



# The Mayo Clover Leaf



January 2025

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News Vol 7 Num 1

## Up-Coming Events

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

**Tuesday January 7,** Clover Buds, Community Club Meeting, 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

**Sunday January 12,** SVYLSS Mandatory meeting Option 1, Suwannee County Extension Office. 3:00 PM

**Tuesday January 14,** Culinary Club. 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

**Tuesday January 21,** Anglers Club Meeting. 3:00 (Contact office for location)

**Thursday January 23,** SVYLSS Mandatory meeting Option 2, Mayo Community Center 6:00 PM 3:00 PM

**Tuesday January 28,** Archery 4-H Club Meeting, 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

**Wednesday January 29,** 4-H Senior Commodity Pickup 1:30-4:30

**Saturday February 8,** Toxic Round-Up. 9:00, Mayo Community Center

## Lafayette 4-H Hosts Annual Holiday Bake-Off

Shawn Jackson

On December 3, 2024, Lafayette 4-H held its Annual Holiday Bake-Off, a fun event where 4-H members of all ages showed off their baking skills. More than 30 participants entered their best holiday treats in this exciting competition, which is a favorite tradition every year.

The event featured different categories to highlight the variety of creativity and talent among 4-H members. After a lot of tasting and judging, the winners were announced in the following categories:

- **Best Tasting:** Evelyn Knight won with her delicious Apple Cheesecake.
- **Best Sweet:** Camden Creel impressed the judges with his S'mores Dip.
- **Most Festive:** Jayda Hendrick's Christmas Tree Cake was chosen for its holiday spirit.
- **Most Creative:** AJ Swinson's Cheese Christmas Trees stood out for being unique and fun.
- **Best Appetizer:** Justin Swinson Jr. took home the award for his tasty Christmas Cheese Ball.

The **Best Overall Holiday Bake-Off Winner** was Karoline Beach, who made Peanut Butter Snowballs that wowed the judges. For her impressive creation, Karoline won the grand prize – a 3-foot golden spoon!

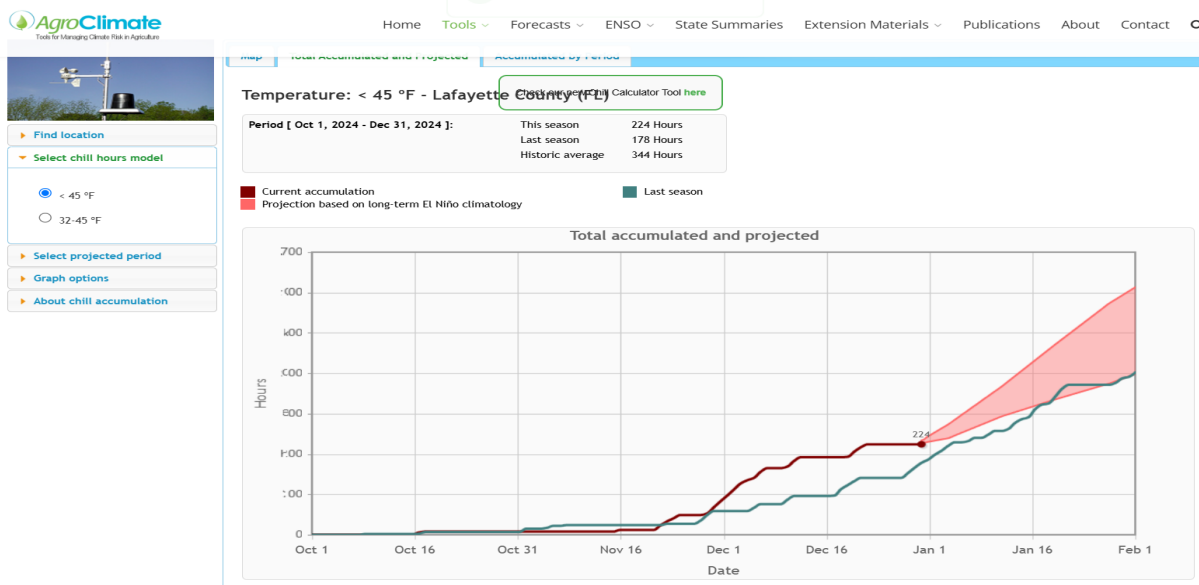
The Lafayette 4-H Holiday Bake-Off is a great way to bring the community together, celebrate the holiday season, and see the amazing talents of young bakers. Congratulations to all the participants and especially to the winners for their hard work and creativity!



