

The Baker Bulletin



The UF/IFAS Extension Office is available to help you with your farming, gardening, landscaping, and 4-H youth development needs by providing educational programming, free consultations and information. Contact us at:

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

1025 W. Macclenny Ave. Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

Hours: M—F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (Closed Noon to 1:00 pm for Lunch)

County Agents

Alicia Lamborn, Horticulture Agent

Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent

Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent



sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker



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[Agriculture in North Florida](#)

[Baker County Garden Spot](#)

[Baker County 4-H](#)

August 2025



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Programs & Events

- Sept 6 Calf Pulling Demonstration: Learn to Intervene with Difficult Calving. 9am-12pm at the Baker County Extension Office. Register here: <http://calfpulling.eventbrite.com>
- Online Florida-Friendly Landscaping - This free, self-paced, online course will guide you through the 9 principles to keep your yard and garden healthy using less time, money, and resources. Register here: <https://forms.gle/o87D5gYauQVONQ2s7>
- Online Butterfly Gardening - Learn the basic garden design elements for a successful butterfly garden. Helpful resources and seeds for your garden included! Free, self-paced course. Register here: <https://forms.gle/o3SVghr6xtvwGQ637>

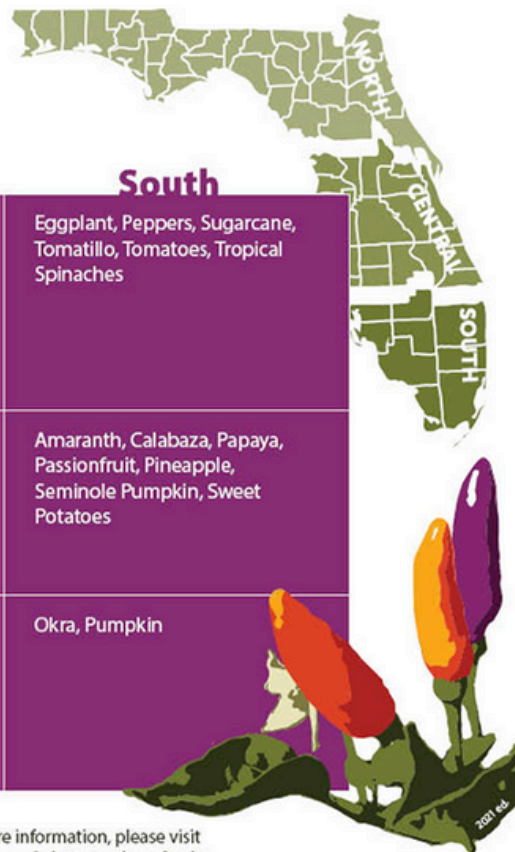


HIGHLIGHTS IN HORTICULTURE

2

By Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN *August*



Growing Tips:

Celery:

Select Utah strains which are recommended varieties for Florida. This can be a difficult crop to grow in the home garden. Plants require very high soil moisture during seeding/seedling stages. Some need 3 months or longer to mature. Look for early-maturing varieties.

	North	Central	South
 Easily Survives Transplanting	Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Eggplant, Kale, Peppers, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Eggplant, Endive, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Eggplant, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 Transplant Carefully	Celery, Mustard	Pineapple	Amaranth, Calabaza, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes
 Use Seeds	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Squashes, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Squashes	Okra, Pumpkin

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For more information, please visit
GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Tips

August

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices to have a beautiful landscape or bountiful garden that saves you time, energy, and money.

- ✓ **MADE IN THE SHADE:**
Position trees and shrubs strategically to naturally cool or heat your home. Plant deciduous shade trees on the south, east, and west sides of a house to cast shade in summer and allow warming in winter. Tree shade can reduce air conditioning costs significantly. An air-conditioning system's outdoor compressor/condenser unit uses less energy when it is shaded from direct sun during the day - but be careful not to block the unit's airflow. If the warm discharge air cannot escape, the intake air temperature rises, causing the unit to operate less efficiently.
- ✓ **HARDPAN SOILS:**
Some soils have a sub-layer of hardpan (or limestone, rock or shell depending on location in the state) which limits root penetration, essentially establishing a barrier to plant roots. Where possible, examine your soil to a depth of about 18 inches before making final plant selections.

