



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

Since Spring is definitely here many people are enjoying outside activities. I would like to thank Alicia and the Master Gardeners for all of their hard work at the Spring Garden Festival. The event was very successful and allowed many area vendors to get their products to people who want and need them. It is almost time for kids to be out of school and that means that it is 'Camping' season. Please see Ms. Shaina's page for Day and Residential Camp information. 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



Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

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Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



Plant of the Month: Daylilies

True to their name, daylilies produce flowers that last for just one day.

However, each plant produces many

blooms over a period of four to seven (or more) weeks. Modern varieties of daylilies have been developed and hybridized from native Chinese species. Today, plants are available in a wide variety of growth habits, flower shapes and colors.

When selecting a daylily, remember that foliage growth and flower color may affect placement in the landscape. Foliage growth can either be dormant (dies back in winter), evergreen (remains green all year), or semi-evergreen (either dormant or evergreen, depending on where the plant is grown). Daylilies grow in full sun or filtered shade. The darker colored varieties (reds and purples) grow best in partial shade, while light colored varieties (yellows, pinks and pastels) need full sun to bring out their lovely colors.

Daylily beds should be amended with 3 to 4 inches of organic compost each year and fertilized with $\frac{3}{4}$ –1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds (approx. 1-3 cups) of a 12-4-8 fertilizer per 100 square feet each fall, early spring and mid-summer. Pine needles, leaves, or shredded pine bark are

among the most desirable mulches and should be applied in a 2- to 3-inch layer to retain soil moisture. Daylilies are extremely drought tolerant, although prolonged drought can reduce the number and size of blooms. A spectacular display of blooms can be achieved by the weekly application of $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 inches of irrigation or rain.



'Ming Toy'



'Witches Wink'

Some varieties become so crowded over time that flower production is affected. When spaced 18 to 24 inches apart, daylilies will usually not need to be divided for 3 to 5 years. Daylilies can be divided immediately after the flowering season. Just dig the entire clump, shake or wash off the soil, cut the leaves off 6 inches above the crown and divide the clump with a sharp knife. Since most varieties multiply fairly rapidly, you should eventually have plenty of daylilies to fill your yard and some to give away to friends.

Ask Alicia: Garden Q & A

Q: I have two wells on my property—one is very hard and the other is on a water softener. Which one would be better to water my garden with?

A: It's not a good idea to use softened water in the garden since most plants will not tolerate the high levels of salt found in softened water. In this case, you are better off with the hard water. However, since hard water has the ability to raise the soil pH over time (both water testing and soil testing can confirm this), the use of acid forming fertilizers and materials can help prevent high pH problems. For more information, see: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss480> and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss165>

Q: Is pruning your azaleas each year necessary for good flowering?

A: While yearly pruning early in the season can increase the number of flowers, it is not necessary. On the other hand, pruning late in the season (after June) will actually remove some or all of next year's flowers. Therefore, my recommendation is to prune azaleas just after flowering, but only as needed to shape, downsize, or rejuvenate.

Q: Can you suggest some plants for hanging baskets that receive full sun?

A: Depending on your preferences, there are many plants that can hang in full sun. Choices for annuals and perennials are almost endless, but some to consider are ornamental sweet potato, dwarf chenille plant, beach sunflower, periwinkle, 'Silver Falls' Dichondra, and moss rose. Herbs include weeping rosemary, oregano, and mint. Shrub-like selections include bougainvillea, lantana, firecracker plant, false heather, and a compact Mandevilla called Sun Parasol 'Burgundy'.

Baker County 4-H Benefit Auction & Alumni Event

May 16th, 2015

Come Support Baker County 4-H Opportunities... Club Activities, Camp Scholarships, Volunteer Training, School Enrichment, Transportation

Attention 4-H Alumni! Come at 5pm and gather with former 4-H members to reminisce over photos, trophies, and stories!

Dinner and Silent Auction will begin at 6:00 pm; Live Auction will begin at 6:30 pm

There will be a \$5 admission fee, which includes dinner, drink and dessert.

For more information please contact

Shaina Bennett, Baker County 4-H Youth Development Agent at 904-259-3520 or slbennett@ufl.edu



GRANT PROGRAM SOON AVAILABLE FROM USDA TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

The USDA **Value-Added Producer Grant** Program expects to announce a call for applications this April. This is a great opportunity to plan a value-added business or to help fund early stage working capital expenses. Grants of up to \$75,000 for business planning and up to \$200,000 for working capital were made last year.

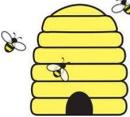
“Value-added” is defined quite generously by the USDA. Not only does it mean changing the physical state of your raw products, but it can mean the fact that you are marketing and branding your fresh product as local, or by your means of production, such as organically grown, or by physical segregation of your raw products, such as non-GMO corn. Projects producing renewable energy from one’s raw products might also be considered value-added.

