

JEFFERSON COUNTY 4-H NEWS

April, 2021

Monticello, Florida



Dear 4-H'ers:

Spring is Here! Things are changing all around us and vaccines are coming out and hopefully we will be back to normal with new programs and being able to see new and old faces.

Spring is a great time to get out and enjoy everything coming back to life and waking up. It's a great time to clean up that yard and do a spring cleaning of your house. Why stop there though why not keep going and start new hobbies and get more involved in your community. There are so many people in our community that could use a helping hand so lets help and get out there and show people what 4H is all about.

Keep an eye out for our summer day camps which are being launched in April. There are 3 great camps for all ages. Also don't forget about the 'Land Explorers' club that is in full swing and can be joined at any time.

If you need soil testing or help with agricultural related needs remember we can help or at least point you in the right direction. Feel free to contact us and see how we can help you. See you soon.

Sincerely,
Bryan Danford
Programs Assistant



Extension Staff:

John G. Lilly, Sr.
Agent IV
4-H Coordinator/UF
jgl@ufl.edu

Ana Portillo
Admin Assistant
ana.portillo@ufl.edu

Danielle Sprague
Ag/Natural Resources
Extension Agent I
dsprague@ufl.edu

Dwanda Skipworth
Office Secretary
dskipworth@ufl.edu

Bryan Danford
Program Assistant
Bryan.danford@ufl.edu
Program Assistant

Address

Jefferson County Extension Services
2729 W. Washington Hwy
Monticello, FL. 32344
(850) 342-0187
FAX: (850) 342-3483
E-mail: jgl@ufl.edu
<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/jefferson/>



4H TIDBITS

March Wildlife Happenings

Birds

Bobwhite quail nest now through September.

Migrant warblers concentrate on coasts after cold fronts.

Watch for hummingbirds feeding on blooms.

Grosbeaks, warblers, tanagers, orioles, and thrashers begin returning to North America

Mammals

Black bears begin moving after winter's inactivity.

Long-tailed weasels, minks, and river otters will be born April through May.

Endangered Gray Bats return to Florida caves to raise young.

Manatees move up the Wakulla and St. Marks rivers

Amphibians

Pine barrens treefrogs begin calling.

Reptiles

Most Florida snakes begin mating rituals.

Beginning of Sea Turtle nesting season on Florida beaches.

Alligators begin moving about, seeking new territories and mates

Fish

Largemouth Bass move into shallow water in Lake Talquin.

The cobia migration is in full swing in the Panhandle

Insects

Plant parsley for black swallowtail butterfly larvae to eat.

Plants

Blooming wildflowers and pitcher plants blanket the wet savannahs

March Gardening Guide

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding Plants: New varieties of coleus do well in sun or shade and add color and patterns for months.

Bulbs: Ideal time to plant bulbs such as blood lily, caladium, canna, Louisiana iris and others.

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, oregano, sage, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary.

Vegetables: Continue planting warm-season crops. Mulch well to prevent weeds & water them.

What to Do

Pests: Monitor plants for aphids that feed on tender new growth.

Beneficials: Identify and conserve beneficial insects.

Perennials and bulbs: Divide clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, or herbaceous perennials to expand or rejuvenate garden beds or pass along.

Lawn insects: Rule out cultural problems, such as lack of water, that resemble insect damage before applying a pesticide.

Lawns: Apply fertilizer after new growth has started—usually mid-April for north Florida.

Shrubs: Choose from a variety of shrubs to add to the landscape.

Trees: Consider planting a tree, such as fringetree, Carolina Silverbell, or redbud.

Mulch: Add mulch to minimize weeds and conserve moisture during dry weather. Organic mulches break down and add nutrients to the soil.

Egg Drop Challenge

This month we are doing a fun STEM challenge involving raw eggs and a whole bunch of resources found around the house. It's called the Egg Drop Challenge.

Background Information

Egg drop devices simulate parachutes and other similar features seen in nature, such as the helicopter seeds that are dropped from some trees. The process of slowing decent to resist the force of gravity has been used in a number of instances in history, and continues to be an important science – especially currently around emergency aid and transportation of goods to inaccessible areas.

