Dear Extension Friends,

Summer is here in North Florida and that means that Youth Camping Season is here. There are still some spaces available for day camps. Please visit [http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/SummerDayCamps2015FINAL.pdf](http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/SummerDayCamps2015FINAL.pdf) for a list of the camps and additional information, or give us a call at the office. Alicia has some good gardening tips for the summer and the agriculture page lists some common summer pasture weeds and control methods. As always, if we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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

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### 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)

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<tr>
<td>Michael Davis, Ph.D.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michael.davis@ufl.edu">michael.davis@ufl.edu</a></td>
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<td>Agriculture Agent</td>
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<td>Alicia Lamborn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alamborn@ufl.edu">alamborn@ufl.edu</a></td>
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<td>Shaina Bennett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:slbennett@ufl.edu">slbennett@ufl.edu</a></td>
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<td>4-H Agent</td>
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The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.
Plant of the Month:  
Stoke’s Aster

Stoke’s aster or Stokesia (*Stokesia laevis*) is a Florida native, evergreen herbaceous perennial that is very easy to grow. Numerous shaggy daisy-like flowers are produced on erect stems above the ground hugging foliage. Many cultivars are available with flower colors in various shades of blue, pink, white, and yellow. One cultivar named ‘Color Wheel’ has flowers that change from white to blue to purple as they mature.

Quickly growing to 1-2 feet tall and wide, this plant is popular in spring and summer with butterflies and bees that frequent the flowers for pollen and nectar. Planted in masses, it packs a punch of color to the landscape and is great for the front of perennial bed borders. Plant in full sun or partial shade, at least 18 to 24 inches apart so they have room to spread. Mature plants form clumps that spread slowly, and clumps can be divided to yield new plants.

This low-maintenance plant prefers sandy, acidic soil and once established usually only requires supplemental irrigation during times of drought. The spent flower heads can be removed as desired. A general purpose, slow-release fertilizer application in spring should be sufficient for adequate growth through the season. Like most plants, maintaining a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch is beneficial to retain soil moisture and reduce weed competition. No insects or diseases are of major concern.

June Garden Calendar

**Annuals & Perennials:** Plants that can take full sun during hot summer months include salvia, vinca, beach sunflower, bulbine and pentas. For more information on plants that keep their cool when things heat up, see the June newsletter issue of *Highlights in Horticulture* on our website: http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu

**Herbs:** Heat-loving herbs like basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary can be planted this month. For those already planted, pinch back regularly to prevent flowering and enhance branching.

**Vegetables:** Plant lima beans, southern peas, eggplant, okra, and sweet potato this month. Rotate vegetables so that the same vegetable (or members of the same vegetable family) are not planted repeatedly in the same area.

**Vegetable Pests:** Monitor for pest problems twice a week by inspecting plants from top to bottom, including the undersides of leaves. Most plants can stand a 10-20% loss of leaves without reducing yields. Do not panic and start spraying at the first sign of damage. Instead, remove insects by hand and destroy. Also watch for early disease symptoms and remove any infected leaves or plants to slow the spread.

**Palms and Cycads:** Watch for nutrient deficiencies and correct as needed. For more information, see *Physiological Disorders of Landscape Palms*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep263

**Lawns:** Determine whether yellow and brown lawn patches are caused by insects, disease, or lack of water. Take time to determine the cause so your remedy is effective. Rejuvenate areas by replacing weeds with grass plugs. For shaded areas, replace turf with a suitable shade-loving groundcover.

**Need more advice?** If you need help identifying a potential problem or need advice tailored to your lawn or landscape, just call and ask. We are here to help!
UF/IFAS Extension NFLAG
Equine Workshop

June 6, 2015
Jacksonville Equestrian Center
13611 Normandy Blvd.,
Jacksonville, FL 32221

8:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m.  Registration
9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.  Disaster Preparation for Horses
      Sydney Hayter: UF/IFAS Extension Duval County
      Mike Davis: UF/IFAS Extension Baker County
9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.  Toxic Weeds: Identification and Management
      Barton Wilder: UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.  Fencing 101
      Tim Wilson: UF/IFAS Extension Bradford County
10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.  Farmscaping Your Ranch
      Jim DeValario: UF/IFAS Extension Bradford County
      Dave Nister: UF/IFAS Extension Clay County
10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.  Break and visit sponsors
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  Horse Nutrition and Herd Health
      Carissa Wickens: UF/IFAS Equine Extension Specialist
12:15 p.m.-1:00 p.m.  Lunch

Registration: $10, late registration $20
Please call 352-955-2402 for more information

Register at EventBrite by June 3
http://tinyurl.com/prudxfx
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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 6  **NFLAG Equine Workshop**, 9:00am to 1:00pm, Jacksonville Equestrian Center, 13611 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32221. The UF/IFAS North Florida Livestock Agents Group presents our annual Equine Workshop. This workshop will contain topics of interest to equine owners including: 1) Disaster Preparation for Horses, 2) Toxic Weed Identification and Management, 3) Fencing 101, 4) Farmscaping Your Ranch and 5) Horse Nutrition and Herd Health. Register online by visiting [http://tinyurl.com/prudxfx](http://tinyurl.com/prudxfx). Online registration is $10 per person and must be done by June 3. Late registration is $20 per person. For additional information, please see the flyer on page 3 of this newsletter or call 352-955-2402.

