

February 2025

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Dear Bradford County Extension Clientele,

Welcome to the February Newsletter!

We're excited to kick off February with great news! Our office recently wrapped up the Bradford County 4-H Association Beef Bash this past weekend, and what a huge success it was! A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the supporters who helped make this cattle show a fantastic event.

With the cold weather hopefully behind us, we're looking forward to the warmth of spring. There's so much to look ahead to: planting gardens, the upcoming Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Strawberry Festival, the Bradford County Fair in March, and of course, various 4-H events. We hope this newsletter provides valuable information and keeps you informed about some of the exciting Extension programs we have planned for the spring season.

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

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



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

Ready for spring planting? We are, but let's not be too hasty!

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



While the weather feels like it should be spring the last few days, we aren't there completely yet! Seeding or putting plants in the ground right now may not be advised, but we are getting close!

A great option if you are impatient like me, is to start your veggies by seed indoors so that once the weather conditions are right, you can plant them in the ground, giving you a head start. Not only is this cheaper than buying transplants, but you will find there is a great selection and variety of plants available to you.

If you are new to this, timing is everything when it comes to seed starting. If you start seeds indoors too early or late, you may find they are ready at the wrong time or they provide a weak harvest. It is recommended to consult the [UF/IFAS Vegetable Gardening Guide](#) to see recommended dates on planting various vegetables. To start seeds indoors, you will need to look backwards about 4-8 weeks and start the process then.

You will need to purchase a few items to start your seeding including a seed starting tray, a "seed starting" or germination soil mix, seeds, labels, and spray bottle for wetting the soil. Trays typically come in 72 cells, but also 50 or less. While not specifically needed, a cover for the tray helps to regulate and maintain moisture for the seeds. A grow light is also recommended, since indoor lights do not provide the necessary light spectrum that plants need to grow.



I do recommend pre-moistening the soil before you fill it in the cells, so it won't dry out the seeds. You will need to consult with the seed packet or the UF Gardening guide for how deep to plant your seed in the cell. If you accidentally add one or two more seeds in a cell, don't worry. As they start to grow, you can thin these extras out and replant them in a new cell. Once you plant all seeds, use a popsicle stick or similar label to identify what you just seeded, because if you are like me, you probably will forget what seed you planted by the next week. Cover up your seeds gently and use the spray bottle to provide some extra moisture to the cells. Put the cover on the tray and set the tray under your grow light.

At this point, you will need to monitor the moisture of the soil, making sure the tray isn't too wet, but doesn't dry out completely as well. Give it a few weeks and you should see your new seedling start popping out of the soil!

10TH ANNUAL BRADFORD BEEF BASH CATTLE PROSPECT SHOW RECAP



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

The 10th Annual Bradford Beef Bash was a great success, featuring 158 cattle competing in their respective divisions and over 100 exhibitors taking part. We were thrilled to have Ms. Holli Baker from Urbana, Missouri as our cattle judge this year. This event provides an excellent opportunity for local youth to showcase their beef projects ahead of the county fair. Held at the Bradford County Fairgrounds in Starke, FL this year, we are incredibly grateful to everyone who assisted in setting up the arena, ensuring the show ran smoothly, and to those who participated with their cattle projects. The UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension Office relies on the community and volunteers to make this event possible. Funds raised from the event go directly back to supporting the youth, covering expenses for awards, banners, buckles, and cash prizes. Any additional proceeds are donated to the Bradford County 4-H Association to help fund other 4-H events and activities. We are grateful for the many sponsors who supported this event, as their contributions made it all possible!

Platinum Sponsors

Bradford County Board of County Commissioners
Hamilton Custom Services
Attorney Steven A. Bagen & Associate, P. A.

