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. Maccleenny 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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
- CALADIUMS /
  CALADIUM FUNDRAISER
- MARKET OPPORTUNITY: SMALL RUMINANTS
- 4-H DAY CAMPS
- NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA:
  WHITE OAK TREE & DRAGONFLIES
- EDIBLES TO PLANT IN AUGUST
- FLORIDA MANGO ICE CREAM

Programs & Events

Aug 9  Industrial Hemp Field Day (Free!) UF/IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Unit (PSREU) in Citra, FL. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/overview-of-the-uffas-hemp-program-tickets-381073971507

Aug 18  Grape Field Day (Free!) Register at https://tinyurl.com/2p8udamy or visit https://hos.ifas.ufl.edu/grape; for more info call Lesley Reddick (352) 591-2678 by August 12th.

Online  Growing Blueberries & Blackberries (Self-Paced Course — Free!) Topics include variety selection, care and maintenance, pest management, and even a section on raspberries! Register here

Online  Selling Backyard Poultry Products (Self-Paced, Online Course) Learn how to start a business (or improve an existing business) selling eggs, meat, or live poultry in the state of Florida. Topics include licensing/registration, record keeping, filing taxes, marketing your product, and drawing an income. Register here.

The UF/IFAS Extension Office is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, color, religion, age disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Extension programs are open to all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap, or national origin. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in any activity, should contact the Baker County Cooperative Extension Service at 1025 West Maccleenny Avenue, Maccleenny, FL 32063 or telephone (904) 259-3520 no later than ten (10) days prior to the event. Hearing impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).
Caladiums

Caladiums are tropical foliage plants known for their vibrant leaf colors and patterns that bring life to shady areas of the garden. Although originally discovered in the Amazon River basin, today there are over 1,200 acres of Florida land planted with caladiums for commercial production.

Over 75 unique cultivars exist, which are broadly separated into two main categories: fancy and lance-leafed. Fancy-leafed cultivars have large heart-shaped leaves. Lance-leafed cultivars have narrow, elongated leaves.

You can add them to your landscape in hanging baskets or containers, as borders, and as landscape accent plants. Some can also be grown indoors.

Caladium plants usually grow between 1 and 2.5 feet tall with leaves between 6 and 12 inches in length. Although commonly called caladium “bulbs”, these plants actually grow from tubers and will mature to full size in one season. All varieties die back naturally and become dormant in the winter.

For optimum foliage color and overall best results, plant in a shaded location with moist, well-drained soils, and choose a slow-release fertilizer that is low in phosphorous. Although some new cultivars have been bred to grow in direct sunlight, morning sun and then partial shade for the remainder of the day is ideal for most.

Adapted and excerpted from: Caladiums
https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/caladiums.html

Caladium Fundraiser

The Baker County Master Gardeners currently have caladium tubers available for purchase.

In North & Central Florida, caladium tubers are planted in the ground between April & September.

Plant your tubers at a depth of 2 inches—this means each tuber should be planted deep enough to cover them with 1.5” to 2” of soil.

Tuber spacing depends on size. Bigger tubers should be planted farther apart—jumbo tubers about 12-18” apart, smaller tubers 6-8” apart.

Water regularly after planting but avoid creating soggy soils that could cause the tubers to rot.

Choose from 2 cultivars:

- **Florida Cardinal**: Bright red center with medium green border.
- **Rosebud**: Rose center/main veins with green border.

Both have medium-large leaves; plants reach 12-18” tall and prefer partial sun to shade conditions.

Quantity per bag varies by size (some jumbo, some smaller) but they are packed so as not to disappoint!

**Only $5 per bag!**

Extension Office Hours:
8:30am—Noon & 1:00-5:00pm
Planting Equipment & Strategies

Thinking about planting cool season forages for wildlife plots or pasture? Or interested in rejuvenating your bahiagrass pasture next spring? You’ll need to think about how you’re going to plant first.

**Broadcasting Seed**
Broadcast spreaders are a great tool to have on any farming operation. This equipment is more versatile than a grain drill, and much cheaper. Broadcast spreaders can be utilized to spread seed and fertilizer. Some broadcasters may have difficulty spreading smaller seeds or seeds coated in inoculant which can reduce your stands density. Due to the random nature of broadcast planting you will require a higher planting rate to achieve a more complete forage stand. If you plan to broadcast seed it is best to use some type of equipment to cover the seeds after spreading. Operations can use a roller, cultivator, or disc to cover the seeds with soil, however some homemade options work well. I have seen chainlink fence weighed down with cinderblock, a simple chain drag implement, and other contraptions produce suitable enough forage stands.

**Grain Drill**
Grain drilling seed is generally considered the superior method for better germination, uniformity, and overall success of the stand. However, grain drills are much more expensive than a broadcast seeder. If you are only utilizing the drill for cool season forages it may not be financially feasible to purchase this equipment. Grain drills generally require less seeds to be planted, with some species requiring a 20% less rate compared to broadcasting, this can help reduce overall seed costs. Grain drills also afford the ability to plant a starter fertilizer with the seed (if equipment allows) which will help with initial plant growth and would benefit grazing operations looking for more yield.

