



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

I hope that you are having a good start to the summer season. Although we did get some much needed rainfall from our recent tropical storm, we are still designated as being in drought conditions. Additional rains may help ease the drought, but please try to conserve water where possible. Remember our Baker County Emergency Operations Center can provide information on storms, wildfire risk and other situations. You can find them at <http://bakercountyfl.org/eoc/>. As always, if you need assistance, give us a call or stop by our office.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis
County Extension Director / Ag Agent
Baker County Extension Service



Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

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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:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

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Florida-Friendly Insecticide Use in the Garden

Choose to be Florida-Friendly in the garden by selecting insecticides that target specific insects, and save those broad spectrum products for only when absolutely necessary since they kill our good bugs as well as pests.



Bt: Nature's Way to Control Caterpillars

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is a naturally occurring bacterium, commonly found in soils, that has the ability to infect and kill caterpillars. Because of this property, Bt has been developed as an insecticide, acting like a stomach poison and causing paralysis to the digestive system. Infected caterpillars stop eating and eventually die from starvation.

Compared to other commonly used insecticides, Bt products are nontoxic to people, pets, wildlife, and other organisms not closely related to caterpillars. Therefore, Bt products do not directly affect beneficial insects in the garden (i.e. pollinators) the way some other broad spectrum insecticides do. Because of the high level of safety, Bt is used in organic gardening of food crops (as well as ornamental plants), and does not require a lapse between application and harvest of fruit/vegetables.

For control of leaf-feeding caterpillars look for Bt products containing the *kurstaki* strain. Examples include:

Dipel® Javelin® Thuricide® Worm Attack® Caterpillar Killer® Bactospeine® SOK-Bt®

Spinosad: Controls caterpillars, such as armyworms, bean leaf-rollers, cabbage loopers, corn earworms, hornworms, and pin-worms. Also controls some beetles, thrips & stink bug nymphs.

Soaps & Oils:

Insecticidal soaps are made from the salts of fatty acids, which are in the fats and oils of animals and plants. Soaps act on contact and must be applied directly to the insect to be effective. They are effective against soft-bodied insects like aphids, some scales, psyllids, whiteflies, mealybugs, thrips, and spider mites. Hard-bodied insects (e.g., adult beetles, wasps) are not harmed.

Horticultural oils include dormant and summer oils which indicate the time of application rather than any particular type of oil. Oils typically act as a smothering agent for soft-bodied insects (e.g., aphids, scales, leafhopper nymphs, whiteflies) and mites that are thoroughly coated by an oil spray.

Note: Some plants may be sensitive to soaps & oils resulting in leaf burn, especially during hot weather. Always consult the label and apply to a small area of the plant to check for phytotoxicity. Commercial soaps are less likely to be phytotoxic.

Neem: Neem or neem oil is extracted from the seeds of the neem tree, a native of India. The neem tree supplies at least two compounds with insecticidal activity, and other unknown compounds with fungicidal activity. Some products provide 3-way protection against insects, mites and fungal infections and are safe for vegetable gardens.

*The use of trade names is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee of warranty of the products names and does not signify they are approved to the exclusion of others of suitable comparison.

Broad Spectrum Insecticides

Broad spectrum insecticides will kill good insects as well as pests, and should only be used when absolutely necessary.

Broad spectrum pesticide chemicals include:

- ◆ Pyrethrins
- ◆ Carbaryl
- ◆ Pyrethroids
- ◆ Malathion

Pyrethrins are concentrated compounds extracted from a daisy-like flower, grown in Kenya. When the flower is ground into a powder, the product is called a pyrethrum. Pyrethrum is the most widely used botanical insecticide in the United States. Synthetic insecticides that mimic the action of the pyrethrins are known as pyrethroids (e.g., bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, and permethrin).

Q: Are broad spectrum insecticides harmful to bees?



A: Malathion, Carbaryl (e.g. Sevin®) and pyrethroids are especially harmful to bees! Apply these products in late afternoon or early evening when bees & other pollinators are less active.

Living Well in Baker County

By:

Melanie Thomas,
FCS Agent

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Encourage Kids To Be Healthy Eaters

How can I encourage my children to be healthy eaters? When parents ask for parenting advice, the response usually starts like this, "Well, it depends....." However, the reply to the healthy eating question is straightforward. Set a good example, have healthy foods available, and make mealtimes fun.



