



## The Baker Bulletin

A  
Baker County  
Extension  
Service Monthly  
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the UF/IFAS Extension Service in Baker County. There is a lot of information in this month's newsletter including information on Chickasaw Plum, Disease Monitoring in your Backyard Flock and information for Youth Livestock Projects. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the request on the back page to continue to receive **The Baker Bulletin** in 2017. As always, if we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis  
Director / Agriculture Agent  
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**  
IFAS Extension  
*Baker County Extension*

### 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.**  
michael.davis@ufl.edu  
Agriculture Agent

**Alicia Lamborn**  
alamborn@ufl.edu  
Horticulture Agent

**Shaina Spann**  
slbennett@ufl.edu  
4-H Agent



## Chickasaw Plum

*Chickasaw plum is a native shrub or small tree that makes an attractive Florida-friendly addition to any yard. Each spring, even before putting out new leaves, the trees are covered with clusters of tiny, fragrant, white flowers. Later small fruits appear, which can be eaten fresh or turned into tasty jelly.*

Grown occasionally with a single leader and used as a street tree, Chickasaw Plum is usually seen growing as a multi-trunked tree, sprouting from the base to form a thicket. If you prefer a groomed appearance, you can prune these back to keep the tree in its best form.



A young, multi-stemmed Chickasaw plum.

Growing 12-20 feet tall and wide, it makes a nice addition to the shrub border in the back yard and is well suited for planting around the patio or deck although it does not form a neat crown which often leans to one side or the other.

A North American native tree, Chickasaw Plum is very easily grown and has no special cultural requirements. It tolerates drought, sandy or clay soil but does poorly in alkaline pH. These small trees grow quickly but have a relatively short life. This should not stop you from planting the tree since it serves the landscape well during its life.



Making wild plum jelly is quite popular with the tasty red fruits that ripen to yellow.

The small, white, fragrant flowers that appear in early spring make the trees quite decorative in the presence of other trees which are often still dormant. The small fruits which follow are red, ripening to yellow, and are extremely popular with both humans and wildlife. The plums are eaten fresh or used to make a delicious jelly.

## Crabgrass and Sandspurs

*Now is the time to battle these troublesome weeds.*

Crabgrass germinates in early spring when soil temperatures reach 50–55°F, growing under close mowing conditions, particularly where turf stands are weak. Healthy turf is therefore the best way to prevent infestations. Southern Sandspur (sometimes called sandbur) also germinates in spring and often goes unnoticed until the seedheads form. Spiny burs form the seedheads which appear during the summer and fall.

For crabgrass and sandspur control, follow these good weed management practices to maintain healthy turf:

(1) mowing at the recommended height for selected turfgrass species, (2) removing clippings when seedheads of grassy weeds are present, (3) applying proper fertilization at the correct time of year [April & Sept.], (4) using soil testing to determine nutrient needs and lime requirements, (5) applying pre-emergence herbicides before the crabgrass germinates

Treat crabgrass and sandspur infestations by applying a pre-emergence herbicide in late winter or early spring before soil temperatures remain above 50°F for 24 consecutive hours (generally around March 1st in north FL). A follow-up application made 60 days later is also important. Post-emergence control is limited. Currently there are no labeled post-emergence herbicides for selective control of crabgrass in St. Augustinegrass turf.

**Pre-emergent herbicide options for Bermuda, St. Augustine, Centipede, Bahia, and Zoysia grasses in Florida, when both crabgrass and sandspurs are present:**

- ◆ **Benefin** (do not apply to immature turf)
- ◆ **Pendimethalin**
- ◆ **Dithiopyr** (do not use within 45 days of seeding)

Always refer to product label for specific uses, application rates and grass tolerance. Additional herbicide chemicals are available for crabgrass alone, or sandspurs alone. For more information please contact your local county Extension office, and/or visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep395>.

