The UF/IFAS Extension Office is available to help you with your farming, gardening, landscaping, and 4-H youth development needs by providing educational programming, free consultations and information. Contact us at:

**UF/IFAS Extension Baker County**
1025 W. Macclesfield Ave. Macclenny, FL 32063
Phone: (904) 259-3520  
Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

Hours: M—F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (Closed Noon to 1:00 pm for Lunch)

**County Agents**

Alicia Lamborn  Horticulture Agent  
Shaina Spann  4-H Youth Development Agent  
Alicia Halbritter  Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

**Programs & Events**

- **Online Growing Strawberries** (Self-Paced Course — Free!) Class topics include how to select, plant, and grow strawberries in the home garden. Register here.

- **Nov 17–18 Tomato 101** (9:00am to 4:00 pm each day) UF/IFAS NFREC-SV, Live Oak FL. Learn all there is to know about growing tomatoes in greenhouses and high tunnels! Register here.

- **Dec 9 Microgreens 101** (8:30 am to 2:30 pm) UF/IFAS NFREC-SV, Live Oak FL. Activities include crop selection, maintenance and care, harvesting techniques, marketing and sales. Register here.

- **Online Selling Backyard Poultry Products** (Self-Paced, Online Course) Learn how to start or improve a business selling eggs, meat, or live poultry in the state of Florida. Register here.

- **Online Growing Blueberries & Blackberries** (Self-Paced Course — Free!) Topics include variety selection, care and maintenance, pest management, and even a section on raspberries! Register here.

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How To Maintain Gardening Tools

Follow a few simple maintenance tips to keep your tools in good shape for years to come...

Cleaning & Proper Storage
Tools should be cleaned after use and stored in a dry location. This includes not only large items like shovels and rakes, but also smaller items like pruners and trowels. Remove all soil and hang tools to dry or dry completely before storing them in a bin or drawer. If rust becomes a problem, remove with a steal brush. For more information, see Storing Your Tools.

Disinfecting
Disinfecting and sterilizing your horticultural tools is a good way to prevent the spread of disease-causing pathogens in your landscape. There are a number of products that can be used to disinfect tools and gardening surfaces, and each has advantages and disadvantages. For more information on disinfecting products and their use, see Disinfecting Your Garden Tools. Regardless of which product you choose, being diligent about keeping your tools clean is very important to keeping your plants healthy.

Sharpening
Many of our garden tools benefit from sharpening. Not only do sharp tools require less effort to use but plants recover more quickly from pruning cuts which reduces the chances of rot or infection. When sharpening tools, take your time and remember—the angle matters. The angle, or bevel, that you put on a tool's edge determines how sharp the tool is. However, the proper angle is also determined by the intended use of the tool. Learn more about Sharpening Your Tools or watch this video.

Chain Saw Care
A chain saw can make light work of heavy pruning. But like any garden tool, it needs proper maintenance. Keeping the chain sharp is essential. You can sharpen it yourself, but many people prefer to let a professional do the job. You should also check the tension of the chain often, since it will stretch with use. Your owner's manual will explain how. Many saws automatically apply bar oil to the chain to keep it running smoothly, so remember to fill the reservoir as needed. Don't forget that the spark plug, air filter, and other parts in the engine will need periodic servicing. Finally, prevent future engine problems by emptying the fuel before you store the saw for long periods of time.

Article includes excerpts from UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions.
Using Byproducts to Feed Cattle Over Winter

Byproducts from other industries can help reduce the costs associated with supplemental feeding of cattle, particularly over winter. As they are ruminants, we generally prefer cattle have a diet higher in forage than grain but sometimes it is not feasible to plant or feed dried forage. Check out these alternative feed ingredients to see how you can reduce your feed bill:

**Soybean / Wheat Products**

Feed mills will have a variety of grain products that are byproducts of human food production. These feed ingredients typically consist of soybean meal, soybean hulls (ground or pellets), wheat bran, or wheat middlings, and sometimes other byproducts.

Soybeans are generally used as a high protein supplement, often consisting of crude protein over 40%. Soybean hulls are lower protein (10-12% CP) but provide excellent fiber and minimize rumen acidosis in higher grain diets.

Wheat middlings are 17-18% CP but have a high degree of variability so be sure to get a nutrient test before incorporating into your cattle’s’ diet.

**Cottonseed Products**

Cottonseed products are great feed additives for fiber and sometimes have higher protein contents. Cottonseed hulls are the highest in fiber, averaging over 40% but are low in protein with less than 4% CP. Whole cottonseed is high in protein, fat, fiber, and energy (21% CP, 24% CF). Whole cottonseed is a great addition to most cattle diets to provide the necessary nutrients in most categories. Cottonseed Meal is a byproduct of oil extraction. Meal products are higher in protein (41% CP), moderate in fiber (12% CF) and have a good amount of energy. Cottonseed meal is often used to replace soybean meal in a ration depending on which ingredient is cheaper at the time.

