



The Mayo Clover Leaf



July 2024

Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News

Vol 6 Num 7

Up-Coming Events

Camps

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

All Youth

Tuesday, July 16, 4-H Animal
Show and Tale, 10:30-11:30,
Mayo Library

4-H Sr Commodity

Wednesday, July 31, 1:00-4:30,
Mayo Community Cent.

Public Welcome

Thursday August 8, Forest
Management and Wildfire Miti-
gation Workshop, 9:00-12:00,
Lafayette Co. Extension Office

Tuesday, August 13, Regional
Peanut Field Day, 9:AM-
1:00PM, North FL Research
Education Center Suwannee
Valley

Chick-Chain Participants

Wednesday August 14 Chick-
Chain Practice, 3:00-4:00, 4-H
Classroom

Wednesday August 21, Chick-
Chain Practice, 3:00-4:00, 4-H
Classroom

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

Tuesday September 10, Quad
County Chic-Chain Show, Madi-
son Co. 6:00PM

Agriculture and Weather Report

Emily Beach

Conditions this month re-
main the same as last- HOT
and DRY- but are vastly
different than they were
this time last year. We
were concerned with

flooded conditions last year, yet this year we can't seem to water our
crops and lawns enough to keep up with the water we are losing. Com-
mercially, this is placing much stress on crops and for the home gardeners I
see sprinklers running trying to keep lawns and gardens thriving. Keep in
mind that the most optimal time for watering is in the early morning hours
to avoid excessive evapotranspiration.

As far as gardening goes, July is the month for starting tomato and pump-
kin seeds. You can also plant cucumbers, peppers, and peas. For the land-
scape, azaleas can be pruned up until the middle of the month to protect
the spring bloom. You could also try an appropriate variety of peach and
nectarine trees to plant and fertilize this month. Peach varieties that do
well in North Florida are FloridaCrest, Florida Dawn, UF Gold, and UF2000.
Suncoast and Sunmist are two nectarine varieties that are recommended
in our area.

June Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2024	2023	2022
Cooks Hammock	2.98	15.05	4.1
Mallory Swamp	2.17	13	2.69
Midway Tower	1.52	14.1	3.81



Lafayette 4-H Youth Embrace Farm-to-Table Experience at Summer Day Camp

Shawn Jackson

Last week, young members of Lafayette 4-H immersed themselves in an interactive farm-to-table experience at their annual Farm to Table 4-H day camp. Held at various local venues, the camp aimed to educate and engage youth on the importance of healthy eating and local agriculture.

Throughout the week, participants enjoyed a variety of activities designed to showcase the journey of food from farm to plate. Guided by local foresters Jared Beauchamp and Zachary Butler, the young 4-H members learned to make dill pickles and homemade jelly using berries from nearby farms. These activities not only taught practical culinary skills but also emphasized the significance of supporting local farmers.

A memorable moment of the camp was when the youth gathered to prepare a dinner entirely from scratch. They enthusiastically shelled peas, shucked corn, and peeled potatoes, which were essential parts of their meal. Adding a personal touch, each participant enjoyed their dinner served on handcrafted woven place mats made earlier in the week.

The educational aspect of the camp extended beyond the kitchen. A pivotal field trip to the UF IFAS Suwannee Research and Education Center provided valuable insights into agricultural research and its impact on local farming practices. The visit included an in-depth tour of the facility, exposing the youth to ongoing research projects.

Before concluding their enriching week, the group visited a nearby blueberry farm. Here, amidst rows of thriving blueberry bushes, they relished the opportunity to pick fresh berries to their heart's content. Many of the youth eagerly gathered extra berries to take home, ensuring that the farm-to-table experience would continue even after the camp ended.

Reflecting on their time at the Farm to Table day camp, organizers and participants expressed enthusiasm for the hands-on learning and sense of community fostered throughout the week. The camp not only reinforced the importance of healthy eating and sustainable agriculture but also cultivated a deeper appreciation for the local food systems that sustain their community.

Photo right: Cutting cucumbers into spears to make dill pickles.

Photo far right: Sitting in a pea shelling circle, shelling peas that were enjoyed at a Farm to Table lunch.



Cloverbuds Go Wild At Fundamentals Camp

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette 4-H Cloverbuds had an exciting week at the 4-H Fundamentals camp, featuring special guests, educational activities, crafts, and a visit to Two Trails Ranch. The week began with a visit from local celebrity Mr. Austin Phelps, who delighted the Cloverbuds with autographed copies of his book "The Original Mr. Phelps" and showcased impressive skills like spinning basketballs and creating balloon animals.

Throughout the week, the Cloverbuds participated in creative crafts, crafting models of various animals including elephants, ostriches, tortoises, camels, hawks, owls, and snakes. They were also treated to a presentation by Ms. Sharron Pena, featuring live animals such as horned owls, barn owls, a snake, mice, and two types of hawks, providing an engaging and educational experience.