There is a 50% matching funds requirement for this program. For additional information about the program, please visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>. You can start your application even before the federal announcement by using the toolkit from last year’s application announcement.

Once the announcement is made by USDA, application packets will be due within 60 days.

For additional information about this program or other USDA Granting programs, please contact Kenda Robison or Marty Sander at the Lake City Rural Development office, 386-719-5590.

May 2015

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.



4-H



Horticulture



Agriculture

Upcoming Programs & Events

Programs will be held at the Baker County Extension Office (Agricultural Center) unless otherwise noted.

- May 11** **Growing for Profit**, 9:00am to 3:00pm, Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N. McDuff Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32254. This is the third portion of a three-part series which will provide agricultural producers the tools to succeed at the business of farming. Additional information and registration instructions can be found at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/growing-for-profit-may-11-2015-tickets-15730253612>
- May 13-15** **Florida Beef Cattle Short Course**, Straughn IFAS Extension Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611. For additional information and registration, please visit:
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/beef/index.htm>
- May 14** **Butterfly Gardening**, 5:30pm to 6:30pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL.  Learn about butterflies and the plants that attract them, plus receive a color field guide for identifying Florida wildflowers and butterflies. This class is free and will take place in our newly expanded butterfly garden; all ages welcome. Please RSVP by May 12th by calling 904-259-3520.
- May 16** **4-H Association Benefit Auction & Alumni Event** — Alumni event will begin at 5:00pm; auction begins at 6:00pm. If you would like to make a donation to the auction, please contact Shaina Bennett at 259-3520.
- May 28** **Suwannee Valley Twilight Field Day**, 5:00pm to 8:00pm, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, 8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL 32060. Join the employees and educators of the SVAEC for a chance to tour the facilities and learn about the current greenhouse and field research. The program will feature 4 different tour options. For additional information and to register, please visit:
http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/2015_0528_SVTwilight%20Field%20Day.pdf
- May 29** **Managing Your Queen & Expanding Your Apiary**, 6:00pm to 9:00pm, Clay County Extension Office, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. This course will have information on keeping queen healthy, knowing if you have a good queen and when to replace your queen or split your hives. Additional information can be found at:
<http://clay.ifas.ufl.edu/Agriculture/2015Advanced%20BeekeepingFlier.pdf>



4-H Club Meetings & Events:

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

Livestock Club — 4th Tuesday, Auditorium

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Tuesdays at 7pm— Fabulous Footworks.

Important Dates: May 2015

May 29-31, 2015 Camp Ocala Cost: \$75
Introducing Cool Experiences (I.C.E.) is a weekend activity for 4-H youth ages 11-13. Registration opens April 27th.



Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,
4-H Agent

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All About Animals

June 10-12, 2015

Ages 5-8 (as of 9/1/14) Cost \$30

This CloverBud Camp is for the younger ones. Do you love animals?! Explore animals that live on a farm, in the forest, or in extreme climates! Come make some animal crafts and enjoy themed snacks that will be provided each day.

Deadline to Register: June 1st



June 15-17, 2015

Ages 8+ (as of 9/1/14) Cost: \$40

Do you want to know what goes in to predicting the weather? Youth will explore the ways that weather is measured, create their own weather measurement tools, learn about the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) and meet a meteorologist!

Wild About Weather

Deadline to Register: June 1st



July 06-09, 2015

Ages 12-18 (as of 9/1/14) Cost \$50

What happens when there is an emergency? Who are the first people on the scene? In this camp youth will learn about Baker County's Emergency Personnel. See what is needed to have a career in the emergency services field and get CPR certi-

First Responders Camp

Deadline to Register: June 22nd

July 14-17, 2015

Ages 10+ (as of 9/1/14) Cost \$50

This farm to family camp will teach youth about Florida's Seafood Industry! Learn how food goes from the farm to your family's table. Youth will get to experience how the commercial fishing industry impacts Florida and learn to cook it too!

Seafood Day Camp

Deadline to Register: June 29th



July 20-22, 2015

Ages 8-12 (as of 9/1/14) Cost \$35

Do you like plants and art? This camp puts the two together so you can explore the more artistic side of horticulture! Youth will make and design their own planters, create art with insects, paint with plants, and much more!

Friday July 24th optional field trip to Kanapaha Gardens and Butterfly Rainforest in Gainesville. **Separate \$15 registration fee.**

Budding Artists Camp

Deadline to Register: July 6th



June 22-26, 2015

Ages 8+ (as of 9/1/14) Must be 4-H member as of 3/1.

