



Up-Coming Events

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

Thursday, October 5: Mayo Chick-Chain Show, 6:00 PM, 4-H Classroom

Tuesday, October 10: Culinary Club Meeting, 3:00, 4-H Classroom

Saturday, October 14: Pioneer Day, Parade line up 9:15 AM, Mayo Assembly of God

Tuesday, October 17: 4-H Anglers Fishing Club, 3:00, Picket Lake Camp Ground

Thursday, October 19: Tri-County Chick-Chain Show, Madison Fl, Livestock Arena

Tuesday, October 24: 4-H Archery Club Meeting, 3:00, 4-H Classroom

Wednesday, October 25: 4-H Senior Commodity Distribution, Mayo Community Center, 1:30-4:30

Friday, October 27: Farm Judging Contest, Mayo Cow Palace, 9:00

Tuesday, October 31: Fall Harvest Experience, 9:00 AM, LES Kindergarten, UF Suwannee Valley Research and Education Center

Idalia brings much devastation to local Farmers and Ranchers

Emily Beach

There is no historical record of a more damaging storm than Hurricane Idalia that came through Lafayette County on August 30, 2023. This storm brought wind gusts that were capable of flattening barns and structures that held livestock and equipment, snapping over large pines, flipping over hay bales, bringing oaks up from the roots that were over 100 years old, splitting pecan trees in half, creating a carpet where rows should separate peanut vines, and destroying cotton and soybeans as well as miles of fencing. This is a short list of the industries that were negatively affected by this storm and has left the agricultural community with a mess to clean up and figure out how to move on. Early reports from agricultural operations in Florida's Big Bend region indicate production losses caused by Hurricane Idalia fall in an estimated range of \$78.8 million to \$370.9 million, according to University of Florida economists.

It was a remarkable experience- that I hope we never have to repeat- to see how members of our community pitched in to help others above themselves. The resiliency of our county is what should really be in the history books as even in the devastation, there was thankfulness for spared lives and support given to those who needed it most.

For agricultural producers, Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be the main areas to receive support from as they both have programs that will offer Disaster Relief. These programs are set up to assist all agricultural enterprises from small farms and ranches, timber stands, and all livestock and crop production.

Included in the last page, you will find a fact sheet that includes all contact information for these as well as other groups that might offer some help during this disaster relief period.

All individuals that are not included in the agricultural community should contact FEMA and that information is on the two page fact sheet located on pages 10 and 11 of this edition of The Mayo Clover Leaf.

Lafayette 4-Hers are getting ready for Chick Chain!

Emily Beach

On September 21 4-H members that have raised chickens since the spring gathered to learn about how to be prepared for the chick chain shows that will be held for local club members in Mayo on October 5 at 6:00pm and then the regional Chick Chain in Madison on October 19 at 5:30. At the meeting, the members learned how to properly hold and handle the chicken during the show as well as other showmanship techniques. Mr. Jackson demonstrated for the group how to properly wash the chickens and gave other grooming tips. The members also learned about the skill-a-thon rotations which will include parts of a chicken, breeds, comb identification, and brooder set up. We are excited to watch these members show off the hard work and skills they have learned through this project!



Photo L to R: Shawn Jackson demonstrates to chick-chain exhibitors how to safely wash their hen. Branson Lawson successfully takes a hen out of its cage and shows how to properly pass it to the judge.



Photo L to R: Jada Hendricks smiles because she is very comfortable working with chickens. Mrs. Beach showing exhibitors how to properly take a hen from the cage and pass it to the judge.

IFAS & Lafayette County Extension Awarded three year Prosper Grant

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette County Extension was recently awarded a Prosper Grant to continue the Strengthening Families Program as well as a life skills program that is offered to sixth grade youth. Lafayette County Extension recently participated in the Strengthening Families Program on a short-term grant which was received well by those participating. The program was presented last month for the second time this year. To reach more families in Lafayette County, the classes were given in the Southeastern region of the county at Midway Baptist Church where eight youth and their caregivers completed the program. Each family completing the program received a gift card valued at \$50.00 and other door prizes were given away each night. The program consisted of seven two-hour sessions (separate sessions for youth and parents and then families together) that were led by three trained facilitators. Sessions were packed with fun activities that include games and family projects which focused on building communication in the family. Each session began with a sit-down meal provided by volunteers and Midway Baptist Church. Youth and caregivers who completed the program felt it was a positive experience and they had seen its impact since putting their knowledge into practice in their daily lives.

