



# The Mayo Clover Leaf



December 2024

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News Vol 6 Num 12



## Up-Coming Events

**Tuesday December 3,** Holiday Bake-Off during Clover Buds, Community Club Meeting, 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

**Thursday December 5,** Farm Recovery Center, 9:00- 5:00, Mayo Community Center

**Tuesday December 10,** Culinary Club. 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

**Tuesday December 17,** Anglers Club Meeting. 3:00 (Contact office for location)

**Wednesday December 18,** 4-H Senior Commodity Pickup 1:30-4:30

**Tuesday January 7,** Home-school 4-H Club Meeting, 10:00 PM 4-H Classroom

**Tuesday January 7,** Community/Cloverbud meeting 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

## Timber Production Meeting held at Extension Office

Emily Beach

On November 18, landowners met together to hear about herbicide options and timing, wildfire mitigation options, insect and disease detection, and assistance programs due to hurricane damage. Attendees had an opportunity to hear from our County Forester, Jared Beauchamp along with the Madison County Forester, Zach Butler and the Suwannee County Forester, Jacob Earnest. The importance of choosing the correct herbicide for the type of pine trees planted along with the weeds that are being targeted was stressed to ensure efficacy of applications and considering the cost associated with chemical applications. Along with hearing information presented, the participants were able to hear from each other about management practices and decision-making processes.

If you have any questions about any of these topics, please feel free to contact me at [elbeach@ufl.edu](mailto:elbeach@ufl.edu) or call the office (386)590-2489.



*Lafayette County Extension Office*

wishes you a



# Annual Farm Judging Contest a success

Emily Beach

On Friday, November 8, 2024 the Lafayette County Extension Office hosted the annual farm judging contest. There were 67 4-H and FFA members from Lafayette, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Taylor, Dixie, and Madison counties that came to participate in the contest. The first portion of the day was spent evaluating animals and commodities based off industry standards and guidelines. The evaluation classes were Beef Heifers, Market Swine, Laying Hens, Dairy Heifers, corn, peanuts, hay, tobacco, and silage. The evaluation portion is based on individual work but scored with a team. The second part of the day was spent in an individual contest called Farm Manager. In this contest, members must correctly identify weeds, insects, feeds, and tools that are important in agriculture and then take a general agricultural knowledge test. The members were able to then have a time of fellowship and getting to know each other with a pork sandwich lunch. It was a great day with beautiful weather for an outdoor event!

In the last couple of months leading up to the contest, these teams have spent many hours preparing by learning about industry standards for the animals and commodities they would see as well as how to properly evaluate them. This is not an easy task considering the wide array of animals and commodities. These kids and their leaders are taking a snapshot at many different facets of agriculture and while having a broad knowledge base is important- it is more difficult to learn about so many topics rather than just having a narrow focus. This contest of course teaches the members about agriculture, but it also allows for them to be part of a team, use critical thinking skills, and see a commitment through. As in most cases, being involved in and educated about agriculture naturally engages those skills that are going to have positive impacts on these youth forever.

We are very thankful to those that participated in the contest and to those that helped make it happen. Many people were involved in the gathering and delivering of the animals and commodities for use on the day of the contest.



Lafayette 4-H team members were (front to back; left to right) Ava Keen, Curt Sanders, Brynlee Walker, Emilee Elizabeth Jackson, Sharon Sanders, Jayda Hendrick, Justin Swinson Jr., AJ Swinson.



## **2024 Lafayette Farm Judging Results**

### **Senior Team Farm Judging Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Dixie FFA; Abby Whitehead, Biana McCoy, Gracelyn Morrow, Karly Watson

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Branford FFA; Peyton McCook, Natalie Clark, Emma Soride, Aiden Cannon

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Lafayette FFA; Callie King, Taylor Donaway, Hallyn Hurst, Madison King

### **Intermediate Team Farm Judging Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Suwannee 4-H; Rilee Floyd, Levi Starling, Kenslee Heinke, Ella Eaves

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Lafayette 4-H; Sharon Sanders, Jayda Hendrick, Justin Swinson Jr, Curt Sanders

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Madison Creative Arts FFA; Jackson Churchwell, Rilyn Selph, Leah Webb, Charlotte Albritton