Baker, Bradford, Hamilton, Madison, and Union Counties

Early registration due May 22: Member \$200; Non-Member \$215 Registration after May 22: Member \$210; Non-Member \$225

Camp Orientation June 8th at 6:00pm, Ag Center Auditorium. Payment plans available upon request.

4-H Camp Cherry Lake

Deadline to register: June 8th



All registrations are available at florida.4honline.com

Payment secures registration, cash or check only at Baker County Extension Office.

Spaces in the camps are limited please register ASAP!

Reminder! Ms. Shaina will
be out of the office until
May 11th!

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District Events is May 9th at Kanapaha Middle School, in Gainesville at 8:30am
.....

Birthdays for May: Wishing all of you a very Happy Birthday!

04- Cody Bennett	11- Asher Jay	20- Emely Bruckner
04- Blaine Turner	12- Ms. Janet Lawson	22- Tori Crawford
05- Haydon Bridges	14- Samantha Fink	26- Matthew North
06- Allison Bennett	15- Aiden McGroarty	27- Virginia Bridges
08- Patrick Ruise	18- Katie Sluski	28- Keilley Sweat



**Baker
County** 

Pond Water Quality

There are many ponds in and around Baker County and now that the weather has warmed up many people are enjoying leisure activities at their favorite body of water. Ponds not only provide for leisure activities such as fishing and swimming but they also provide water for livestock, water for irrigation and aesthetic enhancement. Water quality in the pond can have an effect on any of these activities and it is important to make sure that the water quality in your pond is optimum so that you can enjoy it in the months to come.

Dissolved Oxygen—The amount of dissolved oxygen in the pond will have a direct effect on the health of any fish that are in the pond. Like all animals, fish need oxygen to survive and they use the dissolved oxygen in the water the same way as land animals use the oxygen in the air. A lack of dissolved oxygen is one of the most common causes of fish kills. It is important to note that as water gets warmer its ability to hold dissolved oxygen decreases. This can be very important during hot summer months with little to no rainfall. A majority of the dissolved oxygen in a pond will be produced by the plant life in the pond. Having a few weeds in your pond is actually good for it. However, overgrowth of weeds in a pond can cause issues. If you believe that you need to apply herbicide to your pond, please come and talk with us in the Extension Office for recommendations. Dissolved oxygen in pond water is typically at its lowest point just before sunrise.

pH—The pH of water is the measure of its acidity. Pure water is said to be neutral and has a pH of 7.0. Since many of the soils in Northeast Florida are acidic, ponds that are built on them will typically be acidic as well. Most freshwater fish can tolerate a pH level from 6.0 to 9.0. This is in the slightly acidic to slightly basic range. Like dissolved oxygen, pH levels will vary during the day with the typical low point being in the early morning and the high point in the late evening. Ponds that have a low pH can be treated with dolomitic or calcitic lime to increase the pH of the water,

Alkalinity—Pond water alkalinity is related to its pH. Alkalinity in a pond system refers to the water's ability to buffer changes in its pH (given that the alkalinity is at the correct level). Freshwater ponds should have an alkalinity level of 100mg/L or higher, although most ponds in this area have a hard time reaching that level. It should be noted that it is not advisable to use copper-based treatments for weed control in ponds that have an alkalinity below 50mg/L.

Ammonia—High levels of toxic ammonia are another common cause of fish kills. High ammonia levels can also cause very rapid growth in aquatic plants which can also lead to problems. The main source of ammonia in ponds is via animal wastes, most commonly from the fish themselves. High ammonia levels are usually present when the pond is overstocked and/or the fish are being overfed. Fish feeding is recommended to take place no more than three (3) times per week. If your fish need more food than this, the pond is most likely overstocked. Ammonia levels should be 0.05mg/L or less for a healthy pond. Flushing the pond with well-aerated well water can also help to decrease the ammonia level, but you should test the oxygen level of the water being used to make sure that you are not lowering the oxygen levels in the pond.

There are many commercial water testing kits available for pond owners which will allow you to test the levels of oxygen, alkalinity, pH and ammonia. The Baker County Extension Office offers this service free of charge, but you should set up an appointment to have the water tested by calling 904-259-3520. We also have an informative video that will show you the correct way to take a water sample from your pond. It is located on the Baker County Extension YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/user/BakerCountyExtension/videos>.

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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).



Join The Baker County Extension Service for a class on...

Butterfly Gardening



Thursday, May 14th from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
at the Baker County Agriculture Center

Florida is home to more than 180 species of butterflies. Join us in our newly expanded butterfly garden to learn about butterflies and the plants that attract them, plus receive a free full-color butterfly identification and planting guide.



This class is FREE for all participants; all ages welcome.
Please call (904) 259-3520 to RSVP by Tuesday, May 12th.