.78

## Purchase Chicks Now for 2023 4-H Chick-Chain

It’s time again for those 4-H members who choose to participate in the chick-chain to purchase their chicks. The deadline to have them purchased in April 1. The 4-H Chick-Chain is open to 4-Hers of all ages including Clover Buds. The 4-H Chick-Chain Project requires youth to purchase their chicks in the spring, raise them to hen laying age, and present them in the Chick-Chain Show in the fall. Last year many of the members struggled to keep chicks and hens safe from varmints. Take the time now to prepare a pin with a roof, bottom, and a solid siding may be necessary for the bottom few feet of the pins walls. See more details and rules for the 2023 chick chain in this issue of *The Mayo Cloverleaf* on Page 8.

# Lafayette 4-H Begins New Year With New Recipes, New Sports and New Fishing Holes

Shawn Jackson

## Cooking Club

The Lafayette 4-H Cooking Club met on January 10, 2021. The focus of the meeting was how to make pizza pockets and fresh squeezed lemonade. Each of the sixteen members present used a can of crescent dough to make their pizza pockets that was filled with pizza sauce, pepperonis, mozzarella, and parmesan cheese before baking. Everyone also made their own lemonade by using a simple syrup and fresh squeezed lemons.

Everyone seemed to enjoy their pizza pockets and had enough to take home and share with their family.



Above: 4-H Cooking Club members rolling out dough for making pizza pockets. Photo left: Lanae Colson and Rosa Land. Photo Right: Trace Lawson and Reese Platt.

## Anglers Club

Wind conditions did not prevent the Lafayette 4-H Anglers Club from enjoying a day at Koon Lake for its regular monthly meeting. Members used earth worms and artificial bait while fishing. Unfortunately, they had no success in catching fish with on a few claiming to get bites. Members are hoping for better conditions and more success at the February meeting which will be held at Alton Lake. This will be 4-H Anglers



(1) Sharon Sanders, Tatum Hart and Kurt Sanders waiting for the fish to bite. (2) Jackson Murphy, Kurt Sanders and Miles Jackson concentrating on their fishing. (3) Holland Jackson and Jacob Murphy untangle a line before casting again.

# Caring For Pecan Trees

Emily Beach

Pecan trees are an ideal tree to have in your backyard as they favor a climate like ours as well as a productive even in our sandy soil and typically our normal soil pH is in the ideal range. The recommended planting time for pecan trees is during the dormant season from late November to February to allow root growth for the spring. Pecan trees are wind pollinated so they need to have two or more cultivars planted together to ensure cross-pollination. As trees grow, they should receive adequate amounts of water to encourage a higher nut quality and yield. Although a soil fertility test is the most reliable form of fertilization decision making, a 10-10-10 fertilizer will provide adequate nutrients for pecan tree growth. For newly planted trees for the first year, apply a light application (1 pound per tree) in early March and again in June or you can apply split applications in that same total amount but in smaller increments every 6-8 weeks. Trees should receive 2 pounds of fertilizer in the winter and summer month the following year. After that establishment year, apply 2 pounds of fertilizer for each inch of trunk diameter for each inch of trunk diameter during the winter and summer and then once bearing, 2 to 4 pounds of fertilizer should be applied per inch of trunk diameter in February and again in June. In all instances, fertilizer should never be applied in clumps but should be spread out in a circle 3 to 5 feet in diameter around the tree. Even though it takes 6 to sometimes 10 years for nuts

## Archery

Archery Club has been very popular with youth in Lafayette County. The large number of participants has required the members practice much patience while waiting their turn to practice their skills. Fortunately, a 4-H volunteer has ignited a new interest, ax throwing in the club and is giving the members an alternative activity while waiting their turn at archer. Archery and ax throwing are two sports that pair well together, both requiring discipline, strength, concentration and good judgment. Lafayette 4-H looks forward to continuing to incorporate ax throwing in its archer club and is thankful to Charles Cooper for sharing his time and talent.



Photo top left and above: 4-H Volunteer Charles Cooper demonstrated and assist youth with ax throwing. Left: Branson Lawson aims carefully before sending an arrow to his archery target.

