



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

Baker County Extension Service

1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

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

County Agents

Alicia Lamborn
Horticulture Agent

Shaina Spann
4-H Youth Development Agent

Alicia Halbritter
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Dear Extension Friends,

It's back to school time for the kids, so why not take a class yourself? Check out our upcoming classes that can help you save time and money whether you are working on the farm or in the garden.

And if you haven't heard, our own 4-H Agent, Shaina, is expecting a baby boy and will soon be on maternity leave. If you need 4-H assistance from Ms. Shaina before she leaves, this is the month to give her a call!

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn
County Director / Horticulture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

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

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco>

[Baker County Garden Spot](#)
[Baker County 4-H](#)

Search "Baker County 4-H" in your app store

Upcoming Classes & Events

- Aug 13-14 Agricultural Finance Workshop**, August 13—10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. / August 14—9am to 4pm, Alachua County Extension Office, 2800 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL. Topics include: Record Keeping, Budgeting, Business Planning & Financing, Balance Sheets, Income and Financial Statements & Taxes, Cash Flow Analysis, and Investment Analysis and Interest. Please register by August 8 at <https://tinyurl.com/y65ek65y> Early bird registration: \$150 for 1 day or \$250 for 2 days. After 8/9/19: \$175 for 1 day and \$275 for 2 days.
- Aug 15 Winter Forage Economics**, 6:00 p.m., Baker County Extension Office. Topics include: economics of planting cool season forages versus feeding hay, equipment, seed, fertilizer, and hay costs, and what makes the most economic sense for your operation. Please RSVP at 904-259-3520 or alicia1221@ufl.edu
- Sept 6 Fall Vegetable Gardening**, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Baker County Extension Office. Learn basic gardening techniques for a successful vegetable gardening experience. Other topics will include raised bed gardening, growing organically, and tips for growing your favorite fall veggies. Plus take home a seed variety pack of broccoli, cabbage, carrots, kale, lettuce, and radish. \$10 per person; register at the office or online at: <https://fall-vegetable-garden-class.eventbrite.com>

Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



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August Gardening Tips

Flowers

- Fertilize annuals and perennials that are heavy bloomers to encourage more flowers.
- Prune roses, hydrangeas, salvias and other perennials to remove spent flowers, encourage more blooms, shape the plant and/or reduce plant size, and reduce diseases problems.

Trees & Shrubs

- Minimize pruning on spring flowering shrubs and trees by removing only broken, damaged, or rubbing branches. Heavy pruning or shearing this late in the year could drastically reduce the number of blooms next spring.
- Don't overprune palm trees – remove dead leaves and flower/fruit stalks only. A properly pruned palm should have a round canopy, not a feather-duster crown.
- Scout ornamental plants for pests such as scale, grasshoppers, caterpillars, and whiteflies. If treatment is needed, treat only the affected area and use a product that targets the pests and not your beneficial insects (products like insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, neem and Bt). If large grasshoppers are a nuisance, the only control is to stomp them or drop them into a jar of rubbing alcohol.



Palm trees should not look like feather-dusters after pruning.



Give large grasshoppers the boot!

Lawns

- Now that regular summer rains have set in, take advantage of mother nature and turn sprinkler systems off. Excess irrigation during rainy weather will cause disease problems and weaken turf.
- If lawns need greening up, apply iron (Fe) instead of nitrogen (N). This will green up the lawn without causing excessive growth. If applied as a foliar spray at 1–5 pounds of Fe per acre (2 oz of Fe per 3-5 gallons of water over 1,000 sq. ft. area), Fe sulfate generally improves turfgrass color for up to 4 weeks.
- Watch your mowing height! Lawn grasses are growing quickly, and it may be tempting to mow low so that you don't have to mow as often. But scalping the grass can be detrimental to your lawn. Use a sharp mower blade and only remove a third of the grass blade to reduce stress on the lawn.

You won't hear me complain about the rain, but those mosquitos...

