



Baker County Extension Service Monthly Newsletter

March 2011

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Dear Extension Friends,

It looks like Spring is here because of the nice weather that we have had lately, but the 'official' start of spring isn't until March 22nd. There is always the chance of a late freeze or frost, so keep an eye on the sky for the next few weeks to make sure that the plants that you have don't get damaged. This is the last month that we will run the request to stay on the mailing list for the newsletter, so please fill one out if you haven't already done so. You can always have a look online at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>. As always, if we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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



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4-H Agent



Highlights in Horticulture

By:

*Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent*

Vegetable Varieties for Your Garden

The following list includes recommended vegetable varieties that grow well in Florida, all of which can be planted during March and April. If you would like more information on vegetable gardening, including garden preparation, plant and row spacing, seed planting depth and more, stop by our office to pick up your free copy of the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide or visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>



Beans, bush –

Snap: Bush Blue Lake, Contender, Roma II, Provider, Cherokee Wax

Shell: Horticultural, Pinto, Red Kidney, Black Bean, Navy

Beans, pole – McCaslan, Kentucky Wonder, Blue Lake

Beans, lima – Foodhook 242, Henderson, Jackson Wonder, Dixie (Speckled) Butterpea, Early Thoroughgreen

Collards – Georgia, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates

Cantaloupes & Honeydews – Athena, Ambrosia, Galia (green fresh)

Corn, sweet –

White: Silver Queen, How Sweet It Is, Sweet Ice

Yellow: Sweet Riser, Early Sunglow

Cucumbers –

Slicers: Sweet Success, Poinsett, Ashley, MarketMore 76, Straight Eight, Space Master

Picklers: Liberty Hybrid, Eureka, Boston Pickling

Eggplant – Black Beauty, Dusky, Long, Ichiban, Cloud Nine (white)

Mustard – Southern Giant Curled, Florida Broad Leaf, Tendergreen, Giant Red, Green Wave, Mizuna

Okra – Clemson Spineless, Emerald, Annie Oakley II, Cajun Delight

Peas, Southern – California Black-eye No. 5, Pinkeye Purple Hull, Texas Cream

Peppers –

Bell: California Wonder, Red Knight, Big Bertha

Other Sweet: Sweet Banana, Giant Marconi, Mariachi, Cubanella

Jalapeno: Early Jalapeno, Jalapeno M

Specialty Hot: Cherry Bomb, Hungarian Hot Wax, Big Chile II, Numex, Ancho, Thai, Anaheim Chile, Long Cayenne, Habanero, Caribbean Red Habanero

Potatoes, Sweet – Centennial, Beauregard, Vardaman

Pumpkin – Big Max, Connecticut Field, Prizewinner, Jack Be Little, Jack O Lantern

Squash –

Summer: Early Prolific Straight-neck, Summer Crookneck, Early White Scallop

Winter: Spaghetti, Table King, Table Queen & Table Ace (Acorn), Waltham, Early Butternut

Zucchini: Cocozelle, Spineless Beauty, Black Beauty

Calabaza

Tomatoes –

Large Fruit: Celebrity, Heat Wave II, Better Boy, Beefmaster, BHN444-Southern Star*, Amelia*, BHN640*

Small Fruit: Sweet 100, Juliet, Red Grape, Sun Gold, Sugar Snack, Sweet Baby Girl

Heirloom: Green Zebra, Cherokee Purple, Eva Purple Ball, Brandywine, Mortgage Lifter, Delicious
*Resistant to TSWV (Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus)

Turnips –

Roots: Purple Top, White Globe

Roots & Greens: Purple Top

Greens: Seven Top, Shogoin

Watermelon –

Large: Jubilee (aka FL Giant), Crimson Sweet, Charleston Grey 133

Small: Sugar Baby, Mickeylee

Living Well in Baker County

By:
Melanie Thomas,
FCS Agent

Money Matters: Saving Money At The Pump

With gas prices rising significantly and the economy in the shape it's in, filling up the gas tank can very easily break the bank these days. Unfortunately it doesn't look like there's much relief in sight. The time is now to do what we can to help ease the pain at the gas station. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) there are a few tips to help maximize your fuel economy.



Keep your car in good repair

- Making sure your tires are inflated to the recommended pressure and replacing a clogged air filter can drastically improve your gas mileage by as much as 13%.

