



# The Baker Bulletin

A  
Baker County  
Extension  
Service Monthly  
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

We are another month into 2012 and it seems as though the time is flying by. This month we have included information on lawn care, financial management, weed control and updates on 4-H events. We have many programs offered this month as well, so please check out the calendar and contact us if you are interested. I would like to remind everyone that we are in the beginning of fire season, so keep an eye out and report fires. As always, if you need assistance, give us a call or stop by our office.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis  
County Extension Director / Ag Agent  
Baker County Extension Service



## Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520, FAX: (904) 259-9034

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu Hours: M—F 8:30am to 5:00pm (Closed Noon to 1:00pm for Lunch)

**Michael Davis, Ph.D.**

Agriculture Agent



**Alicia Lamborn**

Horticulture Agent



**Melanie Thomas**

Family & Consumer  
Sciences Agent



**Shaina Bennett**

4-H Agent



# Highlights in Horticulture

By:

*Alicia Lamborn,  
Horticulture Agent*

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## Attracting Birds is Easy with Bird Baths

Bird baths are a great way to attract a variety of birds to your yard without the expense of providing different types of feeders and seed. But bird bath design, placement and maintenance all play a role in how successful you will be at attracting these creatures to your yard. When selecting a bird bath, avoid baths with deep bowls. Instead look for baths with relatively flat bottoms that are not more than 3 inches deep. Birds have short legs which aren't designed for swimming like ducks, so keeping the water level low will make the birds feel comfortable when bathing. Another design element to look for is the height of pedestal upon which the bath sits. Now since most bird baths come in a standard height, this may not be as critical when making your selection, but keep in mind that the bowl should sit at least 3 feet off the ground. This will give the birds a "birds-eye view" of their surroundings and again, make them feel more comfortable when stopping for a drink. If your bird bath is shorter than 3 feet, consider stacking a few concrete landscaping squares under the pedestal to make up the difference.



Once you've found a suitable bath, you'll need to find a good spot to put it — away from areas where predators may hide. The recommendation is to keep the bath a minimum of 15 feet away from shrubs so that predators (such as the neighborhood cat) can't lie in wait ready to sneak up on an unexpected bird. Once your bird bath is setup, all that's left is maintenance which is relatively simple. Just make sure you empty the bath 1-2 times per week to prevent mosquitoes from breeding and replace with fresh water for the birds. Replacing the water on a regular basis will also prevent algae build-up, but occasionally the bath will need a more thorough cleaning. For cement baths, clean with soap and warm water only (no chlorine). For metal baths, use soap and water or 1 part chlorine bleach to 10 parts water if the bath is exceptionally dirty.

Just by following these few simple tips, you're sure to have the company of some new feathered friends.

## Lawns Growing in Shade Have Different Needs

If portions of your lawn are shaded by trees, you may have noticed that your grass doesn't perform as well in these shaded areas. This is because most turfgrass species require full sun for optimum growth. In densely shaded areas, we recommend that an alternative shade-loving groundcover be used, such as Mondo grass. But for areas with light to moderate shade, planting a shade tolerant grass type and altering your maintenance habits may be enough to help these shaded areas thrive.

When it comes to turfgrass, good shade tolerance is a relative thing since no grass will do well in deep shade or if there are not enough hours of sunlight available. Even shade tolerant grasses need at least 4 hours of sunlight daily, and afternoon sun appears to be more important than morning sun in determining the number of hours needed. If you think planting shade tolerant turf will help, plant or plug holes in the lawn with one of the dwarf varieties of St. Augustine grass, which have shown to have the best shade tolerance. These include 'Delmar,' 'Seville' and 'Captiva'.

If you're not ready to start replacing the lawn, try altering your maintenance habits by following these simple tips:

- ◆ Remove shade sources or trim branches to allow more light to reach the ground.
- ◆ Reduce traffic and other stresses in shaded areas.
- ◆ Increase mowing height—more shoot tissue for photosynthesis will help turf perform better.
- ◆ Reduce irrigation in shaded areas.
- ◆ Reduce fertilization—trying to promote shoot growth with high fertility will further stress the grass.