Does the recent summer rain have you running for cover from mosquitos. Not only are mosquitos a biting nuisance, but they can also carry dangerous diseases. Eliminating standing water around your home is the best way to keep mosquito populations low. For ditches that can't be drained and other non-circulating water areas, products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) are available. Bti is a naturally occurring soil bacterium that can effectively kill mosquito larvae present in water. It comes in the form of granules or "dunks," which look like miniature doughnuts. When used per label directions, Bti products are effective on mosquitos and are not harmful to fish, waterfowl, pets, or humans.

Protecting yourself and others from biting adult mosquitoes is also important. Traditionally, an EPA-approved insect repellent containing DEET has been (and still is) recommended to prevent painful bites and mosquito-borne illnesses. If you are looking for an alternative to DEET, many products are available but may not provide the protection you need. Depending on the active ingredient and its concentration, these products may provide only minutes of protection rather than hours. Products that combine repellents and sunscreen should also be avoided because sunscreens are intended for generous and frequent use while DEET is intended for less frequent use. For more information and to find the repellent that's right for you, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you> AND <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in419>



If you are looking for alternatives that don't involve chemicals, there is no evidence that wearing devices that emit sound will repel mosquitoes. There is also no scientific evidence that eating garlic, vitamins, onions, or any other food will make a person less attractive to host-seeking mosquitoes. The attractant level of an individual is based on a complex interaction of many chemical and visual signals. Certain foods in certain individuals may affect their individual attractiveness to biting arthropods, for better or for worse.

Free Mosquito Control Products

Fortunately for Baker County residents, Bti mosquito dunks are available free of charge to help control mosquito populations. The product is available for pickup at the Baker County Extension Office (Ag Center), one per household while supplies last. Located at 1025 W. Macclenny Avenue in Macclenny, the Extension Office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

WHAT TO PLANT IN NORTH FLORIDA



FLOWERS

- Angelonia
- Celosia
- Crossandra
- Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost'
- Impatiens
- Marigold
- Moss Rose
- Ornamental Pepper
- Torenia
- Vinca
- Begonia, wax
- Coleus
- Dusty Miller
- Kalanchoe
- Melampodium
- New Guinea Impatiens
- Pentas
- Tropical Sage
- Zinnia

VEGETABLES

- Beans (bush/pole/lima)
- Beets
- Brussels Sprouts
- Carrots
- Celery
- Collards
- Eggplant
- Kale
- Onions, bunching (green & shallots)
- Peppers
- Squash (summer/winter)
- Tomato
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Chinese Cabbage
- Cucumber
- Endive/Escarole
- Mustard
- Turnips

PLANTING & FERTILIZING TIPS

Florida soils benefit greatly from the addition of organic matter such as compost.

RESOURCES :

- Gardening with Annuals in Florida
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf_files/MG/MG31900.pdf
- Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf_files/VH/VH02100.pdf

Enjoy a fall harvest of beans, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, squash and tomatoes by planting early this month.

All other vegetable crops listed can take the cold as we head into winter.

Controlled-release fertilizers provide a continuous nutrient supply over an extended period of time. For best results, apply at the labeled rate or based on your soil test results.

Fruit Care Calendar for North Florida

To be used as a guide when caring for fruit and nut trees in the home garden. All fertilizer recommendations are for optimum growth and fruit production. Gardeners may choose to apply less fertilizer than the recommendation, but should never apply more. When referring to the age of a plant, consider year 1 to be at planting or the first year after planting.

AUGUST

Tips for Growing Fruits

Most edibles require at least 6-8 hours of full sunlight a day and prefer well-drained, slightly acidic soil.



Does the plant require cross-pollination or is it self-fertile??

If not self-fertile, you will need 2 or more plants to produce fruit.



Avoid low-lying areas to minimize flood injury and frost injury to flowers and developing fruit.



Select recommended varieties based on pest/disease tolerance, cold tolerance and required chilling hours.

Correct spacing is key for optimum growth, health, and fruit production.

