

August 2025

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Dear Bradford County Extension Clientele,

Can You Believe Summer Is Almost Over?

Time really does fly! As summer winds down and the school year begins, we're already looking ahead to the fall season. After such a hot summer, the promise of cooler weather is certainly something to look forward to!

This edition of our newsletter is packed with exciting fall events and programs. With the new 4-H year soon underway, now is the perfect time to ensure that both youth and volunteers are enrolled in 4-H Online.

We hope you find the articles and upcoming opportunities valuable and engaging. As always, we're here to support our Bradford County community, and I look forward to seeing you at our events or around the office.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at Sanders1@ufl.edu.

Warm regards,

Cynthia B. Sanders, Ph.D.
UF/IFAS Bradford County
Interim Extension Director
sanders1@ufl.edu



UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension Staff

Cindy Sanders, Interim CED
Luke Harlow, Horticulture & Small Farms Agent
Lizzie Whitehead, Livestock & Natural Resources Agent
Bailea Scarbrough, 4-H Youth Development Agent
Tamara Dinkins, Office Manager/Administrative Staff
Sterling Griffis, Program Assistant



Brace Your Grass: Hurricane Prepping Your Greenspace

Luke Harlow
Horticulture and Small Farms Agent
harlow1231@ufl.edu



We are now officially in the 2025 hurricane season, and it has been quiet...so far! If you haven't thought about hurricane prepping, now is the time! Along with stocking up on batteries and canned foods, you may want to look outside at your landscape. Hurricanes are nature's own instrument for pruning trees and sometimes that can be hazardous to our homes. Here are some recommendations on preparing your landscapes before an older tree becomes a problem or that hanging basket goes through your home window!



Bird feeder and chimes that could be flying debris.

Photo credit: Luke Harlow

Proactive Pruning: As the saying goes, "The best defense is a good offense." Regular seasonal proper pruning can have a significant impact in reducing the amount of tree/shrub debris you have to pick up or deal with after a hurricane. Assess your trees and shrubs now to remove old, dead, or dying branches that might become hazards later. Some trees you may need assistance with from a tree removal company, especially if they are hanging over the house or are too large to handle on your own. In these cases, I highly recommend you consult a certified arborist who has the training to be able to tackle the problems. You can find a current listing of local certified arborists at the following website: <https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist>

Batten down the hatches: Patio furniture, chairs, garden décor, planters, and tiki torches can all become flying projectiles during hurricanes. Smaller objects like potted planters, garden fixtures and bird feeders should all be secured indoors so they do not become a danger to you or others. Larger items that cannot be moved inside should be moved to a location where the wind will not be able to move them and placed so the impact from the wind is minimized.

Reduce irrigation watering: If you use an irrigation system to water the lawn, landscape or veggie gardens, shut it off before the hurricane hits, unless you have sensitive plants that need immediate watering. The inclement weather is going to most likely bring a large amount of water, and if your irrigation system has already saturated the soil, the incoming rain is going to create a flood risk.

Harvest your food: Any fruit or vegetables left on the plants will most likely become bruised or damaged during the hurricane, so you might as well pick what you can and have a salad during your hurricane party!

Photograph the property: Before the storm, take pictures of the landscape and trees. If you have the unfortunate event of trees coming down on the house or vehicles, having evidence that it was caused by the hurricane can come in handy when going through insurance claims.

For more information on hurricane prepping your landscape or what comes after the storm, visit: <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/weather/hurricane-landscaping/>



Compromised tree structure overhanging the house.

Photo credit: Luke Harlow

FLORIDA PESTICIDE EXAM UPDATE AND UPCOMING PROGRAM

Lizzie Whitehead
Livestock & Natural Resources Agent
liz.whitehead@ufl.edu



The method for administering Florida's pesticide license exams is undergoing a notable change. Beginning October 1, 2025, UF/IFAS will be handing over all pesticide testing responsibilities to FDACS and will no longer be giving pesticides exams in UF/IFAS Extension Offices. FDACS intends to implement a dual-format model: remote-proctored online exams (via Everblue) and in-person testing at licensed third-party testing centers similar to those used for GRE or SAT exams. Under this system, exam fees are expected to range from approximately \$32 for online tests to \$59 for in-person sessions.

To assist license seekers before the transition, the UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension Office is offering a **one-time class on September 4th from 8:30 am-4:30 pm**. This class is designed to provide training for the Private Applicator and Agricultural Row Crop pesticide exams before the change takes effect. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) have been approved—**2 Core plus 2 Ag Row or Private Applicator** categories—for licensed applicators who wish to attend for CEU credits. Pesticide exams will be offered after lunch for those needing to test. If you are taking the exam after the class, please call our office at (904) 966-6224 to reserve a computer or send me an email.