# Lafayette Extension Offering Strengthening Families Program

Shawn Jackson

Starting next month, youth ages 10-14 in Lafayette County and their caregivers will have an opportunity to participate in the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). The program is an evidence-based parent, youth, and family skills-building curriculum that: Prevents teen substance abuse and other behavior problems, strengthens parent/youth communication skills, increases academic success in youth, and prevents violence and aggressive behavior at home and at school. Parents want to protect their children, but it's challenging, especially in today's world. Youth need skills to help them resist the peer pressure that leads to risky behaviors. Research shows that protective parenting learned in SFP improves family relationships and decreases the level of family conflict, contributing to lower levels of substance use. SFP consists of seven two-hour sessions (separate sessions for youth and parents and then families together) that are led by at least three trained facilitators. These sessions are packed with fun activities that include games and family projects focusing on building communication in the family. Each session begins with a sit-down meal and the program is delivered in small groups limited to twelve families per session. A research study conducted by the Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute found a return of \$9.60 for every dollar spent implementing the Strengthening Families Program: For Parents and Youth 10-14. Lafayette County Extension Service is one of only three in the state of Florida who will be delivering the Strengthening Families Program in 2023. This program is at no cost to families. Space is limited. Families interested in enrolling in the program need to contact the Lafayette County Extension Service at 386-294-1279.



Lafayette County's Beverly Fountain (Health Department), Daryl Fletcher (Lafayette School District), Melissa Shaw and Shawn Jackson (UF IFAS Lafayette County) were 4 of 13 North Florida individuals completing the three day SFP Facinator training .

*I would recommend the Strengthening Families program to anyone with kids 10-14 years of age. This is not a program that tells you how to parent or spends countless hours concentrating on the harm of drug use. It really focuses on helping families in the 21 century learn to communicate better, recognize stressors that can lead to risky behaviors including drug and alcohol abuse.*

**Melissa Shaw**  
**Lafayette County Extension**  
**SFP Facinator**

# Community Day At Research Center Planned

Come learn about the best-kept secret in Suwannee Valley! Join us at NFREC-Suwannee Valley on Saturday, April 22 for our FREE Community Day at the Farm. Take a walking tour of our greenhouses, orchard, and equipment. Then hop on the trolley to tour our fields. You'll be able to speak with experts to learn about what we do to help support our community. Register online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/523639328327>

A graphic for 'Community Day at the Farm' featuring an aerial view of a farm with various crops and equipment. The text 'COMMUNITY DAY' is in large, bold, orange letters, with 'at the Farm' in a cursive font below it. The date and time 'SATURDAY, APRIL 22 8:30 AM TO 12:00 PM' are in bold black text. The location '@ UF/IFAS NFREC-SV 8202 County Road 417 Live Oak, FL 32060' is in blue text. A QR code is present, and an orange arrow points to it from the text 'Pre-register on Eventbrite'. There are also several circular inset images showing different farm activities like grape harvesting, a tractor, and a trolley.

**COMMUNITY DAY**  
*at the Farm*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
**8:30 AM TO 12:00 PM**

@ UF/IFAS NFREC-SV  
8202 County Road 417  
Live Oak, FL 32060

This is a **FREE** Event open to everyone!

Pre-register on  
Eventbrite

## 24-H Senior Commodity Pick-up Dates

Wednesday, January 2023

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 (Feb pick up)

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Commodities can be picked-up at the Mayo Community Center on scheduled dates between 2:00-4:00 PM. Failure to pick-up commodities for three consecutive months without contacting extension office may result in being removed from commodity recipient list.

## Microgreens 101 Class at NFREC-SV

There is still time to register for the Microgreens 101 class at the UF IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center (NFREC) Suwannee Valley in Live Oak, on February 24, 2023. Join UF IFAS Agents to learn how to grow and harvest these mini crops with surprisingly familiar names. Registration is \$125 and activities include crop selection, scheduling seedlings, maintenance and care, harvesting techniques and more. Register online at: <https://microgreens-101.eventbrite.com>

# SVYLSS Exhibitors: What are you doing to prepare for the show?

Emily Beach

The Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale will be here before you know it. Here is a checklist of things to keep you on track:

- ◆ Skincare Routine- washing your animal and skin/haircare is very important not only at the time of showing but in preparation for the show as well.
- ◆ Daily walking/Exercise- daily exercise is important for checking the health of your animal in terms of feet, legs, breathing, and behavior as well as preparing for showmanship. You want your animal to be showcased in the ring, not be a distraction and daily walking is the only way to give that your best shot!
- ◆ Weight Check- knowing where your animal is at in terms of weight is important in order to prevent any surprises when you get to the scales at weigh-in. Adjusting feeding schedules now is the only way to make sure you achieve the target weight range.
- ◆ Supplies- check to make sure you have whatever supplies are needed for your animal. Some examples are: whips/halters, feed pans, and allowed skincare products.
- ◆ Buyers Letters- let your buyer know that you are prepared and want them to have plenty of time to budget for the sale.
- ◆ Record Book- they are due on March 13. Don't wait until the last minute!

If you need help or guidance with any of this information, please feel free to reach out to us and we will help you.