# Chill hours are an important part of fruit tree production

Emily Beach

I often have people ask me what reasons would be for their fruit trees suddenly not producing fruit that have been productive in the past. There are many variables at play when answering this question but one major contributor that is completely out of our control is weather. Fruit trees like pears, plums, peaches, blueberries, and citrus have a chill hour requirement that allow them to put on a successful bounty of blooms and developing fruit. Chill hours refer to the number of hours of dormancy required by fruit trees which is met by the temperature being below 45 degrees Fahrenheit. According to [agroclimate.org/tools/chill-hours-calculator/](https://agroclimate.org/tools/chill-hours-calculator/) we have accumulated 224 chill hours so far this year. Last year we only had 178 chill hours and our historic record is 344 chill hours. To keep things simple- that's not very much as most varieties require anywhere from 200-1000 chill hours. But, there is a solution to this problem!



*Screenshot taken from [agroclimate.org](https://agroclimate.org) website of our weather station chill hour report.*

There are varieties that have been developed to be successful in our area that are in the range of chill hours that we average. Low chill apple cultivars are 'Anna', 'Dorsett Golden', and 'TropicSweet' and are recommended for Florida as they have a chilling requirement of 250-300 hours. Peach cultivars like 'Flordabest' and 'UFO' and nectarine varieties like 'Sunbest', 'UF Royal', and 'UF Queen' are all suitable for the available chill hours we have. Plum cultivars are 'Gulfbeauty', 'Gulfblaze', and 'Gulfrose' which require 225-275 chill hours. 'Star', 'Windsor', 'Springhigh' are highbush blueberry varieties and 'Brightwell', 'Powderblue', 'Tifblue', and 'Woodard' are rabbiteye (low growing) cultivars suited for North Florida. Citrus trees that are cold hardy for our longer chill hours than our southern neighbors experience are 'Owari' or 'Brown Select' satsumas, 'Meiwa' and 'Nagami' kumquats, and Sugar Belle® is a hybrid mandarin that was developed by the University of Florida to be more tolerant of HLB infection (also called citrus greening).

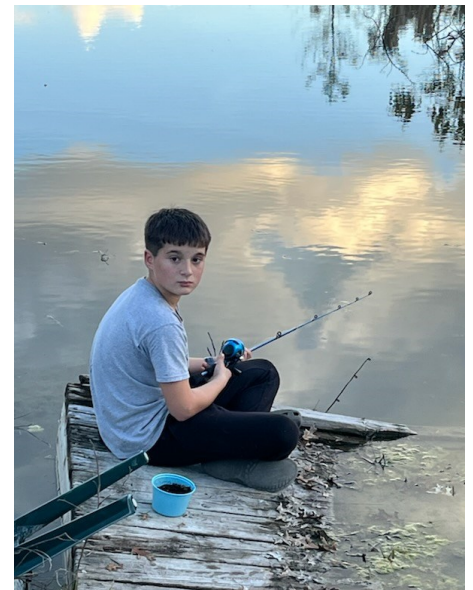
# 4-H Anglers Club Holds Monthly Meeting

**Shawn Jackson**

The 4-H Anglers Club recently held its monthly meeting at Scott Jackson's fishpond, where young anglers had a blast catching a variety of fish. Using earthworms as bait, the group enjoyed reeling in bass, bluegill, and catfish. Each 4-H member caught fish during the fun-filled event, and all the fish were carefully re-released back into the pond after being caught.

The Anglers Club provides a wonderful opportunity for youth to spend time outdoors, learning valuable fishing skills while bonding with parents, mentors, and community volunteers. It's a great way to have fun while connecting with nature and the community.

The club looks forward to many more exciting meetings, where participants can continue to develop their fishing abilities and enjoy time together outdoors. Special thanks to Scott Hamlin at the Mayo NAPA for supporting Lafayette 4-H Anglers Club and donating fishing bait.



# Culinary Club preparing for Christmas events

Emily Beach

This month Culinary members prepared two items that would be great options for taking to holiday parties during this Christmas season. They gave a fan favorite, pig-in-a-blanket, a different twist by shaping them like Christmas trees and then topping them with green colored butter to add color. The members learned that adding color to foods is easy with a little liquid and food coloring! No Christmas party is complete without a sweet treat so the members learned how to mix up the classic Buckeye candy, roll it up, and then dip it in chocolate. These are perfect options for our members that they can make independently and be proud to serve !



**2025 SVYLSS COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**March 24-28, 2025**

**MANDATORY Parent/  
Exhibitor Meeting**

Sunday; January 12, 2025 at 3:00pm  
in Exhibition Hall 2 (behind Suwannee Co. Extension Office)  
in Live Oak.

OR

Thursday; January 23, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Lafayette County  
Community Center in Mayo.