Extension Agents from Bradford and Alachua Counties will cover herbicide chemistry and weed biology, application techniques and equipment, personal protective equipment, worker protection standards, pesticide labeling, and calculations. Lunch will be provided. After lunch, anyone who wishes to take their pesticide license exam that day may do so in the afternoon.

Please note: **No educational materials or notes** are allowed during the pesticide exam. For exam questions requiring calculations, a formulation sheet will be provided.

Registration is available online via this link: <https://pesticidetraining25.eventbrite.com>. Taking advantage of this event allows license-seekers to prepare, earn CEUs, and test before this change takes place.

Let me know if you have any questions by emailing me at liz.whitehead@ufl.edu or calling (904) 966-6224.

PESTICIDE LICENSE

TESTING REVIEW & EXAMS

**BRADFORD COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE**



**2266 N Temple Ave
Starke, FL 32091**

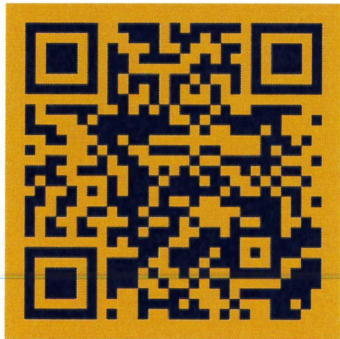
THURS. SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
8:30-4:30 *LUNCH INCLUDED!

REGISTER HERE:

pesticidetraining25.eventbrite.com

4 CEUS *HAVE BEEN
APPLIED FOR*

2 CORE, 2 Private Applicator/Ag Row

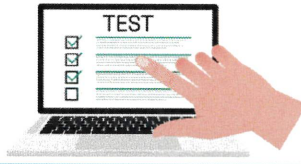


\$30

PRE-REGISTRATION

\$40

AT THE DOOR



*Designed to provide training for
the Private Applicator and Ag
Row Crops pesticide exams.*

Contact the Bradford County Extension
Office with any questions or to pre-register.

BRADFORD (904)966-6299



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BRADFORD COUNTY 4-H NEWS



A New 4-H Year is Here!

Bailea Scarbrough
4-H Youth Development Agent
bgnann@ufl.edu



The new Bradford County 4-H year kicks off **September 1**, and we're ready for another year full of opportunities for our youth to learn, lead, and grow. 4-H is open to all youth **ages 5–18** as of September 1, and we have something for everyone, whether you're passionate about animals, want to develop new skills, or just love trying something new.

We currently have clubs that focus in the following project areas:

- **Livestock:** beef, swine, poultry, rabbit, and goats
- **Shooting Sports:** shotgun
- **General interest clubs** for those exploring different project areas

We'd love to see even more clubs take shape in Bradford County, and that starts with caring adults who are willing to step up as club leaders. If you have a skill, hobby, or passion to share, this could be the year you inspire the next generation through 4-H.

When most people think of 4-H, the Bradford Agricultural Fair comes to mind—and yes, it's a big part of what we do! But 4-H goes far beyond the show ring. Members also have opportunities for:

- **Leadership development** through club officer roles, committees, and other opportunities to help guide their club and county activities
- **Community Service** by giving back through hands-on projects that support local needs and make a difference in our neighborhoods
- **Civic engagement** by taking part in events and activities that help members understand and participate in the democratic process, from local government to state and beyond
- **Special contests and competitive events** that build new life skills and can spark interests members never knew they had. From seasonal bake-offs to creative entries in the 4-H exhibit hall, public speaking, judging competitions, and so many more...these experiences challenge youth to step outside their comfort zones, develop confidence, and discover talents

4-H is more than projects, meetings, and competitions—it's a place where youth discover who they are, what they can do, and how they can make a difference. This new year is full of possibilities, and we can't wait to see our members step up, try new things, and grow in ways they never imagined. Whether you're a young person ready to join or an adult ready to volunteer, Bradford County 4-H has a place for you.

Bradford County 4-H Calendar 2025/2026



August 2025

12 - Bradford County First Day of School
12 - Club Leader Kickoff (Option 1)
18 - Enrollment Opens in 4-H Online
21 - 4-H Club Leader Kickoff (Option 2)

September 2025

1 - 4-H Year Begins
1 - Extension Office Closed (Labor Day)
9 - Bradford 4-H Shotgun Team Interest Meeting

October 2025

5-11 - National 4-H Week (County Wide Service Project)
18 - FL 4-H Shotgun Volunteer Certification Training (Alachua County)
23 - Bradford 4-H Pumpkin Carving Contest

November 2025

11 - Extension Office Closed (Veteran's Day)
14-21 - National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (Louisville, KY)
27-28 - Extension Office Closed (Thanksgiving)
28-Dec 14 - Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign

