



## 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,

Each new year brings new opportunities, and this year we have a new 4-H club for ages 5 to 7 called F.A.S.T. (Foundation in Agriculture, Science & Technology). This is a perfect opportunity for the younger kids to be introduced to 4-H, make some new friends, and have some fun—all while learning new things. See page 5 for more details. As always, if we can be of service to you, please let us know.

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

- Feb 5** **Forestry & Wildlife Management—Baker County Landowner Meeting**, 10 AM—12 PM, South Prong Plantation, 13538 Brince Way, Glen St. Mary, FL. Hear from FWC Assistant Deer Management Program Coordinator, Becky Peters, concerning deer management and behavior. Food plot tour included! Lunch is provided. RSVP: 259-3520.
- Feb 13** **Soil Health and Cover Cropping Workshop**, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, North Florida REC - Suwannee Valley, 8202 County Road 136, Live Oak, FL 32060. Lunch is included. Registration is \$45. To register online visit: <https://soilhealthcovercrop.eventbrite.com>. For more information call (386)219-4253 or (386)219-4256.
- Feb 20** **Patrick Smith's Florida is "A Land Remembered"**, 6:30 PM, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County (Ag Center Auditorium), 1025 W Macclenny Avenue. Author Patrick Smith's son, Rick presents an unforgettable show about his father and the experiences that led him to write his beloved novels, with special emphasis on his popular saga of Florida pioneers. This free program is sponsored by the Emily Tabor Library.

Get your **FREE 2020 CALENDAR** at the Baker County Extension Office!



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# Highlights in Horticulture

By:  
Alicia Lamborn,  
Horticulture Agent



## February Gardening Tips

### Flowers

- Cut dead Canna Lily plants to the ground this month to reduce populations of the Canna Leafroller caterpillar. Disposing of the cut material with the overwintering pupae will reduce population levels of this insect in the spring.
- Looking to plant some bulbs? Try dahlia, crinum, and agapanthus. Provide adequate water for establishment and protect them from cold with mulch.

### Trees & Shrubs

- Prune azaleas when they have finished blooming to reduce their size and improve their form.
- Prune roses this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. To prevent leaf spots and blights, rake the area beneath the bush to remove clippings and dead leaves. Then fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8–9 weeks after pruning.

### Lawns

- To prevent warm-season weeds, be ready to apply a preemergence weed killer (not a “weed and feed” fertilizer) when temperatures rise to 65-70°F for 4–5 days. Timing is important for good control and generally coincides with the blooming of azaleas and dogwoods, around March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Brown circles in the lawn could be a sign of large patch fungus (brown patch). This disease thrives with mild temperatures and moisture, especially in St. Augustine and Zoysia lawns. For more info: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh044>

### Vegetables

- Soil testing should be done this month if you are planting a spring vegetable garden. For \$10 you can learn your soil pH, lime requirement, and fertilizer requirements for the year.
- It's potato planting time! Look for seed potatoes at your local feed store or garden center, which are likely to be good varieties for Florida gardens and have not been treated to prevent sprouting like those in the grocery store.

### Fruits & Nuts

- For info on pruning and fertilizing in the orchard, see <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker> or click [here](#).

### Wildlife

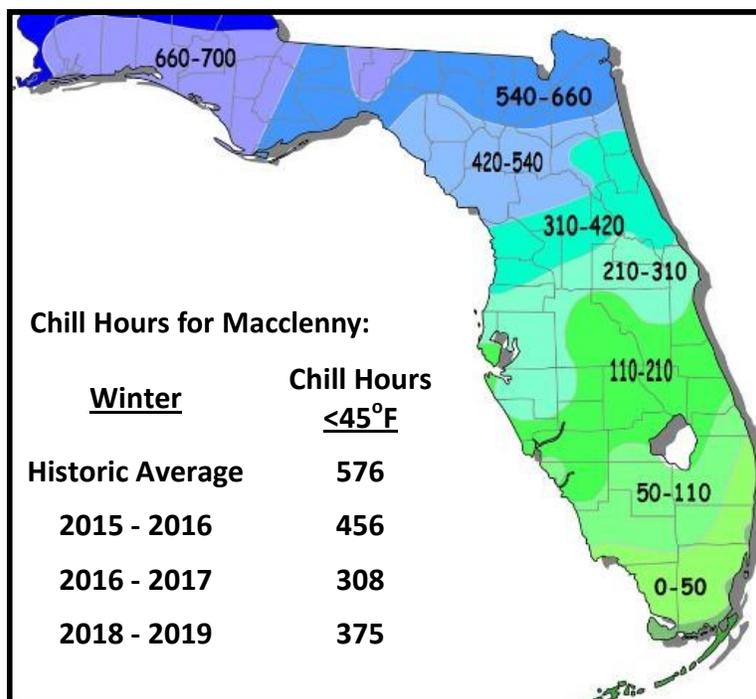
- Clean bird feeders every 2-3 weeks. For glass, ceramic and plastic (except hummingbird feeders), use a 10% bleach solution and dry completely before refilling. For wooden feeders, use hot soapy water.