June 9  **Bonsai Workshop**, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Clay County Extension Office, 2463 FL-16, Green Cove Springs, FL. Come learn this ancient art with Master Gardener John Terry, including the history of this ancient planting technique and various forms of bonsai. Work hands-on to create your own bonsai—each participant will create and take home their own. $40 Seating is limited, so sign up today! Register with Eventbrite: [https://eventbrite.com/event/17028603010/](https://eventbrite.com/event/17028603010/)

June 19  **Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries**, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Back by popular demand! Topics include variety selection, preparing to plant, care and maintenance, and pest management. $2 registration fee due by June 17th.

June 26  **Raised Bed Gardening**, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Learn the basics of growing vegetables in raised beds plus techniques like square foot gardening, straw bale gardening, and easy DIY garden planters. Class is free; call 259-3520 to RSVP by June 24th.

July 1  **Master Gardener Volunteer Training Course (Applications Due)**  Classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am to 1pm, August 4th to September 24th at the Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Florida Master Gardeners are professionally trained volunteers who assist the county agent by sharing unbiased, research-based gardening information with the community. Applications for this program are being accepted through July 1st. Applications are available online at: [http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html](http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html)

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4-H Club Meetings & Events:

**All County 4-H Club** — 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month, 6pm in the 4-H classroom

**Livestock Club** — June 20th, Fairgrounds, Check with Club Leaders

**Cloverleaf Cloggers** — Not meeting when school is out

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Important Dates: June 2015

08– Camp Cherry Lake Orientation, Auditorium, 6pm
13– Camp Cluster Counselor Training, Auditorium, 10am
10-12– All About Animals Day Camp
15-17– Wild About Weather Day Camp
22-26– Camp Cherry Lake!!
Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:
Shaina Bennett,
4-H Agent

CAMP CHERRY LAKE IS COMING!

The deadline for Camp Cherry Lake will be here soon!!!
If you are interested in going to Camp Cherry Lake please contact the Extension Office for more details. We will be going the week of June 22nd through the 26th. It is $210 for 4-H members and $225 for non-members. The deadline to register is June 8th (payment in cash) at the camp orientation meeting, June 8th at 6:00pm in the Ag Center Auditorium.

4-H University—July 27-31, 2015. Gainesville, ages 14+ (as of 9/1/14) deadline to register June 22nd—Cost $280

There are still spaces available for day camps at this time.

Second Annual Baker County 4-H Auction

The second annual Baker County 4-H Auction was held on Saturday May 16th at the Baker County Extension Office Auditorium. Thank you to everyone who came! We appreciate all of the hard work you all did on that night! Can you believe that we raised over $5000!? It was a definite success! Let’s hope next year is even better!

Events:

June
03– Last day of school!
13– Camp Cluster Counselor Training, Auditorium, 10am
08– Camp Cherry Lake Orientation, Auditorium, 6pm
10-12– All About Animals Day Camp
15-17– Wild About Weather Day Camp
22-26– Camp Cherry Lake!!

July
06-09– First Responders Camp
14-17– Seafood Day Camp
20-22– Budding Artists Camp
24– Budding Artists Field Trip
27-31– 4-H University, Gainesville, FL

Birthdays for June:
Wishing all of you a very happy birthday from the Baker County Extension Office!
01– Tanner Bridges
02– Alissa Rawlins
11– Tucker Thrift
17– Breanna Johnson
21– Harrison Chapman

Livestock Club will meet Saturday, June 20th, 2015 At Fairgrounds Sign-up with Ms. Emily

Cloverleaf Cloggers will not meet in summer. They will resume when school starts back.

Like Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h
Common Summer Weeds in Pastures: Sicklepod and Coffee Senna

Sicklepod (*Senna obtusifolia* L.) is often referred to as coffeebean, is an annual plant with erect stems and light green leaves that grow in pairs. Mature plants display yellow flowers and the seed pods are round with brownish, angular seeds. Sicklepod is poisonous to livestock and should be sprayed during the summer months to prevent livestock from grazing it. The plants typically mature in late summer to fall.

**Control:** Herbicides that contain 2,4-D are excellent at controlling sicklepod when they are young. Early treatment is recommended for good control. Mature plants that are found in pastures in late summer to early fall should be manually removed to prevent animal poisoning.

Coffee Senna (*Senna occidentalis* L.) is very similar to sicklepod as they are in the same family. The leaves of the plant are ovate to lance shaped. Like sicklepod, flowers of coffee senna are yellow. Seed pods are flat, dark brown and tend to be 3 to 4 inches long. Mature plants can reach heights of 6 feet. Seeds of this plant are known to be weakly toxic to livestock, so removal is recommended.

**Control:** As with sicklepod, herbicides that contain 2,4-D will control coffee senna. Early treatment is recommended for good control. Mature plants that are found in pastures in late summer to early fall should be manually removed to prevent animal poisoning.
Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program
Applications Accepted through July 1.

The Master Gardener Program was created in 1972 when an innovative Extension Service Agent in Washington State realized that well-trained volunteers could respond to many homeowner questions. Since that time, the Master Gardener Program has grown to include all 50 states and Canada.

The Baker County Master Gardener Program began in 1992. As a Master Gardener volunteer you will be able to: answer homeowner’s plant questions, create and maintain school garden projects, work to grow a crop in our green house, continue your gardening education, and much more.

Applications and additional information for this program can be found online at:  
http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html