



The Mayo Clover Leaf



November 2023

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News

Vol 5 No 11

Up-Coming Events

Tuesday, November 7:
Homeschool 4-H Club
Meting, 10:00 AM 4-H Class-
room

Tuesday, November 7: Com-
munity Club Meeting, 3:00, 4-
H Classroom

Tuesday, November 14: Culi-
nary Club Meeting, 3:00, 4-H
Classroom

Tuesday, November 21: 4-H
Anglers Fishing Club, 3:00,
Location TBA

Saturday, November 25:
Mayo Christmas Parade. 4-H
members meet at Assembly
of God Church

Tuesday, November 28: 4-H
Archery Club Meeting, 3:00,
4-H Classroom

Wednesday, November 29:
4-H Senior Commodity Distri-
bution, Mayo Community
Center, 1:30-4:30

Tuesday, December 5: 4-H
Holiday Bakeoff 3:00, 4-H
Classroom

Lafayette Youth Compete in Area Chicken Show

Shawn Jackson

Youth from four North Florida counties recently participated in an area chicken show held in Madison FL. The fourth annual event dubbed “The Quad County 4-H Chick-Chain Show” hosted forty-five 4-Hers from Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor Counties on Thursday, October 20th. The 4-H Chick-Chain program begins with youth obtaining freshly hatched chicks in the spring and raising them to laying age. The mature hens are then shown and judged in the fall based on the desired features of a high quality, egg producing hen. 4-Hers participating in the Quad County Show were allowed to exhibit up to two hens. Not only were the hens themselves judged, but exhibitors were also judged on their showmanship ability, and competed in a skillathon that tested their general knowledge of poultry. This year’s grand champion hen was a White Leghorn shown by Lafayette County Cloverbud, Karoline Beach. Showmanship winners were Cloverbud Haley Cain from Taylor County, Junior 4-H exhibitor Andi Mae Collins from Suwannee County, Intermediate exhibitor Kendall Beach from Lafayette County and senior division 4-Her Macy Lundy of Taylor County. Winner of the skillathon was Kendall Beach of Lafayette County. Youth participating in the Chick-Chain program learn about poultry nutrition, housing needs for poultry, record –keeping as well as life skills and workforce ready skills such as budgeting, work ethic and responsibility. Youth interested in participating in next year’s Chick-Chain program should contact the Extension Office .



Photo Above: More than 40 youth participated in the area Chick-Chain contest representing Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor County in Madison FL.

Farm Judging Fun

Emily Beach

On Friday, October 27, 2023 the Lafayette County Extension Office hosted the annual farm judging contest. There were 90 4-H and FFA members from Lafayette, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Taylor, Dixie, and Madison counties that came to participate in the contest. The first portion of the day was spent evaluating animals and commodities based off industry standards and guidelines. The evaluation classes were Market Steers, Breeding Gilts, Laying Hens, Dairy Heifers, corn, peanuts, hay, tobacco, and silage. The evaluation portion is based on individual work but scored with a team. The second part of the day was spent in an individual contest called Farm Manager. In this contest, members must correctly identify weeds, insects, feeds, and tools that are important in agriculture and then take a general agricultural knowledge test. The members were able to then have a time of fellowship and getting to know each other with a pizza lunch. It was a great day with beautiful weather for an outdoor event!

In the last few months leading up to the contest, these teams have spent many hours preparing by learning about industry standards for the animals and commodities they would see as well as how to properly evaluate them. This is not an easy task considering the wide array of animals and commodities. These kids and their leaders are taking a snapshot at many different facets of agriculture and while having a broad knowledge base is important- it is more difficult to learn about so many topics rather than just having a narrow focus. This contest of course teaches the members about agriculture, but it also allows for them to be part of a team, use critical thinking skills, and see a commitment through. As in most cases, being involved in and educated about agriculture naturally engages those skills that are going to have positive impacts on these youth forever.

We are very thankful to those that participated in the contest and to those that helped make it happen. Many people were involved in the gathering and delivering of the animals and commodities for use on the day of the contest.



Lafayette 4-H Judging teams: Jackson Murphy, Lanae Colson, Emily Beach (Agent) Jayda Hendrick, Lydia Lyons, Tinley Jackson, Shawn Jackson (Agent) and Justin Swinson Jr



4-Hers from 6 counties in Florida participating in the Lafayette Farm Judging Competition.

