Dear Extension Friends,

Thanks to everyone who attended our Spring Garden Festival and congratulations to our raffle winners! We are now gearing up for summer and that means summer camps! Check out what’s in store and register early to secure a spot.

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn
County Director / Horticulture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Garden Festival Raffle Winners

Kids Gardening Gift Basket: Layla, Aiden, & Dacey Williams
Fertilizer Raffle: Josh Taylor

Upcoming Classes & Events

April 30 Stone Fruit Field Day, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, UF/IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Unit, West Hwy 318, Citra, FL. Learn about peach production, low-chill varieties, insect and disease management, fertilization, and tour field plot. Free event. Please RSVP by April 23rd at stonefruitfieldday2019.eventbrite.com or call Staci Sanders at 352-591-2678.

April 30 Annual Forage Grazing & Management Workshop, 9:00 am 12:00 pm, UF/IFAS NFREC–Suwannee Valley, 7580 CR 136, Live Oak, FL. Learn about forage options, extending grazing, fertilization, herbicide use, and establishment. Walking tour through planted cool season forages. $5 pay at the door. RSVP to Justina Dacey at 904-530-6356 or email to: jdacey@ufl.edu

May 4 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, St. Mary’s Shoals Park, Macclenny, FL. Free Admission! Free Giveaways! Landowner assistance, kids activities, and demonstrations. Local, state and federal agencies will be on hand.

May 18 4-H Camp Counselor Training, 10-4, Camp Cherry Lake, Madison, FL. Lunch and transportation provided.

June 10-13 4-H Semi-Homemade Cooking Camp, 9:00am to 2:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office (Ag Center). $60 Registration; Ages 8+. Deadline to register: May 28th. This camp will use pre-packaged and home cooking to make meals that can easily be made.

June 24-28 4-H Camp Cherry Lake, Madison, FL. Ages 8+. Early registration due May 3rd: Member $250/Non-Member $260; Late registration by June 17th: Member $270/Non-Member $280. Spend a fun and educational week away from home!

July 8-11 4-H Chopstix Camp, 9:00am to 4:00pm. Meet at Baker County Extension Office. $60 Registration; Ages 10+. Deadline to register: July 1st. This field trip camp will explore Asian cuisine and culture from the farm to the table!

July 30-Aug 2 4-H University, University of Florida, Gainesville. $260; Ages 14-18. Deadline to register: May 28th.

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Pears With Orange Hair?

Q: My small pear fruits have abnormal white and orange growths on them. What should I do?

A: When developing pears look like they are sprouting hair, this unfortunately means they are infected with a fungal disease called Cedar-Quince Rust. The disease affects pear, apple, quince, mayhaw and other related plants, as well as evergreens like cedars and junipers. For the fungus to survive, it must move from an evergreen host like a cedar to a deciduous fruit tree host. Although black spots develop on the plant within days of infection, orange tubes called aecia won’t develop for weeks after infection. Next, spores are released from the aecia located on the fruit tree and travel by wind to infect new cedar plants. The infected cedars will not show symptoms until the next growing season, but they can manifest as galls or orange ooze present under bark. If you have cedar trees, look for an orange jelly-like growth which is the most obvious stage of the fungus.

This fungus can infect the leaves, young branches and fruits of a pear tree, but most people only notice symptoms on the small, developing pears. While the fruit is ruined for this year, you should attempt to remove as many infected twigs and fruit as possible, removing infected plant material completely from the area. When it comes to management of this disease, you can avoid planting pears around cedar trees and vice versa. However, cutting down all the cedar trees in your neighborhood is not a recommended control measure. For recurring problems (year-after-year infections), there are several fungicide chemicals that can be applied in early spring. When the blossoms of the trees are swelling you can apply a preventative fungicidal spray containing sulfur, captan, chlorothalonil, or mancozeb. While fungicidal sprays do not cure existing conditions, they can be useful for preventing infection. Please read all pesticide labels before application, since there are pre-harvest limitations for some products.

Corn Not Producing

Q: My corn didn’t produce last year. What I am doing wrong?

