Dear Extension Friends,

Summer is here and that means that it is time for Youth Camping Season. The Baker County 4-H Program offers many day camps throughout the summer and there is also a week long residential camp at Camp Cherry Lake. For additional information on camping schedules and information on how to register, please see page 8 of this newsletter or visit our webpage at http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/. Alicia also has information for your yard and garden and the agriculture section contains an article about heat stress in the backyard poultry flock. Thank you for your continued support of your local Extension Office. 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
Plant of the Month:  
Drift Roses

These small-scale roses can make a big impression and are great for tucking into a container garden or tiny corner of your landscape. The same company that brought us Knockout® roses has created the Drift® rose series, the result of a cross between groundcover roses and miniature roses. These plants bloom almost continuously and offer flower colors in red, pink, coral, peach, apricot, and pale yellow that turns to white. They also come in a variety of flower forms that include cuplike, double, and semi-double.

Growing to about 18 inches tall and 2-3 feet wide, these roses bloom from spring to fall in zones 4-10. As with other roses, these plants should receive at least six hours of sunlight each day and be planted in soil amended with plenty of organic matter. Maintain a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch to help retain soil moisture. If planting in a container, choose a pot with good drainage and use a high-quality potting mix. They are moderately drought tolerance once established but should be watered regularly until fully established. Apply a slow-release fertilizer periodically during the growing season for continuous growth and better performance. Deadheading spent flowers isn’t necessary, but will encourage re-blooming and maintain a tidy appearance. In early spring, giving them a good hair cut will remove any winter tip burn and promote lateral branching, resulting in more sprays of beautiful blooms.

Drift® roses are relatively problem free in many areas and have excellent disease resistance to rust, powdery mildew, and black spot. However, they can be susceptible to chilli thrips and Cercospora leafspot.

Overall, the Drift® rose is easy to grow perfect for gardeners seeking a low maintenance plant.
Master Gardener Volunteer Training
Coming Soon!

If you live in Baker County and enjoy helping others, the Baker County Master Gardener Program could be for you.

The Extension Office provides extensive training for volunteers who provide service to the community in return.

Volunteer training classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 6 hours a day during a 5-week period starting July 26th.

The cost of the training covers class materials, reference books, and supplies; payment plans are available.

Download the application and program guide at: http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html

Questions? Call Alicia at (904) 259-3520.

Thank You to all of our local businesses and individuals who donated to the Baker County 4-H Auction!

Elizabeth Drummond Florida State Parks
Walt Disney World
Cinemark Theatre
Alex Hill
Jacksonville Zoo
Orsay Restaurant
Sunset World
State Farm
Bennett’s Feed
Lyons & Lyons, CPA
Baker County Chiropractic
Brittany Barton Massage
Therapist
Save A Lot
SeaWorld
Kyla Taylor
Ace Hardware
Petsmart
Longhorn Steakhouse
Texas Roadhouse
Home Depot
Lake City Bowl
Cici’s Pizza
Game Stop
Olive Garden
Picaboo.com
Let’s Bounce
The Salon
Teresa Hill
Double Blake Farms
Hodges Produce
Baker County Master Gardeners
Publix
Bee’s Quilt Shop
Susan Chapman
Calendar’s Pizzeria
First Federal Bank
Sixth Street Vet Hospital
Garry Pelfrey
Room & Groom
O’Reilly Auto Parts
Brad Thrift Lawn Service
Tammy Norman
Dixie Outfitters
Baker Salvage
Red Lobster
Badcock Furniture Store
Hibbett Sports
Green Acres Sporting Goods
Burkins Chevrolet
Gibson McDonald
Deb Stevens
Laredo’s Restaurant
Dreamette - Macclenny
AMC Theatre Regency
Laura Davis - Top Notch
Sixth Street Steakhouse
Blast Game Center
Jiffy Lube
Bed, Bath, & Barks
Hair Dynamics
Loop’s Nursery & Greenhouses
Grand Slam Barber Shop
Renee’s Bail Bonds
Grace Technologies
San Jose Restaurant
Taco Bell
Starbucks
Firehouse Subs
Finders Keepers
Theresa Henderson
Walmart Macclenny
Custom Carts & Coatings
Moonlight Blessings
The Country Club at Lake City
Cracker Barrel
Ruby Tuesday
Gateway Art Gallery
Keri Lagle
Build A Bear
Little Caesars
Tammy Gibbs
BCHS Design 2 Class
Glen Cash Hardware
The Ivy Cottage
Glen St. Mary Nursery
Diane Sigers
Fidelity Bank
B.J. Wilkerson
Alex Hill
Shady Creek Farms
Chuck Spitzer
Sherwin Williams
Macclenny Equipment & Tractor
Glamour & Grace
Emily Coulliette Diedolf
Caleb Williams
Extreme Outdoors
Diamond Timber
Franklin Mercantile
Central States Enterprises
Walmart Distribution
Cecil’s Hometown
Cooking