Use the following items: pipe-cleaner, popsicle sticks, yarn or rope, paper, tissue, cotton balls, straws, newspaper, paperclips, and tape.

Use the above items (can use some or all of them) and protect your egg to fall from the top of a ladder or your second story of your house. If you want you can make multiple apparatuses to see what works best. Then have your parents or carefully drop your egg in your egg dropper and see if it survives. Challenge your parents, siblings and friends to see who can make the best device. Send us some pictures and we will post in our next newsletter. Have fun and enjoy the STEM Challenge!



4H EVENTS

Virtual 5K Race

Our 3rd annual event in which you can run, walk, boat or even ride a horse from any location you choose. You can run, jog, or walk on the road, on the trail, on the treadmill, at the gym or on the track. You get to complete your own race, at your own pace, and time it yourself. And your medal will be shipped directly to you.

This is an honor system race. There is no need to report back, all medals will be mailed out to those who signed up by the end of April. We are so excited for it's popularity and to continue this program. If you have a group that wants to participate and cannot afford the registration fee and they would like a medal, please reach out to Vanessa Spero, Vspero@ufl.edu

Florida 4-H Exec Board Logo Essay Contest.

Are you interested in winning cash and a Chromebook?

Florida 4-H is proud to partner with Charter Communications for a second in a series of essay competitions. The first one allowed us to get the message around the Rural Broadband Gap in front of Florida State Representative Josie Tomkow. This second one will allow us to connect your fascinating thoughts with Governor Ron DeSantis.

Charter Communications is awarding the top three essays again with cash prizes and a Chromebook.

You can go to the website to find out full information about this competition and how to enter or by checking out the attachments below.

Please contact 4hcontests@ifas.ufl.edu with any questions.

County Events

The annual "county events" will be Thursday, **April 8, 2021, starting promptly at 4pm** via Zoom. This will be the platform used to perform your Demonstration Talk or do it on another topic. Other topics include public speaking, Share the Fun, or on Horse Public Speaking.

Age divisions are: *Clover Buds* (5-7 years old), *Juniors* (8-10 years old), *Intermediates* (11-13 years old), and *Seniors* (14-18 years old).

All winners will receive a ribbon the same day and a trophy at the end of the 4-H fiscal year. County Events winners will advance to compete at District Showcase.

Senior 4-H'ers (ages 14-18) winners at District will advance to 4-H University, held at the University of Florida Campus in July.

Time allowance per category are:

Demonstrations: Juniors: 3-12 minutes Intermediate: 3-12 minutes Seniors: 5-12 minutes
Public Speaking: Junior: 3-7 minutes Intermediate: 3-7 minutes Seniors: 5-7 minutes

Horse Public Speaking: Junior: 3-7 minutes Intermediate: 3-7 minutes Senior: 5-7 minutes

Share-The-Fun: Junior: 3-5 minutes Intermediate: 3-5 minutes Senior: 3-5 minutes

If you would like to come to the 4-H Office to work on your demonstration or speeches, please feel free to use any equipment. If you need help with your project, call Mr. Lilly to set up an appointment. **PLEASE START ON YOUR PROJECT NOW!!!**



The Land Explorers Club

We are off and running with our new program which can be viewed here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/the-land-explorers/home>

This is a self paced online project sponsored by 4H and the Jefferson County Extension Office. A new section will be added every two or so weeks. You can join us anytime to see if you are interested in what is happening.

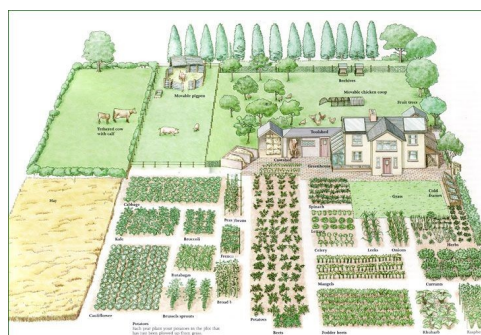
Even as an adult you can always learn more. Come join the fun and explore your land with us!

When: Every Two weeks a new section will be added.