A: Sweet corn performs best in fertile, well-drained soils in full sun. Planting dates for north Florida are from February to April (depending on location and weather). Beyond these basics, there are two main things to know about growing corn—they are heavy feeders and are wind pollinated. To increase yields, use ammonium nitrate nitrogen to push more growth on the plants before ears begin to form. The general recommendation is to top-dress 40 pounds of nitrogen per acre before the tassel appears in the whorl. This equates to 120 pounds of 33-0-0 ammonium nitrate fertilizer per acre. For backyard garden plots, the amount of ammonium nitrate needed is reduced to 2.75 pounds per 1,000 square feet or approximately 0.3 pounds per 100 square feet of planted corn. This extra growth allows each plant to produce additional ears. As grains of pollen are shed by the tassels that grow from the top of plant, the wind helps the pollen reach the strands of silk that emerge from newly formed ears. To make sure silks are adequately showered with pollen, you’ll need to grow corn in blocks of short rows rather than 1-2 long rows.

Seminole Pumpkin

Q: What can you tell me about the Seminole Pumpkin and when should I plant my seeds?

A: While generally rounded and dull orange, Seminole pumpkins can vary in appearance—even on the same plant. The inner flesh tastes like butternut squash, but sweeter. In north Florida, pumpkins are generally planted in early July. But because Seminole pumpkins take the summer heat and humidity in stride, seeds can be planted in spring. The Seminole people planted the vines below trees, which served as natural trellises, but feel free to use your garden trellis of choice. These plants require little maintenance. Water early in the morning and keep mulch away from the base of the vine to avoid fungal diseases. Within 60 to 90 days, you will be ready to harvest your first crop but your vine should continue producing pumpkins up until the first frost of winter. Seminole pumpkin can be used as a substitute for other pumpkins or butternut squash when cooking. You don’t have to limit yourself to eating the flesh of these pumpkins, though. Young, green fruits can be harvested and eaten without peeling. The beautiful yellow flowers are also edible (raw, stuffed, or fried).

[Seminole pumpkin information adapted from http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/vegetables/seminole-pumpkin.html]
Plastic Flower Pot Donations Needed!

If you have old, plastic nursery pots laying around, please consider donating them to the Master Gardener Program for recycling. We can accept all sizes, but particularly need gallon and quart sized pots. Feel free to deliver them to the front Extension Office. For large quantities, please place them at the back fence gate near the greenhouse. Thank you!
Counselors Needed!
Do you know a high schooler that needs community service hours? Serving as a camp counselor is a fun way to gain experience while earning service hours! Camp counselors and CITs, ages 13+, are needed at 4-H Camp Cherry Lake, June 24 through the 28th. Counselors do not have to be 4-H members to participate. Counselors will receive 6 hours of training to prepare for service, and after camp will receive 40 community service hours. Counselor training is May 18th from 10am-4:30pm at Camp Cherry Lake, transportation and lunch provided.

Community service is one of the best ways to give back! Service learning provides students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real-life situations in their own communities. In addition, service to the community provides a sense of belonging and contribution for youth, that sustains individuals even when the work is difficult. Being a camp counselor is a great way to give back to the community and learn workforce preparation skills, leadership skills, teamwork, and responsibility. Research has shown that involvement in a camp counselor program has a long-term, positive impact on the lives of participants.

4-H Camp Cherry Lake “Adventure is Out There, Arrrgh!” is open to all youth ages eight to 18, as of June 1, 2019. Deadline to register: June 17th, must be enrolled as a 4-H member by April 1st for member prices. Early registration is due May 3rd: Member cost $250; Non-Member cost $260. Late registration is due after May 3rd: Member cost $270; Non-Member cost $280. Price includes all meals, transportation to and from camp, along with a t-shirt and daily canteen. Payment plans are available upon request. Payment secures registration. Contact us by phone: 904-259-3520 or email slbennett@ufl.edu for more information on registration.

4-H Sponsorships Sought
With repairs being made to the Ag Center, this year we are looking for program sponsorship rather than holding a public auction. A contribution would provide partial and complete scholarships for children to attend events, ranging in cost from $110 to $275, like Camp Cherry Lake, 4-H Legislature, 4-H University, as well as help fund volunteer screenings and school enrichment projects.

