



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

As the year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with the Baker County Extension Service for another great year. We had many exciting programs this year in Agriculture, Horticulture, 4-H and Family & Consumer Sciences. We plan on offering many exciting and informative programs in 2013. On behalf of the agents and staff, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As always, if we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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:

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*Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent*



Master Gardener Volunteer Training Coming in February - Apply Now!

The Master Gardener program is a national program of volunteers who help the Extension Service by extending unbiased, research-based horticultural information to people in our community. This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys helping others and wants to volunteer their time.

In Baker County, Master Gardener volunteers work in the Extension office answering homeowner questions, creating educational materials, and planning educational programs. Volunteers also help plant and maintain demonstration gardens at the office and help conduct gardening programs for adults and youth.

The training will take place at the Baker County Extension Office starting February 5th through March 21st on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. The cost of the training is \$50 (\$60 for couples).

For more detailed information on the Master Gardener Program, please read the 2013 Master Gardener Application Packet, available on our website (baker.ifas.ufl.edu) or from the Baker County Extension Office.

Poinsettia Show & Sale

The Poinsettia Show and Sale hosted by the University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department and the Student Club will be Thursday and Friday, Dec. 6 and 7.

This has become a popular event and has grown to 1,500 visitors last year.

The Student Club will have 4,000 plants for sale, and there are many new and different styles and sizes, some that can't be purchased yet in stores!

Hours are 8 am to 5 pm on Thursday and 8 am to 3 pm on Friday.

More information on the Poinsettia Show and Sale is available at <http://www.gatorpoinsettia.com/>



The industry Field Day for commercial growers is Dec. 4. There are no plants for sale at this event. For more information see http://hort.ufl.edu/poinsettia_industry.shtml

See you at the Show!

Living Well in Baker County

By:

Melanie Thomas,
FCS Agent

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Don't Blow the Budget!



Stress during the holidays often comes from the pressure of shopping for gifts. If you have a tight budget and limited time, you may think you can't have a good holiday experience. But with good planning, you can still be a generous gift giver even with limited funds.

If you plan ahead and don't wait until the last minute, you can have the time to shop and determine the best ways to spend your money.

Here are several tips to help you with your holiday shopping.

1. Create an overall holiday spending limit. What is the most you want to spend in aggregate for the holiday season? This should not include gifts but other things such as travel should you be visiting relatives or friends for the holidays.
2. Make a list of people you need to buy things for. Try to think of what you have in mind for each person. If it is not a specific item, then you should think in terms of specific dollar limits. Without setting this in advance it can be easy to say "He would love this game or she would love this sweater" only to see that you are spending much more than you wanted on that person. Check to be sure that the total you plan to spend when looking at each person is not exceeding the amount you wanted to spend for everything.
3. If you have access to the Internet, you should check out which stores carry the items you are looking for at the best prices. If you start early you might be able to order some of this online and possibly save some money and time. However, be sure to confirm that the delivery timing works with your families' plans.
4. Shopping around the first time can be a good idea too. If you are not sure what you want for certain people, shopping can provide you with some good ideas. However, do not buy anything that is not on your list before you get there. If you see things for someone, go home and think about what you saw. If you decide you want it, then you should add it to your list. Remember, you should only buy things that were on your list before you got to the store. New things you see should be written down and then go home and think about them. If you decide they are what you want and they fit your budget, then you can go back and get them. This simple cooling off period to have an honest conversation with yourself can save you from those impulsive purchases.
5. Do not take credit cards with you when you go shopping at least for the first time you go shopping. If you do not have your credit cards with you, you are less likely to spend more than you planned since many of our impulsive purchases are possible only with using credit cards. Instead make a list of the things you wanted that you did not have cash for – things you would want to charge and then go home. Go over your list with a spouse, trusted friend, or even relative. Remember everything you plan to charge must still be paid for. Before you charge things, you should be certain as to when you can pay them off. This waiting period and even having to discuss your plans can help you to find alternatives to charging things or help you prioritize what you will and will not be able to do this year. This cooling off period can help you avoid impulsive purchases you may later regret.
6. Plan to pay off anything you charge on the holidays in January or within 1-2 months at the longest. Considering the holidays come every year, we will never be able to get ahead if we are still paying off debt from last year when you begin your holiday spending for this year. Consider this when you are setting your overall budget for the holidays, if you cannot pay off what you charge in this time frame, you should reconsider some of your intended purchases.



Remember the holidays are about spending time with loved ones and celebration; presents are part of the fun but should not cause a holiday spending hangover that you regret.

