



# The Mayo Clover Leaf



August 2024

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News

Vol 6 Num 8

## Up-Coming Events

**Thursday August 8,** Forest Management and Wildfire Mitigation Workshop, 9:00-12:00, Lafayette Co. Extension Office

**Tuesday, August 13,** Regional Peanut Field Day, 9:AM-1:00PM, North FL Research Education Center Suwannee Valley

**Wednesday August 14** Chick-Chain Practice, 3:00-4:00, 4-H Classroom

**Wednesday August 21,** Chick-Chain Practice, 3:00-4:00, 4-H Classroom

**Tuesday September 3,** Lafayette County Chic-Chain Show, 6:00PM

**Tuesday September 3,** Community 4-H and Cloverbuds Club. 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

**Tuesday September 10,** Quad County Chic-Chain Show, Madison Co. 6:00PM

**Tuesday September 17,** Anglers Club meeting. Picket Lake, 3:00PM

**Tuesday September 23,** Archery 4-H Club Meeting. 4-H Classroom, 3:00 PM

## 4-H Wraps Up 2024 Summer Camps

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette County 4-H is concluding a vibrant summer season, having hosted several enriching day camps with an average attendance of 18 per session. The season began with the Clover Bud Camp for ages 5 to 7, introducing young children to 4-H through engaging activities. The Farm to Table Camp explored agriculture and healthy eating, while the Marine Biology Camp focused on ocean ecosystems and conservation. Camp USA developed leadership and community skills, and the Youth Homesteaders Camp taught traditional skills like gardening and food preservation. The hands-on 4-H Build It Camp provided older youth with practical construction experience through a tiny house project. Reflecting on a season of growth and learning, Lafayette County 4-H remains dedicated to empowering youth through dynamic educational experiences. For more information on upcoming programs, visit the Lafayette County 4-H website or contact the 4-H office. **See more 2024 Summer Camp Stories and photos inside this issue of The Mayo Clover Leaf.**

## Weather and Agriculture Report

Emily Beach

The rainfall that we have been experiencing this month has been very typical for this time of year. The rain has been a great relief to the many acres of peanuts and cotton we have in the county as well as blackberries, grasses for grazing and hay, and the home landscape.

August is the month for pinching back poinsettias and mums to allow for buds to form for winter bloom. It's also time to start thinking about what you will plant in your fall garden, see the article in this edition about Fall Gardening for more information. Due to the increase and rain and cloud cover, carefully monitor your lawns for signs of disease. To decrease risks and stress, use a sharp mower blade and only remove a third of the grass blade.

**July Rainfall Totals (in)**

	2024	2023	2022
<b>Cooks Hammock</b>	6.74	8.38	8.44
<b>Mallory Swamp</b>	7.9	5.16	6.85
<b>Midway Tower</b>	8.51	6.83	9.35

# Local Youth Construct Tiny House at 2024 4-H Build It Camp

Shawn Jackson

For the fourth consecutive year, Lafayette's 4-H Build It Camp has sparked creativity and hands-on learning for local youth. During the weeklong camp, twelve enthusiastic middle and high school students gathered to immerse themselves in the world of construction, and their hard work culminated in the completion of a new tiny house.

The 2024 camp allowed participants to gain practical experience with power tools, tape measures, and various building techniques. Through this hands-on learning experience, campers learned about different building materials and the nuances of working with lumber. This year's project was particularly ambitious, as the campers constructed their fourth tiny house, a tradition that has become a hallmark of the Build It Camp.

The tiny house, measuring 6 feet by 8 feet and featuring a 36-inch door, is designed with versatility in mind. It can serve as a small utility shed, a garden shed, or even a playhouse, showcasing the campers' skills and creativity. This project not only provides hands-on building experience but also serves as a fundraising effort to support future camps.

The tiny house will be used in a fundraising campaign, with proceeds earmarked to fund next year's Build It Camp. This initiative not only provides financial support but also ensures that the program continues to offer invaluable learning opportunities for future generations.

