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. Macclesfield, 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)

The Peanut Butter Challenge is coming!
Support the farmers and our local food bank by donating jars of peanut butter to the Baker County Extension Office!

Inside This Issue:
- Peanut Butter Challenge
- Meat Goats
- Lucky Clover 4-H
- Florida's Native Flora & Fauna
- Online Classes from UF/IFAS Extension Baker County
- Strawberry Plant Fundraiser

Programs & Events

October
- Strawberry Class & Plant Sale — See page 6 for class info & plant sale fundraiser details.
- 2023 Ag Irrigation Expo FREE — Enjoy irrigation exhibits, field demonstrations, educational sessions and a tradeshow. Register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-ag-irrigation-expo-tickets-675344913817
- 2023 Persimmon Field Day FREE workshop on growing persimmons in North Florida. Visit the persimmon grove; light refreshments provided. Register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/persimmon-field-day-tickets-694769262567
- 2023 Cold Hardy Citrus Field Day $5 A fun and informative day exploring the world of cold hardy citrus, featuring expert speakers, & touring citrus groves. Register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cold-hardy-citrus-field-day-tickets-664612161867?aff=odddtdtcreator

Online
- See page 6 for online classes: Butterfly Gardening, Growing Strawberries, Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries, Backyard Poultry Basics, and Selling Backyard Poultry Products.
Our county is competing in the Peanut Butter Challenge in October!

Bring unopened peanut butter jars to our office and help us feed our hungry neighbors.
Meat Goats in Florida

Goats are a popular choice for those with smaller acreage operations or wish to have smaller livestock with less financial investment. Meat goats are preferred to dairy goats if you are looking for a financially viable operation since there is little resources for commercial goat dairies.

Breeds

Boer—High growth rate, muscling, lower health traits.
Kiko—Hardy, low input, large framed
Fainting Goats—Smaller framed, very heavy muscled, hardy goats
Nubian—dual purpose (dairy/meat), more meat than most dairy breeds.
Savanna—Growth and survival, little research related to this breed.
Spanish—High sur viability, moderate frame, good mothers

Types of Operations

Commercial—This is the largest segment of the industry. These operations produce animals for the commercial meat market. Breeds may be mixed. Financial sustainability depends on the ability to keep costs low, they are beholden to market prices.
Seed Stock—These operations develop breeding stock for the industry. They strive to develop better animals which will be sold to the commercial market.
Elite—These operations are producing elite/high-end stock that you will find winning livestock shows and in AI catalogs.

Selling Kids

No matter which segment of the industry you decide to participate in you will be generating profit by selling kids (goat babies). Small ruminants are capable of having multiple kids in one birth (2-3) which makes each breeding animal more profitable. Kids sold for meat will generally be taken to market when they reach 70-90 pounds. In north Florida, most profit will be at the livestock auction as there is not a large market for goat meat in the area.

Risk Factors

- Disease & Parasites affecting animals
- Loss of kids at birth
- Lack of marketing ability
- Market price not suitable for profit

Find a sample budget for 25 does HERE
Oklahoma Basic Meat Goat Manual HERE
Basic Goat Production for Kentucky HERE
How Does the Overall 4-H Program Work?

According to The ABCS of 4-H, “The 4-H Youth Development Program aims to be youth-centered, professional-led, and volunteer-delivered. To make this happen, 4-H encourages the teamwork of county- and campus-based faculty, staff, and volunteers to offer youth and adults high-quality personal growth opportunities. Volunteers, as full partners in 4-H, contribute their unique talents, skills, and knowledge of their communities to assist county 4-H faculty in offering a comprehensive local 4-H youth development program.”

What this means is every local 4-H program has a 4-H Professional leading the county program, volunteers delivering high-quality youth programs that are centered around interests of the youth in the community. The 4-H Agent in the county is helping to train volunteers to lead community clubs for members.

How Does 4-H Reach Youth?

4-H provides safe, inclusive, and fun learning environments for youth ages 5-18 through clubs, school programs, short-term (SPIN) clubs, school-age child care programs, day and residential camps, individual study, and instructional videos. These are done in the ‘Learn By Doing’ method, youth-adult partnerships (a relationship with a positive caring adult!), contests, community service and collaborations with other youth organizations.