December 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 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29
	<i>Extension Office Closed</i>					
30	31	1 Happy New Year!				
		<i>Extension Office Closed</i>				

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.

Dec. 4 Suwannee Valley Watermelon Institute



2pm to 7pm, Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville,

This meeting was started in 2009 to bring together the watermelon growers and the industry in our region once a year. This free program will include educational sessions, pesticide application CEU's, food safety CEU's, and industry exhibits. Dinner will be provided. There are a limited number of seats still available, so call 386-362-1725 at Ext. 101 or 102 to register today!

Dec. 12 Forest Stewardship Polycom Workshop: The "Green Value" of Your Woods (plus a Greenbelt Update)



1:00pm to 4:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063. Get a

more complete picture of the value of your woods! Florida's private forest lands provide many economic and environmental benefits to society such as protecting water quality, wildlife conservation and carbon storage. Until now we have known little about the dollar value of these environmental benefits. The University of Florida recently identified and quantified the economic values of environmental benefits, or "green value", provided by lands enrolled in Florida's Forest Stewardship Program. Join us to get a more complete picture of the value of your woods. We will also get a review and update on greenbelt assessment policy for property taxes. The workshop will be recorded and made available online for those who are unable to attend. This workshop is free and open to the public; please call (904) 259-3520 to register if you plan to attend.

Dec. 15 Santa's Little Helpers—4-H Fundraiser



9am to 4pm, Baker County Extension Office—Ag Center Auditorium, 1025 West Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063.

Register your child, ages 5-13 to participate in a day of fun games, holiday crafts, holiday movies, help the underserved of Baker County and much more. \$35 for a full day or \$6 per child per hour. Receive a discount by bringing in canned goods, clothing, hygiene items (toothbrushes, shampoo, toilet paper, etc) and new toys to benefit Samaritan House, Christmas 4 Kids, and the Care Center. Come by the Baker County Extension Office to register by December 10th. Only 25 registrations accepted.



4-H Events & Club Meetings for December:

- Dec 11 Cloverleaf Cloggers—Keller Intermediate Cafeteria—7pm to 8pm
- Dec 13 Livestock Club Christmas Party—Extension Office Auditorium—6pm
- Dec 20 Cookin' Cats—Extension Office Kitchen—6pm

Horse Club— Please contact Mary Pregler, Horse Club Leader @ 259-5819

Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,
4-H Extension Agent

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Christmas Time is Here!



This month is a busy time for many of us. We are busy giving gifts and getting ready to spend time with our loved ones and eat a lot of awesome food with family. Let's keep in mind those that are less fortunate than ourselves and be grateful for the blessings we have and share those blessings with others.

Here at the Extension Office 4-H has set up 3 boxes for donations. We will be collecting donations for the Samaritan House, Christmas 4 Kids, and Care Center. Please bring non-perishable foods for Samaritan House, new toys for Christmas 4 Kids, and nice clothing, hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, toilet paper and other toiletries for the Care Center.



Also, on December 15th we are having Santa's Little Helpers from 9 am to 4 pm at the Extension Office Auditorium. Parents can bring their children to participate in holiday crafts, games, movies and other activities. We will be collecting donations here as well. We ask that all in attendance please bring a donation of some kind. Youth will learn the importance of serving the underprivileged in Baker County while helping collect these items. The cost for this event is \$35 per child for the whole day or \$6 per child per hour. For a discount, please bring items to benefit these organizations. The deadline to register is December 10th and payment is due at registration to hold a place on the list of 25 slots available. Lunch will not be provided. Pick up registration forms from the Baker County Extension Service (located at the Baker County Agricultural Center) or you may download registration forms at our website: <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Events:

December 15– Santa's Little Helpers, 9-4, Auditorium

Just an FYI for everyone, the Christmas Parade Booth has been cancelled! Next year we can do more to put stuff together!

Birthdays for December:

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

Dec 09– Alex Stokes

Dec 16– Maria Catalan



Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h



Did You Know: Although the exact origin of Boxing Day is unknown, it is believed to date back to England during the Middle Ages. The most widely accepted theory is that even though servants were required to work on Christmas Day, they were given a reprieve the day after to visit family, with their employers sending them off with a box containing gifts and food, hence the term "Boxing Day."