(176 SW Community Circle, Mayo, FL 32066)

**Record Book Due**

March 17, 2025 by 5:00 pm (at Extension Office)

\*\*\*Record Books only apply to Market Animals\*\*\*

**Swine Weigh-In**

March 24, 2025 at 8:00-10:00 am

**Swine Showmanship**

March 24, 2025 at 6:30 pm

**Steer/Heifer Weigh-in**

March 25, 2025 at 9:00-11:00 am

**Swine Show**

March 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm

**Sheep Check-In**

March 26, 2025 at 9:00-10:00 am

**Steer/Heifer Show**

March 26, 2025 at 6:30 pm

**Sheep Show**

March 27, 2025 at 6:30 pm

**Sale**

March 28, 2025 at 9:00 am

\*\*\*Buyer's Dinner will be held at the Sale\*\*\*

**ATTENTION:**

**Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale Exhibitors!!!**

Do not forget to attend ONE of the MANDATORY Parent/Exhibitor meetings for important information about the shows this year! The options are either:

Sunday; January 12, 2025 at 3:00pm in Exhibition Hall 2 (behind Suwannee Co. Extension Office: 1302 11th St SW A, Live Oak, FL 32064) in Live Oak.

OR

Thursday; January 23, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Lafayette County Community Center in Mayo. (176 SW Community Circle, Mayo, FL 32066)

# Agriculture and Weather Report

Emily Beach

The rainfall totals were a drastic change from last December but more typical for our area this time of year. We also had a cold start to December which was followed by a run of warmer temperatures which may have fooled our blooming friends that we were in spring. Unfortunately, this may affect blooms when spring actually does come so keep that in mind.

December Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2024	2023	2022
<b>Cooks Hammock</b>	1.6	8.6	1.43
<b>Mallory Swamp</b>	1.0	9.17	1.1
<b>Midway Tower</b>	1.17	7.36	0.89

Cool season vegetables like broccoli, kale, carrots, and lettuce can still be planted and Irish potatoes can also be planted. Now is the time for planting deciduous fruit trees to give roots time to develop before the warm, dry spring months. Trees like peach, plum, and pear do well in our area (see chill hours article in this edition). Non-spring flowering shrubs and trees can be pruned now to improve form if needed.

Watermelon preparation has begun for the new crop season. You have probably seen ground being broken in different parts of the county which is more than likely to plant a wind break for the melons or to plant winter forages for livestock. Even when you can't see things growing from the road, much work is being done to prepare for another crop season and provisions are being made to care for livestock.

**Be prepared for very cold temperatures headed our way**



**Hamlin Auto Supply**

***Proud Supporter of Lafayette 4-H  
Anglers Club!***

**718 East Main Street, (386) 294-1114**

# TOXIC ROUND-UP

(9 AM – 3 PM)

SAT. FEB 8, 2025

Mayo Community Center

176 SW COMMUNITY CIR.  
MAYO, FL 32066



## LAFAYETTE COUNTY EVENT NOTICE!

**DON'T SEND IT TO THE LANDFILL!  
BRING IT TO US.**

[ALACHUACOUNTYHAZWASTE.US](http://ALACHUACOUNTYHAZWASTE.US)



### Lafayette 4-H Senior Commodities



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

### 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.**

## **Be prepared for very cold temperatures headed our way**

The warnings of cold temperatures this month have been given to us by our local meteorologists which gives us time to make sure our plants and animals are protected. The first thing to protect is your water pipes. The best thing to do is drain water sprinkler supply lines and any extra lines that aren't needed for regular use. For lines that are needed, run water at a trickle to help prevent the pipes from freezing.

If you have a winter garden planted, all of those plants should be able to withstand the temperature drop that we will experience. If you have something planted that is not frost tolerant, consider covering it with a sheet, quilt, or frost cloth. Saturate roots of plants and trees during the day before the freeze in order to increase the thermal conductivity of the soil, allowing for the stored heat to be released overnight. This will also ensure that trees and plants are not drought stressed going into the freeze as drought stress would cause it to be more susceptible to damage. Any containerized plants should be moved indoors or at least to a covered area. Young trees should be covered with quilts or blankets. For citrus trees that are too large to cover you can insulate the area where the scion was grafted onto the rootstock or run a misting sprinkler under the canopy of the tree- just be sure that the water doesn't get to the branches because ice causes additional weight to the tree.

Livestock are generally equipped to keep warm in the temperatures that we will experience but have a harder time doing so when they are wet. If shelter can be provided to make sure that they remain dry that is an extra protection measure. Be sure that fresh water is supplied to them by taking measures to ensure that water lines are protected from freezing and busting. If temperatures get cold enough to freeze water in the trough, be sure to keep it broken up and remove large pieces of ice. Cold water may not be very appealing to cold animals so offering salt blocks is a good solution to keep our four-legged friends drinking in order to stay hydrated. If you are using a heat lamp be sure to secure it with a clamp and a chain and make regular checks of the area.

We know that weather predictions can be uncertain and that patterns can change but being overprepared is better than being underprepared in this scenario. Stay safe and up to date with the forecast.