As the Build It Camp concludes for another year, the participants leave with a sense of accomplishment and newfound skills that extend beyond the construction site. With each tiny house built, the legacy of the 4-H Build It Camp continues to grow, fostering a new generation of skilled, confident builders. As for the agents and volunteers who deliver this camp, it is inspiring to see these young people acquire valuable skills that will benefit them for years to come.

A special thanks goes to Mayo Agri-Metal, whose fourth year of making a generous donation of roofing metal was instrumental in completing another tiny house.



Visit our FB Page for more photos.

UF IFAS Extension  
Lafayette County 4-H

# Summer Camp Wrap Up

## Farm-to-Table 4-H Day Camp

Lafayette 4-H recently held its Farm to Table day camp, engaging youth in an interactive experience focused on healthy eating and local agriculture. Held at various local venues, the camp featured activities like making dill pickles and homemade jelly with local berries, guided by foresters Jared Beachump and Zachary Butler.

A highlight was preparing a meal from scratch, where participants shelled peas, shucked corn, and peeled potatoes, all served on handcrafted woven place mats. The educational journey also included a field trip to the UF IFAS Suwannee Research and Education Center, offering insights into agricultural research and practices.

The camp concluded with a visit to a blueberry farm, where participants picked fresh berries to take home. Overall, the camp successfully promoted healthy eating, sustainability, and a stronger connection to local food systems, leaving both organizers and participants enthusiastic about their hands-on learning experiences.



## Clover Buds 4-H Day Camp

Lafayette 4-H Cloverbuds enjoyed an action-packed week at the 4-H Fundamentals camp, featuring educational activities, crafts, and a special visit to Two Tails Ranch. The camp kicked off with a visit from local celebrity Mr. Austin Phelps, who entertained the children with his book "The Original Mr. Phelps" and his skills in spinning basketballs and making balloon animals.

Throughout the week, the Cloverbuds engaged in creative crafts, making models of various animals, and attended a presentation by Ms. Sharon Pena, who introduced them to live animals like owls, a snake, mice, and hawks. A highlight was the field trip to Two Tails Ranch in Newberry, FL, where they had the chance to interact with elephants, zebras, and lemurs. The camp, designed for kids aged 5-7, offered a fun and educational experience, fostering their early connection to 4-H and wildlife.



# Summer Camp Wrap Up

## Marine Biology Camp

Lafayette 4-H recently hosted a Marine Biology Camp where participants delved into the study of saltwater habitats and marine life. The camp covered a wide range of topics, from algae and bacteria to sharks and whales, emphasizing the intricate relationships within marine ecosystems and how to positively impact them.

In addition to educational lessons, campers engaged in creative activities like decorating oyster shells, crafting sea shell picture frames, and painting beach scenes. Mr. Jay Capasso from UF's Extension discussed the importance of water resources, and the group attended a library program featuring animals from around the world.



## 4-H Camp USA– Becoming Productive

### Citizens

Independence Day celebrations at Lafayette 4-H kicked off early with Camp USA, where young participants explored civic responsibilities and community contributions. The camp provided engaging workshops on the political process, elections, and the workings of government, including how laws are proposed, debated, and enacted.

In addition to learning, the campers expressed their creativity by making patriotic crafts such as stained glass decorations and star-adorned wind chimes, deepening their appreciation for Independence Day and its significance.

A highlight was the field trip to Pickett Lake Campground, where the campers enjoyed an old-fashioned summer cookout with fishing, swimming, and kayaking. The day ended with a festive meal of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, prepared by dedicated 4-H volunteers. The camp's blend of education, creative activities, and outdoor fun not only celebrated Independence Day but also equipped the youth with skills and knowledge for future community engagement.



# Fall Gardening Begins Now

Emily Beach

If you are planning to plant a fall garden, now is the time to get those seeds and/or transplants in the ground!

