

# 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](mailto: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](http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker)



[blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco/](http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco/)



[Agriculture in North Florida](#)

[Baker County Garden Spot](#) [Baker County 4-H](#)

## October 2025



**Strawberry plants** p. 6

**Horticulture** p. 2

**Agriculture** p. 3

**4-H Youth Development** p. 5



**2025 Baker County Fair** p. 6

## Programs & Events

- Online Growing Strawberries - Class topics include how to select, plant, and grow strawberries in the home garden. Access our classroom which includes a 25-minute instructional video, gardening resources, and strawberry recipes. Plus, you can order strawberry plants as part of our annual fundraiser by calling (904) 259-3520. Register here for the free, self-paced course: <https://forms.gle/KtSmstTHMpYJi2kPA>
- 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>



# HIGHLIGHTS IN HORTICULTURE

By Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

## EDIBLES TO PLANT IN October



### Growing Tips:

#### Arugula:

Produces zesty leaves which are used in salads and sometimes cooked. Grow this cool-season crop as you would radish. Popular varieties include 'Speedy' and 'Astro'.

Onions, bunching: Green, bunching onions are started in fall, winter, and spring. Plant them close and thin as needed. Popular varieties are 'Evergreen' and 'White Lisbon'.

	North	Central	South
Easily Survives Transplanting	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Sugarcane, Strawberry, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Strawberry, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
Transplant Carefully	Celery, Mustard, Spinach	Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Spinach	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffa, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach
Use Seeds	Carrots, Onions (bunching), Radish, Turnips	Carrots, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Radish, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips



For more information, please visit [GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu](http://GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)

## Florida-Friendly Landscaping Tips

### October

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.

#### ✓ TIME TO CHANGE YOUR IRRIGATION TIMERS:

With the change in weather, irrigation system timers should be turned completely OFF and used only if needed since plants need less water during the cooler months. Many established plants can survive on rainfall alone and scheduled watering only wastes money and water. If dry conditions during fall and winter have plants looking thirsty, run the system manually rather than on a set schedule.

#### ✓ ELIMINATE INVASIVE PLANTS:

Invasive exotics can aggressively out-compete native plants, contributing to habitat loss. Learn to identify problematic plants and dispose of them carefully. And never plant them!

#### ✓ ATTRACT WILDLIFE WITH SNAGS:

If they do not create a hazard, leave snags (trunks of dead trees) in place. Many birds use snags for perching, nesting, and feeding.

#### ✓ COMPOSTING

Composting can be as simple as placing leaves, grass clippings, and small cuttings behind shrubs or in a hidden corner of the yard and letting nature take its course. Homemade or manufactured compost bins allow you to easily incorporate kitchen waste, such as vegetable and fruit scraps, eggshells, and coffee grounds. For more information about composting, visit <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### ✓ SHORELINE VEGETATION:

The land along the water's edge is called the riparian zone and is often a wetland. If there is no buffer zone along your waterfront, add Florida-Friendly, low-maintenance plantings to help filter out pesticide and fertilizer runoff from adjacent lawn and landscaped areas. Shoreline vegetation also attracts native wildlife and reduces erosion.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

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

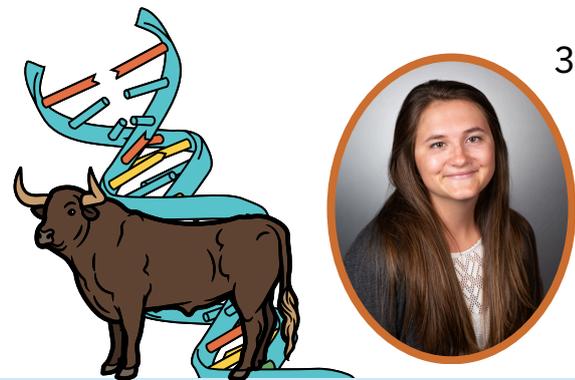


# BARNYARD BULLETIN

By Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture Agent

## Bull EPD's Explained

Learn more here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN388>



Expected Progeny Differences, or EPD's, are tools that we use to allow for the comparison of animals within a breed for their genetic potential as parents for a given trait. This tool has been used in the beef industry for decades and is a common tool in bull selection. As additional information comes available, such as actual records of calves born to a sire, its ancestors progress, or full/half siblings are produced, the accuracy of the EPD values increase. EPDs can be evaluated for dams (mothers) as well, but these are used less in the overall beef industry and are more likely to be found in registered or seedstock operations. EPD values are expressed as positive or negative in relation to a group of animals used as the standard point of reference, called the Breed Average. In this case, a positive EPD value indicates higher than average while a negative EPD value indicates a trait that is less than average. Remember that EPD's are a comparative tool used within the same breed, and values must be adjusted if you are going to compare two different breeds, this adjusted value is called the Across-Breed EPD or AB-EPD.