Levels of 4-H Sponsorship:

◊ Emerald: $300+
◊ Gold: $200-$299
◊ Silver: $100-$199
◊ Bronze: $1-$99

We are requesting that contributions be received by Monday, June 10, 2019 to ensure scholarships can be given for this summer. Please mail or drop off contributions to the Extension Office, 1025 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063. All contributions are tax deductible and a thank-you letter will be mailed to you affirming the contributed amount. Please make checks payable to Baker County 4-H Association.

If youth who are planning to attend any 4-H events would like to help gather donations, please contact Mrs. Shaina.

4-H Club Meetings & Events
- Cloverleaf Cloggers—Sanderson Community Center, Every Thursday. Beginners 6-7pm; Intermediates 7-8pm. No summer meetings
- County Council- 4-H Classroom, May 21 @ 5pm
- Livestock Club— Register Farm, 12846 Turner Cemetery Road Sanderson, FL 32087, May 28th @ 6pm
- Counselor Training @ Camp Cherry Lake May 18th 10-4:30pm
- Initial Market Animal Weigh-In— Baker County Fairgrounds, June 8th, 7am-9am

4-H Clubs Need Help!
We need people to help teach subjects at club meetings. If you or someone you know is knowledgeable about chickens, rabbits, cows, or arts & crafts, please contact Shaina at the Extension Office at 259-3520.
Coyotes: Nature or Danger?

Coyotes have been slowly making their way into Florida over nearly 60 years and have been documented in all 67 counties. Often, residents fear coyotes over concerns of them preying on outdoor pets, having rabies, or posing a threat to humans.

A pair of coyotes (male + female) will occupy one territory, so although it may sound like a pack is haunting the woods around you, it likely is a small number. Litters usually contain 2-12 pups at birth but only 50% survive until adulthood. Once reaching adulthood, litters will leave their parents territory in search of their own mate.

Coyotes diet is made up of 1/3 insects, 1/3 fruit & veggies, and 1/3 meat. Coyotes are opportunistic feeders and will generally not go after prey that is larger than them or difficult to catch. To avoid interactions with coyotes, bring pets in at night, secure any potential food sources, and have motion sensor lights in key areas.

Coyotes, luckily enough, pose little to no threat to the residents of Baker County. Coyotes are small (weighing 28 pounds on average), timid, and are often easily scared off by loud noises or any aggressive motions. Feeding coyotes, whether intentionally or unintentionally, is illegal. We do not want coyotes to view us as a food source. **Feeding coyotes a homemade poison is also illegal, and inhumane.**

Hazing coyotes is an option, but unless an animal is posing a serious threat to you, removal is not generally recommended. Hazing can be done by creating any type of loud noise, whether it be nuts & bolts in a shaker bottle, a gun going off, or anything to scare off the animal. Removal of a pair of coyotes from a territory will only open that territory to another pair, coyotes are very good at repopulating an area. Complete removal of coyotes is almost impossible.

If you ever view a coyote acting suspiciously you can report the incident to FWC Wildlife Alert at 888-404-3922.

Having issues with nuisance wildlife? Give me a call to discuss potential remedies at 904-259-3520 or email at aliciah1221@ufl.edu
NATIONAL WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY
FREE Admission • FREE Give Aways

Saturday, May 4th
9:00AM to 2:00PM
St. Mary’s Shoals Park

BOOTHs PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO LANDOWNERS:
• Baker County Firewise
• Ready, Set, Go!
• 911 Address Signs (EMS)
• BCSO Everbridge Register
• UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners
• State Farm Insurance
• Florida Forest Service
• Baker County Rocks

SCHEDULED EVENTS:
• Turbo Draft From Nearby Pond
• Trolley Ride: Forest Management Activities
• Prescribed Fire Demonstrations

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS:
• Smokey Bear
• Bounce Houses
• FFS Wildfire Prevention Clowns
• Sparky The Fire Dog
• Wildland Firefighter Games

LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES
Fire Apparatus • Forestry Tractors & Equipment
BCSO Command Center • Firewise Trailer • More

StateFarm