Set a good example for healthy eating. What we do seems to carry a stronger message to our children than what we say. Our actions do speak louder than our words.

Let your children see you eating fruits, vegetables, and whole grains with meals or as snacks. Try new foods and describe how they taste, the texture, and the smell. Only offer one new food at a time and serve something your child likes along with the new food. Offer a small serving of the new food at the beginning of the meal, when your child is very hungry. Avoid forcing your child to eat and realize that the new food may need to be offered at several different meals before your child acquires a taste for it.

Have healthy foods available in your home. Cut raw vegetables into fun and easy shapes with cookie cutters. Back to setting a good example, let your children see that you like to munch on raw vegetables. Make your own trail mixes from dry whole-grain, low-sugar cereal and dried fruit. Prepare healthy snacks in advance before everyone is starving and ready to grab the first thing they see. Then store those snacks in small see-through packages that are handy to grab and go.



Dr. Karla P. Shelnett, a Registered Dietitian with University of Florida IFAS Extension, reminds us that healthy snacks are an important part of a child's diet because children have small stomachs and it is difficult for them to meet all their nutritional needs in three meals. Snacking can be part of a well-balanced diet if the foods selected for snacks are healthy and nutritious rather than high in fat and added sugar.

Make mealtime fun. The next time tacos are on the menu, gather everyone in the kitchen. Divide up the responsibilities for preparation. Put on some Mariachi music and encourage everyone to get moving. Dance, enjoy, and the laughter will come naturally. Turn the music volume down during the meal to encourage conversation and then plan your family's next theme night. Following the meal, turn up the music and dance the night away while everyone helps with the clean up.

Trying to get everyone together for a meal can be a challenge. However, it is a challenge worth accepting. Families benefit from sitting down with one another over food to discuss the events of the day, relax, and nourish their bodies. Our attitudes and traditions concerning food are based on family experiences. Make meals enjoyable and help your children become healthy eaters while creating cherished family memories.

June 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	25	26 	27 	28  	29	30

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.

June 7 **Camp Cherry Lake Orientation, 6:00pm—7:00pm, Baker County Extension Service.** This orientation session is for campers and parents of campers that are going to Camp Cherry Lake with Baker County 4-H. This is a mandatory orientation. Please contact Shaina Bennett at 904-259-3520 if there are issues with attendance.



June 14-16 **2012 National Tree Farmer Convention, Jacksonville, FL.** For additional information, please go to <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/tree-farmer-conventions> or contact Sara Anrrich at sanrrich@forestfoundation.org or 202-463-2733



June 27 **Weed Management in Pastures, 9:00am—11:00am, Sonny Register Farm, 12846 Turner Cemetery Road, Sanderson, FL 32087.** This program is offered by the Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group. Educational topics include Weed Identification, Managing Pasture for Livestock and Wildlife, Herbicide Calculations, Current Pricing and a Weed Control Program Demonstration. There is a registration fee of \$5 per person with a deadline of June 25. Please contact your local County Extension Office for registration and/or additional details. You may also contact the Baker County Extension Service (904-259-3520) to register.



June 28 **Forest Stewardship Workshop: Grow Timber Revenue, 9:00am—3:00pm, Nassau County Extension Office, 543350 US Hwy 1, Callahan, FL.** This program will provide guidance on timber management and marketing strategies that can increase returns from harvests, reduce costs and encourage forest management for its many benefits. Registration is \$10 per person and will cover lunch and materials. For additional information and to register, please go to <http://fsp-workshop062812.eventbrite.com> or call the Nassau County Extension Service at 904-879-1019.



July 27-29 **Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference, Kissimmee, FL.** The purpose of the annual **Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference** is to provide farmers with up-to-date, research-based, in-depth educational information. The conference aims to facilitate solutions-based collaboration by encouraging networking and an open dialog among members of Florida's small farms community. The deadline for accommodations reservations is June 26, 2012 and the Early Bird Reservation deadline for the conference is July 9, 2012. For additional information or to register, please go to <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/>.



4-H Events & Club Meetings for June:

June 5—Hoof-N-Around/Horsepower, 6:30pm, Classroom

June 12 & 26—Cloverleaf Cloggers, 7:00pm, Keller Intermediate

June 28—Livestock, 6:00pm, Classroom



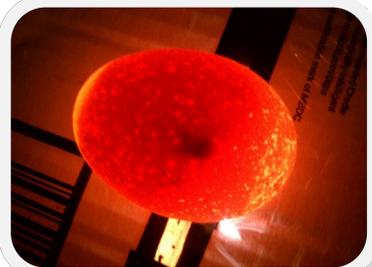
Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:
Shaina Bennett,
4-H Extension Agent



An 'Eggcellent' Story!