# Living Well in Baker County

By:

Melanie Thomas,  
FCS Agent

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## Financial Management: Do You Have A Spending Plan?

A spending plan is a money guide to make your money go where you want it to go. A family spending plan is a smart way to make your dollars buy what you most need and want. You can master the skills of money control and learn to conserve your income by using knowledgeable spending. Planning will help you extend your buying power. Good spending habits foster financial security and develop wise use of credit.



No ready-made spending plan fits every couple, or even one couple necessarily. A standard table designating what percentage of income to allow for each budget category cannot be calculated. Each family has different standards, values, needs, wants and resources, so you must decide what percentage to budget for the various categories. For example, if you are a couple who enjoys entertaining at home and wants space, serving equipment, and a generous budget for food, then your particular plan might provide a large portion of your income for these budget categories and less for other groups.

If you are “*car conscious*” and need a late model car in your line of work, or you like to travel, you may choose to provide a larger transportation allowance and pay less for housing. You may be “*clothes conscious*” and allocate a larger sum for clothes in order to dress stylishly.

What you need is a practical spending plan that fits your family. No *his* and *her* arrangement here, even if there is a double income. This is supposed to be a money partnership. Joint accounts may help this transition.

### Where are You Financially?

To find out where you are, add up all your resources. Resources are things such as time, energy and money; they can be used in different ways to fill your needs and achieve your goals. If you want to *save money*, you can use your own time and energy to get what you want. Or if you want to *save time and energy*, you can use money. Your resources are interchangeable, but not unlimited. Try to determine the value and amount of these resources available for your use. If time is more important to you than money, then you might buy products such as pre-cooked foods, and purchase services such as yard care.

Money resources may include salaries, interest on bank accounts, rental incomes, gifts, inheritance, bonuses, commissions and unemployment compensation. No one has all these kinds of income, but almost everyone has at least one of these. Add together the ones you have to find out your whole income for a month.

Next determine your amount of spending. Subtract your total expenses from your total income. If there is money left, this is your surplus. If this is negative, this is the amount of your deficit. A second measure is net worth.

Add up everything that you own, these are your assets. Add up everything that you owe, these are your liabilities. Assets minus liabilities is how you determine net worth.

Source: Josephine Turner, Nayda I. Torres, Vervil Mitchell and Michael Gultter—University of Florida, *Money and Marriage: A Spending Plan* (EDIS Document FCS7012).

# April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3  	4	5 	6	7
8	9	10 	11	12 	13	14 
15	16 	17  	18 	19 	20	21
22	23 	24 	25	26 	27	28
29	30 					

Upcoming Programs are marked with a Program Area Symbol. Please match these symbols with the list on the following page for more information about the program.



# Upcoming Programs & Events

*Programs will be held at the Baker County Extension Office (Agricultural Center) unless otherwise noted.*