### Definitions of commonly used EPD metrics:

- Calving Ease Direct (CED): A higher value indicates greater calving ease when bred to first-calf heifers.
- Birth Weight (BW): Indicates a sire's ability to transmit birth weight of calves to his progeny.
- Weaning Weight (WW): Indicates a sire's ability to transmit weaning growth to his progeny, a higher value indicates calves that will be heavier at weaning.
- Milk (Milk): Indicates the additional pounds of calf weaned by a bull's daughters due to milk production. As milk increases, so does a cow's nutritional requirements.
- Yearling Weight (YW): Indicates a sire's ability to transmit yearling weight to his progeny. As yearling weight increases so does mature cow weight.
- Ribeye Area (REA): Predicts the difference in ribeye size of a sire's progeny compared to progeny of other sires.
- Marbling (Marb): Indicates a sire's ability to transmit marbling ability to his progeny. A greater value indicates greater marbling potential in offspring.
- Scrotal Circumference (SC): Predicts the difference in transmitting scrotal size compared to other sires. A larger scrotal size is positively correlated with the fertility of the bull's offspring.

Animal	BW	WW	YW
Bull A	+0.6	+60	+109
Bull B	-0.8	-1	+1

Comparatively in this example:  
 BW: Bull A would produce calves 1.4 lbs heavier than Bull B ( $0.6 - (-0.8) = 1.4$ ).  
 WW: Bull A would have weaned calves 61 lbs heavier than Bull B ( $60 - (-1) = 61$ ).  
 YW: Bull A would have 108 lb heavier yearlings ( $109 - 1 = 108$ ).  
 Bull A produces much larger calves to sell and therefore may be a better investment over time, if his physical traits and temperament are also desirable.



# LUCKY CLOVER CHRONICLE

By Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent



## What is Science Identity?

Science identity is how a person thinks about themselves in reference to the sciences. Did you know that by 4<sup>th</sup> grade 33% of youth believe that science isn't for them? How about by 8<sup>th</sup> grade, it's 50%. Then when you factor in socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, the numbers climb even higher.

Establishing a relationship with the sciences at an early age is important. MIT president emerita Susan Hockfield advocates that exposure to the sciences should be as early as kindergarten.



Fostering STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) for children can be done in many ways. One way is through 4-H programming, with 4-H, youth can experience the sciences through clubs, camps, and 4-H In School projects.

Our 4-H In School STEM programming includes chicken embryology, I Can Be A Scientist, Tomato Time, STEM grab & go activities, and school gardens. Please reach out if you would like to incorporate any of these activities into your class!

**Re-Enroll for  
4-H Today!**

**Register for a 4-H In  
School program here!**

### 4-H Club Meetings & Events

- Oct 06- Cloverbuddies, 4-5pm, Extension Pavilion
- Oct 07- National Night Out, 6-8pm, Duck Pond
- Oct 16- STEAM Club, 4:30-5:30pm, Extension Pavilion
- Oct 20- ALL animals check in at the fair
- Oct 21-26- Baker County Fair
- Oct 23- Baker's Acres, 10am-1pm, Old Mill Farms
- Oct 27-31- Ms. Shaina at National 4-H Agent Conference
- **Nov 07- 4-H Project Reports due by 5pm**
- Nov 03- Cloverbuddies, 4-5pm, Extension Pavilion
- **Nov 13- 4-H Awards & Friendsgiving, 6-7pm, Auditorium**
- Nov 20- STEAM Club, 4:30-5:30pm, Auditorium/Pavilion
- Nov 25- Baker's Acres, 10:30am, Auditorium/Pavilion
- **Dec 08- Holiday Bake & Chili Cook-Off, 6pm**
- Dec 22 & 23- Save the Date! Holiday Day Camp

#### REMIND APP

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



Check out our  
Livestock Google Site!

# BLUE JEANS & AMERICAN DREAMS

## 2025 Baker County Agricultural Fair

OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2025  
[BAKERCOUNTYFAIR.COM](http://BAKERCOUNTYFAIR.COM)



### HOME ARTS

Art, Sewing, Crafts, Foods, Table Setting, plus **new** LEGO exhibit and Chili Cook Off!

[INFO](#)



### HORTICULTURE

Enter your flowering, fruiting or foliage plants plus categories for bonsai, succulents, and more!

[INFO](#)



### VEGETABLE CONTEST

Enter a garden vegetable table display, fruit or vegetable display, or pumpkins!

[INFO](#)



### EGG COMPETITION

Enter 1 dozen eggs from your farm for display & judging!

[INFO](#)

**EACH EXHIBITOR RECEIVES A ONE-DAY ENTRY PASS TO VISIT THE EXHIBITS AND VIEW THE ITEMS AND PLANTS ON DISPLAY.**

**CASH PRIZES AVAILABLE FOR RIBBON WINNERS!**

[MORE INFO](#)

## Important Dates & Times

[MORE INFO](#)

Check-in for all exhibits:  
Saturday, October 18  
@ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Table Setting Event:  
Sunday, Oct 19  
@ 3:30 pm

Baked Goods Entries:  
Monday, Oct 20  
@ 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

# STRAWBERRY PLANT FUNDRAISER

**Choose from 2 varieties:**

## 'Camarosa'

Camarosa is an early short day variety. This vigorous plant produces large to very large firm fruit with good flavor. Interior color of Camarosa is a brilliant red and fruit colors uniformly. Yield potential is high to excellent.

**10 plants - \$6**

**50 plants - \$25**

## 'Fronteras'

Fronteras is a short day variety, meaning it responds to day length, produces the bulk of its fruit in the shorter days of fall and spring. This large, vigorous plant produces moderately firm berries with excellent flavor.

**PRE-ORDER TODAY  
PAY AT PICK-UP**

**259-3520**

**All orders come with planting  
and growing instructions.**

**Plus, we have a free online  
(self-paced) class available:**

