Dear Extension Friends,

As you know, the 2016-2017 school year has begun and that means that it is also time for the Annual 4-H Kick-Off. This year, the Kick-Off will be held in conjunction with the Awards Ceremony at the Ag Center on September 13. Please see page 8 of this newsletter for additional information. For those of you interested in Horticulture entries for the Baker County Fair, please see page 3. Alicia and the Master Gardeners are also having a fundraising effort via the sale of daffodil bulbs. Information can be found on page 3. Thank you for your continued support of your Local Extension Office. As always, if we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis
Director / Agriculture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

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Species Spotlight: River Birch

River birch can grow 50 to 90 feet tall but is often seen 40 to 50 feet. It lacks the white trunk bark associated with other birches but is distinguished by reddish, brown bark peeling off in film-like papery curls providing interest all year round. Yellow fall color is common but typically doesn’t last long.

River birch is hardy and grows rapidly in full or partial sun, but requires an acid soil (otherwise it becomes chlorotic). It is very well-suited for planting along steam banks where it is native and in other wet areas since it tolerates low soil oxygen, flooding, and clay soil. However, this tree also does well in well-drained landscapes especially if planted in low areas.

River Birches are not particularly adapted to heat but make a nice tree if provided with irrigation and plenty of soil space. The River Birch trees planted in the Baker County Arboretum are cultivars called ‘Dura Heat’ which tolerate the heat better and retain their leaves longer into fall. Although growing in sandy soil and receiving little supplemental irrigation after establishment, our trees have quadrupled in size over the past five and a half years.
It’s Time to Get Your Plants Ready for the Fair!

The horticulture exhibit at the Baker County Fair gives local gardeners of all ages a chance to show off their plants. Adult and youth entries follow the same judging procedures but are judged separately, and it doesn’t cost anything to participate. In fact, you can earn some cash for each plant you show plus you’ll receive a free entrance pass to come see what you’ve won. All types of plants are accepted but only qualified entries receive a ribbon and cash prize. It’s easy to qualify, but now is the time to get your plants ready to show.

To qualify: All plants must have been grown by you, and in your possession for at least three months prior to the fair. All plants must be free from disease and insects. Other helpful tips: Remember to rotate your plant regularly so that it looks full and symmetrical. Grooming your plants to remove leaves with holes and dead tips is usually necessary before the show. Entries: You may enter up to 25 plants, but not more than one of the same cultivar or variety of plant. Categories include: Flowering/Fruiting (must have flowers or fruit), Foliage Plants (plants grown for foliage; without flowers/fruit), Special Display (container garden, mounted, or topiary), Bonsai, Cacti & Succulents, Hanging Plants (hanging baskets, mounted plants meant to hang), and Patio Plants.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR HORTICULTURE ENTRIES:

Entries accepted: Tuesday, Sept. 27th from 12pm-7pm & Wednesday, Sept. 28th from 9am—3pm

Plant Pick-up: Sunday, October 9th from 2pm—5pm

Fair Rules: Available from the Baker County Extension Office, and at www.bakercountyfair.com

Questions? Call Cindy Jenkins, Horticulture Chairperson @ 259-9517

Premiums for Ribbons: Blue $3 – Red $2 – White $1 – Award of Merit $5 – Best of Show $10

镣 4-H Members: Receive an extra $1 premium from Ms. Shaina 饽
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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:**

September 2016

Baker County Fair Begins

September 2016
Upcoming Programs & Events

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

Sept. 8-10  Florida Local Food Summit, Orlando, FL. For additional information including pricing and schedule of events, please visit http://www.floridafoodsummit.com/.

Sept. 13  Baker County 4-H Kick-Off and Awards Ceremony, 6:00pm until, UF/IFAS Baker County Extension Service, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL. For additional information, please contact Ms. Shaina or see the information on page 8 of this newsletter.

Sept. 19  Sustainable Agriculture Network Kickoff Event, 3:30pm to 8:30pm, Frog Song Organics (4317 NE Hwy 301, Hawthorne, FL 32640) and Hawthorne Market (7040 US Hwy 301, Hawthorne, FL). Events include: 1) a farm tour to explore future trends for farming and marketing local food, 2) dinner featuring local food, and 3) updates on UF/IFAS resources for sustainable agriculture. For additional information and to register for the event, please visit http://bit.ly/AgKickoff.

Oct. 19-20  HACCP for Florida Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Packinghouses, UF/IFAS Extension Orange County, 6021 South Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32812. Food safety is critical to the fresh produce industry. Please join UF/IFAS professionals for: 1) a discussion of current and proposed legislation, 2) the latest research on produce safety and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs), and 3) the elements of putting together a comprehensive food safety program. For a detailed agenda and for information on registration, please visit: http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/2016_1019_haccp.pdf.