Where: Online with worksheets
Note: this a program which you can ask questions, talk to fellow participants, and have live updates with Bryan (the instructor)
Come join us and join the fun.
Hope to see you there!

Next Sections to be added:

Dangerous Outdoor Critters—4/6
What plants are here? - 4/13
Gardening intro— 4/27
Landscaping intro— 5/11
Water Use/Conservation —5/26
Water Quality = 6/9
Intro to Hunting— 6/23
Intro to Fishing— 7/9



UPCOMING EVENTS

Forest Ecology

Each year, 4-H youth from across the state to test their knowledge of Florida's forests. Six contest stations enable youth to test their identification skills, compass skills, and knowledge of forest ecosystems.

Juniors and Intermediates will compete in the following 4 stations: Tree identification, Forest Health, Forest Ecosystems, and Map Symbols. Seniors will compete in these 4 stations: Tree identification, Forest health, Map symbols, and Forest Management. We will not be covering Plant identification, Tree height, Wildlife, or Compass skills, and we will not have a Quiz Bowl.

Youth will compete in the county extension office at a date to be determined. More details will be available from your 4-H agent. Please register for the contest through [4-H Online](#).

4-H Forest Ecology Contest

Date: April 17-18, 2021

- Quiz Bowl is Saturday at 2:00pm and is live.
- Online contest will be open Saturday at 7:00am to Sunday at 1:00pm
- **Cost:** \$5 for participants.

Register: Registration opens March 1 and closes April 1, 2021. Register through 4-Online. Register online

For questions about how to get registered, contact the state office at 352-846-444

For information about the contest content and what participants need to learn, see the [Contest Stations](#) page.

For information on who can participate and what to expect the day of the contest, see the [About the Contest](#) page.

Gardening in the Panhandle LIVE! 2021 - LAWNS

APR 08, 2021

by Julie McConnell | Disease, Educational Workshop, Florida Friendly Landscaping, Foliage, General Gardening, Herbs, Houseplants, Insects, Invasive Species, Lawns, Pruning, Trees, Turf, Weeds We are back with new topics and guest speakers for 2021! All sessions are Thursdays at noon CDT OR 1:00 P.M. EDT.
<http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/2021/01/14/gardening-in-the-panhandle-live-2021/>

Senior Portfolios

It's that time of year again when portfolios are due to help get a scholarship.

Important Dates:

April 1 at 9am – Portfolio and references open online
June 1 at 4pm – Portfolio and References close online (nothing is accepted after this date and time)

Links to Submit a Portfolio and References – this will not be active until 4/1/2021



NECV

The National Extension Conference on Volunteerism (NECV) is going virtual this year with the same original dates of April 26-28, 2021! This is an national conference with a focus on volunteer engagement, coordination, research findings, and best practices! Adding to the richness, it spans all program areas!

Early-bird registration is currently only for the virtual national conference for only \$50 (for anyone who register during the month of March)! This conference is ideal for volunteer-focused professionals who are serving within all areas of Extension programs To be learn more about the conference and to register, check out the following information-sharing resources:

Conference webpage:
<https://extension.okstate.edu/events/national-extension-conference-on-volunteerism/index.html>

4H at Home

The hands-on educational resources 4-H is known for are now available at home! Whether you're a 4-H member, a virtual learner, a homeschooler or just looking for some quick and fun activities to take your interests to the next level, 4-H at Home has something for everyone. Explore the resources below and join our newsletter to stay updated about new 4-H at Home activities.

<https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Florida 4H Statewide Clubs

Digital Dairy (Virtual Club)

- Virtual club learning about dairy cattle, dairy showmanship and the dairy industry.

Club Leaders: Dianne Spann (fdspann@ufl.edu) and Dr. Chris DeCubellis (cdecube@ufl.edu)

- Meeting Times/Dates – Meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Florida 4-H Virtual Horse Club

- Monthly virtual club meeting for youth interested in horses. Ages 8-18.

Club Leaders: Amanda Pittman (amorgan133@ufl.edu), Kelsey Irvine

- Meeting times/dates: 3rd Monday at 6 on ZOOM

Florida 4-H Virtual Poultry Club

- Meets once per month covering topics related to the 4-H poultry project.