December 2025

1-5 - Bradford 4-H Holiday Door Decorating Club Contest
9 - Bradford 4-H Holiday Bake Off
13 - Starke Christmas Parade
24-26 & 31 - Extension Office Closed for the Holidays

January 2026

1 - Extension Office Closed (New Years Day)
6 - Bradford 4-H County Events Workshop
16-17 - Bradford Beef Bash 4-H Fundraiser
19 - Extension Office Closed (MLK Day)
28 - FL 4-H Day at the Capitol (Tallahassee)

February 2026

8-16 - Florida State Fair (Tampa)
10 - Bradford 4-H County Events Day (Option 1)
19 - Bradford 4-H County Events Day (Option 2)
20 - Bradford 4-H Photography & Graphic Design Entries Due
25 - Bradford County Fair Exhibit Hall 4-H Entries Due
25 - Livestock Record Books (*first submission*) Due
26 - Bradford 4-H Very Berry Bake Off
27 - Bradford 4-H Table Setting Contest

March 2026

1-8 Bradford County Agricultural Fair
TBD - FL 4-H State Shotgun Competition

April 2026

TBD - FL 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

May 2026

1 - All Record Books Due (*final submission*) and Clover Awards Due!
1 - Bradford 4-H Association Scholarship Application Due
28 - Bradford 4-H Awards Banquet

Summer 2026

TBD - Bradford 4-H Day Camps
June 5-6 - FL 4-H iLead (Gainesville)
June 22-26 - FL 4-H Legislature (Tallahassee)
July 27 - 30 - FL 4-H University

All dates are subject to change.
For the most up to date information,
please reference our Google
Calendar.



SOIL TO SUPPER

HOW TO GROW HEALTHY FOOD
OPTIONS FROM YOUR PATIO

**All classes are FREE
to the public**

Thursday, Sept 18 th , 2025	Seeding veggies and take some home!
Thursday, Sept 25 th , 2025	Planning a garden on a budget
Thursday, Oct 2 nd , 2025	Understand what you need to buy in the stores
Wednesday, Oct 8 th , 2025	How do you keep your plants alive?!
Wednesday, Oct 15 th , 2025	Successful transplanting veggies
Wednesday, Oct 22 nd , 2025	Attracting pollinators and keeping away pests
Wednesday, Oct 29 th , 2025	Edible weeds and plants, using what's around you
Wednesday, Nov 5 th , 2025	Harvesting the fruits of your labors
Wednesday, Nov 12 th , 2025	Cooking with homegrown foods

All meetings will start at the Bradford County Senior Center
1805 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091

All classes will be from 2pm - 3pm

The Healthy Communities of Florida program works to promote healthy eating, active living and lasting wellness and through this program participants will learn everything they need to be successful at growing their own food on a budget from their backyard

This program is sponsored by the Florida Department of Health and the Healthy Communities of Florida, UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension, and the Alligator Creek Garden Club

North Florida Beef Reproduction Workshop

October 1-3, 2025

Santa Fe River Ranch Beef Unit
14202 NW 294th Ave
Alachua, FL 32615

Three day workshop with classroom lectures and chute-side education to improve your beef cattle palpation skills.

Day 1

**Reproduction
physiology, palpation
basics, pregnancy
diagnosis**

Day 2

**Dealing with dystocia,
bull selection,
nutrition, palpation
practice**

Day 3

**Artificial
insemination, heat
synchronization,
palpation practice**

\$300 per person

Scan the QR code to register



***Lunch, materials,
and refreshments
included!***

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Cindy Sanders (352) 955-2402 or
Sanders1@ufl.edu



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4TH ANNUAL SMALL RUMINANT SHORT COURSE

RAM & BUCK TEST

October 10-11, 2025

Gainesville, Florida



2025 UF/IFAS EXTENSION

LIVESTOCK & FORAGES

Field day

OCTOBER 21ST
8:30AM - 2PM

@the **SANTA FE
RIVER RANCH**
in Alachua, FL

Highlights

Drone Herbicide Application Demo

Cattle Tail Bleeding and On-Farm Preg-Testing

Mineral Supplementation

Invasive Weeds

\$20 to pre-
register

\$40 at the door

includes lunch!

sponsored by Farm Credit

Scan with
your phone
or head to:

[https://LFADMISSION
.eventbrite.com](https://LFADMISSION.eventbrite.com)



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NORTH FLORIDA
LIVESTOCK AGENTS GROUP

Contact Lizzie Whitehead
with any questions.

liz.whitehead@ufl.edu

904-966-6224

FOLLOW THE WATER

Thursdays, Oct 23-Nov 13, 2025

Travel through the watershed that
makes life in north FL possible



Participants should expect to come away with a stronger connection and appreciation of the water resources in North Florida. Be prepared for a life-changing experience.