



## 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,

To those who took time out of their busy schedule to complete our online newsletter survey, we sincerely appreciate your feedback. The information you provided will help us demonstrate impact and improve the newsletter for you, our readers! The survey got 71 responses, with a total of 53 entries for the pollinator themed gift basket drawing. Congratulations to our basket winner — Rosalie Platz!

Sincerely,

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

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

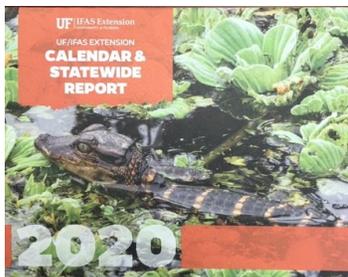
<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco>

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

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

### Upcoming Classes & Events

**Dec 11 Learn & Burn: Invasive Species Control & Prescribed Fire—9am to 3pm, Glen St. Mary Nursery, 7703 Glen Nursery Road, Glen St. Mary.** Participants will learn from experts concerning the relationship between prescribed fire and invasive species control. Get boots on the ground experience with control techniques, walk-through a recently treated site, and learn about resources available to you. Program is free, and lunch is provided. Register at <http://bit.ly/InvasivesAndFire> or contact Alicia Halbritter at 259-3520 or [alicia1221@ufl.edu](mailto:alicia1221@ufl.edu).



Pick up a **FREE 2020**  
**CALENDAR** at the Baker  
County Extension Office!

Congratulations to Rosalie Platz  
the Winner of the  
Pollinator Gift Basket!  
Thank you to all who made time  
to take the newsletter survey!



# Highlights in Horticulture

By:  
*Alicia Lamborn,*  
*Horticulture Agent*



## Wondering if your new citrus tree will survive the winter?

### What type of sweet citrus is the most cold hardy?

The Satsuma, also called Satsuma Mandarin or Satsuma Tangerine, is the most cold hardy sweet citrus. Mature, dormant trees have survived temperatures of 14 to 18 degrees in North Florida.

For more information on the Satsuma, visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ch116>



**Calamondins** are dwarf trees, sometimes bushy, and are very cold hardy. Mature fruit are quite showy, but they are also very tart and typically only used for making marmalade.

**Kumquats** are also extremely cold tolerant but not everyone has a taste for them. Fruits are small—only 1 to 1.5 inches. 'Meiwa' kumquat fruits are round and have a spicy, sweet flavor. 'Nagami' fruits are more oval in shape and more acid than 'Meiwa'.

**Lemons** vary in cold tolerance. 'Meyer' is considered the most cold hardy.

**Satsumas** are the safest bet for sweet citrus grown in cold winter areas. These are mandarin oranges with a very sweet flavor and very few (if any) seeds. Fruit begins to ripen in late fall and can be left on the tree into winter until a hard freeze threatens. See image (left) for more information on when to harvest.

**Other varieties** of citrus can be grown in north Florida, but these are often considered marginal in cold winter areas. This means they require careful cold protection, at least while young.

**Cold protection** is essential for all citrus trees, particularly when young. Start by planting your citrus trees on the south side of the house where it will be protected from cold winter winds coming from the North. Use foam pipe insulation material to protect the graft union. You can leave the insulation in place during winter and remove it in early Spring. For added protection, a frame can be built around the tree

to cover the entire plant with blankets or plastic. To be effective, the material should not touch the plant itself and should reach all the way to the ground to trap heat inside. Plastic materials should be removed once the freeze has ended to prevent scorching the plant.

**Other tips** for growing citrus include adjusting soil pH to 6.0-7.0, fertilizing only as needed during the growing season (applications and amounts are based on the age of the tree), and pruning only as needed to shape the tree since hard pruning will make the tree less productive. The ground under the canopy should also be kept free of weeds, grass and mulch to prevent plant competition and root rot disease.

### Should I pick my citrus fruit if a freeze is expected?

Cold damage to an orange's skin can lead to water evaporation and a higher concentration of sugar in the fruit, making fruit sweeter.