## SVYLSS Events:

<b>Swine Showmanship</b>	March 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm
<b>Swine Show</b>	March 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm
<b>Steer Show</b>	March 22, 2023 6:30 pm
<b>Sale</b>	March 23, 2023 9:00 am
<b>Breeding Sheep Show</b>	March 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm



**TOXIC ROUND-UP**  
(9 AM - 3 PM)  
**SAT. FEB. 18, 2023**  
Mayo Community Center  
176 SW COMMUNITY CIR.  
MAYO, FL 32066

**LAFAYETTE COUNTY EVENT NOTICE!**  
**DON'T SEND IT TO THE LANDFILL!**  
**BRING IT TO US.**  
[ALACHUACOUNTYHAZWASTE.US](http://ALACHUACOUNTYHAZWASTE.US)

IFAS Extension is an equal opportunity Institution. We encourage all races, religions and ethnicities to attend our summer programs. There are scholarships available for minority and underprivileged children. Please contact our office for more information.

## Like us on Facebook

For daily updates on local IFAS, 4-H News and events, visit and "like" our FB Page UF IFAS Extension Lafayette County 4-H.

# Are you thinking about investing in laying hens?

Emily Beach

With the recent increase in egg price, I hear people talking about getting their own layers. This is a really great idea that can allow you to have fresh eggs available but it's also a great thing for the whole family to be involved in. There is a great deal of responsibility learned from the daily care of the chickens, upkeep of the area where they will be raised, and egg collection. There are several things to consider before jumping all in with this investment like breed choice, housing, as well as feed and water availability.

There are many breeds to choose from when it comes to chickens and some of those are called dual-purpose breeds that work well for meat and egg production. For the purpose of egg production though the most productive breed is the White Leghorn which produces white eggs. If you are looking to add some color in your carton, consider Barred Plymouth Rock, Rhode Island Red, Black Australorp, Easter Eggers, or Sex-Links (black, brown, gold, or red) which are all considered excellent layers as well.

Chicken coops can vary in size and material but there are a few basic necessities to ensure protection and care. First of all, there needs to be an area with roofing and enclosure of at least two sides to for weather protection as well as allowing each bird to have a minimum of 3 ft<sup>2</sup> of floor space in the coop. Any area without sides must have a material like chicken wire over it to eliminate predators from entering the coop and burying this material 12-18 inches in an L shape is recommended for the most secure of coops. If you are purchasing newly hatched chicks in the spring, you will need provide a heat source like a heat lamp 12-18 inches above the chicks. Day-old chicks need a temperature of 90-95 degrees F and then that temperature can be lowered by 5 degrees each week until they are four weeks old or have feathered. Having the heat lamp will also come in handy when keeping those grown chickens warm in the cold winter months.

Lastly, you need to ensure that your budget allows for purchasing a feeder, a way to provide water and then a continuous, free access supply of both. There are many places to purchase feed for your layers in a variety of forms. The most important thing when choosing feeds is the appropriate amount of protein for the age of your birds. Younger birds need a higher protein and that percentage decreases with the age of the birds. Be sure to read the labels to make sure you are purchasing the correct feed for your chickens. You also need to provide clean, fresh water for the birds which can be achieved by installing an automatic waterer 6 inches off the ground.

If you have any questions or want further information on backyard chicken farming, please feel free to contact me. I know that my family enjoys having our chickens around and we surely enjoy those delicious eggs. I think your family will enjoy it too!

**Save the Date...** The Lafayette County Peanut Production Meeting is set for **Monday, February 27, 2023** at the **MAYO Community Center** (please note the change in venue from past years). A Core training (1 Core CEU available) will take place at 5:00pm and the meal and meeting will begin at 6:00pm (2 Private Applicator/Ag Row Crop CEUs available). The meal is sponsored by Mayo Ag Services and The Florida Peanut Federation.

# The 2023 Lafayette 4-H Chick Chain

## What you need to know to participate:

- Clover-Buds, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior 4-H members are eligible to participate.
- Participants should have their chicks by April 1, 2023
- Participants are responsible for obtaining and purchasing their chicks from vendor of their choice.
- Breeds that are acceptable to enter in the program include: Rhode Island Reds, Australorp, Barred Rock, Leghorn, Wyandotte, Orpington.
- Participants will learn poultry nutrition and care, communication skills and record keeping.
- Youth will raise chicks for 20-24 weeks prior to shows.
- Lafayette County 4-H will have two opportunities to present their raised hen: 1) Lafayette County Chick chain show, 2) Tri-County Chick Chain Show Madison.
- Youth interested in participating will need to contact the Lafayette County Extension office to be registered in the program.