A highlight of the camp was a field trip to Two Tails Ranch in Newberry, FL, where the Cloverbuds had the opportunity to meet elephants, zebras, and lemurs up close.

The Cloverbuds, aged 5-7, thoroughly enjoyed their time at camp, having fun while learning about wild animals and the foundational aspects of being a 4-H member.



Photo above: Cloverbud craft of cutting out animal faces.



Photo above: Austin Phelps shares fun and the book "The Original Mr. Phelps".

Youth Learn All Salt Water Life and Marine Biology Camp

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette 4-H recently immersed themselves in marine biology at their Marine Biology Camp. The children explored various saltwater habitats, studying organisms ranging from algae and bacteria to larger creatures like sharks and whales. They learned about the complex relationships between marine life and their environments, and discovered ways to positively influence these ecosystems.

In addition to marine biology lessons, the -H participants enjoyed creative activities

such as decorating oyster shells with mod podge, crafting picture frames adorned with sea shells, and painting beach scenes on canvases. Mr. Jay Capasso, UF's Extension Regional Specialized Agent for Water Resources, discussed the importance of water and aquifers with the group. They also visited a weekly library program showcasing animals from around the world, further enhancing their understanding.

The highlight of the camp was a field trip to Cedar Key's UF IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station, led by Emily Colson, Program Coordinator. Here, the youth engaged in hands-on activities such as dissecting fish to learn about their anatomy, determining age and gender, and identifying internal organs. They also conducted tests on water quality, pH levels, salinity, and dissolved oxygen in the shore area. A special treat was the visit of dolphins close to shore, providing a memorable encounter. Later, the youth enjoyed a scavenger hunt on the beach, identifying various plant life and specimens.



4



4-Hers Enjoy Learning about Citizenship at Camp USA

Shawn Jackson

Independence Day festivities at Lafayette 4-H began early this year with Camp USA. Young participants eagerly immersed themselves in discovering the civic responsibilities of American citizens and exploring ways they could actively contribute to improving their local community. Through engaging workshops and discussions, they gained a comprehensive understanding of the political process, elections, and the intricate workings of government, including how laws are proposed, debated, and enacted by the three branches of government.

In addition to these fun activities, the camp fostered creativity among the youth, who enthusiastically crafted various patriotic-themed items such as stained glass decorations, wind chimes adorned with stars and stripes, and other Independence Day crafts. These projects not only showcased their artistic talents but also instilled a deeper appreciation for the significance of the Fourth of July and what it symbolizes in American history.

A highlight of the week-long celebration was a memorable field trip to Pickett Lake Campground, where the participants experienced an old-fashioned American summer cookout. Against the picturesque backdrop of the lake and surrounding nature, they engaged in fishing, leisurely swimming, and exhilarating kayaking adventures. The day culminated in a delightful feast prepared by dedicated 4-H volunteers, featuring sizzling grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, enjoyed by all under the clear summer sky.

The combination of educational insights, creative expression through crafts, and outdoor activities at Camp USA not only celebrated Independence Day but also empowered Lafayette 4-H youth with knowledge and skills that will inspire their future contributions as responsible citizens of their community and country.



Photo Top Left, clockwise: Camp USA participants with their stain glass project. Campers painting glass. Large bass caught at Jackson Murphy Camp USA Day at Pickett Lake. Canoeing and kayaking was a popular water sport on Pickett Lake during Camp USA.

**FOREST
MANAGEMENT
AND WILDFIRE
MITIGATION
WORKSHOP
WITH FIRE DEMO**



AUGUST 8, 2024 9 AM-NOON AT THE
LAFAYETTE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE.
PLEASE CALL 294-1279 TO REGISTER.



**REGIONAL
PEANUT FIELD
DAY 2024**

August 13 | 9 AM-1 PM

(lunch provided)

Register on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peanut-field-day-tickets-921775203447?aff=oddtcreator>

Field Tours on:

- Variety Trial
- Leaf Spot Study
- Fungicide Efficacy Trial
- Nematode Trial
- Chelated Iron Impact Study

Pesticide CEU & CCA credits available

NFREC-SV

8202 CO Rd 417

Live Oak, FL 32060



UF/IFAS is an equal opportunity institution



4-H Senior Commodities



Day	Date	Time
Wed	July 31, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Wed	August 28, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm
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

*Program for Lafayette County seniors 60+
Call 386-294-1279 for registration and details.*

Chick Chain Important Dates

August 14 3:00-4:00pm- Practice at the 4-H classroom

August 21 3:00-4:00pm- Practice at the 4-H classroom

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

September 10 at 6:00pm- 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.