4-H Club Meetings

Baker Creation Explorers—No meetings during summer months.

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Every Monday at 7pm in the Auditorium.

Livestock Club — Contact your club leader for summer club meeting dates.

See page 6 for more upcoming 4-H events

IMPORTANT -LIVESTOCK

4-H MEMBERS SHOWING AT FAIR

• Fair Applications DUE SEPT 5TH
• Cloverpoints and Animal Project Books (for fair) DUE to Ms. Shaina NO LATER THAN SEPT 6TH
Upcoming 4-H Events

September
05– Fair Applications DUE
06– Cloverpoints and Animal Project Books (for fair) DUE
10– 4-H Day at LegoLand
13– 4-H Kick-Off & Awards 6pm
30– Baker County Fair Starts
   Check-in for: Poultry, Pullets, Rabbits, Goats, and OPEN
   Swine Show participants
   Parent/Exhibitor Meeting @ 6:30pm

October
01– Open Swine Show @ 6pm
02– Large Animal Check-in 2-6pm; Exhibitor Meeting 6pm
03– Poultry Show @ 4pm; Showmanship @ 6pm; Rabbits Following
04– Sheep Show @ 6pm followed by Goat Show, Reg. Beef Show,
   Comm. Heifer Show, Steer Show
05– Swine Show @7pm
06–Steer & Swine Market Sale @ 6:30pm
08– Market Pullet Sale @ 11am

Animal Projects to Exhibit/Show at the Fair

In order to show an animal at the fair, members must turn in 1/3 of the corresponding project book. To do that, at least 5 activities along with 2-3 Learning Experiences must be completed from the Achievement Program Page in the project book. In addition, youth ages 5-7 must have 10 cloverpoints with 75% attendance at meetings to exhibit animals, youth ages 8-18 must have 15 cloverpoints with 75% attendance at meetings to show an animal. If youth DO NOT meet these requirements, as stated in the commitment form and signed by both parent and member, said member will not be eligible to exhibit, show, or sell an animal at the fair for the 2017 year.

New 4-H Year!

The new 4-H year starts on September 1st! Remember to re-enroll for the new 4-H year! All enrollments should be completed online and the state membership fee of $20 is to be paid at the time of enrollment (all done online). If you do not have a computer, you can come enroll using the Extension Office Computer Lab and we can send a paper payment form with a check or money order to 4-H State Headquarters. We CANNOT take payment in the office. We have instructions for how to re-enroll and for the payment process. For more information go to: [http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H%20Homepage2.html](http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H%20Homepage2.html)
Factors that Affect Cattle Selling Price

Although the Southeast contains over 50% of the beef cattle operations in the U.S., the majority of those operations (82.6%) have fewer than 50 beef cows. There are many methods that can be used to add value to a cattle crop, but not all producers take advantage of these. Below are a few tips to increase the value of your cattle at sale:

1. **Timing is everything**: Typically, the highest prices are received in June and July with the lower prices in May, September and October.

2. **Take as many to the sale as you can**: Single calves usually bring lower than median pricing and groups that have over 6 calves have a higher than median price.

3. **Castrate**: While the producer cannot predetermine the sex of a calf, on average, bulls and heifers bring lower prices than steers.

4. **Average weight is where it’s at**: Outward appearance has a large effect on sale price. Gaunt or shrunk calves tend to get a higher price per cwt., while fully conditioned calves garner a lower price per cwt.

5. **Buyers place value on what they see**: Polled cattle are the industry norm and there is usually a negative price influence if the cattle have horns. There are also negative price differentials for cattle that do not have a muscle score of 1 or if the frame score is not large or medium.

6. **Price for breeds vary**: Many cross breeds can be beneficial to the seller; however, this is greatly dependent on your market location.

7. **Health status is important**: The visual health status of the calf being sold is just as important as vaccination records. Any general perception by the buyer that the calf is unhealthy for any reason (stale, bad eyes, dead hair) typically results in a severe discount. On the other hand, those calves that were identified as receiving verified vaccinations usually garnered an increase in price.

Using some (or all) of these tips should help cattle producers receive the best price for their cattle at sale time.

Information in this article was adapted from EDIS Publication AN278, *Factors that Affect Calf Selling Price at Marketing*, by Hersom, M. and Thrift, T. ©2012. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an278.

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**UF | IFAS Beef Management Calendar—September**

- Heavily graze pastures to be interplanted to cool season pastures.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check dust bags.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd.
- Deworm the herd if internal parasites are a problem.
- Make sure any replacement purchases are healthy and have been calfhood vaccinated for brucellosis.
- Determine bull replacement needs, develop selection criteria and start checking availability of quality animals.
- Review winter feed supply and feeding plans so that needed adjustments can be made before supplies tighten and prices rise.

http://www.animal.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/beef/documents/BeefCal.pdf
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).

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