SFP 10-14 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, prevents violence and aggressive behavior at home and at school.

4-H Club meetings begin after Hurricane Idalia

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette 4-H began the 2023-2024 year adjusting meeting schedules around hurricane Idalia and post-hurricane cleanup. The 4-H Community Club enjoyed making crafts to be sold at the 4-H Pioneer Day General Store. Crafts made included tobacco stick nativities, modge podge oyster shells, Christmas ornaments, and recycled molding Christmas trees. Although these seem like simple, fun projects, it requires much patience and perseverance. These are skills that youth need to be successful in school and work but are lacking in many youth due to time spent using electronic devices that deliver instant gratification and enhanced outcomes generated by artificial intelligence. Lafayette 4-H appreciates the volunteers who helped with preparing crafts at the September community club meeting.

Lafayette 4-H Appreciates Union County and Wakulla County 4-H for the generous donations after Hurricane Adalia. These donations were shared with community members in need.



4-H Anglers Club begins another year

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette County 4-H Anglers Club started the new 4-H year with a day of fishing at the home of WC and Jana Hart. The cooler fall temperatures made the day especially enjoyable. New members to the club had to learn some of the initial skills needed to be a successful angler such as baiting hooks, preparing lines with tackles and safely casting a reel while returning anglers were able to quickly get back in the routine of enjoying a skill learned in the previous year. The Hart's pond is stocked with channel catfish of all sizes. All youth were successful in catching fish with weights ranging from less than half a pound to one weighing over four pounds. Youth were able to practice safely removing the catfish from hooks before releasing them back into the pond.

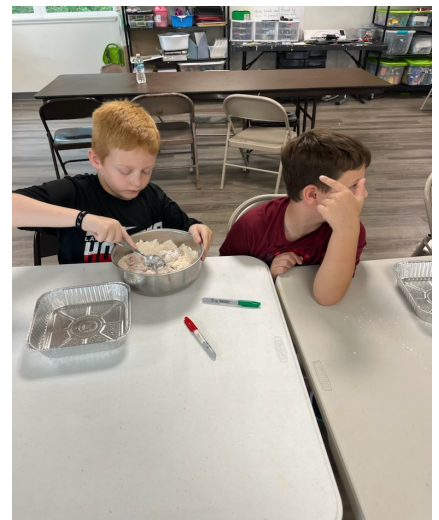


Photo L to R: Volunteer Justin Swinson with Lanae Colson as she prepares to take a catfish from her line. Emilee Elizabeth Jackson smiles with a fish she caught from the Hart pond.

Culinary Club learning to bake and use crockpots

Shawn Jackson

The 4-H Culinary Club met in September and had fun learning to make sweet and meaty finger foods. Mrs. Beach shared her recipe for sausage balls that required youth to work in pairs preparing a mixture of Bisquick and pork sausage that would be rolled in small balls and baked. 4-H Volunteer Leader Alecia Swinson demonstrated how to make crock-pot white chocolate trash, a sweet combination of white chocolate bark, nuts, pretzel, chowmein noodles and M&Ms. 4-H Club members enjoyed snacking on their creations and taking home the tasty treats to share with their families.



4-H Culinary Club in photos above mixing ground pork and Bisquick before shaping in to balls and placing in the oven.

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

Shawn Jackson

For the third consecutive year, Lafayette 4-H is giving away a tiny house built by intermediate 4-H members during this past summer's build it camp. By making a \$5.00 donation to Lafayette 4-H, you could be its new owner. The 6x8 building can serve as a utility shed, garden shed or playhouse. The 36-inch door will allow the building to house a washer/dryer, freezer or even a small lawn mower. More important than the results of the youth's week of hard work is that the skills learned are some that can be used in everyday living or be the

launching board of a future career. To get raffle tickets, see a 4-H member or stop by the Extension office. You can also pick up tickets at Pioneer Day by visiting the 4-H Pavilion (where chicken and rice has been served in the past). The tiny house is currently sitting at the intersection of HWY 27 and Community Circle in the Extension parking lot, where it escaped damage from Hurricane Idalia. Donations made towards this project will be used to support the 2024 build it camp and other 4-H programs and goals. The tiny house drawing will be held at Mayo Downtown Christmas on November 24, and will be delivered locally free of charge.



