



The Mayo Clover Leaf



May 2024 Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News Vol 6 No 5



Lafayette County Youth Shine in Florida 4-H State Archery Competition

Up-Coming Events

Tuesday, May 7: Home School
4-H Club Meeting, 10:00, 4-H
Classroom

Tuesday, April 7, Community
Club Meeting, 3:00, 4-H Class-
room

Tuesday, May 14, Culinary Club
Meeting, 4-H Classroom.

Tuesday, May 21 : 4-H Anglers
Fishing Club . Location TBA

Tuesday May 28: Archery Club
Meeting 4-H Classroom.

Wednesday, May 29: Senior
Commodity Pick-up, Mayo
Community Center

Shawn Jackson

In a display of skill and dedication, two members of the Lafayette County 4-H Archery Club, Justin Swinson Jr. and Keagan Cochran, recently showcased their talents at the Florida 4-H State Archery Competition in Newberry, FL. Despite not advancing to the national level, their performance left a mark, representing their community with distinction.

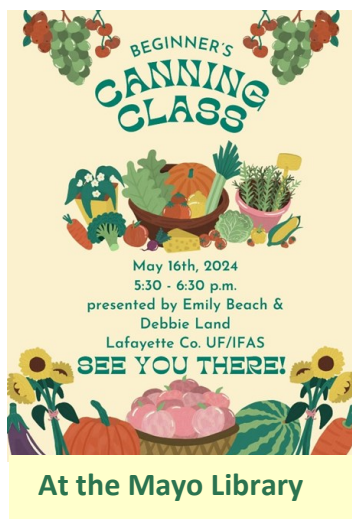
The competition featured two segments: FITA and 3D. FITA, recognized by the Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc (FITA), is a renowned target shooting format used in international competitions. On the other hand, the 3D segment presented a unique challenge with life-sized artificial wild animals and reptiles strategically placed along a wooded trail.

For participants like Swinson and Cochran, the shooting distances in the FITA round varied based on their age divisions, adding an extra layer of challenge to the competition. While their journey didn't culminate in a national berth, their performance underscored their commitment and skill.

Both Swinson and Cochran are esteemed members of the Lafayette 4-H Archery Club, an organization that not only fosters athletic development but also emphasizes personal growth and camaraderie. Youth archery, beyond being a sport, offers a multitude of benefits. It fosters problem-solving skills, cultivates focus and determination, instills goal-setting abilities, boosts confidence, and forges lifelong friendships.

Participating in archery competitions like this one provides young athletes with diverse experiences. The FITA segment emphasizes precision and accuracy, aligning with international standards, while the 3D portion adds a realistic touch by simulating hunting scenarios.

Overall, the Lafayette County 4-H Archery Club serves as a beacon of opportunity for local youth. It provides a supportive environment where they can hone their skills, make lasting connections, and showcase their talents on a broader stage. Congratulations to Justin Swinson Jr., Keagan Cochran, and all participants who took part in the competition, embodying the spirit of sportsmanship and excellence.



Community and Homeschool 4-H Clubs Spring into Action with April Meetings

Shawn Jackson

Throughout April, the Lafayette Home School and Community 4-H Clubs have been buzzing with activity, as youth members eagerly participated in various projects and activities aimed at learning, growth, and community engagement. At their recent meetings, young participants rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty, taking part in several hands-on projects.

One highlight of the meetings was the planting of impatiens flowers in gallon cans generously donated by the school cafeteria. With care and enthusiasm, the youth members nurtured these colorful blooms, learning valuable lessons about gardening and responsibility. Additionally, they took to the garden towers located at the extension office to plant green bean seeds, fostering a connection to nature and sustainable agriculture.

Another engaging activity saw the youth tackling the task of dividing large, overgrown, root-bound ferns into new pots. Through teamwork and determination, they successfully rejuvenated these plants, demonstrating their green thumbs and commitment to environmental stewardship.

The meetings kicked off with the solemn recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and the 4-H flag, highlighting the values of patriotism and community pride. As the gatherings drew to a close, participants enjoyed light snacks, fostering bonds of friendship and camaraderie.

The Lafayette 4-H Clubs continue to provide valuable opportunities for youth to learn, grow, and give back to their community. Through hands-on projects, civic engagement, and teamwork, these young members are developing important life skills and making a positive impact in Lafayette and beyond.



Volunteers graciously donate their time and talent weekly making 4-H activities a fun and successful learning experience.

Lafayette 4-H Anglers Club Enjoys Fishing Success at Koon Lake Meetup

Shawn Jackson

The Lafayette 4-H Anglers Club had a blast on April 16th as they gathered at Koon Lake for an afternoon of fishing fun. Using earthworms as bait, these young anglers showed off their skills, catching brim of all sizes and having a great time together.



At Koon Lake, surrounded by peaceful waters and beautiful scenery, the club members cast their lines and waited patiently for bites. Whether they reeled in big brim or small ones, each catch brought cheers and smiles as they shared the excitement of fishing with friends.

For many club members, the meetup was a chance to practice their fishing techniques and enjoy being outdoors. They learned how to cast their lines just right and waited eagerly for the fish to bite, making memories and friendships along the way.

The Lafayette 4-H Anglers Club is all about bringing young anglers together to learn, grow, and have fun. Through events like the one at Koon Lake, they build important skills like patience and teamwork while enjoying the beauty of nature.

4-H Archers Sharpen Their Skills

Shawn Jackson

The Lafayette 4-H Archery Club had an action-packed meeting on April 23rd, where youth members sharpened their archery skills and tried their hand at hatchet throwing. Under the guidance of experienced instructors, participants honed their aim and technique, hitting targets with precision and enthusiasm. The meeting provided a fantastic opportunity for members to improve their marksmanship while enjoying the camaraderie of their fellow archers. With each arrow loosed and hatchet thrown, the young archers demonstrated their dedication to the sport and their commitment to personal growth within the Lafayette 4-H community.





2024 Summer 4-H Day Camps



June 3-5 Clover Bud Camp	Kindergarten -1 st grade	June 3-5
Farm to Table Camp	3 rd -5 th grade	June 11-13
Suwannee River ECO Explorers 4-H Camp	mid/high school	June 17-19
Marine Biology Camp	3 rd -5 th grade	June 18-20
Build it Camp	mid/high School	June 24-26
Camp USA – Becoming Productive Citizens	3 rd – 5 th grade	June 25-27
Jr. Homesteaders Camp	3 rd -5 th grade	July 9-11
4-H Animal Show and Tale at Mayo Library	All 4-H Youth	July 16

Camps are open to youth participating in Lafayette County 4-H. All Camps are from 8:30AM-3:30PM. Times, camp themes, and fieldtrip locations are subject to change. Camps are \$50.00 per youth and should be paid by June 1. Youth may be added to waiting list if camps become full.

Weather and Agriculture Report

Emily Beach

An interesting varying degree of rainfall for the month depending on the location in the county for the month of April but right around where we would expect it for this time of year. I'm sure you've noticed the landscape

changing as spring has made its appearance in the greening up of plants and the planting and growth of commercial crops. Watermelons and blackberries are in a crucial growth stage, corn and tobacco have emerged, and peanuts are just now beginning to germinate.

As far as home gardens go, those vegetables planted earlier should be producing fruits or close to it and new potatoes should be nearly ready to start harvesting. The only thing you can add to the garden at this

April Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2024	2023	2022
Cooks Hammock	4.37	2.82	1.87
Mallory Swamp	2.38	3.66	0.94
Midway Tower	3.43	2.66	1.49

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.