Drive Sensibly

- Aggressive driving (speeding and rapid acceleration and braking) can lower your gas mileage by as much as 33% at highway speeds and 5% around town. According to the DOE each 5 miles per hour (mph) you drive over 60mph can reduce your fuel economy by 10%. Just by slowing down and enjoying the ride you'll save a lot of money and your journey truly won't take that much longer. Just make sure you keep to the right so you won't impede the less-enlightened.

Clean out your vehicle

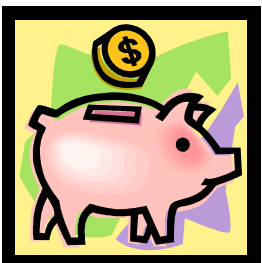
- Not only will it make the ride more enjoyable because you're not moving aside "stuff" to make room, but you'll also be saving on the gas mileage. Take anything unnecessary out of your vehicle and don't forget about the trunk. An extra 100 pounds in the vehicle can reduce your MPG by up to 2%. According to the DOE the reduction is based on the percentage of extra weight relative to the vehicle's weight and affects smaller vehicles more than larger ones.

Combine Your Trips
















- With so many activities going on in our lives today, a lot of travel is required. However, many people make unnecessary trips. How many times have you gone straight home from work and then later gone back out to the grocery store? Try combining your trips together. Go to the grocery store, the bank and the cleaners on your way home from the office. Several short trips from a cold engine start can use twice as much gas as a longer, combined trip to the same places when the engine is warm.

Don't be lazy

- While going through the drive-thru may seem convenient at times, sitting there will cost you. Remember that your gas mileage while idling is 0 miles per gallon. Vehicles with larger engines waste more gas at idle than do cars with smaller engines. Next time, park your car and go inside. Chances are you'll make it out faster anyway.



March 2011


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 	31 		


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.


 **Mar. 3 Forest Stewardship Workshop: Logleaf Pine Forest Restoration & Management.** 8:30am to 3:00pm Central Time, Blackwater River State Forest, Bear Lake Pavilion. \$10 fee includes lunch and materials. Foresters earn 4.5 CFE's. Register online at <http://fsp-workshop030311.eventbrite.com>


 **Mar. 11—13 Florida Ornithological Society Spring Meeting,** Odessa, FL. The meeting will feature presentations on waterfowl, inland and coastal sparrows and an eBird workshop. Membership not required to attend. Please visit <http://www.fosbirds.org/Events/Meetings/Spring2001/FOSMeetingRegistrationForm-Spring2001.pdf> for more details.


Mar. 14—15 &


 **Mar. 18—19 Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business.** UF-IFAS Suwannee Valley Research and Education Center, Live Oak, FL. For more information contact Lydia Von Borstel at 386-362-1725 ext. 109.


 **Mar. 18 2010-11 FL-GA Game Management Update Series, Nuisance Animals.** Trulock Plantation, Thomas/Grady County, GA. Registration is \$25 with lunch and materials included. Details and registration can be found at <http://flgagmus.evetbrite.com>.

 **Mar. 26 Hydroponic Workshop for the Homeowner.** UF-IFAS Suwannee Valley Research and Education Center, Live Oak, FL. For more information contact Lydia Von Borstel at 386-362-1725 Ext. 109.

 **Mar. 26 Beekeeping Short Course** 9:00am to 5:00pm. Receive a complete perspective of the process/expense involved with keeping honey bees as a hobby. This hands-on short course involves working an active hive on Extension Center property. At the end of the course we will demonstrate how honey is "robbed" from the bees and participants will take home a jar of local honey. \$10 registration fee (\$15 per couple) covers all materials. Please visit our website (<http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>) for further details and registration form, or stop by the Extension Office. We now have enough participants registered to hold the course, but we would love to add your name to the list! Don't miss out on this special opportunity!

 **Mar. 30 47th Florida Dairy Production Conference.** Best Western Gateway Grant, Gainesville, FL. Topics will include dairy production and dairy economics. For more information, contact Albert De Vries, 352-392-5594 ext. 227 or devries@ufl.edu.

 **April 1 2010-11 FL-GA Game Management Update Series, Food Plots.** Alford Arm Greenway, Tallahassee, FL. Registration cost is \$25, with lunch and materials included. Details and registration online at <http://flgagmus.eventbrite.com>

 **April 9 3rd Annual Spring Garden Fest** 8:00am to 2:00pm at the Baker County Extension Office. There will be plants and rain barrels for sale, educational gardening exhibits, a rain barrel raffle and plant give-aways. The festival is free and open to the entire community.