FERTILIZING



Blueberries (Newly Planted)
Fertilize using 1 oz. (2 TB) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Heavily mulched plants can be given 1.5 oz. (3 TB) per plant. Spread fertilizer evenly over a circle 2 feet in diameter with the plant in the center.



Blueberries (Established)
Year 2: Fertilize using 2 oz. (4 TB) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Year 3: Fertilize using 3 oz. (6 TB) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Spread fertilizer evenly over a circle 2 feet in diameter with the plant in the center.



Muscadine Grapes (Newly Planted)
Apply fertilizer in bands about 1 foot to either side of the vine in June or July using 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 with micro-nutrients. Year 1: Apply no more than 1/4 lb. (1/2 cup) per plant. A fertilizer with added micro-nutrients can be beneficial.

Note: Blueberry fertilizer should contain ammoniacal nitrogen, urea nitrogen or organic sources of nitrogen, rather than nitrate sources. Chlorine levels should be low, preferably below 2%. Look for "blueberry special" and "camellia-azalea" fertilizers that meet these requirements.

PRUNING

Blackberries



Late Summer to Fall:
Fruit is produced on one-year-old canes (floricanes). After fruiting, floricanes dry up and die. They should be pruned out and removed at the ground or crown level as soon as they die. In a healthy blackberry stand, 5-6 remaining canes per foot of row is ideal after pruning.

Blueberries



July-August:
After fruit harvest, plants can be topped to control height and encourage branching. Depending on size, canopy height can be reduced by several inches up to a foot or more. This prevents plants from becoming too tall and will stimulate new growth that will become next year's crop.

Plums, Peaches, & Nectarines



May-August:
Prune lightly after fruit is harvested to maintain overall tree height and an open canopy center which allows light in to stimulate growth of new fruiting wood and improve fruit quality.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information on fertilizing, pruning and other resources, visit the Fruits page of the UF/IFAS Baker County Extension website: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/>

Plastic Flower Pot Donations Needed!

If you have old, plastic nursery pots laying around, please consider donating them to the Master Gardener Program for recycling. We can accept all sizes, but particularly need gallon and quart sized pots. Feel free to deliver them to the front Extension Office. For large quantities, please place them at the back fence gate near the greenhouse.

To everyone that has already made a donation—we thank you!!!



AGRICULTURAL FINANCE WORKSHOP

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS PROFITS

August
13 & 14

August 13: 10 - 5 pm.
August 14: 9 - 4 pm



UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
2800 NE 39th Ave
Gainesville, FL
Contact: 352-955-2402
tatiana.sanchez@ufl.edu

An authorized Financial Management Training for FSA borrowers! *

* This is an open event. You don't have to be a FSA borrower to attend. FSA borrowers must attend both days and earn a passing grade on exam to receive FSA credit.

Register by **August 8** at link <https://tinyurl.com/y65ek65y>.

By 8/9/19 (Early bird): \$150 (1 day) or \$250 (2 days)

After 8/9/19: \$175 (1 day) or \$275 (2 days)

**Registration includes
lunch and materials.**

DAY 1

Record keeping
Budgeting
Business planning & financing
Balance sheets - Part 1
Income Statements & Taxes
Panel discussion with lenders

DAY 2

Balance sheets - Part 2
Financial statements
Financial ratios
Cash flow analysis
Investment analysis & interest
Exam - (For FSA borrowers)



Lucky Clover Chronicle

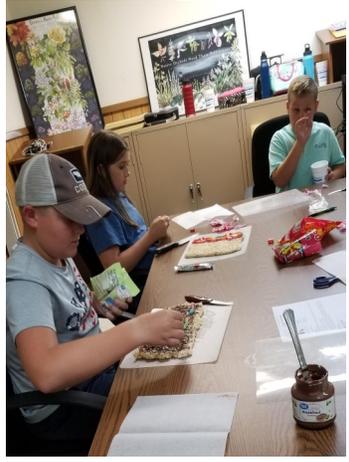
By: *Shaina Spann, 4-H Agent*



Chopstix Camp was a Blast!