- April 3** **Tri-County Pesticide Applicator School & Exam**, 8:30am—5:00pm. *Baker County Extension Service* Pesticide application school for private applicators. A total of 7.0 CEUs (3.0 CORE, 4.0 Prvt. App.) have been approved for this course. Registration is \$5 per person for CEUs only, \$45 per person for books and exam. Please contact the Baker County Extension Office or see our website for more details.
- April 5** **Forest Stewardship Workshop—Grow Timber Revenue**, 9:00am—3:00pm. *Madison County Extension Service*. Guidance on timber management and marketing strategies. Registration fee is \$10 per person, includes lunch and materials. Register at <http://fsp-workshop040512.eventbrite.com> or contact the Madison County Extension Office at (850) 973-4138.
- April 12** **Northeast Florida Forage School**, 5:00pm—9:00pm. *Baker County Extension Service*. Topics include: 1) warm and cool season forages, 2) improving existing pastures, 3) soil fertility, 4) soil amendments, 5) weed control and 6) equipment maintenance. Registration is \$10 per person, includes meal and materials. Contact your local Extension agent or the Baker County Extension Office at (904) 259-3520 to register, by April 9, 2012.
- April 14** **Spring Garden Festival**, 8:00am—2:00pm. *Baker County Extension Service*. Includes a plant sale, gardening exhibits, arboretum tours, tree planting demonstration at 9am, plant giveaways and more! For more information, call (904) 259-3520 or visit [baker.ifas.ufl.edu](http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu).
- April 16** **Florida Gardening Crash Course**, 6:00pm—8:00pm. *Baker County Extension Service*. This course is split into three sessions held on April 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Topics include Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Installing and Maintaining Trees and Shrubs, Annuals/Perennials, Basic Lawn Care, Managing Landscape Pests, Fruit and Vegetable Gardening, and Plant Propagation. Cost: \$35 per person (\$50 for couples) and includes all workshop materials and handouts (binder included), Pest Management ID Guide (book) and light refreshments. Deadline to register is April 9th. Call (904) 259-3520 for more details.
- April 17** **Basic Money Management**, 10:30am—11:30am. *Emily Taber Public Library*. This class will focus on calendar-based budgeting and credit management. Free and open to the public.
- April 18** **Fruit Orchard Integrated Pest Management**, 8:00am—4:00pm. *Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center*. For additional information or to register, please contact Sarah White at (386) 362-1725, ext. 102 or [sewhite@ufl.edu](mailto:sewhite@ufl.edu).
- April 19** **Tri-County Beef Update**, 6:00pm—9:00pm. *Bradford County Senior Center*. Topics include: 1) Forage Quality, 2) Beef Cattle Nutrition, 3) Agriculture Damage Assessment, and 4) Beef Cattle Genetics. Registration is \$5.00 per person with a deadline of April 16, 2012. Please contact your local Extension agent or the Bradford County Extension Office at (904) 966-6224 to register or additional details.

## 4-H Events & Club Meetings for April

- April 3—Hoof-N-Around/4-H Horsepower—6:30pm, Classroom  
 April 10 & 24—Cloverleaf Cloggers—7-8pm, Keller Intermediate  
 April 17—Junior Master Gardeners—6:00pm, Classroom  
 April 26—Livestock Club—6:00pm, Classroom





# Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,  
4-H Extension Agent

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## 4-H Day at the Capitol

4-H Day at the Capitol gives 4-H youth and volunteers the opportunity to promote to their legislators and government officials the positive impacts of the Florida 4-H Program. Last year Florida 4-H youth completed over 100,000 projects in the area of citizenship and leadership development.

More than 600 Florida 4-H youth and volunteers from as far south as Collier County and as far northwest as Escambia County arrived in Tallahassee. 4-H day at the Capitol, an annual state event, took place on February 28th. Participants were adorned in "4-H green" shirts with the bold words on them "I Am the Revolution of Responsibility". "I Am the Revolution of Responsibility" addresses the misconception that youth are not informed of what's going on in their communities and promotes the findings that youth are making a real impact every day. Throughout the day participants met with lawmakers and other elected officials including Governor Rick Scott. During one of the rallies in the Capitol Courtyard, Commissioner Adam Putnam, who is also a 4-H alum, joined Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll to recognize the youth leadership opportunities 4-H brings to our state.

4-H Day at the Capitol is a great way to show support for your organization. Next year I encourage as many of you as possible, that's leaders and volunteers too, to participate and put Baker County on the 4-H map!

The greatest part of 4-H that I remember are the experiences I had doing things with my friends that I had met in other counties! Events like 4-H Day at the Capitol can bring so many opportunities and life-long lasting friendships to your life!



## Events:

April 20-22—Leader Forum, Camp Ocala. **Cost \$75.**

Register as soon as possible! This is an excellent Opportunity to learn new things that are happening across the state as well as getting 4-H Chaperone/ Shooting Sports certified!

May 1—Ag Literacy Day. If you would like Ms. Shaina to come and read to your class on Ag Literacy Day let her know so she can request materials ahead of time.

May 5— District Events, Gainesville.

May 21— Awards Banquet, Auditorium. 6 pm.

## Birthdays for April:

Wishing all of you a very **happy birthday** from the Baker County Extension Office!

