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. Macclesney 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)

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!

Programs & Events

Sept 8  Horticultural Tree Grafting 101 at UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley Farm, 9am-12pm.  Register here:  https://www.eventbrite.com/e/horticultural-tree-grafting-101-tickets-632932918397?aff=erelexpmlt

Sept 14  Follow the Water Follow a drop of water from southern Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico to see first hand how natural hydrology, watersheds, and the urban environment affect Florida and our everyday lives.  This 4-day adventure occurs on consecutive Thursdays from September 14—October 5.  See page 2 for details.

Oct 10  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

Oct 20  2023 Persimmon Field Day FREE workshop on growing persimmons in North Florida. Visit the persimmon grove; light refreshments provided. Register here:  https://persimmonfieldday.eventbrite.com

Oct 26  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.  https://citrusfieldday.eventbrite.com

Online  See page 6 for online classes: Butterfly Gardening, Growing Strawberries, Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries, Backyard Poultry Basics, and Selling Backyard Poultry Products.

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JOIN UF/IFAS EXTENSION AND FOLLOW THE WATER

PROGRAM SCHEDULE*

SEPTEMBER 14
OKEFENOKEE WILDLIFE REFUGE
4159 SUWANNEE CANAL ROAD,
FOLKSTON, GA 31537

CHESSERT ISLAND BOARDWALK TOUR
(10:30-NOON)
BOAT TOUR (2:00-3:45)

SEPTEMBER 21
BIG SHOALS STATE PARK
CR 135 TO SE 94TH ST ENTRANCE
WHITE SPRINGS, FL 32096

BIG SHOALS TRAIL - 2 MILE HIKE
EXPLORE WHITE & SUWANEE SPRINGS (9:00-1:00)
UF/IFAS NFREC-SUWANEE VALLEY FARM TOUR (2:00-4:00)

SEPTEMBER 28
UNIV OF FL - EAST CAMPUS
2046 NE WALDO RD,
GAINESVILLE, FL 32609

SWEETWATER WETLANDS & DEPOT PARK TOURS (9:00-NOON)
NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR & FFL LANDSCAPES (2:00-3:30)

OCTOBER 5
NATURE COAST BIOLOGICAL STATION
552 1ST ST, CEDAR KEY, FL 32625

BOAT TOUR (10:30-12:30)
LIVING SHORELINE TOUR (2:00-3:00)
FLORIDA SHELLFISH TRAIL WALKING TOUR (3:00-4:00)

*RESERVED WEATHER MAKE-UP DAYS ARE 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, AND 10/9

$100 per person
Attendees should plan to attend all four days, carpool if possible, and bring a brown bag lunch.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/follow-the-water-registration-699270716537
Estimating Winter Hay Needs

If you do not intend to plant cool season forages for your livestock to graze this winter, it’s time to start estimating your winter hay needs.

Species Needs

Horses, cows, and small ruminants will have different needs in terms of amount and quality of forages provided during the winter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Percent of Body Weight</th>
<th>Estimated Daily Intake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>20-30 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>1-2%</td>
<td>10-20 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep/Goat</td>
<td>3-4%</td>
<td>2-4 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Purchasing Hay

Purchasing hay can be a tricky street to navigate. There are plenty of different types of grass hays, different size bales, and different types of quality hay. Purchasing a size hay bale that is easily managed on your operation is important. Horse owners often buy small square bales so they can individually feed animals and possible a large round bale in the pasture. Cattle operations generally feed large round or large square bales in order to feed more animals at once.

Price, storage, and availability are all factors that can affect what type of hay is purchased. Choose the type of hay and size of hay that best fits your operation. Find more information on hay bale size and weights [here](#).

Testing Hay

Before hay is purchased, or if you bale your own hay, always have it tested for quality. The University of Florida provides a low cost forage test for producers to get a good idea of the nutrition their animals will be getting from the hay. Collection is easy and many county extension offices offer this service to producers.

Selling hay? Having your hay tested can allow you to use the nutritional results as a marketing tool, think “Proven Quality Hay”.

Learn about [Forage Testing](#) and [Forage Quality](#).

