



The Mayo Clover Leaf



June 2024

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News

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Up-Coming Events

Clover Buds

Tuesday-Thursday, June 4-6 4-H Clover Bud Camp, 8:30-3:30, 4-H Classroom

Junior 4-H Camps

Tuesday-Thursday, June 11-13, 4-H Farm to Table Camp, 8:30-3:30, 4-H classroom

Tuesday 18-20, 4-H Marine Biology Camp, 8:30-3:30, 4-H classroom

Tuesday-Thursday, June 25-27, Camp USA– Becoming productive Citizens Camp, 8:30-3:30, 4-H Classroom

Tuesday-Thursday, July 9-11, Junior Homesteaders Camp, 8:30-3:30, 4-H Classroom

Intermediate/Sr Camps

Monday-Wednesday, June 17-19, Suwannee River Eco Explorer Camp, Various locations

Monday-Wednesday, June 24-26, Build it Camp, 8:30-3:30, Mayo Ag Complex

All Youth

4-H Animal Show and Tale, 10:30-11:30, Mayo Library

4-H Sr Commodity

Wednesday, June 26, 1:00-4:30, Mayo Community Cent.

4-H Members Excel at Regional Grilling Competition

Shawn Jackson

In a sizzling showcase of talent, two Lafayette County 4-H members, Justin Swinson Jr. and AJ Swinson, recently left their mark at the 4-H North East Florida Tail Gate Competition, held on June 1 at the University of Florida. Representing their local 4-H club with pride, these young grill enthusiasts demonstrated their culinary expertise, earning accolades and securing a coveted spot in the upcoming State 4-H Grilling Competition slated for the fall.

Justin Swinson Jr. brought his culinary magic to the forefront with his special recipe of Sweet Teriyaki Pork, while AJ Swinson presented an original creation of Zesty Chicken. Both dishes were prepared on kettle grills using charcoal, showcasing not only their skills but also their adaptability in a competitive setting.

What's truly commendable is that Justin's Sweet Teriyaki Pork soared to impressive heights, clinching the second-highest score among all entries. This recognition not only reflects his dedication but also highlights the exceptional talent brewing within Lafayette County's 4-H community.

The 4-H Grilling Competition isn't just about the thrill of the grill; it's an educational journey that imparts valuable lessons in food preparation and safety. Participants learn to master handling various proteins, including chicken, pork, beef, and shrimp, mastering the art of grilling with finesse. Moreover, emphasis on food safety underscores the program's commitment to nurturing responsible young chefs.

As Lafayette County continues to carve its place in the culinary landscape, events like these serve as a testament to the boundless potential harbored by our youth. Through 4-H initiatives, such as the Grilling Competition, participants not only hone their culinary skills but also cultivate essential life lessons, fostering a generation of well-rounded individuals poised for success.

Join us in celebrating the remarkable achievements of Justin Swinson Jr. and AJ Swinson as they embark on their journey to the State 4-H Grilling Competition. Their dedication, passion, and culinary flair exemplify the spirit of Lafayette County's 4-H program, inspiring peers and community members alike.

Exciting Wrap-Up for Lafayette 4-H 2023-2024 Club Meetings

Shawn Jackson

The 2023-2024 club meetings of Lafayette 4-H concluded with a burst of fun and excitement, leaving participants with fond memories and valuable lessons.

The 4-H Home School Club delved into the theme of caring, exploring the qualities that make a caring person. To express their affection, members crafted heartfelt Mother's Day cards and thoughtful gifts for their moms. Beforehand, they lent their green thumbs to the 4-H garden, planting squash seeds with enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, the Community 4-H Club orchestrated a sweet surprise for moms by assembling Mother's Day care packages filled with Hershey kisses and Almond Joy candy bars, symbolizing the joy and affection they wished to share. Following this heartwarming activity, club members immersed themselves in the world of tomatoes, learning the ins and outs of planting these vibrant fruits in the 4-H garden.

In the spirit of culinary exploration, the 4-H Culinary Club whipped up a delectable treat: a spiffed-up banana pudding. They elevated the classic dessert by incorporating whipped cream and sweetened condensed milk into the pudding mix, then expertly layering it with bananas and vanilla wafers, resulting in a mouthwatering masterpiece.

Not to be outdone in the realm of outdoor adventure, the 4-H Anglers Club embarked on a fishing excursion at the home of Glenda Walker. Armed with red worms generously donated by Hamlin's NAPA, anglers eagerly baited their hooks and honed their skills, all while learning the importance of safely removing catfish from hooks.

Despite the Archery 4-H Club's absence in May, the year was filled with memorable moments on the range. Looking ahead to the fall, members eagerly anticipate the return to archery and ax throwing, filled with excitement for the adventures to come.

As the curtains close on another successful year of Lafayette 4-H club meetings, participants depart with cherished memories, newfound knowledge, and a deepened sense of camaraderie.