To those who purchased dinners and auction items, we appreciate your support!
## June 2016

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- **5th**: 4-H Camp Cherry Lake
- **12th**: 4-H Camp Cherry Lake
- **19th**: Buggin' Out with 4-H Camp
- **26th**: Dancing with the Clovers Camp

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 17    Growing Green Thumbs with Florida-Friendly Landscaping (see flyer below).

June 21-24 Buggin’ Out with 4-H, Summer Day Camp (details on page 8).

June 24    Master Gardener Applications Due (details on page 3).

June 28    Managing Pests & Nematodes (Lunch-n-Learn Gardening Series), 12:15—12:45pm, Baker County Extension Office. Join the County Horticulture Agent during your lunch break for a 30-minute talk on managing pests in your garden. Class is free; please RSVP at (904) 259-3520.

Growing Green Thumbs with Florida-Friendly Landscaping
June 17, 2016
10am - 12pm @ Baker County Extension Office
$10 per person

- Topics include: common mistakes made by gardeners, landscaping tips, and top performing plants recommended for our area
- Participants will receive 2 gardening books: Florida-Friendly Landscaping Handbook & Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design
- Pre-registration & payment due by June 16th. Please call (904) 259-3520 for more info.

4-H Club Meetings

Baker Creation Explorers—3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30pm in the 4-H Classroom.

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Every Monday at 7pm in the Auditorium.

Livestock Club — 4th Tuesday of each month at 6pm in Auditorium.

CONTACT YOUR CLUB LEADER FOR MEETING DATES FOR SUMMER.

See page 6 for more upcoming 4-H events.
Upcoming 4-H Events

**June**
04—Counselor Training, 10 am-3 pm, Camp Cherry Lake
06—Camp Cherry Lake Orientation, 6:30, Auditorium
13-17—Camp Cherry Lake
21-24—Buggin’ Out with 4-H Day Camp
27-July 01—4-H Legislature, Tallahassee
30-July 01—Dancing with the Clovers Day Camp

**July**
01- 4-H Bug Collection Registration Due
12-15- PB&J Day Camp
18-21- Kitchen Chemistry: The Science of Baking Day Camp
25-29- 4-H University, Gainesville

**August**
05—4-H Awards Program 6:30pm

May was a busy month!! At the beginning of the month we had 4-Hers participate in District Events at Glen Baptist church, in the middle we had chicks hatch at Westside Elementary, and then we had the 3rd annual 4-H Auction on May 21st! The winner of the YETI Hopper drawing was Laurel Heaton! Congratulations Laurel!

For District Events Stacey Taylor sang “Part of Your World” from *The Little Mermaid*, placing 2nd. Kash Addy did a demonstration on roping placing 2nd, Nathaniel Matthews did an illustrated talk on NASA placing 1st, Kenu Turk did a demonstration on fire making placing 2nd, and the Cloverleaf Cloggers performed “Stir it Up” placing 1st, and the Cloverbud Cloggers performed for participation. Way to go all of you!!!

Embryology at Westside Elementary was with 11 classes of 3rd grade. This year was a huge success! Each class had several chickens while they were able to use the new incubators from the Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Grant.