This last month Westside Elementary School and the Pre-K, Kindergarten Center participated in the Embryology school enrichment program. Ms. Shaina, Ms. Carlena, and Mr. Mike went and spoke to kindergarten, second grade, and third grade students about chicken eggs and how a baby chick can grow inside. After that, classes shared incubators and together hatched baby chicks in their classrooms! It takes 21 days for a baby chick to develop in the egg and then hatch! All 26 classes waited 21 days, and even longer for some, to have their chicks hatch out! The students all had an opportunity to adopt a chick and take it home. Below is a picture of a candled egg, where light is used to lighten up the inside of the egg to see the growing chick, and a picture of some hatched chicks.



Left: This is a candled egg, you can see the eye of the developing chick inside!

Right: Two hatched chicks, one is a Brown Leghorn (right) and the other is a Black Sex Link (Left).



- Events:**
- June 4– **Deadline to register for Camp Cherry Lake**
 - June 11-14– Wild Outdoors Day Camp, \$40 (FULL)
 - June 18-22– Camp Cherry Lake, \$205
 - June 25-29– 4-H Legislature, \$225
 - July 6– District Retreat, Itchetuknee
 - July 7– Weigh-in 8-10am, fairgrounds
 - July 9-12– Country Critters Day Camp, \$40
 - July 16-19– Colonial Campers, \$40
 - July 23-26– Crafty Creations, \$40
- *The deadline to register for all day camps is two (2) weeks prior to the camp. Remember, space is limited so sign up as soon as possible.**

Birthdays for June:

- Wishing all of you a very **happy birthday** from the Baker County Extension Office!
- June 7– Derek Rigdon
 - June 7– Danae Miller
 - June 8– Hayden Cochran
 - June 14– Jailen Ruise
 - June 22– Colton Moore
 - June 23– Amber Taylor
 - June 25– Holly Wood
 - June 30– Cheyenne Lukander



Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h



Did You Know: You can tell what color an egg will be from the chicken's earlobe!



To see this in color, go to baker.ifas.ufl.edu and click on our current newsletter!

Weed Species Spotlight - Sicklepod

Sicklepod (*Cassia obtusifolia*) is also known as coffeebean. This plant is common throughout Florida and the southeastern United States. It is native to the tropical regions of North, Central and South America. The plant has erect stems and light green oval leaves that grow in pairs. Yellow flowers are present when the plant is mature. Seed pods of sicklepod are round and contain brownish, angular seeds.

Control:

General Control: Any herbicide containing 2,4-D will control sicklepod. Early treatment is recommended. Mature plants should be pulled from the ground to prevent animal poisoning.

Control in peanuts: Sicklepod has historically been a very difficult weed to control. To date, there are no preemergence herbicides available to control sicklepod. Likewise, postemergence control options are also limited. The most efficient herbicide program for sicklepod is paraquat at cracking, with or without Basagran, Storm or 2,4-DB, followed by Cadre. This program will often provide effective, season-long results. If sicklepod escapes late in the season, 2,4-DB will suppress the growth and development of emerged plants.

Control in cotton: Cotoran has traditionally provided good control of sicklepod when applied preemergence. However, the application rates required for acceptable sicklepod control often results in low levels of cotton injury. Additionally, Cotoran applied preemergence will not control sicklepod for the entire season.

Postemergence applications of glyphosate or Envoke provide greater than 90% control of sicklepod. Envoke cannot be applied prior to the 5th leaf stage. All postemergence directed herbicides, except Cobra and MSMA, will also provide greater than 90% sicklepod control.



Sicklepod
(*Cassia obtusifolia*)



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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).



Baker County Farmers Market



The Baker County Farmers Market is open for the season! Please come out and support local growers, producers and craft-makers at the Baker County Farmers Market. The Market is at Memorial Park (next to the football stadium). There will be many attractions throughout the year including live entertainment and animal adoptions. If you are interested in booth space at the Farmers Market, please contact the Baker County Chamber of Commerce at (904) 259-6433 or visit the Chamber at their office at 20 E. Macclenny Ave.