Feeding Hay

Only put out what your animals can eat in a short amount of time. Hay exposed to the elements will decrease in quality and will more be susceptible to waste by the animals. Feeding in a hay ring or hay feeder will decrease
What makes 4-H work for so many?
Everyone has something that they are passionate about. Passions guide us in directions that can give us purpose and bring joy. That is a Spark. Sparks are self-discovered and self-identified. Sparks come from within ourselves and give us energy and direction. Some examples of sparks are:
- Music, art, and sports (skill or talent)
- Vintage films, cars, or fishing (an interest)
- Social justice, environmental advocacy, pet adoption (passionate commitment)
- Empathy, intelligence, spirituality (a special quality)

How do youth find the Sparks?
Through 4-H experiences! 4-H offers so many ways for kids to find what interests them. Whether it is a community club, special interest (SPIN) club, day camp, and even school programs 4-H has something that can help youth find their spark.

When youth find their spark, they will hopefully find a sense of belonging. When they feel like they belong, they stick around. From their 4-H experiences, they will master the subject of that spark. Increase in self-esteem from confidence in their subject area will inspire independence. Lastly, using everything they’ve learned, youth can use their spark to give back to their community.

Sparks create opportunities for youth to have a positive interaction with a caring adult in an area of expertise. What is your spark? How can you share your spark with youth in Baker County? We are in need of 4-H club volunteers. If you or someone you know is passionate about a subject, PLEASE reach out to the Extension Office and we can start a 4-H club! From: https://helping-youth-thrive.extension.org/what-are-sparks/

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
- September 01 – ENROLL FOR THE NEW 4-H YEAR!!!
- September 11 – 4pm, Cloverbuddies meeting, 4-H Classroom
- September 26 – 6pm, Livestock Club, Ag. Center Auditorium
- October 3– 6-8pm, National Night Out, Memorial Park
- October 24-29– Baker County Fair
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.

Sweetgum

The Sweetgum tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) grows in a narrow pyramid to a height of 75 feet and may spread to 50 feet. The beautifully glossy, star-shaped leaves turn bright red, purple, yellow, or orange in early winter. On some young trees, branches are covered with corky projections (like those on the Winged Elm).

Sweetgum makes a nice shade tree, developing a more oval or rounded canopy as it grows older. But this tree is best for large landscapes where it can be placed away from cement and foot traffic. Its resinous leaves can stain cement and car finishes, the roots may lift nearby driveways and sidewalks, and the bur-like fruits (gum balls) are considered by some to be a litter problem.

While the seeds do provide food for wildlife, there is a fruitless cultivar called ‘Rotundiloba’ that may be of interest. Even without the gum balls, this tree provides cover for birds and mammals, and serves as the larval host plant for Luna moths.

Sweetgum grows well in full sun to partial shade, is rarely attacked by pests, and tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions. It is most noted for its fall color, interesting foliage, and hurricane wind resistance.

Red Fox

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is one of two species of fox in Florida (the other being the gray fox). While their red tone can vary from dark chestnut to golden, they are most commonly a rusty red, with white underbelly, black ear tips and legs, and a distinctively white tipped tail. Resembling a small dog, this animal weighs 10-15 pounds and measures up to 2 feet long not including its long, bushy tail.

The red fox is most active at dawn and dusk, hunting small mammals such as rabbits, rats, and mice. If food is plentiful, they may kill more than they immediately need, and cache the extra in the ground.

Breeding takes place in late fall, with breeding pairs usually mating for life. Females give birth to an average of 5 pups, which are blind, helpless, and brownish black in color. They will nurse for the first 2 months and will stay with the adults until about 6 months of age. The red fox usually digs its own burrow (sometimes enlarging a gopher tortoise or armadillo burrow instead), creating a den 20-40 feet long and 3-4 feet deep with multiple entrances.

The red fox avoids heavily wooded areas and is normally found in uplands mixed with fields and weedy pastures. Foxes are beneficial because they control populations of rodents, but may be a nuisance in certain situations. It is best to prevent or solve problems with foxes by securing attractants and deterring the animals from becoming comfortable around residences and domestic animals.

Photo credits: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Photo credit: Canva
**Online Courses**

**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.

*Register Here*

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**STRAWBERRY PLANT FUNDRAISER**

**'Chandler' Strawberries**
- A favorite due to good flavor, high yields, and long harvest season.
- Fruit are large and juicy - suitable for eating fresh, canning or freezing
- Well-suited for North Florida gardens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 plants</td>
<td>$6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 plants</td>
<td>$25</td>
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</table>

All orders come with planting and growing instructions. Plus, we have a free online (self-paced) class available:

**259-3520**