UF/IFAS Extension  
Baker County  
*presents*

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



9th annual

# Spring Garden Festival

Held in the Arboretum & Gardens  
1025 W. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny FL

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**  
**9 am - 2 pm**

plant  
SALE

KIDS  
Activities

gardening  
EXHIBITS

FREE  
ENTRY

Florida-Friendly  
Landscaping  
ADVICE

FRUIT  
ORCHARD  
TOURS  
@ 10 & 11

The Foundation for the Gator Nation  
An Equal Opportunity Institution



# February 2017

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 	March 1	2	3 	

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.



4-H



Horticulture



Agriculture



# Upcoming Programs & Events

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

- Feb 10** **Small Scale Mushroom Production**, 8:30 am — 4:00 pm, Live Oak. Topics include mushroom identification, shiitake log production, oyster in bag production, and handling, processing, and marketing your product. More information and registration at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/small-scale-mushroom-production-registration-28235044779>
- Feb 14** **Stone Fruit & Muscadine Grape Pruning Workshop**, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, Live Oak, FL. Information and registration at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stone-fruit-muscadine-grape-pruning-workshop-registration-31285219935>
- Feb 17** **Fruit Orchard Workshop: Planting & 1st Year Maintenance**, 9:30 am — 11:30 am, Baker County Extension Office, Classroom and Arboretum. This workshop will cover general fruit tree selection, site selection, proper planting techniques, and 1st year basic care and pruning/training techniques of select fruit trees located in the new fruit orchard. Perfect for anyone planting fruits this season or in the near future — this workshop will begin in the classroom followed by outdoor demonstrations. \$5 per person includes all materials; pre-registration and payment is due by Wednesday, February 15th. Only 12 seats available—stop by the office to register; for more information please call (904) 259-3520.
- Mar 3** **Home Grown Tomatoes**, 10:00 am & 3:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office. This 1-hour class will cover vegetable gardening basics, tips for growing tomatoes, and common tomato diseases and disorders. \$5 per person; pre-registration and payment is due by Wednesday, March 1st. Stop by the office to register; for more information please call (904) 259-3520.
- Mar 13-14** **Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business**, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, Live Oak, FL. Information and registration at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/starting-a-successful-hydroponic-business-registration-28234463039?aff=erellivmlt>
- Mar 17-18** **Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business**, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, Live Oak, FL. Information and registration at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/starting-a-successful-hydroponic-business-registration-28234463039?aff=erellivmlt>



## 4-H Club Meetings

**Cloverleaf Cloggers** — Every Monday at 7pm in the auditorium. Contact your club leader to confirm.

**Livestock Club** — Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the auditorium.

**NEW SPIN CLUB**—Dog Club—Begins January 10, 2017. Contact Ms. Shaina for details.



## COUNTY EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 25, 2017**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION  
BLDG.**

**55 N. 3rd St., Macclenny**

See Ms. Shaina for Details



# Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

*Shaina Spann,*

*4-H Agent*

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## Upcoming Events

### February

09-20– Florida State Fair, Tampa, FL

11– 4-H Showcase at the State Fair, Tampa, FL

20– District Council, Lake Butler, 6pm

25– County Events, County Administration Bldg. 55 N 3rd St. Macclenny

### March

03– Deadline to Register for 3rd Executive Board

10-12– 3rd Executive Board, Camp Timpoochee, Niceville, for 4-H youth 13+

18– NE District Volunteer Forum, Camp Cherry Lake, Madison, FL

**24-31– Mrs. Shaina at National 4-H Conference, Washington, DC**

### April

01– Spring Garden Festival, Arboretum, 9am -2pm

13– District Events , Lake Butler, 6pm-8pm

14– Office Closed, Good Friday

**17-19– Mrs. Shaina at Extension Symposium**

### May

06– Annual 4-H Auction, Auditorium, 6pm

**The mandatory  
Livestock Animal Orientation  
Meeting is TUESDAY April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
From 6:30pm-7:30pm  
in the Auditorium.  
If you do not attend this meeting  
you cannot participate  
in a livestock project.**

*Now is the time to start going to businesses and asking for auction donations! Forms can be picked up at the office or printed off of the website!*

## **How to Participate in a Livestock Project:**

- Youth ages 8 and older wanting to show animals (commercial beef, horse, market steer and swine, pullets, rabbits, goats and poultry) in the fair will be required to earn a minimum of 15 points.
- Youth 5-7 need a minimum of 10 points.
- These points will be earned by participating in club, county, district, and state level 4-H events & activities. This system has been developed to help 4-H youth become well rounded program participants.
- Complete a 4-H animal specific project book (not the fair record book). (5 points)
- Attend 75% of club meetings. (4 points)
- Attend mandatory meetings.
- Participate in County Events. (point values vary)
- Commitment Form turned in.