Support the Youth of Lafayette County at the 2024 Chick-Chain Competitions

**Mayo Thursday, Oct 4, 6:00
Lafayette Extension office**

**Madison Thursday, Oct 19, 5:30
Madison Livestock Pavilion**



Items for the 4-H General Store should be at the Extension office by 4:30 Thursday, Oct 12.

4-H members planning to ride in the parade should be at the parade line-up at 9:15.

Agriculture and Weather Report

Emily Beach

I included the rainfall for the last two months since the hurricane kept us from being able to publish a newsletter for September. There is a noticeable for September rainfall totals but Midway was reported as getting 3 inches on September 1 alone but Cooks Hammock and Mallory Swamp only got two-tenths of an inch.

September is ending with cooler temperatures so I suspect we will start seeing mums and pumpkins on porches which is a celebration of the fall harvest that we have going on all over the county. Hay is being baled, peanuts are being dug, cotton will be picked soon and soybeans are getting ready for harvest in the coming weeks. Hurricane Idalia brought much damage and devastation and our farmers and ranchers are trying to recover from this and having to make some tough management decisions in its wake.

For the home fall garden, veggies like arugula, beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onions, and turnips are all on the list of things that grow well in our area this time of year. This is also the time when strawberry plants need to be set in the garden or containers.

For the lawn, applying a preemergent when the night temperatures are 55-60 degrees for 4-5 nights in a row will control winter weeds before they appear. Maybe we will reach those temperatures before the end of the month, so just be watching the forecast to make a plan for getting that herbicide spray in. Herbicides like benefin and trifluralin [Team Pro], prodiamine [Barricade], or pendimethalin [Pendulum, Pre-M]) control annual grass and some broadleaf weed species when applied prior to weed seed germination. Bensulide (Bensumec) and dithiopyr (Dimension) also provide preemergence annual grass and broadleaf control.

August Rainfall Totals (in)				September Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2023	2022	2021		2023	2022	2021
Cooks Hammock	6.36	8.21	16.88	Cooks Hammock	3.16	3.03	6.08
Mallory Swamp	5.62	8.87	15.96	Mallory Swamp	0.91	1.33	4.23
Midway Tower	6.57	12.94	14.87	Midway Tower	5.53	1.79	4.65

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP
WITH THE

Lafayette County

FARM JUDGING CONTEST



Friday; October 27, 2023

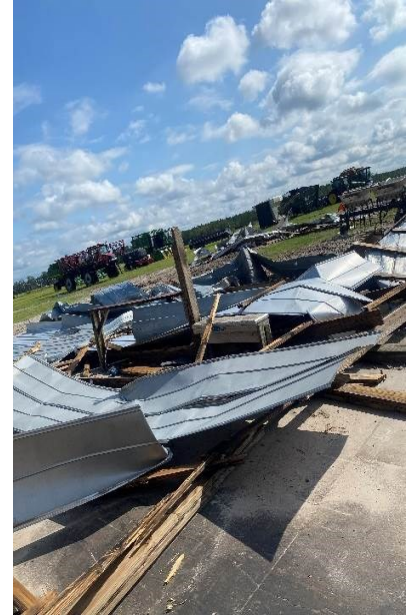
Stop by the Lafayette County
Library to pick up some seeds
for your fall garden!

Fall
SEEDS 2023

- Beet - Ruby Queen
- Broccoli - Waltham 29
- Cabbage - Early Hersey Wakefield
- Carrot - Barracuda
- Cauliflower - Snowball Y Improved
- Cilantro - Calypso
- Lettuce - Cimarron
- Pea - Sugar Ann
- Rutabaga - American Purple Top
- Spinach - Bloomsdale

Three Rivers
Library System

Evidence of Hurricane Idalia's powerful winds are present throughout Lafayette County. Photos below show the destruction to barns, timber, greenhouses and cotton fields.



