



The Mayo Clover Leaf



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Up-Coming Events

Tuesday, January 9: Culinary Club Meeting, 3:00, 4-H Classroom

Tuesday, January 16: 4-H Anglers Fishing Club, 3:00, Pickett Lake

Tuesday January 23: Archery Club Meeting 4-H Classroom.

Wednesday, January 31: Senior Commodity Pick-up, Mayo Community Center

Tuesday, February 6: Community Club Meeting, 3:00, 4-H Classroom

Agriculture and Weather Report

Emily Beach

The rainfall totals were unusually high for December but it was much needed to support a last bit of green forage but you've probably noticed the negative effects of the rainfall has caused flooding in certain parts of the county.

December Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2023	2022	2021
Cooks Hammock	8.6	1.43	0.72
Mallory Swamp	9.17	1.1	1.03
Midway Tower	7.36	0.89	1.97

Cool season vegetables like broccoli, kale, carrots, and lettuce can still be planted and Irish potatoes can also be planted. Now is the time for planting deciduous fruit trees to give roots time to develop before the warm, dry spring months. Trees like peach, plum, and pear do well in our area. Non-spring flowering shrubs and trees can be pruned now to improve form if needed.

Lafayette 4-H Bake-Off a success!

Emily Beach

On Tuesday, December 5 Lafayette 4-H held it's annual Holiday Bake-Off as the activity for Community Club. There were 31 entries and it was the most competitive year yet! There were several entries for appetizers as well as sweet treats that all had a festive flair in the details. After the winners were announced, the members were able to sample the submissions and then completed Christmas crafts to take home and enjoy with their families during the holidays.

Holiday Bake-Off Winners

Best Appetizer: Kellen Day with Bacon Wrapped Chicken

Best Tasting: Henry Dodson with an Apple Walnut Cake

Most Festive: Clay Cassel with Santa Claus Cookies

Most Creative: Rylie Creel with Reindeer Rice Krispies

Best Overall: Lanae Colson with an Apple Pie



Gary Keyes and Johan Heijkoop named 2023 Lafayette County Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year

Emily Beach

At the Lafayette County Farm Bureau meeting on Monday, December 11, Gary Keyes and Johan Heijkoop and their families were the guests of honor in order to recognize them for being the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year. This award recognizes producers that exhibit agricultural excellence with environmental stewardship as a guiding principle. The Lafayette County Farm Bureau has a challenging task when voting on the nominees which come from the Lafayette County Extension Ag Agent, Emily Beach, as the farmers in Lafayette County are ever mindful of producing the highest quality commodities through research-based practices. The Board certainly didn't miss the mark with this election though, the Keyes-Heijkoop team represent everything this award encompasses.

A working relationship started in 2006 when Johan worked part-time for Gary at Milk-A-Way Dairy in Webster while working as a loan officer at Farm Credit. The partnership began in 2011. They started farming at Ronnie Land Dairy in February of 2012. The management style of rotational grazing fit the set-up of both Milk-A-Way Dairy in Webster and K&H Dairy in Lafayette County.

The herd has been bred by 100% Artificial Insemination for over a decade. This allowed the heifers to be registered with the respective breed associations. Both farms are a majority registered Holstein herd. The replacement heifers are raised off farm and brought back as springers. The effort put into selecting quality traits when choosing the AI breeding bulls has improved the herd through the cow generations. Both Gary and Johan enjoy following cow families and seeing the improvements. For 25 years, Milk-A-Way Dairy has housed animals for 4-H youth that started the 4-H Dairy Project with a heifer and needed a place for her to milk as a cow. The farm also works with 4-H clubs and FFA chapters with the Florida Dairy Heifer Lease program.

Gary and Johan saw an opportunity in 2021 to purchase Lafayette Dairy. This opportunity allowed both farms to be in Lafayette County. To move a dairy farm and its families is a daunting task, but they were extremely successful. This decision also benefited the county by keeping two dairies in the county operational preventing yet another vacant infrastructure and this allows farmland to continue to be productive.