11— Morgan Teeter

13— Cassidy Farnham

24— Kaleb Lewis

25— Marydith Stidham-Kent

25— Cason Milton



### Did You Know:

4-H is for ALL youth ages 5-18?

You don't graduate from 4-H until you graduate from school!



Us! [www.facebook.com/bakerco4h](http://www.facebook.com/bakerco4h)

## Highlight in Baker County 4-H Past:

### Barbara Yarbrough

- **Years in 4-H:** At least 6 years
- **Club:** Baker County Community Club, for girls. I was President in high school
- **Activities/Projects:** Mainly cooking and demonstrations, "girly" things. And talent shows too.
- **Favorite Memory from 4-H:** One of my favorite memories is going to short course at Florida State, back then it was the girls' college. We were with girls from all over the state, staying in the dorms and meeting new people was a lot of fun!
- **How did 4-H help you get to where you are today?**  
In 4-H, I had the influence of strong mentors, Ms. Roberta Hicks, Faye Milton, and Homie Dobson, all of which expected you to be accountable for the things you do in addition to the Grace of God.

**JOIN THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY**

## Spring Weeds in Northeast Florida

Since Spring has arrived in Northeast Florida, you may have noticed many weeds sprouting in your forage area, pasture or hay field. Listed below are four of the most common Spring weeds seen in our area and tips for control. Always remember that if you are using herbicides for weed control to follow the directions on the label. If you have questions about a particular herbicide, please contact your local Extension agent.



Image: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

### Tropical Soda Apple

Tropical Soda Apple is a rapidly spreading weed that can take over a pasture in as little as a year. Plants are 2-3 feet tall at maturity with broad, pointed-lobed leaves. Fruit from TSA are round and yellow as they mature. GrazonNext HL is effective against emerged plants and will provide some pre-emergent control for seedlings up to 6 months after application. **THERE ARE HAYING AND GRAZING RESTRICTIONS FOR THIS HERBICIDE. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE LABEL.**



Image: Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org



### Prickly Pear Cactus

Prickly pear is a common name for several species of cactus. The problem is not wide-spread, but emergence of this plant can devastate a pasture if it is allowed to establish. **MOWING IS INEFFECTIVE AS PADS THAT ARE REMOVED FROM THE PARENT PLANT CAN ESTABLISH ROOTS AND FORM NEW COLONIES.** Control of this plant is achieved with a mixture of Remedy Ultra (20%) and basal oil (80%). This mixture is applied as a spot

treatment directly to the pads. Note that grass in the area will show some burn, but can recover. Control is typically slow and can take up to one year.



Image: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

### Dogfennel

Dogfennel is an aggressive native plant that can be a problem in un-improved or overgrazed pastures. The leaves of the plant contain small amounts of the toxin tremitol, which can cause dehydration in livestock. Seeds typically sprout and grow when soil temperatures reach 65°F. Control of dogfennel can be achieved by two herbicides: 1) Weedmaster—apply when plants reach 12-18

inches in height; this herbicide is most effective when plants are transitioning from winter dormancy, 2) Pasturegard HL—use this herbicide if plants have reached heights of 40 inches or more.



Image: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org



Image: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

### Florida Pusley

Florida Pusley plants typically grow creeping along the ground and have hairy stems that can grow up to 30 inches in length. Leaves typically have a rough upper and lower surface. The plant has small, white flowers that cluster at the ends of the stems. Control of this weed can be achieved using GrazonNext HL by itself or in combination with Pasturegard HL.



Image: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

**Baker County Extension Service**

1025 West Macclenny Avenue  
Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

FAX: (904) 259-9034

Email: michael.davis@ufl.edu

Website: <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063 or telephone (904) 259-3520 no later than five (5) 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).



# Baker County Farmers Market



The Baker County Farmers Market is open for the season! Please come out and support local growers, producers and craft-makers at the Baker County Farmers Market. The Market is at Memorial Park (next to the football stadium). There will be many attractions throughout the year including live entertainment and animal adoptions. If you are interested in booth space at the Farmers Market, please contact the Baker County Chamber of Commerce at (904) 259-6433 or visit the Chamber at their office at 20 E. Macclenny Ave.