Bronze Sponsors

Blackberry Creek Cattle
C & S Site Prep, Inc.
Bradford County Sherriff's Office
Capital City Bank- Starke
Tatum Brothers Lumber Co.
DLP Bank- Starke

Gold Sponsors

Bradford County Fair Bureau
West Fraser (valued donated of shavings)
Phillip McDonald Plumbing & Septic

Friends and Family Sponsors

Rotary Club of Starke
AAA Hay and Trucking
New River Cattle
Aesthetic Print and Design
Pritchett Trucking, Inc.
Starke Golf & Country Club

Silver Sponsors

Sealing Resources of Jacksonville, Inc.
Stock Signs & Designs
Hersey Corporation
MK Brahman & Whitehead Hay Farm
C R Mechanical, Inc.
Hillandale Quality Feeds
Gator Hunting Club

*Thank you for your
support!*

Congratulations to all of our exhibitors and winners!



Junior Showmanship Winners

Grand Champion: Baler Gill
Reserve Champion: Lane Hartley
3rd Overall: Luke Alvarez
4th Overall: Lawson Roddenberry
5th Overall: Grayson Bird



Intermediate Showmanship Winners

Grand Champion: Reagann Jerrels
Reserve Champion: Ansley Ward
3rd Overall: Adaleigh Wainwright
4th Overall: Miley Walker
5th Overall: Halle Bird



Senior Showmanship Winners

Grand Champion: Rylee Skillman
Reserve Champion: Layla Hobby
3rd Overall: Natalie Clark
4th Overall: Lilly LeMieux
5th Overall: Kate Wainwright



Grand Champion Registered Brahman Heifer: Ansley Ward



Grand Champion Steer: Layla Hobby



Grand Champion Commercial Heifer: Camryn Shear



Grand Champion American Influence Heifer: Sayde Price



Grand Champion Bull: Jessa Hilson

BRADFORD COUNTY 4-H NEWS



Springtime in Bradford County 4-H: A Season of Competition, Celebration, and Achievement

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



As the weather warms and the days grow longer, Bradford County 4-H gets busy. From showcasing hard work at the county fair to testing skills in contests, our members have a very busy and exciting season ahead.

Kicking Off with County Events

Before the Bradford Agricultural Fair rolls in, our 4-H youth will have the opportunity to shine at **County Events in February**. This is a time for members to demonstrate their talents in public speaking, demonstrations, and other creative competitions. Youth who excel in County Events will have the opportunity to advance to **District Events in early April**, where they can compete against 4-H members from surrounding counties. It's an excellent way for youth to build confidence and showcase their hard work.

The Bradford Agricultural Fair: A Celebration of Dedication

The first week of March marks the start of the **Bradford Agricultural Fair**, a highlight of the 4-H year. Our livestock exhibitors will finally get to showcase the animals they have spent months raising and caring for, demonstrating their knowledge and dedication in the show ring.

Beyond livestock, we offer a variety of competitions for all 4-H members. The **Very Berry Bake-Off** gives young bakers a chance to impress judges with their delicious berry-inspired creations. The **Table Setting Contest** allows members to display their creativity and etiquette skills, crafting beautifully themed table arrangements. Meanwhile, the **4-H Exhibit Room** will be filled with projects showcasing everything from arts and crafts to photography, woodworking, plants and more - demonstrating the diverse talents of our members.

4-H Day at the Capitol

Amidst all the spring excitement, Bradford County 4-H members will have the chance to travel to Tallahassee on **March 25** for **Florida 4-H Day at the Capitol**. This annual event allows youth to engage with legislators, learn about state government, and advocate for the impact of 4-H in their communities. It's an exciting experience that helps young leaders develop a deeper understanding of civic engagement.

Spring Means Competition Season

As fair season winds down, many of our 4-H members will continue their competitive journeys. Our **Livestock Judging Team** will stay busy with practice contests throughout the spring as they prepare for the **State Livestock Judging Contest in April**.

For our young equestrians, the **Area North 4-H Horse Show** the first weekend of May is spent showcasing months of training and dedication. This competition allows our horse project members to put their skills to the test and qualify for higher-level events.

