



The Mayo Clover Leaf



September 2024

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News Vol 6 Num 9

Up-Coming Events

Tuesday September 3, Lafayette County Chic-Chain Show, 6:00PM

Tuesday September 3, Home-school 4-H Club. 10:00 AM 4-H Classroom

Tuesday September 3, Community 4-H and Cloverbuds Club. 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

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

Tuesday September 10, Quad County Chic-Chain Show, Madison Co. 5:30PM

Monday September 16, UF Recruiter available to local youth. 4-H Classroom, 6:30 PM

Tuesday September 17, Anglers Club meeting. Picket Lake, 3:00 PM

Tuesday September 23, Archery 4-H Club Meeting. 4-H Classroom, 3:00 PM

Tuesday September 24, Cold Hardy Citrus Workshop. Taylor County Extension office.

Wednesday September 25, 4-H Senior Commodity Pickup 1:30-4:30

Saturday October 12, Pioneer Day, Parade 10:00 AM

Time to Register for the 2024-2025 4-H Year

Shawn Jackson

With summer now behind us, it's time to register for the new 4-H year. Enrollment for the 2024-2025 4-H year has officially begun. The 4-H year runs from September to August, providing a full year of enriching activities and learning experiences.

Lafayette 4-H offers a variety of after-school clubs, including five ongoing ones. In addition, there is the Light House School Club and Spin Clubs, which are available for limited periods throughout the year and are typically geared toward older youth.

The Extension Office is available to assist with registering your child in 4-H. The annual dues are \$20.00, which are sent to the State 4-H Headquarters.

Please note an important change for this year: if your child will be taking the bus to 4-H meetings, you must call ahead to confirm there have been no changes to meeting plans. This will also allow the office to be aware of and expect your child upon arrival.

For more information or assistance with registration, contact the Extension Office. Don't miss this opportunity for your child to engage in valuable 4-H programs and activities throughout the coming year!

Weather and Agriculture Report

Emily Beach

August is a testament that there can be a varying amount of rainfall amounts in our very large county. Flooding continues to be a major concern in certain areas but hopefully that will recede quickly in the coming weeks. Harvest season is beginning so please continue to be patient with farm equipment on the highways- they are working to feed our nation and deserve appreciation, not frustration for a slower ride to your destination.

September is the month for planting strawberries through mid-October (see article) and the time to get the fall garden established. Fall vegetables include arugula, beans, beets, broccoli, Brussell sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onions, radish, spinach, squash, and turnips. Be sure to go by the Lafayette County Library and check out what seeds they have available.

This is a good time to separate any bulbs or perennials that have grown too large. Be sure to add plenty of fresh organic matter to the new planting areas and ensure they have an ample amount of water. This is the last month that you should apply fertilizer to lawns, consider using a fertilizer with a slow-release Nitrogen component to optimize on those benefits for a longer period of time.

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August Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2024	2023	2022
Cooks Hammock	9.88	6.36	8.21
Mallory Swamp	11.35	5.62	8.87
Midway Tower	15.94	6.57	12.94

Lafayette 4-Her Participates in Florida Hog and Ham Program

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette Intermediate 4-H member Justin Swinson Jr. recently took part in the Florida 4-H Hog and Ham Program, a notable statewide 4-H program that offers an in-depth experience in pork production and valuable life skills.

This comprehensive program guides participants through the entire process of raising and processing pork. It begins with selecting a feeder pig and nurturing it until it reaches the optimal weight for harvesting. Throughout this period, 4-H members keep detailed records on various aspects such as feed amounts, costs, health care, and the pig's growth. These records are essential for understanding the financial and logistical aspects of livestock management.

Once the hog is harvested, participants are involved in processing the meat into different cuts, curing the hams, and preparing bacon and sausage for smoking. This hands-on experience not only teaches practical skills but also emphasizes attention to detail and quality control.

The program culminates in a retail comparison project where participants assess the market value of their products compared to others. Additionally, each participant completes a detailed record book and presents their experience and findings to fellow 4-H members. This final phase is designed to enhance public speaking and presentation skills.

Justin has found the Hog and Ham Program to be a standout experience in his 4-H career. He highlights that the program is not only a rewarding educational experience but also an opportunity to develop essential life skills such as responsibility, time management, and financial planning. Moreover, the program offers insights into potential career paths in agriculture and meat processing, making it a valuable stepping stone for those interested in pursuing careers in these fields.

Justin is enthusiastic about encouraging his fellow 4-H members to consider participating in the Hog and Ham Program in 2025. He believes that the skills and knowledge gained through this program are incredibly beneficial and can lead to exciting opportunities both personally and professionally.

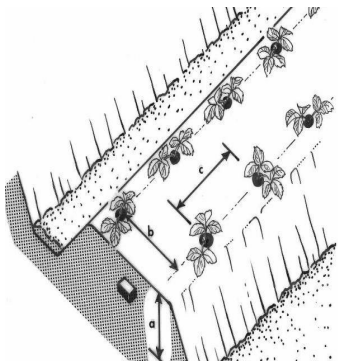
Swinson pictured below preparing to cut and wrap the pig he raised.



