



The Mayo Clover Leaf



March 2023

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News

Vol 5 No 3

Up-Coming Events

Tuesday March 7: 4-H Home School Club 10:00 AM Extension Classroom

Tuesday, March 7: 4-H Community Club 3:00 PM Extension Classroom

Tuesday, March 14: Cooking Club, 3:00PM Extension Classroom

Monday, March 20: SVYLSS Begins. See event date and times inside.

Tuesday, March 21: Anglers 4-H Club Meeting, 3:00 Location TBA

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

Wednesday March 29, Senior Commodity pick-up, Mayo Community Center 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Wednesday April 1: Deadline to purchase Chick Chain chicks

Strengthening Families Program meets each Thursday evening in March at 5:30 PM, Extension Classroom

Lafayette County Peanut Production Meeting Held

Emily Beach

On February 27 producers gathered at the Mayo Community Center to hear from UF specialists concerning updates and information from the research being done in peanut production. The first hour of the meeting was an opportunity for pesticide license holders in Florida to receive a continuing education unit (CEU) towards their license and then dinner was provided by Mayo Ag Sales and Florida Peanut Federation for the attendees. After dinner, Jonathan Crain spoke about cost-share opportunities and important updates from the Suwannee River Water Management District. We then heard from Dr. Barry Tillman about peanut varieties that have been proven to be disease resistant as well as high-yielding through various trials on-farm as well as at UF research facilities. Dr. Nicholas Dufault discussed plant disease management for peanuts and offered a great deal of information about choosing the appropriate spray program to minimize negative impacts from fungi and disease pressure during the growing season. Last but certainly not least, Dr. Kevin Athearn provided market history and outlook on the commodity and the factors that impact profitability. A theme of the night was finding ways to reduce inputs due to cost and a suggested way to do that is to rotate crops in order to lessen disease pressure and use market information to drive decision making.

Attendance at these types of meetings prove that producers are doing everything possible to stay informed with current industry information in order to produce food in the most affordable yet abundant way. The conversations that farmers have with one another and specialists prove to be invaluable time and time again.



Weather and Agricultural Report

Emily Beach

We had a couple of days with nearly 2 inches of rain each day in the middle of the month and then with the warm weather, it seems as though our plants are thinking it is spring. I might would agree but I always want to throw caution that there is typically a frost before Easter so keep that in mind when you are thinking about planting and pruning. For planting, March is a good time to get warm-season vegetables (beans, corn, tomatoes, and squash) in the ground but if we have a frost you will need to take some precautions if you know a frost is coming up. Practices that will help protect your garden during a frost are: watering your garden well before the freeze and then during the freeze will protect the roots, flowers, and buds acting as an insulator; covering the rows with cloth, or straw; and/or covering individual plants with cups or buckets. For pruning, for plants that have a spring bloom you want to hold off on that until spring_bloom is over. If you prune too early, your plants will be susceptible to that cold weather and it will cause damage.

Commercial producers in our county are gearing up for making decisions about crop selection and some have already begun planting. Watermelons are being planted through the next few weeks as well as corn for silage and grain during the month.

February Rainfall Totals (in)

	2023	2022	2021
Cooks Hammock	4.31	1.66	6.06
Mallory Swamp	4.25	1.38	5.47
Midway Tower	3.56	1.37	6.76

Early March is the time for applying herbicides to your lawn to stop the growth of those pesky warm season weeds. If you have questions about what herbicide is appropriate for your turf variety, feel free to contact Emily (386)294-1279.

We will participate in the Lafayette County Trash Bash on Friday, March 24th. Meet at the Extension Office after school.

Call the Extension Office if you have any questions.

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.

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.



