

JEFFERSON COUNTY 4-H NEWS

March, 2021

Monticello, Florida



Dear 4-H'ers:

Winter is almost over and things are starting to reemerge. We are still dealing with a virus that doesn't seem to want to leave.

There are new programs being created including the new Land Explorers Club created to get you to look at your land and live better on it and with it. There are other fun programs through 4H at home and through Florida online virtual projects.

I know we would all like to be face to face again and doing fun in person programs, but right now that is not possible. If I could I'd wave a magic wand and POOF it is gone. These are good thoughts but we have to live under restrictions. Please stay safe and follow the best policies.

Remember the Jefferson Extension Office is still open and we can help you with all your Agriculture needs including doing soil testing and how to get your plants to revive after being dormant for the winter. Keep an eye on our Facebook and website for any updates.

Hope you enjoy our newsletter and if you would like to see anything in future publications let us know! 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

- Migrating birds from Central and South America visit the state.
- Mourning doves nest now through November.
- Carolina wrens are nesting now.
- Summer tanagers and great-crested flycatchers arrive to breed.
- Listen for newly-returned chuck-will's-widows calling after sunset.
- Plant columbine, coral bean, and other wildflowers to attract hummingbirds.
- Wild turkey and quail begin breeding in central and north Florida.
- Quail are breeding in many parts of the state

Mammals

- Look for red foxes emerging from remote beaches.
- Striped skunks are fighting over mates - watch out!

Amphibians

- Male frogs and toads move to ponds, streams, and ditches to breed during rainy nights

Reptiles

- Snakes become active and move to favorite feeding areas

Fish

- Gulf of Mexico Sturgeon spawn in the Suwannee River during the spring or early summer.
- Largemouth bass spawning throughout Central & north Florida
- White bass run up the Ochlockonee River above Lake Talquin.

Hunting and Fishing

- Spring turkey hunters take to the field

Plants & Trees

- Chicksaw plum and crabapples bloom in north Florida
- Bromeliads flower in S Florida

March Gardening Guide

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding Plants: Dianthus and other cool-season annuals continue to flourish. Consider planting warm-season annuals such as angelonia, wax begonia, and zinnia at the end of the month.

Bulbs: Plant dahlia, canna, and gloriosa bulbs for spring and summer flowering. Provide stakes as needed to support growth.

Herbs: Consider growing edible ginger. Plant rhizomes in well-drained soil in full to part sun.

Vegetables: Begin planting warm-season crops, such as beans, tomatoes, squash, and corn, early in the month for late spring harvest. Protect from frost.

What to Do

Azaleas: Prune azaleas when they have finished blooming to reduce their size and improve their form.

Shrubs and trees: Prune when the dormant season ends and new growth begins.

Palms and shrubs: Fertilize palms, azaleas, camellias, and other ornamental shrubs if needed. Choose a fertilizer in which at least 30% of its nitrogen is slow release.

Irrigation: Check your sprinkler system for problems such as broken or misaligned spray heads.



Inaturalist Challenge

Jefferson County 4H has created an online citizen science project through inaturalist called the 'Jefferson County Florida Nature Challenge' that can be found at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/jefferson-county-florida-nature-challenge>.

Join us and help us find and identify all the critters that make Jefferson County, Florida home. This is an ongoing project that we have created that will help you see what is all around you. There are so many wonderful critters and you won't know until you get out there and try.

Observations can be made by A) Taking a picture and then uploading it through the inaturalist website or B) you can download the free app and make your observation there. While on there you can see what others have found around you and it will help you identify what you found. Another great way to identify what you found is google it or use nature apps or books. I can't wait to see what you all find. We would love to see your photos so you can email us as well at: bryan.danford@ufl.edu.

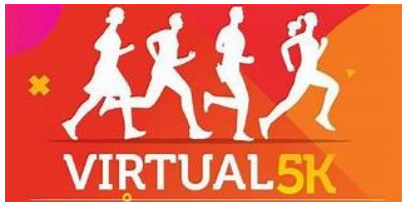


4H EVENTS

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



4-H Youth In Action Awards

Application Now Open

Applications for the 2022 4-H Youth in Action Awards are open! Four dynamic leaders will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship. Open to youth age 15-19. Apply through March 29, 2021 at <https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-youth-in-action-awards/>

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

It's finally here. Join us at our new 4H google site at: <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.

Topics Covered:

- ◆ Who used to be here?
- ◆ Making a Plan for your land
- ◆ Intro to Gardening/Landscaping
 - ◆ What animals are there
 - ◆ What plants are there
 - ◆ Outdoor safety
 - ◆ Wild Animal Safety
 - ◆ Water Use & Quality
 - ◆ Intro to Livestock
- ◆ **Life skills:** time & money management, and more

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!



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.

Hippology Academy 2021

A short, online, course **designed for youth, adults, leaders, and extension personnel** to gain knowledge and practice on horse hippology content.

Content includes practice tests, slides, and digital stations in six areas in addition to twice weekly lectures. **Once available, all content will be accessible 24/7 for the duration of your subscription!**

Starts online February 8 and will be available for 6 months from that time (Aug 8) if you are in the Bronze level; and for 9 months from that time (Nov 8), if you are in the Silver level.

Topics covered will be:

- Equipment and Riding Styles
- Stallion Reproductive Anatomy
- External Parasites
- Pasture Management
- Donkeys
- Equine Breeds

Subscription levels:

Bronze Level = \$50. Access to content until August 8.

Silver Level = \$100. Includes 6-week access to instructors to ask questions, and access to content until November 8.

If you are a Silver level subscriber, each week, the Professor of the Week who provided the material will be available to answer questions on their topic. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to 'pick the brains' of these national experts. You can upgrade from Bronze to Silver at any time.

Registration here: <https://campus.extension.org/course/search.php?search=hippology>

American Youth Horse Council Annual Symposium

Website: www.symposium.ayhc.com/event-details/44th-annual-ayhc-symposium-2021

Date: March 4 – 6, 2021: Virtual

Cost: Early Bird (ends February 4) - \$124; Full Price (begins February 5) \$149; Discounts for members

Detail: Hear from equine experts from across the country and network with fellow equestrians, from the comfort of your home or office. The virtual format will feature the key elements that make the Symposium a unique event that draws attendees who return year after year:

- The virtual Symposium will bring together all facets of the equine industry with a common goal of uniting kids and horses.
- The non-breed / non-discipline specific curriculum will offer equine knowledge that transfers from the book to the barn, providing educational tools that volunteers, teachers, trainers, and coaches can use to teach youth about safe and effective horsemanship.
- Robust networking tools will encourage attendees to make new connections with shared interests through community discussion boards, virtual meet-ups and attendee matchmaking.
- A sponsor showcase and virtual exhibit hall will feature company profiles and videos, exhibitor coupons and interactive tools to connect participants with the latest products and resources in the equine industry.

Schedule: www.symposium.ayhc.com/schedules

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!

March 2021



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2 World Wildlife Day 	3	4	5 Employee Appreciation Day 	6
7	8 Natl Napping Day 	9	10	11	12	13
14 Spring Forward! 	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20 Spring Equinox 
21	22 World Water Day 	23 NATIONAL AG DAY 	24	25	26	27 HAPPY PASS OVER 
28 Palm Sunday 	29	30	31 MANATEE APPRECIATION DAY 			