Wrapping Up with Celebration and Summer Fun

After a season filled with learning, competition, and growth, we will gather for our annual **4-H Awards Banquet on May 30**. This special evening is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of our members, recognize their hard work, and reflect on an incredible 4-H year. Spring in 4-H is a season of growth, challenge, and achievement. Once this season is over, look out for some exciting announcements on summer day camps and other exciting 4-H opportunities.



February 19

1:30 PM

**Bradford County
Senior Center**

**1805 N Temple Ave,
Starke, FL 32091**

Native Airplants

**With Bradford County MGV
Tom Sutton**





UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER

Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District

Bradford County, Florida
"It's Better in Bradford"

ALLIGATOR CREEK GARDEN CLUB

Join us for the

2025 Tree Giveaway

Wednesday, February 19th, 2025
2:00pm - 6:00pm

UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension Office
2266 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091

All are welcome to come and receive a slash pine to replant. Information about planting and tree care will be provided as well as family fun activities.

Sponsored by The Bradford County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Alligator Creek Garden Club, and UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension. Trees Sponsored by Richard Nath.




UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER

Bradford County, Florida
"It's Better in Bradford"

2025 UF | IFAS Bradford County Master Gardener Spring Fling Plant Sale

Save the dates

03/29/25 and 03/30/25

Over 40 varieties of fruit trees, veggies, native, and Florida-Friendly™ plants will be available

New Location at our booth during the Bradford County Strawberry Festival!

27th Annual Strawberry Festival
Bradford Co Fairgrounds - Starke, FL
March 29 & 30, 2025






North Florida OUTDOOR EXPO

HUNT • FISH • KAYAK • CAMP • HIKE • CONSERVE

Feb. 22, 2025
10am-3pm

 **Cuscowilla**
210 SE 134 Ave
Micanopy, FL 32667

ALL DAY
family **FUN**

GET OUTDOORS!

- All-day activities and education
- Guided, interactive nature tours
- Interact with outdoor vendors and specialists

Raffle for a lifetime hunting/fishing license!



REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://2025NFOE.eventbrite.com>

\$5

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NORTH FLORIDA
LIVESTOCK AGENTS GROUP



2025

Bradford County Fair

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

MARCH 6th @ 9:00AM

BRADFORD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

2300 N TEMPLE AVE. STARKE, FL 32091

OPEN TO ALL 4-H & FFA MEMBERS

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE:

2025BCFCONTEST.EVENTBRITE.COM

**YOUTH WILL JUDGE CATTLE,
SWINE & GOAT CLASSES
6-8 CLASSES, QUESTIONS, &
REASONS**

**Contact: Lizzie Whitehead
UF/IFAS Extension Bradford
County Livestock Agent
liz.whitehead@ufl.edu
904-966-6299**



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Bradford County Florida
EVERYTHING IS BETTER IN BRADFORD

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

DATES & DEADLINES FOR 4-H MEMBERS TO KNOW



FOR THE BRADFORD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR

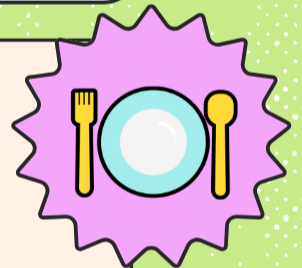


4-H EXHIBIT HALL

Registration Deadline: February 21, 2025 by 4:00 PM
Item Check-In: February 26 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Judged prior to fair. Displayed during fair hours.
Item Pick Up: March 8 - after fair closure

4-H TABLE SETTING CONTEST

Registration Deadline: February 24, 2025 by 12:00 PM (Noon)
Table Set Up: February 28 - 3:30 PM
Judged prior to fair. Displayed during fair hours.
Item Pick Up: March 8 - after fair closure



4-H VERY BERRY BAKE-OFF

Registration Deadline: February 24, 2025 by 12:00 PM (Noon)
Drop Off Entries: February 28 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Awards Ceremony: February 28 - 6:00 PM



THE EVENTS LISTED ABOVE ARE A GREAT WAY TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FAIR EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT EXHIBITING LIVESTOCK!

THESE ARE OPEN TO ALL BRADFORD AND UNION 4-H AND FFA MEMBERS