**Citrus Pellets**

Citrus pellets are a by-product of juicing oranges and other citrus. Living in a state with high citrus production means this is one by-product we can get relatively cheaply. Citrus pellets are typically 5-10% protein and range in crude fiber from 5-17%.

Some say that citrus pellets are second only to corn as a source of concentrated feed nutrients since they average a total digestible nutrient content (TDN) over 74% and are a good source of vitamins and minerals. Citrus pellets have a high degree of palatability and cattle really enjoy their addition in feed.

**Dried Distillers Grains**

Dried Distillers Grains are a by-product of alcohol production. Beers and liquors use a combination of grain products and other fruits or vegetables to brew their product, but there is a left-over “mash” we can utilize for cattle. If you are close enough to a brewery you can sometimes acquire wet brewers grains, but these are more difficult to handle and feed. Dried distillers grains have a high protein amount (25% CP), low fiber (8% CF), and a good TDN (82%). Because of the variety of ingredients this product often has a good amount of vitamins and minerals. This is cheaper feed ingredient as breweries need to off-load the product and therefore it is a great addition to cattle feeds.
By: Shaina Spann, 4-H Agent

Holiday Movie Themed Bake-Off & Party

The holiday season is upon us and it is time to start planning what we should bake for the Holiday Bake-Off competition! The purpose of the Holiday Bake-Off is to encourage adults and youth to work together on a project. This is not a traditional 4-H contest where a 4-H member must do all the work themselves. Mixes, precooked, and non-cooked items may be used in the finished product. Work should be done by the youth with supervision, directions and help of an adult. Entries must have a festive holiday appearance.

There are 13 categories:

- Cakes
- Decorated Cakes
- Cupcakes
- Pies
- Candies
- Cookies
- Gingerbread
- Brownies/Bar Cookies
- Breads
- Appetizers
- Lite Recipes
- Honey Recipes
- Specialty Items

Only one entry per child per category. Cloverbuds will not be judged, but will receive a participation ribbon. Products will be judged on appearance, taste and display. Overall winner of each category receives the coveted Golden Spoon! Overall winner of the Bake-off receives the honor of Giant Golden Spoon and prize! All entries (after awards) will be sampled at the Holiday Party.

REMEMBER—"THANK YOU" LETTERS DUE THIS MONTH!

You are going to thank someone for doing something wonderful for you. Remember -- this person or business did NOT have to do this for you! If they purchased your auction animal, OR, if they donated toward your animal, you are grateful. (Put yourself in their place: If you were the one who donated some hard-earned money, etc., you would want someone to thank you!) So, send them a letter, in your best handwriting: Thank you cards are OK, if you include the following in it. The person or business receiving the letter must know:

1) who and what you are, 
2) what you did to get their donation and
3) just how grateful you are!

**These should go to those that purchased your animal AND to those who contributed add-ons. **

Unsealed, Addressed, & Self Addressed Thank You letters are due to the Extension Office by:

- November 30, 2022, exhibitor will forfeit $50 of check amount
- December 21, 2022, exhibitor will forfeit $100 of check amount
- January 6, 2023, exhibitor will forfeit $200 of check amount

4-H Club Meetings & Events

** Holiday Bake-Off December 5, 2022, 8-9am & 6pm **

Our annual Holiday Bake-Off will take place on Monday, December 5th. This allows for time over the weekend to bake your goodies! This is a partnership encouraging youth and adults to work together and make a sweet treat! Participants can enter one item into each category.

NEW Chili Cook-Off Competition!
Entries are $5 each for all ages. Be sure to bring an ingredient list with your entry. Entries are due from 5-6pm.
4-H Holiday Bake-Off Entry Form
Entry Form Must Accompany Each Item
Due December 5th, between 7:30-9:30am

Name: _____________________________ Phone #: _____________________________ Age: ________

Item Category: ________________________________________________________________________________

Item Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Ingredients/Recipe: ___________________________________________________________________________
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You are invited to complete a brief survey regarding the usefulness of the Baker Bulletin newsletter. The information will be used for reporting purposes to help demonstrate the impact of Extension programs. You may also provide comments and topic suggestions for future editions.

To show our appreciation for your input, you may include your contact information at the end of the survey to be entered into a drawing for this year’s gift basket!

Take the survey: https://forms.gle/ssyB52yWeGEokx6Y7