## Consider Chill Hours When Selecting Fruit Trees

In order to bloom in spring, deciduous fruit trees like peaches, plums, and nectarines all must go through the plant equivalent of a long winter's nap.

They need a dormancy period with a certain number of **chilling hours**, when the temperature drops below 45 degrees Fahrenheit. The exact number of chilling hours required depends on the fruit tree variety, but it can be anywhere from a hundred to more than a thousand.

Here in Florida, gardeners should look for special "low chill" fruit tree varieties. Low-chill peaches, plums, and nectarines need just 100 to 525 chilling hours per year, making them better suited for our mild winters. Low-chill apples are also available, though there are fewer varieties that work well in Florida.



This map shows the average winter chill hours for the state of Florida.

Selecting cultivars that have a chilling requirement less than the average chilling calculated for your geographical area will help ensure that their chilling requirement is met in almost all winters.

For a list of suggested fruit tree varieties appropriate for Baker County, see [Fruit Varieties for Baker County](#) on our webpage.

UF/IFAS Extension  
Baker County  
*presents*

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



12th annual

# Spring Garden Festival

Baker County Agricultural Center Arboretum  
1025 W. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny FL

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**

**9 am - 1 pm**

plant  
SALE

KIDS  
Activities

gardening  
EXHIBITS

FREE  
ENTRY

Florida-Friendly  
Landscaping  
**ADVICE**

LOCAL  
VENDORS

Info:  
(904)  
259-3520

The Foundation for the Gator Nation  
An Equal Opportunity Institution

# Spring Garden Festival

## Master Gardener Plant Sale Sneak Peek



**Butterfly Vine** Bright yellow, orchid shaped flowers bloom spring to fall. Seed pods are shaped like butterflies. Grows 12' tall with support.



**Coral Honeysuckle Vine** \*Florida Native Red tubular flowers attract hummingbirds; berries attract songbirds. Grows up to 15'.



**Mexican Sage** Pollinator-friendly perennial. Woolly purple blooms; fuzzy grayish leaves. Drought tolerant and deer resistant. 4-5' tall & wide.



**Indigo Spires Salvia** Pollinator-friendly perennial with spikes of purple-blue flowers spring through fall. Perfect for mass planting or containers. 3' tall & wide.



**Firebush** \*Florida Native Orange-red tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and many other pollinators. Can grow 8-12' tall & wide.



**Autumn Sage** \*North American Native Pollinator-friendly perennial. Raspberry colored flowers. Long blooming season. Beautiful mass planted. 3' tall & wide.



**Dark Knight Bluebeard** Pollinator-friendly perennial. Blue-purple flowers and gray-green foliage. Good for mass planting or containers. 2' tall & wide.



**Passion Flower Vine** Pollinator-friendly perennial. Fragrant, star-shaped flowers display shades of pink/purple/blue. Climbs up to 20'; smaller in containers.



**Scarlet Milkweed** Attracts pollinators. Bunches of orange, yellow, and red flowers bloom during much of the year. Grows 3' tall & 2' wide.



**Purple Fountain Grass** Dark purple foliage with colorful plumes. Good for mass planting, as an accent, or in containers. Grows 3-5' tall and 3' wide.



**Roselle aka "Florida Cranberry"** A relative of hibiscus and okra. The calyxes of the roselle flower are edible—used to make jams, sauces, and teas.



**Variegated Purple Queen** Pink stripes on purple foliage. Use as groundcover or spill over the edges of containers. Up to 12" tall & 24" wide.

**Amaryllis**  
Solid Red  
& Striped



**Daylilies**  
El Desperado  
Wine Delight  
Jolyene Nichole

**Succulents & Houseplants**



**Blackberry Lily**

**Cotton Rose**



**Vegetables & Herbs**

# Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:  
*Shaina Spann,*  
*4-H Agent*



## What is County Events?

County Events is a chance for members to showcase their talents and knowledge! Getting up in front of people to speak can be difficult, but in the long run the experience is rewarding. There are so many occasions when adults are called on to speak, especially informally, to a small group. Having experience doing a 4-H speech or talent entry can set youth on a trajectory for successful public speaking events while in adulthood. In the beginning they may have to be forced to participate, but after a while it becomes easier and then they are a pro at speaking in front of groups!

County and district level presentations provide a valuable teaching and learning situation. They give Junior, Intermediate, and Senior participants an opportunity to practice making presentations, learn presentation techniques from observing others, receive constructive suggestions for improvement, and receive recognition for their efforts.

All 4-H events should foster a strong educational 4-H program by providing physical, mental, social, and emotional growth experiences for individual 4-H members. Events should give 4-H members positive, meaningful experiences in leadership and citizenship development.