- ✓ **ATTRACT WILDLIFE:**
Reduce the amount of mowed lawn area. Unmowed areas can contain more plant species than mowed areas, providing more potential food sources and habitat for wildlife. Reduce the mowed area around your house, especially in low-traffic areas, such as corners of the yard.
- ✓ **TREATING PEST PROBLEMS:**
Apply pesticides during the cooler part of the day. Heat combined with soaps, horticultural oils, and other pesticides can injure plants. Also, use products only on recommended plants. Always read the label to find out which plants a product can be applied to and which plants are sensitive to the product. If you're unsure about applying a product to a plant, test it on a small area of the plant first. Check for leaf burn in the tested area after one to two days. Phytotoxicity, or chemical injury, often looks like a burn on the edge of leaves.

Made in the Shade



SUMMER
WINTER



FOR MORE
INFORMATION:

 <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

 <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/>

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BARNYARD BULLETIN

By Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture Agent

Stocking & Raising Bass to Fish



Bass can be stocked in Florida ponds at a rate of 100 bass and 500 bluegill fingerlings per acre. If larger fish are to be stocked, a rate of 50 8-12 inch bass & 200 4-5 inch bluegill per acre should be used. However, this rate will fluctuate depending on existing species in the pond or additional species to be stocked (catfish, redear, etc.). It is best to speak with your county extension agent or local hatchery to determine stocking rate and suggested stocking size based on current pond conditions & the future use of the pond.

When stocking, fish should be tempered, or slowly acclimated to changes in water temperature or chemistry. Proper tempering requires at least 20 minutes of gradual adjustment for every 10 degrees in water temperature. Gradually mix water in the holding tank until temperatures are equalized. If fish were transported in closed, oxygenated bags, float the bags until temperatures are equalized. Do not release the oxygen in the bag until fish are ready to be released in the pond water.

Fish which are properly handled and stocked should remain active and swim off quickly into deeper water after release. Stressed fish may sink to the bottom or swim weakly. Mortality resulting from handling or stocking stress can occur in a matter of hours to several days after release. Excessive stress can lead to disease outbreaks and later mortality which may not occur until several days after stocking.

Fishing is different than harvesting. Fishing is simply the act of catching the fish, and can be done at any time. Harvesting however involves removing the fish, preferably to eat, in proper amounts to maintain fish populations and health. Here are a few tips for harvesting your pond:

- In the first 2 to 3 years after stocking a pond, bass under 15 inches in length should be released, this helps prevent overharvesting bass and allowing broodstock to overpopulate the pond.
- If it has been over 3 years since the pond has been stocked, then bass 12-15 inches should be released in the pond to maintain a good breeding population.
- 25 8-12 inch bass should be harvested per surface acre per year, along with any bass larger than 15 inches. Total bass harvest should not exceed 20-25 lbs per acre per year.
- 4 to 6 pounds of broodstock (bluegill or sunfish) should be harvested for every pound of bass harvested.
- Catfish can be harvested at any rate desirable to the pond owner. Restock with 8 to 12 inch fingerlings as needed (smaller fingerlings will be eaten by bass).





HANDS-ON

**LEARN HOW TO INTERVENE WITH A DIFFICULT CALVING
PRACTICE YOUR SKILLS WITH A FULL-SIZE DEMONSTRATION COW**

9AM-12PM

SATURDAY, SEP. 6, 2025

MACCLENNY, FL

REGISTER TODAY

\\ [HTTPS://CALFPULLING.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://calfpulling.eventbrite.com) //

CONTACT: ALICIA HALBRITTER | ALICIAH1221@UFL.EDU | 904-259-3520



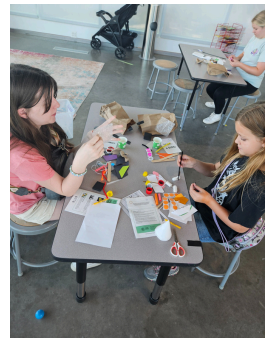
LUCKY CLOVER CHRONICLE

By Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent



Camps this year were a blast! We had so much fun learning and doing.