### **Junior Team Farm Judging Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Lafayette 4-H; Karoline Beach, Emilee Elizabeth Jackson, Brynlee Walker, Ava Keen

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Suwannee 4-H; Ryan Keeler, Kynslie Watson, Andi Mae Collins

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Suwannee 4-H; Jonah Byrd, Maycee Jo Mathis, Cooper Norton

### **1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Place High Individual Farm Judging Overall**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Gracelyn Morrow, Dixie FFA

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Emilee Elizabeth Jackson, Lafayette 4-H

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Gracie Swindell, Suwannee 4-H

### **Senior High Individuals, Farm Judging**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Gracelyn Morrow, Dixie FFA

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Gracie Swindell, Suwannee 4-H

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Wyatt Watson, Suwannee 4-H

### **Intermediate High Individuals, Farm Judging**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Sharon Sanders, Lafayette 4-H

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Jayda Hendrick, Lafayette 4-H

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Ella Eaves, Suwannee 4-H

### **Junior High Individuals, Farm Judging**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Emilee Elizabeth Jackson, Lafayette 4-H

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Brynlee Walker, Lafayette 4-H

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Kynslie Watson, Suwannee 4-H

### **Jr. High Individual in Farm Manager Contest**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Maycee Jo Mathis, Suwannee 4-H

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Ryan Keeler, Suwannee 4-H

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Konnor Wilkerson, Gilchrist 4-H

### **Int. High Individual in Farm Manager Contest**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Jackson Churchwell, Madison Creative Arts FFA

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Kiki Norton, Branford Middle FFA

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Alex DeHuebles Vega, Dixie Middle FFA

### **Sr. High Individual in Farm Manager Contest**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Reagan Lane, Gilchrist FFA

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Cayce Sullivan, Gilchrist FFA

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Abby Whitehead, Dixie FFA



# Agriculture and Weather Report

Emily Beach

We continue with this pattern of a rainfall deficit that we have seen over the last couple of months.

Take precaution to irrigate winter gardens to ensure a successful crop. Gardens can be planted with cool-season vegetables like cabbage, collards, beets and broccoli and herbs like parsley, thyme, sage, dill, garlic, and cilantro. This extremely cold start to December also is a reminder to winterize your irrigation

systems and protect plants that are not frost resistant. Now that fall crops have been harvested, winter crops and forages are growing and cover crops have been planted to restore soil health and prevent erosion.

November Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2024	2023	2022
Cooks Hammock	0.62	3.86	2.52
Mallory Swamp	0.79	3.95	3.17
Midway Tower	0.47	3.96	1.93

## Agents plant cabbage with 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

Emily Beach

This year we had the opportunity to plant our cabbage a little differently. Our media specialist, Tracy Collins, is dedicated to educating LES students about how to grow crops and appreciating how available our food is. We teamed up with her to provide cabbage plants to each 3<sup>rd</sup> grader which were planted in pots and will be kept in the food forest right outside the media center! The students will have the opportunity to watch their cabbage grow as they walk by the area each day and are committed to watering and caring for their individual plant. The agents were able to talk to each class about what crops need to grow and the difference in warm season and cool season crops. The pots and soil were donated to us by Central Florida Lands and Timber, we appreciate their unending support of the youth in our community and the enthusiasm Mrs. Collins shows in her love of all things agriculture!



We were also able to plant some cool season veggies with the Pre-K class in the raised beds.



## Fun and Learning at 4-H Community Club

Shawn Jackson

The Lafayette Community 4-H Club gathered on November 5 for a fun and educational meeting. The 4-Hers learned valuable lessons, starting with cultivating an attitude of gratitude, followed by exploring the different types of corn. After the lessons, the group had the option to engage in a craft activity or participate in outdoor gardening. Those who stayed inside created turkeys using their own handprints, a fun and festive craft. Meanwhile, the gardening enthusiasts ventured outdoors to plant fall and winter crops in the tower gardens. They planted celery, broccoli, turnips, onions, and two types of lettuces, as well as a row of collards in the ground. It was a productive and creative session for all!

## November 4-H Culinary Arts Club Meeting: A Fun and Tasty Time

Shawn Jackson

The November meeting of the 4-H Culinary Arts Club was full of fun and creativity. The meeting began with the pledges to the American and 4-H flags. After that, everyone enjoyed a tasty snack of freshly popped popcorn.