Why Does 4-H Need Volunteers?

4-H needs volunteers to provide leadership for clubs. A club organizational leader establishes annual club goals and objectives, planning meetings and activities, and disseminates information to club members. Club activity leaders assist with group activities like community service, fundraisers, or social activities (parties, kick-off, etc...). They also work with other volunteers to meet club goals and keep the membership informed of scheduled activities. County Association Members contribute to the success of the county 4-H Youth Development program by assisting the County 4-H Staff and other volunteers with the planning and evaluating educational programs and activities for county 4-H youth. Provides input into the setting of program priorities.

Without volunteers, clubs and community events would cease to exist! That’s why we need YOU! We need caring adults to inspire sparks in our community’s youth to continue the 4-H program. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to the extension office.

We need volunteers!

For Baker County 4-H to grow we need more opportunities for youth and for that to happen, we need more volunteers!

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- October 2 – 4-5pm, Cloverbuddies, 4-H Classroom
- October 3 – 6-8pm, National Night Out, Memorial Park
- October 24-29 – Baker County Fair
- November 16 – 6-7pm, Friendsgiving, Location TBD

4-H Friendsgiving
November 16, 2023 6-7pm
Awards & Recognition Night
Please RSVP by 11/09/23
Bring a family sized side dish!

Members showing at the Baker County Fair or North Florida Fair MUST re-enroll to be bona fide members!
Florida’s Native Flora & Fauna

By: Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

Featuring some of Florida’s native flora (plant life) and fauna (animal life) so you can learn to recognize, appreciate, and protect native species. We’ll also aim to dispel myths and provide tips for managing conflicts with wildlife.

Turkey Tangle Fog Fruit

Don’t you just love plants with fun names? This long-lived native perennial (Phyla nodiflora) also goes by the names Frogfruit, Matchweed, and Capeweed.

And while some may consider it to be weed, the species has become increasingly popular in landscapes where it is used as a low-growing groundcover, a turf substitute in low traffic areas, and even planted in mixed lawns that desire pollinators.

In addition to having a fun name, it is adored for its evergreen leaves, year-round flowers, wide range of soil tolerances, and ease of maintenance (dare I say no maintenance?).

And did I mention pollinators? The purple and white flowers provide nectar for many species of butterflies. Additionally, the common buckeye, phaon crescent, and white peacock butterflies all rely on the species as a larval host plant.

Maxing out its height around 6 inches, it can easily blend in with turf. In fact, you may already have this plant intermingling in the lawn. If not, just ask a friend to share some with you. It can be propagated by division and planted in full sun or partial shade. It grows naturally in dry, moist, or wet sites and readily makes itself at home in disturbed areas (landscapes).

White Peacock Butterfly

The White Peacock (Anartia jatrophae) is a member of the Nymphalidae family, otherwise known as the brush-footed butterflies.

Both males and females appear similar, having white with brown markings and orange margins. The forewing has a small black central spot, while the hindwing has two small black spots and a short tail.

Adults fly low to the ground in search of nectar and larval host plants. Light green eggs are laid singly (or sometimes in small clusters) on host leaves of water hysso (Bacopa monnieri) and Frogfruit (Phyla nodiflora).

Mature larvae are black with small white spots and black spines.

The chrysalis is green.

Common throughout Florida, the preferred habitat for this species includes wet ditches, pond edges, canal banks, roadides, and disturbed sites.

Photo credits: Canva (adult butterflies) and Sara Bright, Alabama Butterfly Atlas (egg, larvae, chrysalis).
Online Courses from UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Butterfly Gardening
Learn the basic garden design elements for a successful butterfly garden.

Growing Strawberry Plants
Includes variety selection, planting, and care through the strawberry growing season.

Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries
Variety selection, planting, and maintenance, plus a section on raspberries.

Backyard Poultry Basics
A beginner's guide to raising chickens.

Selling Backyard Poultry Products
Learn how to start a business selling chickens, other poultry, or poultry products.

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Register Here
Register Here
Register Here
Register Here

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Free
Free
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$20

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