Club Leaders: Chris DeCubellis (cdecube@ufl.edu) and others

- Meeting Times/Dates: Meeting one Tuesday per month at 5:30 pm eastern on Zoom

Florida 4-H Virtual Swine Club

- Meeting once per month covering topics related to the 4-H swine project, general animal science.

Club Leaders: Chris DeCubellis (cdecube@ufl.edu) and others

- Meeting times/dates: TBD on zoom

Teen Life Ready Club

- Teaching “adulting” skills and life skills. Career presentations. Learning tangible skills for life.

Club Leaders: Amanda Pittman (amorgan@alachuacounty.us) & Mary Lee Sale (msale@alachuacounty.us)

- Meeting times/dates: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-7pm on Microsoft TEAMS

Young Leaders Club (Virtual Club)

- Empowering youth to become the leaders they were meant to be. For youth ages 13-18. Meeting once a month via ZOOM.

Club Leaders: Derby Sale (sderby.sale@ufl.edu) and Stacey Ellison (stacey@ufl.edu)

- Meeting Times: Second Tuesday of each month from 4:30-6:00pm EST

Gator Pit is Ready to Launch!

Information can be found at the website: thegatorpit.com.

Virtual features:

Educate: utilizes online learning sessions paired with discussion sessions to prepare students to launch and execute a business.

Sessions cover everything from idea conception to prototyping and will answer most of the questions students have for getting started as an entrepreneur. Sessions are both live and by an auto-tutorial track.

Sessions are for youth who are just getting started or need a refresher on their business plan.

Sessions run Mondays and Thursdays in March, 4-5pm.

Inspire: Gator Pit hosts open discussion sessions between students and entrepreneurs diving deep into key elements of success. These sessions are for youth who have already completely entrepreneurship education in some facet (whether through us or someone else) and will host Q and A with entrepreneurs in the field. Sessions run Thursdays in April, 4-5pm.

Pitch: This Summer, Gator Pit will host a pitch competition with the opportunity to win real prizes. Our team will provide students with training before the event on what to do and what not to do, including opportunities to practice with mentors. Participants will be judged on creativity, passion and business viability. Sessions run Thursdays in May, 4-5pm.

Competition: Virtual in June 2021

Connect: The goal of Gator Pit is to not only provide students with the necessary education to incubate great ideas and foster an entrepreneurial mindset, but to also equip students with tools and connections to be successful post program participation. As such, Gator Pit also includes a virtual incubator space designed for emerging entrepreneurs and their coaches to network with the business community and access various resources.

For more information: contact Vanessa Spero at Vspero@ufl.edu.

Camp Updates

We are excited to announce that this summer Florida 4-H will be able to offer 4-H day camping opportunities at two of its 4-H camps- 4-H Camp Timpoochee (Niceville, FL) and 4-H Camp Cloverleaf (Lake Placid, FL). As we are seeing some return to normalcy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and after a hiatus last summer, we are excited to once again open our doors this summer. While we cannot currently offer overnight lodging for campers this summer based on University of Florida policies, we are eager and committed to serve the young people of Florida with specialized day camp offerings this summer. Facilities will be available to 4-H programs local to that area who would like to enjoy the facilities with their county 4-H day camping programs. Registration information will be available soon!

Jefferson County 4H Day Camps

We are pleased to announce that Jefferson County is planning on having 4H half day camps this summer! Because of Covid 19 we are limiting numbers to 10 youth per camp session. Mark your calendars now. The preliminary schedule is as follows:

June 15 –17; 11-14 yr olds (Food to Fork Half Day Camp)




July 13—15; 8-11 year olds (Nat Resource Half Day Camp)

July 20—21; 5-7year olds (Half Day Camp)

Keep in mind this is preliminary and things can change as we deal with covid and summer schedules. Stay Tuned!



APRIL 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2	3
4 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 	12	13	14	15 	16	17 UF Forest Ecology Contest
18 UF Forest Ecology Contest	19 Happy World Bicycle Day! 	20	21	22 	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 	

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES: 4: EASTER SUNDAY, 5: EASTER MONDAY, 15: TAX DAY