**Cool-Season Forage Mixes**
If you plan to utilize a cool-season forage mix instead of one species it may be more difficult to plant. Different species of plants have different seeding rates, different seeding depths, and different grazing heights and times. Mixes are generally recommended as the benefits outweigh the negative aspects, however careful planning should take place to ensure proper planting density, germination, and utilization of the entire forage stand.
Sweet Treats Camp

At Sweet Treats Camp we visited the Suwannee Valley Research Extension Center, Sweet Pete’s Candy Shop, and the Whetstone Chocolate Factory. We made edible fruit arrangements, rock candy, chocolate toffee, chocolate turtles, gummies, and lollipops!

Wood Working Camp

At Wood Working Camp we learned about the different types of woods, safety, PPE, and tools involved with wood working. We put together wooden animal puzzles, made hanging shelves, built step stools, a camp chair, squirrel picnic tables, and device charging stations. A special thank you to Blackburn-Curry Funeral Home and Thrift Saw Mill for their donations to make this camp affordable for participants!

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- Baker’s Busy Bees— August 19 at 6pm in the 4-H Classroom.
- Livestock Club— July 26th at 6pm Ag Center Auditorium.
Florida’s Native Flora & Fauna

By: Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

Featuring some of Florida’s native flora (plant life) and fauna (animal life) so you can learn to recognize, appreciate, and protect native species. We’ll also aim to dispel myths and provide tips for managing conflicts with wildlife.

White Oak

White Oak (Quercus alba) is a long-lived, slow-growing tree, reaching 60 to 100 feet in height with a spread of 50 to 90 feet.

Old specimens can be massive, growing to be several hundred years old. Since trunks can be six feet in diameter, this shade tree is best for large landscapes where it can be given plenty of room to grow.

Lobed leaves are medium green above and paler green to almost white underneath. Acorns appear in early fall before the tree’s fall color sets in. The red fall color is reliable year to year and is outstanding among the Oaks. Brown leaves may be held on the tree into the early part of the winter.

White Oak grows in full sun or partial shade and prefers an acid, moist, well-drained soil. Unfortunately, it is not readily available in the nursery trade and not well adapted to dry areas. Supply new transplants with plenty of water and mulch the area beneath the canopy to eliminate grass competition.

Dragonflies

Dragonflies are beneficial insects that have been around for more than 300 million years. Not only are they fun to watch, these fast-fliers travel at speeds up to 30 miles per hour to eat annoying insects like mosquitoes and flies while also avoiding predators such as birds and frogs. Their huge compound eyes help them see prey, which they catch in mid-air.

Most dragonfly females lay their eggs in mud or water. The aquatic nymphs (called naiads) hatch within a few weeks and then live in water for up to two years before emerging as adults.

Often dragonflies are migratory, but here in Florida we also have many full-time resident populations. There are over 100 species of dragonflies found in Florida, which often have interesting and descriptive names that are based on wing characteristics, flight patterns, and reproductive habits. Clubtails, darners, skimmers, and biddies are some of the common groups of dragonflies.

Above left: The great pondhawk (Erythemis vesiculosa) is entirely green with dark abdominal bands. Above right: The black saddlebag (Tramea lacerata) is recognizable for the dark, saddlebag-like pattern found on its wings.

Adapted and excerpted from: White Oak: Quercus alba. https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/st541
Photo credits: UF/IFAS

Adapted and excerpted from: Dragonflies. https://gardensolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/gardening-with-wildlife/dragonflies.html
Florida Mango Ice Cream

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 Florida mangoes, diced small
- 2 ½ cups Florida sugar
- 6 cups whole milk
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 16 egg yolks
- 1 vanilla bean, split lengthwise
- ½ stick unsalted butter
- ½ cup dark brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

**PREPARATION**
Preheat a small pot over medium heat. Add mangoes, butter, brown sugar, and cinnamon. Cook until butter and sugar are melted, and mangoes have softened. Remove from heat and cool completely.

Combine milk, heavy cream, and vanilla bean in a large pot and bring to a boil, then remove from heat. Meanwhile, in a separate mixing bowl, whisk together egg yolks and sugar until completely combined. Temper egg mixture with a third of the hot milk, then slowly pour back into large pot with milk and cream, whisking constantly. Cook over medium heat until custard reaches 180-185 degrees (stir constantly) and is slightly thickened. Strain through mesh strainer into a clean bowl and chill completely (over ice bath or in refrigerator). Pour into ice cream machine and follow manufacturer’s instructions. Approximately 5-10 minutes before ice cream is set, add mango mixture. Place in freezer-safe container and allow to set for at least 2 hours before serving.

Fresh tip: If you don’t have vanilla bean, substitute 3 tablespoons pure vanilla extract; add to mixture at the end of the cooking process before straining. [https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-mango-ice-cream](https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-mango-ice-cream)