Opportunity For 4-Hers to Capitalize Off Talents

Shawn Jackson

If you're planning to attend the 43rd Annual Pioneer Day Festival in Mayo on October 14, please stop by the 4-H Pavilion located on the east side of the park (where chicken and rice has been sold in the past). Not only will you be able to get your smoked pork sandwiches, sausage dogs and fresh cut French fries, you will also be able to pick up some items made by our 4-H craftsmen at the 4-H General Store. This will be an opportunity for our youth to earn money by selling their items and help 4-H raise funds as well. When an item is sold at the Pioneer Day 4-H General Store, that 4-Her will earn 80% of amount collected for the item, and 20% will go to Lafayette 4-H. Here are just a few of the items to look for: Baked goods, jelly, homemade Christmas ornaments, handmade jewelry, woodworking crafts and more. There will also be snow cones and candied apples. Some of the store items have been made during 4-H meetings. All funds raised from those items will be donated to Lafayette 4-H.



Sign Up For 2023-2024 4-H Year

September 1 began the new 4-H year, and enrollment for the new year is now open. Enrolling in 4-H online can be challenging but the Extension Office will be more than happy to assist in making the process as easy as possible. Simply come in and ask to enroll your child in 4-H for the new year. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H to participate in any clubs and compete in 4-H competitions including the SVYLSS. Annual membership is \$20.00, which is paid to the state 4-H Program, with \$10.00 returning to local 4-H offices.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE

Lafayette County

FARM JUDGING CONTEST



Friday; October 27, 2023

Registration is at 8 am

Contest will start at 9 am



PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO BE A GROUP FACILITATOR THAT DAY!!!

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.

Hurricane Idalia Disaster Relief Information

Emily Beach, UF/IFAS Lafayette County Extension

Checklist for Agricultural Production:

__1. Record damage by taking pictures and documenting everything.

__2. Call your insurance company.

__3. Complete the UF survey: go.ufl.edu/IdaliaAgImpacts

*** This reports economic impacts from this disaster and helps agencies know what programs need to be offered and how funds should be distributed***

__4. Register with Farm Service Agency (FSA) by sending an email with your county in the subject line to SM.FPAC.FSA.FL.FSA.Disaster@usda.gov, call the FSA Producer Hotline at 1-877-508-8364, or call the FSA Office at (386) 362-2681. ***SEE INCLUDED PAGE FOR PROGRAMS OFFERED***

__5. Complete the Florida Farm Bureau Hurricane Relief Application (membership not required): floridafarmbureau.org/hurricane-idalia-relief-fund/

__6. Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the EMERGENCY EQIP Program at (386) 362-2622.

SEE REVERSE SIDE OF INCLUDED PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION

__7. Suwannee River Water Management District is offering their normal Cost Share Opportunities in an expedited format. Call SWRMD Office at (386) 647-3158 or go to mysuwanneeriver.com -> "Doing Business" -> "Agricultural Cost Share Program" -> scroll down on that page to either log in or download an application.

__8. If needed, you can apply for the short-term, zero-interest Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program:

<https://floridacommerce.my.site.com/RebuildFloridaBusinessLoanFund/s/>

If you aren't sure what programs you qualify for, use this USDA disaster tool:

<https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool>

Hurricane Idalia Disaster Relief Information

Emily Beach, UF/IFAS Lafayette County Extension

Information for Personal Support:

- ___ 1. Register with FEMA. **EVERYONE SHOULD DO THIS EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE DAMAGE TO YOUR HOME!!!** More support will be provided to Lafayette County as more people register. You can complete the application online at disasterassistance.gov, call the hotline 1-800-621-3362, or visit the Mayo Community Center which is a Disaster Recovery Center 7 days a week 8am-7pm.
- ___ 2. Call your insurance company if you have damage that is covered by your policy.
- ___ 3. If you have debris in your yard, on your home, or other damage from the Hurricane call the Home Cleanup Hotline 1-800-451-1954. These people are here to help in many ways and are eager to help our community!