At Chopstix Camp we learned about agriculture AND Asian food & culture. We started the week with making fruit spring rolls, fried rice, lo mein noodles, fortune cookies, dessert sushi, and researched recipes from countries in Asia.

The next day we took a field trip to Gainesville to visit the University of Florida. While there we visited the Meat Processing Center and met with Dr. Chad Carr who taught us which meat cuts are popular in Asian foods. We sampled 2 different types of skirt steak (learned that inside skirt is the best) while learning how beef and pork is harvested. Next, we had a picnic lunch at the University of Florida Football Stadium. We then toured the Harn Museum of Art where we saw the Asian Rock and Water Gardens, as well as exhibits on Asian paintings, sculptures, and ceramics. Finally, we toured the Florida Museum of Natural History.



On our third day, we toured Congaree & Penn, a 160-acre farm in Jacksonville. While there, we learned how rice is grown and processed along with the other commodities they produce. Next, we went to the Publix Aprons Cooking School where we learned to make Vietnamese Summer Shrimp Rolls with a sauce and chicken fried rice. We then took a trip to the Jax Oriental Market and shopped for ingredients for our Asian recipes! One of our highlights was sampling our dessert sushi creations, which were delicious!

Finally, on our last day, we prepped and made our Asian recipes. While some of our recipes were marinating, we made Origami and video chatted with students from South Korea! We made Orange Chicken, Soy Sauce Chicken, Indian Butter Chicken, and Garlic and Ginger Chicken with fried and white rice as sides.



4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Cloverleaf Cloggers**— Contact Madeline for details.
- **County Council**- Not meeting over summer
- **Livestock Club**— August 27, 6pm Heritage Park



Agritourism

The New Leader in Florida Tourism

Agritourism is already an established industry in Florida, and it's steadily growing. With almost 112 million visitors to the state each year, there is a large opportunity for agricultural producers to jump into the entertainment business.

Here's some things to think about before adding agritourism to your operation:



- **Identify vision and goals.**
Just planning on planting a corn maze and being open for select dates? Interested in being a year-round facility? Determine what you want to do and make a 1, 3, and 5 year plan.
- **Understand surrounding tourism opportunities.**
Scope out what is already available in your area. Plan something unique to set yourself apart and provide another source of agritourism in your region.
- **Create a business plan.**
Include resources currently available to you, what you'll need to purchase, and don't forget about labor/staff. Create a business plan that works synonymously with the business plan of the agricultural operation.
- **Define and identify a market.**
Are you interested in entertaining children? Millennials? Baby-boomers? Identifying a target market can help hone in on the special touches that will attract the largest audience.
- **Understand legal issues and purchase liability insurance.**
If you are ever planning to have outside visitors to your operation you should always have liability insurance. Just planning a one-day event? Umbrella policies for short events are available as well. Research all topics related to your business plan to eliminate any surprises down the road.
- **Develop a strategy to manage visitors.**
Visitors will need parking, bathrooms, refreshments, etc. Visit other agritourism venues in your area to see what will work for your operation.
- **Use limits of acceptable change to decrease negative impacts.**
Decide what comes first, the farm or the agritourism. Don't change the farm to fit the agritourism unless it makes sense environmentally and economically.
- **Evaluate and monitor agritourism's costs and benefits.**
Always keep a detailed record book and monitor the financial aspects of running an agritourism business. The goal should be to raise awareness and increase profits of the farming operation. If profits are being hindered by the operation, a look at the business plan will help.

Learn more about starting an agritourism operation here: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr242>



UF/IFAS EXTENSION BAKER COUNTY

WINTER FORAGE ECONOMICS

\$5

THURSDAY | AUGUST 15TH | 6 PM

RSVP: 904-259-3520 OR ALICIAH1221@UFL.EDU



**BAKER COUNTY AG CENTER
1025 W MACCLENNY AVE**

Deciding whether to plant cool season forages to graze livestock this winter, or just continue feeding hay? Come join us to learn about the dollars and cents of planting forage versus feeding hay. We'll help you determine which situation makes the most economic sense for you!