### Example of points earned:

Holiday Bake Off (2 points) and Party (1 point)

BBQ Competition– 2 points

Present a photo at County Events– 1 point

Help with the 4-H Auction– 1 point

Attend meetings—4 points

Complete project book– 5 points

Total points earned: 16 —Ready to exhibit an animal!!



**If you do not meet the requirements, you will receive a letter explaining your ineligibility in January.**

# Ag & Natural Resources Notes

By: *Michael Davis,*  
*Agriculture Agent*

## Poultry Flock Management & Disease

Proper flock management is important when it comes to the health of your chickens. Prevention of disease is always more effective than treatment.

One of the first priorities is to develop a clean-out schedule. This schedule can vary depending on the size of your flock and their current housing, but it is important to clean the growout area regularly. It is also important to clean waterers and feeders. Waterers should be cleaned daily by scrubbing or the use of a chlorine bleach solution. Feeders can be cleaned less often than waterers, but should be cleaned if they appear soiled. Many types of issues can affect the health of a flock, including disease (both contagious and hereditary), parasitic infestations, and nutritional deficiencies.

**Contagious diseases** can typically be prevented with the use of vaccination. Make sure to obtain your chicks or replacement birds from a reputable hatcher and inquire about the vaccinations that the birds have received.

**Hereditary diseases** are prevented by using stock that is certified to be free of these types of diseases. Once again, make sure to deal with a reputable dealer or hatcher and make sure that your birds come from disease-free flocks.

**Nutritional deficiencies** that mimic the signs of a disease can be prevented by feeding the birds a balanced ration. Be sparing in giving your birds 'treats' such as cracked corn or other feeds that are not part of balanced ration.

**Parasitic infestations** can usually be prevented via good flock management. However, even the best managed flock can succumb to parasites.

There are drugs and antibiotics that are available to treat both diseases and parasitic infestations. However, these treatments only work efficiently when given at the recommended dose for the recommended time. Random or irregular use of drugs and antibiotics can actually cause more problems in a flock.

Finally, keep the following principles in mind to help reduce the chances of disease in your flock:

- Provide adequate ventilation during hot weather.
- Use screening or other methods to keep your birds isolated from other animals.
- Segregate birds of different ages, if possible.
- Limit visitors to the growout area.
- Quarantine new birds for 30 days, if possible, to identify any signs of disease.
- Eliminate trash or junk piles near the growout area. They can harbor vermin and other disease carriers.

**There are a lot of steps involved from the time that an egg is laid until it reaches your table. One of these involves the grading and sizing of the eggs. Grading consists of measuring the interior and exterior quality of the egg against known standards while sizing involves getting eggs of similar sizes together so that they can be packaged into a carton or flat. The sizes below are the minimum weights for egg sizes in the United States.**

Egg Size	Oz. per Doz.
Jumbo	30
Extra Large	27
Large	24
Medium	21
Small	18
Peewee	15

Additional information on diseases can be found at [http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/FeatheredFactsJune\\_2014\\_000.pdf](http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/FeatheredFactsJune_2014_000.pdf).

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Email: baker@ifas.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).

### FINAL REQUEST

If you would like to remain on the **Baker Bulletin** mailing list in 2017, please complete the form below and mail it or bring it to our office. You may also renew by visiting our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER \_\_\_\_\_

**Please choose either Mail or Email below:**

\_\_\_\_\_ MAIL

\_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL Please provide email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to our office or mail it to: Baker County Extension Service  
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.  
Macclenny, FL 32063