Growing Strawberries At Home

Emily Beach

Strawberries do well in North Florida when planted during the dates of September 15-October 15 when temperatures are between 50°F and 80°F and day lengths are 14 hours or less. Strawberries grow best in a location that receives at least 8 hours of direct sunlight per day. They love our well drained soil and prefer it to be slightly acidic (pH 5.5–6.5). It works well to build up a bed to encourage that well draining environment and then the strawberries can be planted in double rows. The built up bed could be in raised beds/boxes or just in rows that have been built up in your existing garden. Although this is the recommended practice- strawberries can also be grown successfully in containers and tower gardens. The University of Florida recommends incorporating two pounds of 10-5-10 fertilizer with micronutrients, especially boron, per 10 feet of row. For irrigation, the most efficient choice is a drip irrigation tape laid in a 2 inch deep trench down the middle of the bed. A soaker hose is another good option for bed gardening. Drip tape or soaker hose irrigation can be purchased from any outdoor or gardening supply store and ensures that the water goes to the root system of the plant with minimal waste and leaching. Another good practice when growing strawberries, but not one that is a must, is to place a cover on top as a way to control weeds and keep the fruit from lying directly on the ground.



Raised bed design recommended for Florida garden strawberries (a=7–9 inches; b=12 inches; c=12–18 inches).

Credit: Redrawn from Integrated Pest Management for Strawberries, 1994. University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3351, p. 129.

When your beds have been prepared and you are ready to plant you can choose to plant transplants that are bare root, plugs, or containerized transplants. If you use bare root transplants, they will initially need frequent overhead sprinkler irrigation for the first two weeks after planting- a general rule is from 10am-5pm. Plugs and containerized transplants don't require the sprinkler irrigation because their root system has stayed intact. An important point about planting strawberries is to not set the transplant too deeply (covering the crown) or too shallowly (leaving roots exposed). When plants are established, keep the beds moist. This can be accomplished by watering for an hour each event. Irrigation events should increase during periods of warmer weather and when plants are larger and producing fruit. Flowering and fruit production generally begins in November and is not constant because it can be interrupted by freezing weather. You will know that your fruit is ready to harvest when it has that bursting color of red amongst the green leaves! Gently hold the fruit between your thumb and forefingers to snap the stem by twisting at the wrist ever so carefully to not bruise or damage the fruits of your labor.

To care for your strawberry plants you should protect them from freezes, diseases, and insects. If air temperatures are expected to drop below 32°F the most practical thing to do is cover the plants with sheets, blankets, or frost cloth securing the corner in the late afternoon before the expected freeze. During the growing season, it is also important to control diseases by applying a protectant fungicide spray, removing old leaves, and scouting for insects regularly.

Because the highest quality fruit are produced on relatively young plants with not more than four or five branch crowns, plants are usually removed at the end of the fruiting season, and new plants are planted the following fall starting the fun all over again!

If you have any questions about growing strawberries or anything else in the home landscape please feel free to reach out to me at elbeach@ufl.edu or (386)294-1279. For more detailed information, read the EDIS publication #HS1154 as this article is a summarized version of that very detailed work.

2024-2025 4-H Meeting Schedule

1st Tuesday of each month	10:00 AM	Home School/Clover Bud Club
	3:00 PM	Community Club
2nd Tuesday of each month	3:00 PM	Culinary Club
3rd Tuesday of each month	3:00 PM	Anglers Club*
<i>*Meeting location changes each month. Members <u>cannot</u> attend this meeting by bus.</i>		
4th Tuesday of each month	3:00 Pm	Archery Club

Spin Clubs for Intermediate and Sr. 4-H members are being scheduled.

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.

Opportunity For Local Youth To Meet With UF Recruiter

Attention students and families! You're invited to a special event to learn more about the University of Florida (UF) right here in Mayo, FL. On Monday, September 16, at 6:30 PM, join us at the Lafayette County Extension 4-H classroom for an informative session with UF faculty and staff.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students from surrounding counties to explore UF without the need to travel to Gainesville. The event will cover essential topics such as the admissions process, financial aid, scholarship opportunities, academics, and student life.

One of the highlights of the evening will be a chance to have a one-on-one conversation with Charloette Emerson, the UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) Recruitment Director. This personal interaction will provide valuable insights and answer any specific questions you may have.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to get all the information you need about the University of Florida and to discuss your future with UF experts. You will be amazed at the opportunities offered through UF CALS. We look forward to seeing you there!



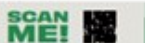
Pasture, Rangeland, Forage
PRF Insurance
 Collaborative project funded by Southern Extension Risk Management Education Center *2024 Workshops*

Join us for an educational workshop this fall to learn more about how to evaluate & mitigate forage risk on your operation!