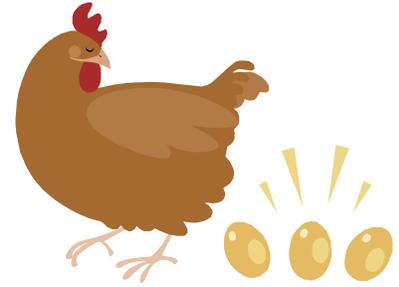
Looking for community service hours? Youth ages 13-18 that would like to earn community service hours for events, Please contact Shaina Bennett, Baker County 4-H Agent at 259-3520.

Everyone have a safe and Happy Holiday and New Year! See you next year!!



JOIN | THE REVOLUTION
OF RESPONSIBILITY 

Poultry Questions & Answers



While we do not have a large commercial poultry operation in Baker County, there are several folks who raise chickens and other poultry species. Over the past couple of months, I have received quite a few calls and emails concerning poultry, especially laying hens. I put together these questions and answers based on those calls, but if you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Why have my hens stopped laying?

This has been the most common question that I have received over the past couple of months. The most common reason is that the day length is decreasing, but there are other possibilities which I'll explain below.

Decreasing Day Length

Like all birds, hens start and stop laying based on the length of the day. After the solstice in June, the length of the day gradually decreases until there are only about 10 hours of daylight in North Florida on December 21st. Day length will increase until the next June. However, hens need at least 14 hours of continuous light to stay in egg production. Providing additional light to keep the birds at or over 14 hours will keep them in production. In general, a 40 watt light bulb is adequate for each 100 ft² of coop floor space. The use of a timer will help regulate your electric bill and keep you from having to get up at 3:00am to turn on the lights.

Incorrect Nutrition or Lack of Water

Laying hens require a complete and balanced diet to maximize their egg production. A constant source of fresh water is also necessary. Balanced layer rations with 16—18% protein can be purchased at your local feed store. Additional feeding of whole grains such as corn or feeding table scraps will imbalance the hens' diet.

Disease and Age

Disease in a flock can be very detrimental to egg production. Make sure to keep an eye on your birds for any signs of disease such as: watery eyes, coughing, dull or weak appearance and lameness. Keep your hens isolated from other farm animals and from wild animals. Hens also decrease their production over time. They will lay proficiently for two laying cycles (50—60 weeks each), but decrease in efficiency after about 2 to 3 years of age.

Stress

Stressful conditions can cause a dramatic decline in egg production. Stressful situations include: extreme temperatures (cold or hot), handling or moving, fright from loud noises or movement, predators and parasites.

General Poultry Questions

Is there a difference in nutrition between brown-shelled and white-shelled eggs?

No, there is no difference. The color of the shell is determined by the breed of hen that lays the eggs. Hens that have white earlobes will lay white-shelled eggs, while those with red earlobes will lay brown-shelled eggs. In general, brown-shelled eggs tend to be a bit larger than white-shelled eggs because the breeds that lay brown eggs are usually larger.

Baker County Extension Service
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Macclenny, FL 32063

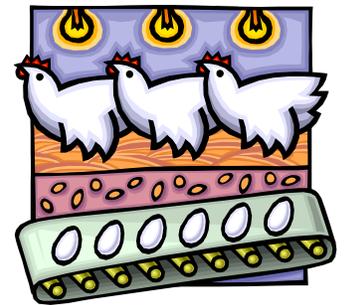
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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).

Poultry Questions & Answers, continued



Do I need a rooster around for my hens to lay eggs?

No. Hens will naturally lay eggs whether there is a rooster present or not, given that they have the correct nutrition. To get fertile eggs and baby chicks, you will need a rooster.

Are hormones used in commercial poultry meat production?

No. Hormones are not fed to or administered to commercial poultry. The large size of the birds and their rapid growth rate are the result of traditional genetic selection (mating the biggest and best males with the biggest and best females).

How much poultry is produced in the United States each year and what is it worth?¹

Data reported to the USDA indicate that there were over 8.5 billion broilers produced for meat in the United States resulting in almost 50 billion pounds of meat in 2011. The value of this product was over \$23 billion. There were almost 250 million turkeys produced resulting in over 7.3 billion pounds of meat worth almost \$5 billion. In 2011, there were almost 92 billion eggs produced in the US worth almost \$7.5 billion.

Will incubation of double-yolk eggs result in 'twin chickens'?

No. Double yolk eggs almost never hatch if they are incubated. Even though they are larger, the space inside the shell is not enough for two chicks to develop. If one does hatch, only one chick will have developed.

¹ USDA-NASS. Poultry-Production and Value, 2011 Summary. ISSN: 1949-1573.
<http://usda01.library.cornell.edu/usda/current/PoulProdVa/PoulProdVa-04-26-2012.pdf>