Just be sure to pick ripe fruit prior to a hard freeze, since severe damage can occur when temps stay at 28 degrees or less for 4 hours or more.

# Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:  
*Shaina  
Spann,  
4-H Agent*



## 4-H Holiday Party A Success!

*Thank you to all 4-H families who came out to the holiday party at Heritage Park. We are so thankful for the food donations given for families in need in our Baker County community. Because of your generosity, these families will be able to enjoy the holidays. A special thanks to Mrs. Kimberly Robinson and Mrs. Anna Hilson who coordinated the party with a fun scavenger hunt! They volunteered their time to make this event happen while Mrs. Shaina is on maternity leave. Great job ladies!*

## Hog & Ham Project

**Ages 12+**

**Initial meeting January 20, 2020 Time: TBD  
Location: UF Animal Sciences**

The 4-H Hog and Ham Program takes the participant through the total process of pork production. Youth select a feeder pig and grow it to harvesting weight, all the while keeping records on feed amounts and costs, health care, expenses, weights, etc. After harvesting the hog and processing it into wholesale or retail cuts, 4-H'ers cure the hams and prepare bacon and sausage for smoking.

The project concludes by participating in a retail comparison project, completing a record book, and presenting a demonstration or illustrated talk to the other participants.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the Baker County 4-H Office at 259-3520.

### REMINDER—"THANK YOU" LETTERS

Unsealed, Addressed, & Self Addressed thank you letters are due to the Extension Office by:

- **November 22, 2019**, OR exhibitor will forfeit \$50
- **January 7, 2020**, OR exhibitor will forfeit \$100
- **January 31, 2020**, OR exhibitor will forfeit \$200

## Livestock Club Schedule for 2020

Meetings will be held at the Baker County Agricultural Center Auditorium at 6pm unless otherwise specified

### January 28

"How to Prepare For and Choose Your Fair Animal"

This meeting will help you to know and understand what needs to be done in preparation for obtaining a new animal.

### February 25

"Nutrition & Digestion"

This meeting will talk about appropriate feeds for your animals and how their bodies process the foods.

### March 24

"4-H Project Cost Analysis"

This meeting will cover estimated costs of beginning 4-H Projects.

### April 28 at LaLa Farm

"Vet Visit" with Dr. Gina Zambrano

This meeting will be a visit with Veterinarian Dr. Gina Zambrano to have an in depth look at health, wellness, vaccinations, and more!

## 4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Cloverleaf Cloggers**—Every Thursday, 6-8pm at the Sanderson Community Center.
- **County Council**- Will resume in February.
- **Livestock Club**— January 28th, 6pm at Ag Center (See schedule above)
- **Hog and Ham Workshop**—Ages 12 +, January 20, 2020. UF Animal Sciences, Gainesville, FL





## Preparing for Spring Pasture Green Up

### **First and Foremost: Soil Test**

Have you completed a soil test? Since spring is often the busiest time for soil labs, get your tests in early to determine what you will need to fertilize with in early spring! Don't forget the University of Florida soil tests have changed! New Standard soil tests will include micronutrients for pasture testing and therefore have a new price of \$10 per sample. Free soil test kits are available at the Extension Office.

### **Determining How Much to Fertilize**

The best way to determine how much to fertilize begins with a few important questions.

#### **What Kind of Grass?**

Bermudagrass and Bahiagrass the two most popular forage crops in Florida require different fertilization strategies. Knowing which species of grass you have is important in getting fertilization recommendations.

#### **What Kind of Production?**

The type of production will also influence fertilization recommendations. Hay production requires more nutrients than grazing, and higher stocking rates will require higher fertilization of nitrogen. For Bahiagrass pastures, this recommendation will be catered by which Nitrogen level option you choose on the soil test form.

#### **Previous Fertilization or New Establishment?**

Fertilization may be catered to time of year or establishment timing depending on the management goals of the operation and previous history of the site. Previous history can also influence what source the nutrients come from (excessive biosolid fertilization may raise pH, therefore source is important!)

#### **Soil Test?**

It all goes back to the soil test! Send it in, save on excessive fertilizer costs!