The Clover Chronicle

By:

Reneé Gore,
4-H Agent

Rabbit Projects

Children enrolled in the rabbit project have a wonderful opportunity to build their own rabbit project this year online at <http://florida4h.org> under curriculum, individual projects, rabbits. Youth in the project can choose pet rabbit, show rabbit, breeding or met pen type projects. All of the materials and support for the project can be found online, including helpful videos and leader support materials. Jeanette Lee, livestock project club leader for rabbits and poultry, attended training at the Youth Development Institute to learn how to use this valuable internet resource.

Camp Cherry Lake 2011

Camp Cherry Lake provides a place for Baker, Nassau and Madison County youth to spend a week enjoying activities like swimming, archery, canoeing and environmental education projects. Youth, ages 8 to 12, spend the week learning, playing, singing camp songs and traditional overnight camping activities. Cabins along the banks of Camp Cherry Lake give the campers a rustic experience.

This year, the camp theme is 'The Myth, The Legend, The Camp'. Camp costs will be \$200 per individual that includes tuition, canteen snacks each day, a t-shirt and transportation to and from Camp Cherry Lake. Campers will travel by bus to Camp Cherry Lake this year. The cost of Camp can be more economical by splitting the tuition into monthly payments. Camp costs can be deposited in the Extension account for Camp Cherry Lake and held to pay for tuition. Please contact Reneé Gore, Baker County Extension Agent, for more details about the Camp or monthly payment plans.



More Than You Ever

Imagined!



Livestock Projects

Livestock projects are gearing up for the 2011 Fair Season. Youth should have been registered for the Livestock Project by December 31, 2010 and have been attending club meetings to learn about their animals and how to care for them. Fair checks have been released and distributed through the Livestock Club at their meeting in February. If you have not received your market animal proceeds please contact Ms. Reneé at 259-3520.

Speaking of Livestock Projects, the Rigdon boys, Deryk and Brad, have done very well this past season with their cattle. At the state fair youth show they took Grand Champion Heifer, Reserve Champion Heifer, Grand Champion Bull and Reserve Champion Bull. The boys also just returned from the Osceola County Fair where they won Grand Champion Heifer, Grand Champion Bull and Reserve Champion Bull in the Junior class along with Reserve Champion Heifer, Grand Champion Bull and Reserve Champion Bull in the Open show. Congratulations to the Rigdon boys!

Weed Species Spotlight - Dogfennel

Dogfennel is the common name for the species *Eupatorium capillifolium*. This species is a common weed in the southeastern U.S. and has been shown to decrease yield in bahaiagrass pastures. Cattle will typically not graze on dogfennel unless other forage is significantly lacking; however, the leaves contain low levels of tremitol which can cause dehydration in cattle. Dogfennel is dormant January—March. Bolting occurs April—June, flowering from Sept.—October. Fruiting and seed dispersal occur in Nov.—Dec.

Control of dogfennel is best done within 1 month after winter dormancy. Mowing before herbicide application is common and can be beneficial. For plants up to 12 inches in height, apply Weedmaster at 2 pts. per acre. For plants 12—24 inches high, apply Weedmaster at 3 pts. per acre. For large plants (>24 in.), apply Pasturegard at 3 pts. per acre.

Image Source: (top) John D. Byrd, Mississippi State Univ., Bugwood.org,
(bottom) Steve Dewey, Utah State Univ., Bugwood.org

Source: Dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*): Biology and Control, EDIS Publication SS-AGR-224, Sellers, B.A., Ferrell, J.A. and MacDonald, G.E. ©2008



Dogfennel
Eupatorium capillifolium



Baker County Farmers Market

The Baker County Farmers Market will open for the season on March 5, 2011. Please come out and support local growers, producers and crafts-makers at the Baker County Farmers Market. The Market will be in a new location this year: at Memorial Park (next to the football stadium). There will be many attractions on Opening Day and 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 offices at 20 E. Macclenny Ave. The Market will run from March 5 until November 19, 2011.



Baker County Extension Service

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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 County Extension Service Newsletter** mailing list in 2011, please complete the form below and mail it or bring it to our office. Individual program newsletters, such as Horticulture and FCS will continue to be produced individually on an electronic basis. You can renew any newsletter subscription by visiting our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>. Please disregard this notice if you have already sent the First Notice in.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE: _____ **RACE** _____ **GENDER** _____

Please check this box if you prefer to receive the newsletter by email.

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