The auction was also a victory! With the help of 4-H members going out and getting items for the auction we had the most items we have ever had at over 150 live and silent auction items. The YETI drawing donated by Extreme Outdoors brought in over $1200! With everything that we did for the auction, including YETI money, we raised $7775! This is the best auction we have had yet! Thank you to all of the donors who donated items and to all of the individuals and families that helped make the auction possible. We are one step closer to getting a big 4-H van!
Avoiding Heat Stress in Your Flock

Like most other animals, chickens are prone to heat stress during periods of high temperature and high humidity, which are both prevalent for a large part of the year in Florida. It is important to be able to recognize the signs of heat stress in your flock and know how to avoid placing them in danger from the heat. Normal body temperature for chickens is around 105°F. However, unlike humans and other animals, chickens do not possess sweat glands. They cool themselves by panting. The panting will evaporate moisture from the throat allowing the bird to lower its body temperature. It is important to note that older birds are more susceptible to heat stress when compared to younger birds because of their larger size and the insulation that is provided by fully formed feathers. Signs of heat stress in the flock include: gasping, lethargy, pale combs and wattles, increased thirst, decreased appetite, decrease in body weight, and a potential increase in cannibalism. While these signs are not exclusive to heat stress, they can certainly indicate that heat stress is a problem during prolonged periods of hot, humid weather. As a flock manager, you should keep in mind that stress can cause various issues within the flock, including: drops in production, increased mortality, decreased egg size, thin egg shells, poor egg quality, and poor egg functionality. There are many proactive measures that you can take as a flock owner to decrease the chance of heat stress in your birds. Good management of the flock and an understanding of how the flock is reacting to temperature changes will help to avoid the risk of heat stress in your birds.

- Always provide plenty of cool, fresh drinking water in many, easily accessible locations for your flock during periods of hot weather.
- Add electrolytes to the drinking water;
  - The act of panting will change the electrolyte balance within the bird. Adding electrolytes will help to maintain the needed balance within the bird and will help to increase water intake. However, you must be vigilant in adding electrolytes to the water as adding too much can also upset the balance within the bird and cause problems as well.
- Feed intake will naturally decrease during hot weather. To counteract this, provide feed during the cool parts of the day such as early morning and late evening. The digestive process produces extra heat which can cause stress within the flock during the hottest parts of the day. You may also need to increase the protein component of the feed in response to hot weather for hens that are in lay. Consult your poultry professional for recommendations.
- Adequate ventilation is a must. Install fans, if necessary.
- Consider installing an evaporative cooling system. These systems provide a mist or fog that moves water through the air. Water on the bodies of the birds will help to cool them somewhat, but make sure not to soak the birds.
- Avoid overcrowding. Overcrowding in the flock increases the ambient heat in the area and reduces the effectiveness of ventilation and evaporative cooling.
- Birds may tend to rest during the hottest part of the day. Don’t disturb them.
- Remove accumulated litter from the confinement area. Decomposition of the litter produces heat which can increase the ambient temperature of the area.
- Radiant heat from direct sunlight can also be an issue for the confinement area or for nest boxes. Help to reduce radiant heat by installing insulation in the ceiling area or by having the confinement area in a shaded area.
- If you let your birds out to forage, remember that tall grass and weeds in the foraging area will reduce the natural air flow. Bare ground can also cause issues with radiant heat. Keep the grass in the forage area cut low enough to
4-H SUMMER CAMPS 2016

Baking Out with 4-H Day Camp
June 21-24 $60
Register by June 6th Ages 8+
Early registration due May 23: Member $215; Non-Member $250
Late registration after May 23: Member $240; Non-Member $275
Camp Orientation June 6th at 6:30 pm, Ag Center Auditorium.

Dancing with the Clovers Day Camp
June 30-July 01 $30
Register by June 20th Ages 8+
Come and learn how to clog, line dance, and learn dances from around the world!
All ages are as of 09/01/2015.
Payment is required to secure registration. Payment plans available upon request.

PB&J Day Camp
July 12-14 $60
Register by June 27th Ages 10+
Explore Florida’s peanut industry. Make your own peanut butter, can jelly, and make bread! We will visit farms in North Florida.

Kitchen Chemistry Day Camp
July 18-21 $60
Register by July 6th Ages 10+
This camp will explore the science behind baking. Learn how to make breads, pastries, main & side dishes, and desserts! The finale for this camp is a family dinner prepared by YOU! Participants MUST have basic kitchen skills.

Register at florida.4honline.com
Pay at Baker County Extension Office
1025 W Macclelly Ave. 904.259.3520
Make checks payable to: Baker County 4-H Association

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, Macclelly, 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).