GETTING A GREAT HEAD START

TRANSPLANT PRODUCTION 101

When: Friday, March 24, 2023

Where: UF/IFAS NFREC - Suwannee Valley
(8202 County Road 417, Live Oak, FL 32060)

Cost: \$50.00 *Class limited to 20 participants

REGISTER ONLINE: TRANSPLANT PRODUCTION 101
TICKETS, FRI, MAR 24, 2023 AT 9:00 AM | EVENTBRITE

Registration includes: class materials, lunch and refreshments

Activities will include:

- Seed, Tray and Media selection
- Scheduling
- Seeding Methods and Tips
- Maintenance and Care
- Irrigation
- Transplanting

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Livestock Exhibitors, Get Buyers Letters Delivered and Record Books Completed!

Emily Beach

Show time is very near and you want to make sure you are prepared for it! At this point, you should already have a list of potential buyers for your project and be in the process of writing buyers letters to either put in the mail or hand deliver. Some things to include in your letter are: tell the buyer about who you are and why you are doing your project; tell them about your project and your club; give them the important dates, time, and location. You can even consider including pictures of you with your animal. Be sure to add a personal touch to the letters and let the buyers know that you appreciate any support that is given to youth in our community.

The location of the shows are the Bob Holmes Arena at the Suwannee County Fairgrounds in Live Oak and the important events and times are:

SVYLSS Events:

Swine Showmanship	March 20, 2023	6:30 PM
Swine Show	March 21, 2023	6:30 PM
Steer Show	March 22, 2023	7:00 PM
Steer and Hog Sale	March 23, 2023	9:00 AM
	<i>Buyers Registration</i>	8:30 AM

There will be a buyers dinner at the Dixie Grill immediately following the sale.

Breeding Sheep Show	March 23, 2023	6:00 PM
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Having Fun Cooking with Chocolate

The Lafayette 4-H Cooking Club were in the Valentine's Day Spirit last month with recipes using lots of chocolate. With the supervision of volunteers, each youth made their own pan or chocolate brownies. While the brownies were cooking in the oven, 4-Hers made their own chocolate peanuts. These were made by combining one part vanilla almond bark to two parts chocolate almond bark. Once the two have been melted and mixed well together, peanuts were added. Using a small spoon, chocolate covered peanuts were dipped out onto wax paper for cooling. Special thanks to Laura Fowler and the Florida Peanut Federation for donating the peanuts.



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>



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



4-H Senior Commodity Pick-up Dates

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Wednesday, May 3, 2023(April Pick-Up)

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.



Each month, as many as 25 adult and youth volunteers unload a truck of commodities, bag family portions, and place them in the vehicles of more than 200 Lafayette County Senior Citizens. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Lafayette County Youth Compete in 4-H Public Speaking Contest

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette County 4-H understands the importance of providing local youth opportunities to learn skills necessary for a lifetime of success. One of these opportunities is public speaking. Lafayette Elementary School recently hosted the Counties' 4-H Florida Power and Light Speech Contest. Nearly 200 youth participated in the speech contest which started with fourth and fifth grade students preparing a speech and delivering it to their teachers and peers in the classroom. Each class had guest judges who assisted in narrowing the groups down to two winners per class. Each of the classes top two speakers advanced to the finals which was held on February 9, 2023. The 16 finalists presented their speeches to an audience of more than 150 guests. Judges had the difficult task of choosing a winner based on composition and presentation of speeches. Winners of the contest were 3rd place-Lanae Colson, 2nd place Bristol Land and 1st place Whitney Moseley. These winners will have the opportunity to participate against other youth from North Florida at the district competition in May.



Public speaking contest winners: 3rd place Lanae Colson, 2nd place winner Bristol Land, 1st place winner Whitney Moseley

Anglers Have Success at February Meeting



Shawn Jackson

Lafayette 4-H Anglers Club had a great day of fishing at Alton Lake during their February meeting. Warm temperatures made for perfect fishing conditions. Anglers caught blue gill and trout using earth worms and artificial bait. All fish, with the exception of a shiner were released back into the lake. Some anglers attempted to use cut bait as the evening approached in hopes of attracting catfish. Unfortunately, they were not successful. Special thanks to the volunteers who helped with the adventure as well as the Koon Lake Fishing Club for allowing 4-H to use the private lake to fish.

Pictured Left: Sharon Sanders proudly shows off the first catch of the day.

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.