They are enjoying the opportunity to grow crops for silage and feed a total mixed ration at Milk-A-Way Dairy. The freeze of 2022 and Hurricane Idalia have added to the challenges of dairy farming. Through a strong partnership, Ag community support, and a strong team of employees, both Milk-A-Way and K&H Dairies are persevering. The resiliency that they have displayed has been an encouragement to those that know them and they provide a great example for the generations that will follow in their footsteps.

These families are also an asset to the community as they immediately became involved in charitable events, supporting the local FFA chapter and 4-H club, and contributing to the overall economy of Lafayette County. Congratulations to the Keyes and Heijkoop families!



Pictured left to right: Emily Beach, Gary Keyes, Kathy Keyes, Johan Heijkoop, Trisha Heijkoop, Jaylee Heijkoop, Julia Heijkoop, and Jozef Heijkoop (not pictured Johanna Heijkoop)



Photo Left: Gary and Johan getting Milk-A-Way ready

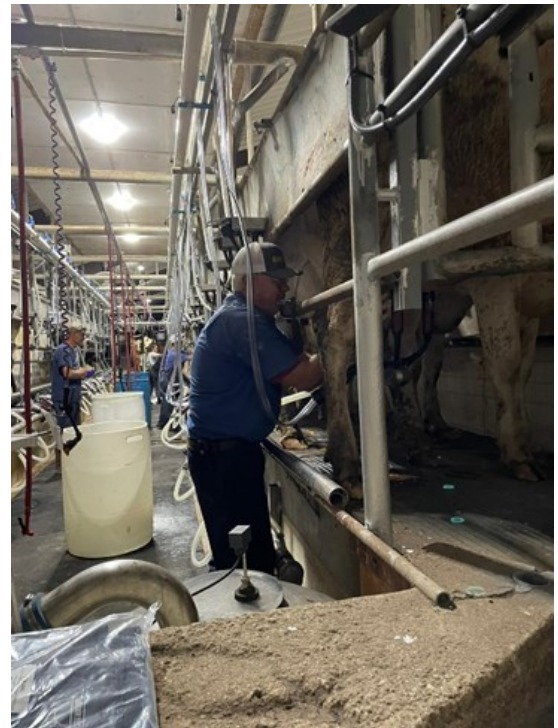


Photo Right:: Gary hanging the first cow milked at Milk-A-Way.



Photo Above:: Johan and son Jozef pushing cows to be milked for the first time at Milk-A-Way



Photo Above: Johanna, JayLee, Julia, and cousin, Aliesa Santora helping Gary get the mats installed in the holding barn.

Culinary Creations were festive for the Holidays

Emily Beach

Culinary Club mixed up batches of hot chocolate mix to take home but since it was actually a cold day, we whipped up a batch for ourselves to try out and keep us warm as we worked. We also built Christmas trees out of various candy and decorated our trees with our favorite sprinkles to act as ornaments. Each member was able to take a mason jar of hot chocolate mix with directions to enjoy with their family

Anglers Club enjoyed fish without fishing this month

Emily Beach

The weather has been rainy and cool lately which don't prove to be the best condition for fishing for Anglers Club so we had a fish fry instead! The members were able to sample different types of fish as we talked about the differences in fresh and salt water fish as well as the different flavors and textures among fish. We not only fried fish but we also pan seared some to see how that taste differed from the battered and fried fish as well. To top it all off, the members were able to try swamp cabbage which is considered to be a Southern delicacy and a MUST when having a fish fry.

Walking off the Holidays!



COMMUNITY STORYWALK AT THE EDWARD PERRY SPORTS COMPLEX COUNTY ROAD 400 MAYO, FLORIDA

JANUARY 25, 2024
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM



Stop by the entrance booths to receive your free hiking survival bag!

Open to the public. No registration required.
For more information contact: Beverley.fountain@flhealth.gov.



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