There are several factors to consider when preparing a fall garden for cold weather crops:

1. Site- your garden needs to be in a well-drained area that gets at least six hours of sunlight daily. If you have space, you should rotate the land that you plant your garden on to help control soil diseases and other pests.
2. Plan- Decide what vegetables you want to grow and make sure you have access to seeds/transplants. There is a long list of vegetables that can be grown during the cooler season. Some popular options for our area are beans, beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, kale, mustard, green onions, peppers, radish, spinach, winter squash, tomatoes, and turnips are all great options for our area during the fall season.
3. Soil preparation- It is worthwhile to amend the soil with organic matter or compost before planting to improve soil health.
4. Irrigation- Young plants need frequent but light irrigation whereas maturing crops need more water but less often. To ensure ample amounts of water when rainfall is scarce an irrigation plan needs to be in place before you plant.
5. Fertilizing- You can have your soil tested to determine nutrient levels but fertilizer grades such as 10-10-10 are typically used in Florida gardens. Use amounts recommended by the fertilizer label and broadcast fertilizer over the plot just before planting and then 2-3 more times during the life of your garden.
6. Pest management- Categorizing pests is very difficult because there is a wide array of types of pests but whatever the type, pests need to be dealt with to ensure the health of your garden. There are many non-pesticide approaches such as controlling weeds, tilling your area, scouting your garden and removing insects or diseased leaves. When pesticides are needed, be sure to read labels to ensure proper applications and efficacy.

Gardening offers fresh air, sunshine, exercise, enjoyment, economic savings and many other benefits! If you have never planted a garden before start small and you can add more over time! If you have any questions about gardening or anything else related to agriculture, natural resources, or youth development please feel free to reach out by emailing [elbeach@ufl.edu](mailto:elbeach@ufl.edu) or calling the office at (386)294-1279.

## First Federal Bank Supports Lafayette 4-H with \$2,000 Donation

First Federal Bank has made a generous \$2,000 donation to the Lafayette County 4-H Association, funding the purchase of a welder, plasma cutter, air compressor, and fabrication supplies. This new equipment will provide older youth in the program with valuable hands-on experience in metal fabrication, potentially sparking interest in future careers. Lafayette 4-H is excited to integrate these resources into their activities, especially for immediate and senior-level 4-H members who have already engaged in the program's Build It Camps.

# Thank You First Federal Bank!

Please join us for a  
**Forest Management  
 &  
 Wildfire Mitigation  
 Workshop**  
 with a fire demonstration 



hosted by UF/IFAS Lafayette Co. Extension and Florida Forest Service

**Thursday; August 8, 2024  
 9:00am-Noon  
 at the Lafayette County  
 Extension Office**

*\*\*\*lunch will be provided\*\*\**

Topics addressed will be: forestry herbicide selection and timing (1 Private Applicator/Ag Row Crop CEU applied for) as well as planning for, performing, and benefits of prescribed burning.

Please call 294-1279 or email [elbeach@ufl.edu](mailto:elbeach@ufl.edu) to register by July 30.



## 4-Hers Share pets at Library Program

Local 4-H youth recently spent a morning at the Mayo Town Library sharing their pets with friends. The program allowed 4-Hers to showcase their pets, explain their care routines, including diet and recreational activities. Pets on display ranged from chickens and dogs to mice and guinea pigs. The event drew many community kids who came to support the 4-Hers and learn more about their animals.



Limited quantities  
**FALL SEEDS 2024**

- Beet, Detroit Dark Red
- Broccoli, Green Sprouting Calabrese
- Cabbage, Golden Acre
- Carrot, Chantenay Red Core
- Cauliflower, Snowball Y Improved
- Collard, Georgia Southern
- Kale, Lacinato
- Lettuce, Parris Island
- Radish, Cherry Belle
- Rutabaga, American Purple Top
- Spinach, Bloomsdale
- Turnip, Purple Top White Globe

