

The Baker Bulletin



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. Macclenny 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



sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker



blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco/



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July 2025



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Programs & Events

July 14-17 Sweet Treats Summer Day Camp. [Register Here](#)

July 21-24 Full STEAM Ahead Summer Day Camp. [Register Here](#)

July 7 Master Gardener Volunteer Training Applications Due - see page 2 for details.



Online Florida-Friendly Landscaping - This free, self-paced, online course will guide you through the 9 principles to keep your yard and garden healthy using less time, money, and resources. Register here: <https://forms.gle/o87D5gYauQVQNQ2s7>

Online Butterfly Gardening - Learn the basic garden design elements for a successful butterfly garden. Helpful resources and seeds for your garden included! Free, self-paced course. Register here: <https://forms.gle/o3SVghr6xtvwGQ637>



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Master Gardeners are volunteer educators. With horticultural training from UF/IFAS Extension, Master Gardeners assist the horticulture extension program by working with the public to answer questions, share information, assist with educational projects, and more.

2025 BAKER COUNTY TRAINING DATES

TRAINING

Hybrid class of online & in-person learning

DATES

August 5 – September 23

SCHEDULE

Complete training modules online & attend 4 weekly in-person sessions

In-person Sessions: 9 am to 12 pm on Tuesdays: Aug 12, Aug 19, Sept 2, Sept 9

(Reserved make-up days on Thursdays: Aug 14, Aug 21, Sept 4, Sept 11)

Baker County Extension Office (Ag Center) 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063

COST

\$120 includes student manual, field guides, and all training supplies

APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 7



<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/plants-landscapes-edible-gardens/master-gardener-program/>





HIGHLIGHTS IN HORTICULTURE

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By Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN July



Growing Tips:

Amaranth:

This popular cooking green in the tropics is becoming more utilized in Florida gardens. Plant culinary types and cultivate as you would mustard greens. Some amaranth species also produce an edible seed head that forms a fuzzy spikelet. When heated, the seeds can burst like popcorn.

			North	Central	South
 Easily Survives Transplanting	Gingers, Peppers, Roselle, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches		Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches		Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches
	 Transplant Carefully		Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Yucca		Amaranth, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Sweet Potatoes
	 Use Seeds		Chayote, Cucumbers, Peas (southern), Pumpkin		Chayote

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For more information, please visit
GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Tips

July

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices to have a beautiful landscape or bountiful garden that saves you time, energy, and money.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN:

In a landscape, plants fulfill multiple roles. For example, landscape designers often recommend grouping plants into masses to unify the design of plant beds. Groups of plants are visually pleasing, but this design technique provides environmental benefits as well. Trees planted in groups provide more atmospheric cooling than the same number of evenly spaced, isolated trees and are much better protected in high winds. In addition, trees planted in combination with appropriate shrubs and groundcovers form effective windbreaks and wildlife habitat.

ATTRACT WILDLIFE:

Increase vertical layering by planting a variety of plants in different sizes and heights. This will provide more cover and feeding opportunities for diverse species of wildlife.

WATER EFFICIENTLY:

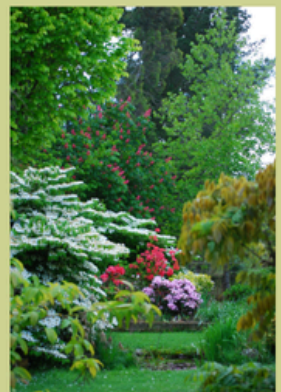
Rain is irrigation, too. Don't water your landscape if it's rained in the past 24 hours or if rain is forecast in the next 24 hours. Purchase a rain gauge to track how much rain your plants are getting. Install a rain shut-off device or soil moisture sensor to override your irrigation system when it's raining.

MANAGE YARD PESTS RESPONSIBLY:

Avoid using broad-spectrum insecticides. They're not selective, meaning they also kill beneficial insects. Instead, choose targeted products, which are designed to harm only specific pests. For example, products that contain an extract of the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* 'Kurstaki' (Bt) are used to manage caterpillars without affecting other organisms.

COMPACTED SOIL:

Many new homes are built on a raised platform of compacted "fill dirt" imported during the construction process. Such compacted soils don't absorb water readily and restrict the healthy root growth of plants. If you have a landscape that has compacted soil, loosen and amend the soil with organic matter as you add planting beds.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION:

<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/>

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BARNYARD BULLETIN

By Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture Agent

Equine Dental Care



It's just as important for your horse to see the dentist as it is for you! Horses teeth are what we call hypsodont teeth, meaning they continually erupt from the gums for their entire life. Horses do have "baby teeth" just like us and gradually lose them, being replaced by their permanent adult teeth. Unlike humans, horses teeth are continuously ground down as they chew grass, hay, and feed, so the teeth are slowly replaced by more tooth hidden below the gum line. Sometimes this grinding action can be uneven or irregular, causing sharp points or uneven wear to form on the tooth surface. These can eventually causes issues in the horses mouth and need to be addressed by an equine dentist. Good oral health is an important part of helping horses live long, happy lives!

Horses should have a dental exam completed once a year to check for sharp points, ulcers, loose teeth or other issues, with their first dental check occurring between 18 and 24 months of age. Your equine dentist may recommend more frequent checks for horses that have an overbite or underbite as these can cause additional complications. A balanced mouth is important for proper chewing and comfort of the horse but it also helps maintain tooth structure as uneven wear causes rapid tooth loss or loose teeth.