Competitive events are a planned part of the 4-H curriculum, designed to allow youth to gain experience and develop skills in gathering, preparing, and presenting educational information. Presentations help them to enhance decision making capabilities, make public presentations, and develop good sportsmanship.

Categories for participation are as follows:

- Demonstration
- Illustrated Talk
- Photography
- Graphic Design
- Share-The-Fun (talent)



If you are interested in participating in County Events and need more information, please let Mrs. Shaina know!

 **County Events— Thursday, March 19th @ 6pm**  
**Location: Baker County Ag Center Auditorium**

 **District Events— Thursday, April 9th @ 6pm**  
**Location: Creekside Community Church, 2640 NW 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL**

### 4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Cloverleaf Cloggers**—Every Thursday, 6-8pm at the Sanderson Community Center. Beginners at 6/Advanced at 7
- **County Council**- Contact Mrs. Shaina for upcoming dates
- **Livestock Club**— February 25th, 6pm at Ag Center . "Nutrition & Digestion" This meeting will talk about appropriate feeds for your animals and how their bodies process the foods.

## New 4-H Cloverbud Club F.A.S.T. 4-H CLUB

The F.A.S.T. (Foundation in Agriculture, Science & Technology) 4-H Club is a club open to all Cloverbuds, ages 5-7 as of Sept 1, 2019 in Baker County. Our first 3 meetings are listed below. We plan to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month with a tentative start time of 6PM. The meeting will be held at the Baker County Extension Office in the classroom unless otherwise stated for field trips.

**March 10, 2020 First meeting!** At this meeting we will have a few team building activities and "meet and greet" with our fellow Cloverbuds and Co-Leaders.

**April 14, 2020 "Good Thymes in the Garden"** In this meeting we will be learning the basics of seeds. We will also be building our own 'mini greenhouse' along with planting our own seeds.

**May 12, 2020 "Down on the Farm"** In this meeting we will be learning about the various types of farm animals and what products we buy in store that they produce. Cloverbuds will also learn about the daily life of a farmer and the chores involved.



# Barnyard Bulletin

By:  
Alicia Halbritter,  
Agriculture Agent



## Dairy: Friend or Foe?

It has not been easy to be a dairyman the last few years. Between public backlash, flooded markets, weather, and industry issues, the dairyman has had more difficult days than easy days. But is dairy our friend, or foe? Let's clarify some important dairy practices and discuss why dairy is an important industry to maintain.

### Separating Calves

One of the main grievances with dairy practices is the separation of cow and calf shortly after birth, but why is the practice in place? Holstein cows, the primary breed used in dairy production, are not very good mothers. Genetic selection (breeding specific cows for desired traits) has created cows that are great at producing high quality milk, but not so great at raising babies. Separating calves into individual pens for a few weeks and then into calf groups help dairyman reduce disease incidence, helps ensure each calf is receiving the proper nutrition, and allows calves to receive individual medical attention if necessary. This practice is essential for calf health and ensures each calf is receiving what it needs, when it needs it.

### Dipping Teats

Often in videos reporting on conditions in dairies you will see orange/red teats on the cows udder, why is this? Is the cow bleeding from excessive milking or is there another reason? The actual reason cows may exhibit orange/red teats is because before milking they are sanitized with iodine, which can stain the skin a red/orange color. This practice is essential for food safety and udder health. Not only do iodine dips prevent bacteria from entering the milking equipment, it also helps sanitize the teat so bacteria does not enter the udder and potentially cause mastitis (a painful udder infection). This practice is important for both human and cow safety!

### Barns versus Pasture

Why are dairy cows in barns and not out in the pasture? Well that's an easy explanation. Dairy cows absolutely hate the heat. If you give cows the option of pasture or barn, you will find over 90% of the herd inside the barn. Why is this? Cows love 3 things: comfort, food, and water. Food and water are just a short walk away from their comfy beds in a barn, so cows generally prefer to spend their time inside. Also, and most importantly, cows are kept ultra-comfortable in barns with the use of fans and misting. A dairyman can keep barns at 72°F even though temperatures are rising into the 90's outside. Dairy cows who are stressed by heat will produce less milk, produce lower quality milk (because they eat less), and are more prone to getting sick. Staying in the barn is an important aspect for managing dairy cows.

Dairy is an essential industry for the state of Florida and for a wide variety of foods we enjoy. Love cheese? Need milk for that! Love ice cream? (I do!) Need milk for that! Butter, yogurt, and many other foods we enjoy rely on milk and therefore the dairy industry. Support your dairyman today and purchase this nutrient dense food group!

**Have other questions about agricultural practices? Give me a call (904) 259-3520 or send me an email [alicia1221@ufl.edu](mailto:alicia1221@ufl.edu) and let's discuss!**