2023 Lafayette Farm Judging Results

Senior Team Farm Judging Winners

1st Place: Lafayette FFA; Dallas Deadwyler, Callie King, Gracie Swindell, Ella Swann

2nd Place: Gilchrist 4-H; Reagan Lane, Cayce Sullivan, Aubrie Blair, Joyce Teague

3rd Place: Dixie FFA; Kylah Wright, Abby Whitehead, Biana McCoy, Jimmie Jerrells

Intermediate Team Farm Judging Winners

1st Place: Suwannee 4-H; Maycee Mathis, Katelyn Hicks, Levi Starling, Kensley Dasher

2nd Place: Madison Creative Arts Academy FFA; Jacob Churchwell, Jackson Churchwell, Clara Pike, Leah Webb

3rd Place: Madison 4-H; Reagan Webb, Charlotte Albritton, Sophia Escobar, Levi Kinsey

Junior Team Farm Judging Winners

1st Place: Suwannee 4-H; Ann Marie Goss, Ryleigh Dasher, Lexie Dasher, Macelynn Young

2nd Place: Lafayette 4-H; Jayda Hendrick, Lanae Colson, Tinley Jackson, Lydia Lyons

3rd Place: Gilchrist 4-H; Thayne Timmons, Anisten Blair, Konnor Wilkerson, Parker Douglas

1st-3rd Place High Individual Farm Judging Overall

1st Place: Kylah Wright, Dixie FFA

2nd Place: Christopher Amador, Taylor 4-H

3rd Place: Ryleigh Dasher, Suwannee 4-H

High Individual in Farm Manager Contest Overall

1st Place: Levi Starling; Suwannee 4-H, Intermediate

2nd Place: Khloie Page; Madison FFA, Senior

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.

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



Justin Swinson Jr pictured above pulling the Lafayette 4-H Float in the annual Pioneer Day Parade with a 1950 Farmall.

Agriculture and Weather Report

Emily Beach

Rainfall is definitely not where we would want it to be but we are not facing the deficit we were at this time last year. Often times cooler temperatures are complementary to the drier conditions but we have experienced a variety of temperatures over the last few weeks and it appears as though that trend of fluctuating temperatures will continue. This fluctuation is important if

October Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2023	2022	2021
Cooks Hammock	3	.63	5.32
Mallory Swamp	2.92	.24	5.24
Midway Tower	2.59	.27	5.24

you are planning to overseed your lawn with rye or apply a preemergent herbicide for winter weeds.

Ryegrasses should be planted when daytime temperatures are consistently in the low to mid 70 degree range. Preemergent herbicides should be applied with nighttime temperatures are 55-60 degrees for several days. It looks like next week may offer us those more consistent temperatures so it is best to be patient and wait for that. Ryegrass also needs adequate amounts of watering so if you choose to have some winter color, be sure to water the seeds in 10-20 minutes a day until germination and then at least ¼ inch per day for two to three weeks after.

Consider Cover Cropping this Winter

Emily Beach

Fall harvest is wrapping up and winter covers are being planted which changes the landscape of our county for a period of time but this is an important period for crop land. Cover crops improve soil health by improving organic matter, increasing fertility, prevent erosion, suppress weeds, retain moisture and nutrients, and reduce nematode pressure. There are many types of cover crops that accomplish different tasks so choosing the right one is important but specific to your needs. Research proves that growing multiple species will improve performance by enhancing more microbial communities. Consider planting a cover crop in areas that have been gardened as well as commercial production land. For more information about specific crops, please contact me.

Support Lafayette 4-H, get your tiny house raffle tickets!

Drawing will be November 25, 2023 prior to the

Mayo Christmas Parade



LES Students Visit UF Research Center For a Day of Learning and Fun

Shawn Jackson

Kindergarten Students from Lafayette Elementary School along with kids from other North Florida schools recently had the opportunity to attend Fall Harvest Day at the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, Suwannee Valley, where they learned about growing forage, pumpkins and water conservation. Lafayette County Extension Agents, Shawn Jackson and Emily Beach, were part of the IFAS team teaching the youth during the fun visit that included picking pumpkins to take home and taking a journey through a maze of Sun Hemp in full bloom.



2023

4-H Holiday Bake-Off

Tuesday December 5, 3:00PM

Competition open to all
4-H members and Clover Buds



Awards will be given in 6 Categories:

Best Tasting

Best Sweet

Most Festive

Most Creative

Best Appetizer

Best Overall

All Entries must be submitted by noon Dec. 5, to be judged.