During a dental exam your veterinarian or equine dentist will need to sedate the horse. Sedation helps the animal relax, allowing for a safer work environment for the dentist and the animal. Additionally, sedation prevents the animal from reacting to the tools used in the mouth, allowing for more accurate dentistry work to be completed.

Work done in the horses mouth is called "floating". This is when a rasp, or file, is used to manipulate the surface of the tooth, just like a nail file. Sometimes a dentist may use powered dental tools, this is normal. In Florida power dental tools can be used legally by a veterinarian or an equine lay dentist working with a veterinarian, however the vet must be present for sedation & power tool use.

Signs your horse may need a dental exam or their teeth floated:

- Unexplained weight loss
- Chewing abnormally (head tilt)
- Behavioral issues when riding (throwing the head, refusal to take a bit, reluctance to turn or respond to the bit)
- Excessive dropping of feed
- Feed stuck in the mouth, especially between the lips & teeth at the gum line
- Bad breath
- Facial swelling

Extractions may be needed in certain cases, especially if teeth are loose. Extractions should only be performed by a veterinarian and are typically done under mild sedation. Adult horses have between 36 and 44 teeth, so they can afford to lose a few, but excessive need for extractions should be investigated by your veterinarian.





LUCKY CLOVER CHRONICLE

By Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent

Guest contributor Allison Bennett, UF/IFAS

Extension Intern. Majoring in Animal Biology, Allison is a former 4-H member and FFA Chapter Officer.



In the top picture, we visited Okefenokee Adventures where we walked a boardwalk and saw various swamp animals and plants and then got to do a boat tour to get an even closer look of the waterway! (Boat tour is pictured below)



In the picture above, the students got a chance to visit the UF TREEO center and take a peek into microscopes to look at different bacteria in water. Afterwards, we visited the GRU in Gainesville to show the students the full process of how waste water is treated!



In the top picture, the students got to do their part at the river and conduct some water testing with the Riverkeeper. We then traveled to Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens to finish up our last day of the Wonderful World of Water summer camp!



Camp spots **SOLD OUT!**

These day camps will travel to different locations every day! From traversing the Okefenokee to the Alligator Farm to making candied fruit, it's going to be an amazing time! Each day campers will need to bring a lunch with an ice pack and water bottle. We will provide a snack. Transportation for each camp will be provided. Payment SECURES registration and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Camps are Monday - Thursday, 9am-4pm.

July 14-17: Sweet Treats **FULL**

Ages 8-13 (as of 9/1/2024) Cost: \$100

This camp will explore all things sweet to eat! From fruit to candies, it's definitely going to be delicious!

July 21-24: Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead Camp **FULL**

Ages 8-13 (as of 9/1/2024) Cost: \$100

This camp will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. We will take field trips to various places and investigate the amazing realm of the sciences.

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- July 4th - Office Closed
- July 14- Fair Tag-in 7am, BCHS
- July 14-17- Sweet Treats Camp
- July 19- Fair MARKET Tag-in 7am
- July 21-24- STEAM Camp
- **July 22 - Livestock Club Meeting @ 13459 County Road 127 Sanderson, FL 32087**
- July 26- SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC 8am-12am, BC Fairgrounds

REMIND APP

text @bakerco4h to 81010 to be added to the 4-H Remind text group.



Check out our Livestock Google Site!

No Cloverbuddies meetings during summer

Florida Watermelon Rind Pickles

Ingredients

- 3-5 pounds Florida watermelon rind
- 3 cups Florida sugar
- 1 Florida orange, sliced thin
- 3 Florida Key limes, sliced thin
- 1 lemon, sliced thin
- 2 cups water
- 2 cups white vinegar

Preparation









Remove all the rind from the watermelon (after enjoying the melon itself) using a sharp knife. Cut the rind into desired size and shape (1 x 2-inch pieces). Combine all the ingredients into a large vessel and store in refrigerator overnight, or up to 24 hours. Remove from refrigerator and pour all ingredients into a large saucepot. If brine is not totally covering ingredients add more water. Bring to a boil, then reduce to simmer for about 30 minutes or until the rind is soft and slightly transparent. Remove from heat and allow to cool to room temperature. Store in the refrigerator for up to 1 week, serve cold.

<https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-watermelon-rind-pickles>



WHAT IS A MUSHROOM?

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-  Mushrooms are just a small part of larger living things called fungi.
-  They are the 'fruiting body' of fungi.
-  Mushrooms spread the spores which allow the fungus to reproduce.
-  They come in many shapes and colors.
-  They are often found on decaying wood or other decomposing material.
-  There are over 10,000 known mushrooms in the U.S.A.

WHAT DOES A MUSHROOM DO?



Nature's Recyclers: fungi break down organic matter and allow other living things to use the essential nutrients.



Plant Helpers: More than 90% of all plants live in a mutually beneficial relationship with fungi, this is known as a symbiotic relationship. These fungi exchange nutrients for photosynthetic sugars.



Message Carriers: The fungi that live in symbiosis with plants (mycorrhizae) carry chemical 'messages' through the web of mycelium in the soil.



Pollution Removers: Fungi can remove harmful chemicals and reduce the presence of harmful bacteria in water and soil.



Food Source: Mushrooms are the only non-animal based complete form of protein and have many antioxidants, prebiotics, minerals and vitamins.

PARTS OF A MUSHROOM

