



The Mayo Clover Leaf



December 2023

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News

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Up-Coming Events

Tuesday, December 5 : Community Club Meeting/ Holiday Bake Off, 3:00, 4-H Classroom

Tuesday, December 12: Culinary Club Meeting, 3:00, 4-H Classroom

Wednesday, December 13: Senior Commodity Pick-up, Mayo Community Center

Tuesday, December 19: 4-H Anglers Fishing Club, 3:00, 4-H Extension Classroom (December only)

Tuesday January 9: Community Club Meeting , 4-H Classroom.

Fall Fun at November 4-H Meetings

Shawn Jackson

The November 4-H meetings began with the Lafayette 4-H Community Club learning more about pumpkins and squash, as well as winter gardening. They discovered how to grow and cook these delicious fall crops, and then they planted some broccoli, cabbage and onions in the 4-H tower gardens and earth pots. They also enjoyed snacks and outdoor games after the educational session.

At the culinary club meeting, the 4-Hers made their own caramel apples by dipping fresh Granny Smith apples in hot caramel and letting them cool down. Then they wrapped them in wax paper to enjoy later. Most kids made at least two apples to carry home.

The Archery Club met on the fourth Tuesday of the month as usual, and practiced their archery and ax throwing skills. They are preparing for the state archery competition that will take place in the spring.

To end the month of November, Lafayette 4-H participated in the Mayo Christmas Parade. A group of kids and 4-H volunteers rode on a festive float with Christmas lights that shone brightly in the nighttime parade.

Hendrick Wins "Build it Camp" Tiny House

Shawn Jackson

We are thrilled to announce that Clark Hendrick is the lucky winner of our tiny house raffle! He will soon enjoy his new house which will be delivered to him before Christmas. We are very grateful to everyone who participated in this fundraiser and supported our local youth. You are making a difference in their lives by helping Lafayette 4-H offer more youth development programs, such as "build it camp", where they can learn valuable life skills and explore potential career paths. If you missed this opportunity, don't worry, you can still support Lafayette 4-H Programs by contacting the Extension office at 386-294-1279 and making a donation. Thank you everyone for your kindness and support!



Photo Left: Daxon Bonafide draws Clark Hendrick's name from a bucket of names who made donations toward the tiny house raffle.



Agriculture and Weather Report

Emily Beach

November brought a little more rain than we have gotten the last couple of years which was much needed. Fall crops have been harvested, winter crops and forages are growing, and cover crops have been planted to restore soil health and prevent erosion.

Gardens can be planted with cool-season vegetables like cabbage, collards, beets and broccoli and herbs like parsley, thyme, sage, dill, garlic, and cilantro do well with cooler temperatures.

November Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2023	2022	2021
Cooks Hammock	3.86	2.52	2.93
Mallory Swamp	3.95	3.17	2.55
Midway Tower	3.96	1.93	1.94

Suwannee Valley Watermelon Institute a Huge Success

Emily Beach

On November 30, 2023 the Watermelon Institute was held at the Suwannee River Fairgrounds in Fanning Springs. Aside from watermelon producers, the 183 in attendance were UF/IFAS agents, specialists, and employees along with sponsors, stakeholders, and agencies to provide current and tested information to the producers and industry leaders. The morning sessions presented information about the grafting research being conducted on watermelons and fertilizer research updates that included data from research on controlled release fertilizer, all season liquid fertilizer fertigation programs, and paper mulch research. After an industry sponsored lunch, attendees heard about fungicide updates, weed management programs, and pollination information.

During lunch, a special presentation was made to Lafayette County's producer, Laura Land, as she was awarded the Outstanding Agriculturalist of the Year by the Extension Professionals Association of Florida. The annual conference was cancelled due to Hurricane Idalia so the next best place to recognize Mrs. Laura was amongst her peers and close friends in the watermelon industry of our area. Congratulations to Mrs. Laura for much deserved recognition of her support of watermelon research, the countless hours she has put into the promotion of Florida watermelons, and the integral part she plays in the success of their family farm.



Robert "Bob" Hochmuth, Laura Land and Emily Beach at the Suwannee Valley Watermelon Institute where Land was presented a plaque and recognized as Outstanding Agriculturalist of the Year.

Tips For A Healthy Poinsettia

Emily Beach

We want those poinsettias to remain beautiful and just a few things to remember will ensure that. Indoor plants should be close to windows so they can receive some of that bright daylight and outdoor plants shouldn't get any more than 4-6 hours each day. Keep the soil moist but not saturated. In order to prevent saturation, remove the foil and allow the water to drain freely .

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.