*All are open-pollinated*

*Save Your Seeds!*






Three Rivers Library System

## Lafayette and Madison County 4-H Have Fun Learning at Eco Adventures camp

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette 4-H Intermediate and Senior youth had a fantastic time at the Eco Adventures camp, held in partnership with Madison County 4-H. Over three days, the camp focused on minimizing environmental impacts while exploring nature's beauty. The adventure began at Itchetucknee Springs State Park, highlighting conservation and tourism's role in protecting the springs. Youth enjoyed learning more about, and tubing in the crystal clear river that discharges 212 million gallons of water per day, eventually contributing to the flow of the Suwannee River. Day two featured a trip to the Okefenokee Swamp in Fargo, GA, where "Turtle Man" Chris Adams from the GA Park Service led a boat tour and hike through the swamp's unique features. The Okefenokee Swamp, a vast 438,000-acre peat-filled wetland straddling the Georgia-Florida border, features the Suwannee River Sill, a notable part of the trip. Constructed in the 1950s, the 5-mile dike with large flood gates was intended to manage water levels during droughts. However, due to its unforeseen negative impact on the ecosystem, the project was abandoned, and the gates now remain permanently open. The final day took campers to Wakulla Springs State Park for a boat ride along the Wakulla River, where they observed wildlife and manatees, and enjoyed a refreshing swim in the springs. 4-Hers learned about recent initiatives aimed at reducing water consumption in nearby rural and urban communities to address the ongoing low water levels in Wakulla Springs and the Wakulla River.



## 4-Hers Learn self-Sufficiency at Homesteaders Camp

Shawn Jackson

The Youth Homesteaders Camp provided a unique experience where participants learned traditional homesteading skills, focusing on self-sufficiency and a connection to the land. Activities included grinding fresh pork into sausage, making cornmeal and grits with a hand-cranked mill, and crafting jelly from wild Mayhaws and hog plums. Each youth prepared their own homemade buttermilk biscuits, enjoyed with fried sausage and grits, and made butter from scratch. The camp also featured a painting session with local artist Tammy Mowery, who guided the group in creating farm scene canvases. A field trip to Dudley State Park in Newberry offered a glimpse into historical homesteading practices, showing how tasks were once done without modern technology. Everyone had a greater appreciation for today's comforts and a renewed understanding of living more independently.



**FOREST  
MANAGEMENT  
AND WILDFIRE  
MITIGATION  
WORKSHOP  
WITH FIRE DEMO**



AUGUST 8, 2024 9 AM-NOON AT THE  
LAFAYETTE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE.  
PLEASE CALL 294-1279 TO REGISTER.



**REGIONAL  
PEANUT FIELD  
DAY 2024**

August 13 | 9 AM-1 PM  
(lunch provided)

Register on Eventbrite:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peanut-field-day-tickets-921775203447?aff=oddtcreator>

Field Tours on:

- Variety Trial
- Leaf Spot Study
- Fungicide Efficacy Trial
- Nematode Trial
- Chelated Iron Impact Study

Pesticide CEU & CCA credits available

NFREC-SV

8202 CO Rd 417

Live Oak, FL 32060



UF/IFAS is an equal opportunity institution.

**COLD HARDY CITRUS  
Workshop**

September 24, 2024

UF/IFAS Extension Office  
Taylor County

203 Forest Park Dr, Perry, FL 32347



Registration Fee **\$25** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ufifas-taylor-madison-countys-cold-tolerant-citrus-production-workshop-tickets-943758847117>  
\$30 at the door

**Important Chick Chain  
Dates**

August 14 3:00-4:00pm- Practice at the 4-H classroom

August 21 3:00-4:00pm- Practice at the 4-H classroom

September 3 at 6:00pm- Lafayette County Chick Chain

September 10 at 6:00pm- Quad County Chick Chain in Madison



**4-H Senior Commodities**

Lafayette County seniors 60+



Day	Date	Time
<b>Wed</b>	<b>August 28, 2024</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b>Wed</b>	<b>September 25, 2024</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b>Wed</b>	<b>October 30, 2024</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b>Wed</b>	<b>November 20, 2024</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b>Wed</b>	<b>December 18, 2024</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm

IFAS Extension is an equal opportunity Institution. We encourage all races, religions and ethnicities to attend our summer programs. There are scholarships available for minority and underprivileged children. Please contact our office for more information.

**Like us on Facebook**

For daily updates on local IFAS, 4-H News and events, visit and “like” our FB Page:  
**UF IFAS Extension Lafayette County 4-H.**