Save your spring garden seeds

Emily Beach

Saving seeds from your favorite vegetables and fruits is a really great way to ensure consistent produce and allows for seeing the whole process from start to finish. It is important to understand seed types when starting this venture. The three types of seed are:

- **Open-pollinated seeds** are from plants that are fertilized by natural methods like pollinator insects, birds, rain, and wind. These are good seeds to save because they will retain their characteristics generation after generation.
- **Heirloom seeds** originate from open-pollinated plants and pass down desired traits. To be considered heirloom, the seeds must originate from plant varieties that are at least 50 years old. They always produce offspring true to the parent plant.
- **Hybrid seeds** grow plants that are a mix of two different plant varieties. Saving hybrid seeds is not ideal because the offspring, often times, will not resemble the parent plant.

Since this spring garden season may be nearing the end, collect your open pollinator seeds from crops like beans, peas, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, watermelons for a place to start. The goal is to remove any flesh that may be on the seed and to clean it thoroughly. Leave the seeds on a surface that will allow them to dry completely- this can take several weeks. When the seeds are completely dry, place them in a glass container or small Ziploc bag with a label for the variety the seeds are. Keep the seeds in a cool, dry, and dark place until you are ready to use them.

For the following season, grow extra plants for the sole purpose of saving the seed and you can share with others if you want!

2nd graders harvest new potatoes at school garden

Emily Beach

Lafayette Elementary 2nd graders planted new potatoes in the school garden right after Valentines Day and have been tending to that garden as their potatoes grew. A focus of growing potatoes is that you put one piece of a potato in the ground and then after proper care, that one piece turns into several potatoes. We did a little math after harvest averaging 5 potatoes per plant in 2 rows which produced around 500 potatoes!!! Each student got to take their potatoes home to enjoy with their family.



Lafayette County well represented at the CARES Banquet

Emily Beach

On May 2, 2024 the Suwannee Basin CARES Banquet was held at the North Florida Regional Education Center-Suwannee Valley. The purpose of this event is to recognize and celebrate the efforts of our producers that work so diligently to ensure and promote environmental stewardship. Two Lafayette County producers were presented with the CARES award this year for their exemplary efforts to protect Florida's natural resources by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs). Johan Heijkoop and Gary Keyes are partners at Milk-A-Way Dairy are forward-thinking dairymen who are greatly concerned about protecting our natural resources while producing the highest quality of milk. They implement Best Management Practices in all aspects of their operation not only for compliance but because they take great pride in the fact that they are environmental stewards of their land. Another Lafayette County recipient was Tom Gardener of Gardner Farms was presented with the award because of his outstanding dedication to growing his blackberries, strawberries, and raspberries not only complying with Best Management Practices, but fine tuning them in a unique way for his operation. His nutrient stewardship and growing practices are exemplary and commendable.



Florida Farm Bureau along with UF/IFAS present Tom Gardner and his family with a sign that will be placed at the entrance of his operation.



The family of Gary Keyes and Johan Heijkoop stand beside them as they progress through this farming journey.

Lafayette County 4th Graders participate in AgVentures

Emily Beach

On May 16 the 4th grade students from Lafayette Elementary School and Lighthouse Christian Academy participated in AgVentures sponsored by Lafayette County Farm Bureau. The students visited stations that educated them on some of the agricultural commodities that are important in our county. They learned about production practices and processing of corn, cotton, poultry, dairy, watermelon, peanut, and forestry. The students were able to have popcorn, a slice of watermelon, create a trail mix with peanut products, and make butter to go with crackers at the various stations. This event, coordinated by Brenda Gayle Land, is in place to educate the students about the importance of the agricultural industry in our county, state, nation, and world. The work that farmer do allows us to have safe, affordable, and abundant food. This mission is for the students of Lafayette County to understand where that food comes from and the process that make readily available to consumers.



Agriculture and Weather Report

Emily Beach

It seems as though we will be starting June dry and hot!!! In many agricultural systems we are seeing that the previous stretch of cool nights with decent rainfall really created some unusual growth patterns in crops this season.

For planting new crops, herbs such as basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary grow well in the heat that is coming and vegetables like okra, peas, and sweet potatoes should be planted this month. For the landscape, June is the perfect

month to plant palms and lightly prune summer flowering shrubs. Irrigation is going to be essential right now for crops and lawns. Remember a good rule of thumb for lawns is to water no more than ½-¾ inch each irrigation event and to water in the early morning hours to avoid excessive evaporation.

May Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2024	2023	2022
Cooks Hammock	4.21	3.13	3.72
Mallory Swamp	3.95	2.9	3.56
Midway Tower	4.12	2.52	3.25



4-H Senior Commodity Pick-Up Dates and Times



Day	Date	Time
<u>Wednesday</u>	July 31, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	August 28, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	September 25, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	October 30, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	November 20, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	December 18, 2024	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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