Next, the 4-Hers made pudding and decorated it with candy grass and candy pumpkins, making the treat look festive and fun. The club also made edible turkeys by filling food serving gloves with m&ms and popcorn. These creative turkeys were a big hit, and the kids had a great time putting them together.

The meeting ended with everyone proud of their cooking and craft projects. It was a fun day where the 4-Hers learned new skills, worked together, and enjoyed making delicious treats.



## 4-H Participates in Holiday Kickoff

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette 4-H was proudly represented at the annual Mayo Christmas Parade, bringing holiday cheer to the community. A float full of enthusiastic 4-H members participated in the event, waving and shouting “Merry Christmas” to the excited crowds lining the town’s main street. The 4-Hers spread joy and holiday spirit as they passed by, making the parade even more festive.

As the parade continued, the excitement grew with the arrival of Santa Claus, who made it to Mayo just in time to join the parade. Afterward, Santa posed for pictures with locals, creating lasting memories for families in the community. The 4-H Club’s participation in the parade was a wonderful way to celebrate the season and show their support for the town’s holiday traditions. It was a fun and festive day that brought the whole community together.



# Anglers Club Have Fun Learning

Shawn Jackson

The 4-H Anglers Club had a fun and exciting fishing outing at WC and Janna Hart's property during their November meeting. The day started with cooler temperatures, which seemed to slow the fish's appetite, making them hesitant to bite. Despite the slow start, the 4-Hers showed great patience and perseverance, waiting for the right moment. As the afternoon went on, the temperature warmed up, and the fish became more active, providing the anglers with plenty of opportunities to reel in their catches.

The 4-Hers had great success catching a variety of catfish, with some of the larger fish weighing between 3-4 pounds. These bigger catches proved to be a fun challenge, testing the anglers' skills as they fought to reel them in. The excitement grew as each angler took turns hooking and bringing in their fish, celebrating the thrill of the catch.

After the fish were caught, they were carefully released back into the pond, ensuring they would be there for future anglers to enjoy. The 4-Hers learned important lessons about conservation and the importance of respecting nature while still having a great time outdoors.

Overall, the day was filled with fun, learning, and plenty of fish stories. It was a memorable experience for the 4-H Anglers, who left the outing with new skills, happy memories, and an appreciation for the joys of fishing.





# FARMS OF ALL SIZE:

PLEASE PLAN TO STOP BY THE FARM RECOVERY CENTER!!!

## Farm Recovery Center



### Resources Available:

- Learn about disaster assistance programs available for farmers.
- Meet with representatives from USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Rural Development, FEMA, Florida Commerce, Small Business Administration and other partner agencies.
- Encourage all farmers to contact their local USDA Service Center for program assistance.

## Lafayette County

Mayo Community Center

150 NW Community Circle

Mayo, FL 32066

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Learn More:  
[fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_business-resources-flyer\\_florida.pdf](https://fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_business-resources-flyer_florida.pdf)



Thursday, December 5th, 2024  
 Suwannee River Fair  
 17851 90 Avenue Fanning Springs, FL 32693

AGENDA (Session Details Below on Page 2)

8:30am—9:00 am	Exhibitor Set-Up Time (11:30 am, lunch available for exhibitors)
9:00 am	Attendee Registration, Event Begins
9:00am—2:00pm	Visit Exhibitors
10:30am—11:45am	Session 1
11:45am	(Lunch for attendees)
1:15pm—2:45 pm	Session 2
2:45 pm	Adjourn

This institute is organized and provided to you by the Suwannee River Partnership and the UF/IFAS County Extension offices in the following counties: Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union. Funding support is provided by allied industry representatives serving the watermelon industry in Florida.

**4-H Meeting Bus Riders:**

**For safety purposes, parents should call the office the previous day or morning of meetings to be sure there are no schedule changes and so all youth are accounted for.**



## Lafayette 4-H Senior Commodities



<u>Day</u>	Date	Time
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>January 29, 2025</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>February 26, 2025</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>March 26, 2025</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>April 30, 2025</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>May 28, 2025</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>June 25, 2025</b>	1:00pm – 4:00pm

**Program for Lafayette County seniors 60+ Call 386-294-1279 for registration and details.**

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.

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