For sweet treats camp we visited the North Florida Research and Education Center in Live Oak, we went to Whetstone Chocolate Factory, Front Porch Creamery, and Life's A Batch brought cookie kits. We learned about handwashing, food prep, cross-contamination, and made some delicious treats!



In STEAM camp we learned from Mr. Daryll what STEAM is, what simple machines are, how to make stomp rockets and use altimeters, what Rube-Goldberg machines are, and so much more! We visited the Cade Museum of Creativity and Innovation and went to the movie theater to see Wild Robot.

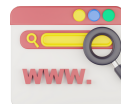
STEAM Club Interest

Do you have a kiddo who loves science? We are looking at starting a new club that focuses on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics for youth ages 5+. This club will do experiments, explore concepts of science, and have fun!

To sign up, please fill out this [FORM](#) to be added to the list!

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- Aug 1- Enrollments for the new 4-H Year open!
- Aug 26- Livestock Club, Ag Center Auditorium, 6pm



Check out our Livestock [Google Site](#)!

**RE-ENROLL FOR
THE NEW 4-H
YEAR TODAY!**

BACK TO SCHOOL

REMIND APP

text @bakerco4h to 81010 to be added to the 4-H Remind text group.

Grilled Florida Shrimp with Mango & Sweet Chili

Ingredients

- 20 large Florida shrimp, peeled & deveined
- 4 Florida mangoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 cup sweet chili sauce
- ½ lime, juiced
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger, grated
- 1 tablespoon fresh mint, chopped fine
- ¼ cup scallions
- 20 small bamboo skewers



Preparation

Soak the bamboo skewers in water for at least 1 hour (this reduces the chance of the skewers burning). Combine the sweet chili sauce, lime juice, ginger and mint in a small bowl. Slice the scallions and set aside. On a clean surface, place a mango cube in between the tail and top of a shrimp. Insert the bamboo skewer through the shrimp and mango. Repeat the skewering process until all shrimp are skewered and store in the refrigerator until ready to grill. Preheat a charcoal grill (or indoor grill pan) and cook the shrimp and mango skewers. When the shrimp is close to being cooked through, glaze with the sweet chili sauce. Sprinkle with the sliced scallions and serve.

<https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/grilled-florida-shrimp-with-mango-and-sweet-chili-sauce>

Cattle Care Checklist: Before the

STORM

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Preparing the pasture

- ☐ Secure or remove loose objects from pastures.
- ☐ Move animals to higher ground and interior pastures, if possible.
- ☐ If possible, avoid pastures with power lines and electric fencing. Barbed wire or field fence preferred with loss of power.
- ☐ Move cattle to a pasture with a pond so well-filled water troughs are not the only source of water.

Feed and water supply

- ☐ Stock up on water. Thirsty cattle are known to break out of fencing to get to water.
- ☐ Line trash cans with plastic bags or use rain barrels to store water before the storm.
- ☐ Have enough hay, feed and health-care supplies on hand for 1-2 weeks.
- ☐ Keep feed in a safe, dry place that will not be impacted during the storm.

First aid kit and health

- ☐ First aid kits should include halters and ropes, a flashlight with extra batteries, Chlorhexidine or Betadine solution, bandage materials, duct tape, gloves and scissors.
- ☐ Make sure cattle are up to date on all vaccinations and have vet records handy.
- ☐ Have a list of current contact information that includes your veterinarian, neighbors, USDA Farm Service Agency Office, insurance provider, utility company and your county Extension office.

Vehicles and equipment

- ☐ Top off gas tanks in all vehicles. Stock up on enough fuel to run backup generators for equipment.
- ☐ Check tires and make sure trailers and equipment are in good working condition.
- ☐ Park tractors and equipment on high ground away from trees.
- ☐ Ensure chainsaws are in good working order and ready to handle fallen trees.
- ☐ Stock up on fence repair materials such as wire, posts and staples.

It's important to have a Farm Emergency Plan for your operation, family, employees and animals.

For more information on how to develop an emergency plan, visit bit.ly/3aPy90V.