All workshops will be from 5:30 -8:00 p.m.
 Dinner and educational materials provided.

Dates	Locations
September 12 th	Houston Co. Extension Office 2030 Kings Chapel Rd. Perry, GA 31069
September 26 th	NFREC, Suwannee Valley (Live Oak) 8202 CR 417 Live Oak, FL 32060
October 1 st	Bulloch Co. Extension Office 151 Langston Chapel Rd. Suite 600, Statesboro, GA 30458
October 3 rd	Pensacola River Farms 5535 Roanoke Rd. Atmore, AL 36502
October 24 th	Range Cattle Research and Education Center 3401 Experiment Station Ona, FL 32965
October 29 th	Gordon Co. Extension Office 1282 SR 53 Spur SW Suite 200 Calhoun, GA 30701
November 7 th	A. W. Todd Centre 203 Washington Ave. Russellville, AL 35653

Find more information online about the upcoming workshops at prfinsurance.caes.uga.edu



This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2024-70027-04475

Workshop Checklist

Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How of PRF Insurance

Learn...

- who qualifies for ...
- why I should use ...
- how I can use ...
- where & when to enroll in ...

...PRF Insurance

Evaluate...

- what is at risk ...
- when it is at risk ...
- how to cover the risk ...

...on my operation

Get your chance to win the
4-H Build It Camp Tiny House!
 Suggested donation of \$5.00 per chance is appreciated. See a 4-H member or stop by the Extension Office.

Limited quantities
FALL SEEDS 2024

Beet, Detroit Dark Red
 Broccoli, Green Sprouting Calabrese
 Cabbage, Golden Acre
 Carrot, Chantenay Red Core
 Cauliflower, Snowball Y Improved
 Collard, Georgia Southern
 Kale, Lacinato
 Lettuce, Parris Island
 Radish, Cherry Belle
 Rutabaga, American Purple Top
 Spinach, Bloomsdale
 Turnip, Purple Top White Globe

All are open-pollinated

Save Your Seeds!

COLD HARDY CITRUS Workshop
 September 24, 2024
 UF/IFAS Extension Office
 Taylor County
 203 Forest Park Dr, Perry, FL 32347

Registration Fee **\$25**
 \$30 at the door

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ufifas-taylor-madison-countys-cold-tolerant-citrus-production-workshop-tickets-943758847117>

4-H Senior Commodities
 Lafayette County seniors 60+

Day	Date	Time
Wed	September 25, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Wed	October 30, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Wed	November 20, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Wed	December 18, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm

Important Chick Chain Dates

September 3 at 6:00 pm- Lafayette County Chick Chain

September 10 at 5:30 pm- Quad County Chick Chain in Madison

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.

NUTRITION EDUCATION WELLNESS SERIES

FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

Upcoming Dates:

9/18/2024

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Class includes information on nutrition, cooking demo, and taste test!

10/2/2024

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Topics are High Blood Pressure/Stroke After class you will receive a FREE blood pressure cuff

Date: 10/3/2024

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Prediabetes/Diabetes After class you will receive a FREE blood sugar monitor

Location:

**Lafayette County
Public Library**
120 NE Crawford Street
Mayo, FL 32066



Florida Department of Health in
Lafayette and Suwannee County

For more information contact Health
Educators:
Kimberly Brown at
Kimberly.Brown@flhealth.gov
or
Beverly Fountain at
Beverly.Fountain@flhealth.gov
You can call us at:
386-294-1621 or 386-364-2704



44th Annual

PIONEER DAY

**Saturday,
October 12, 2024**

Veterans Memorial Park
Mayo, Florida



**FOOD & SHOPPING
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Pioneer Day
Parade
10:00 am**



25TH ANNUAL

LIVESTOCK & FORAGES FIELD DAY

OCT 29TH, 2024 @ SANTA FE RIVER RANCH
8:30AM - 2:00PM 29220 NW 122nd St., Alachua, FL 32615

DEMOS, INDUSTRY UPDATES, EXPERT PRESENTERS

TOPICS:

- Cattle management and vaccination protocols
- Bull selection and EPDs
- Emerging weed problems and cool-season forages

LUNCH INCLUDED!

REGISTER ONLINE:



Scan with your phone or head to:
[https://2024UFILivestockandForages.
eventbrite.com](https://2024UFILivestockandForages.eventbrite.com)

\$20 pre-registration

\$40 at the door

Contact Lizzie Whitehead with any questions.
liz.whitehead@ufl.edu
904-966-6224

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
An Equal Opportunity Institution.



FREE

COTTAGE FOOD LAW



Do you know the laws for making & selling items from your home like

- cookies & cakes
- bread
- freeze dried candy & fruits
- canned salsa / jam / jelly / pickles

This class will help you understand the rules and regulations from an FDAC Inspector



**OCTOBER 17, THURSDAY, @ 5:30 PM
LAFAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**