



## Up-Coming Events

**Feb. 2, 3:00** Culinary 4-H Club meeting, Extension Office

**Feb. 8, 6:30** Basic gardening workshop Mayo Library

**Feb. 9, 3:00** Lafayette Community 4-H meeting. Extension Office

**Feb. 16, 3:15** 4-H Anglers Club Meeting, Koon Lake

**Feb. 23, 3:15** 4-H Jr. Masters Gardeners Club Meeting, Extension office

**Feb. 24, 2:00-4:00** Senior Commodity pick up, Mayo Community Center

**March 22-25**, Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale

## Suwannee County Fair Canceled, Livestock Show Goes On

The 2020 Suwannee County Fair has been canceled. A statement on the Suwannee County Fair Web Site and Facebook page reads "Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control the 2021 Suwannee County Fair has been cancelled. The Hog, Steer, Dairy, Goat and Beef show will continue as scheduled March 19-27 2021." Many local youth have had steers, hogs

and dairy heifers purchased for months and are looking forward to exhibiting their animals. The Suwannee County Youth Livestock show and sale includes youth participation from Suwannee, Lafayette and Hamilton Counties. Organizers and exhibitors appreciate the communities' support for these events and looks forward to seeing everyone at the show.

## Basic Gardening Workshops Planned

The Lafayette 4-H garden club is partnering with the Three Rivers Library and Taylor County Master Gardeners to present local "Newbie to gardening" workshops. UF IFAS Horticulture Agent Lisa Strange will be presenting the basic gardening lessons and participants will have an opportunity to carry home free seeds and plants. Lafayette 4-H will be providing the plants

that they have started from seeds themselves and youth will take turns sharing their knowledge of gardening topics to the group. Workshops begin Monday February 8, at 6:30 PM in the Mayo Library. Families are encouraged to attend. This workshop will take place the second Monday of each month thereafter. For the safety of those attending, masks are required.

## Toxic Round-up Saturday February 5

The Lafayette County Toxic Round-up will be held on Saturday, February 6, from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM at the Lafayette County Community Center. This event is free for residents of the county. Some items that may be around your house that are considered toxic items are paints, batteries, fertilizers and pesticides, aerosol cans, fluorescent lights, prescriptions and household electronics. The toxic round-up is a partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Lafayette County Commission.

## Senior Commodity Pick-Up

Day	Date
<u>Wednesday</u>	<b>February 24, 2021</b>
<u>Wednesday</u>	<b>March 31, 2021</b>
<u>Wednesday</u>	<b>April 28, 2021</b>
<u>Wednesday</u>	<b>May 26, 2021</b>

Commodities are distributed from 2:00-4:00 on dates above and should be picked-up on those days unless prior arrangements are made. Volunteers are needed to sort and bag items. Reach out to the extension office at 386-294-1279 for more information.

## February Brings Potato Planting in North Florida

For many gardeners in North Florida, the month of February brings opportunity to start preparing the spring garden and even get new crops in the soil. Old timers in Lafayette County recognize February 14 as an important day for planting potatoes. Potatoes have long been an important staple in backyard garden in this area and have been more recently planted for commercial retail. Potatoes are super easy to grow and an excellent starter crop for the youth gardener. For more tips on growing potatoes, visit UF IFAS Potatoes Home Garden - UF/IFAS Extension

## February Rain Fall Totals

January	2019	2020	2021
Midway Tower	3.76	.89	1.78
Cooks Hammock	3.69	1.1	2.12
Mowery Swamp	4.38	.74	1.11

### 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.

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.

# Community 4-H Club Learns Better Habits for 2021

The Lafayette Community 4-H Club met on January 12. The program presented at the meeting was “A Better You in 2021”. The presentation by 4-H Agent Shawn Jackson encouraged youth to practice healthy nutrition habits, particularly when choosing snacks and to get more exercise. The importance of getting adequate sleep and limiting the amount of time on electronic devices was also discussed. After the presentation, members participated in a “hike and hunt” which consisted of an outdoor scavenger hunt across several acres. While the hike and hunt was helpful in removing litter from the extension ground, it also led to the discovery of a dead cat. With the assistance of adults, the cat was buried and a discussion on the importance of keeping pets safe at home and raising healthy animals took place.

Right: 4-H members participating in a hike and hunt .



## Third Grade Students Plant Cabbage Plants

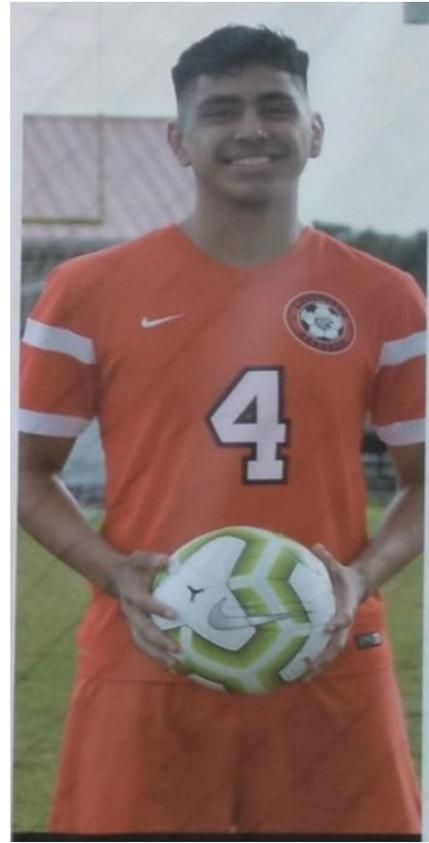
Third grade students at Lafayette Elementary School recently planted cabbage plants in the school garden. In years past, the third grade students have grown cabbage plants in the school garden in a competition to see which student could grow the largest cabbage. This year, the students will be conducting an experiment to determine if there is a significant difference between heirloom cabbages and hybrid cabbage plants. Each student has

planted a cabbage plant in the garden. Approximately half of the plants are heirloom and half are hybrid. Each cabbage is identified with the student's name and type of cabbage. At the conclusion of the experiment, students will compare the size, weight, shape and taste of the cabbage. This is the second year the Lafayette County Extension and 4-H have partnered with the LES 3rd grade to grow cabbages in the school garden.

# Varsity Boys Soccer Goes to District Tournament

The Lafayette Varsity boys' soccer team finishes the 2020-2021 season with a 9-3-1 record. The teams only losses were to non-district games against Williston, St John Paul II, and Suwannee and a tie as well against Suwannee. Senior Emmanuel Tovar leads the teaming in scoring with 12 goals followed by Senior Quentin Sutley with 8 goals. The team is averaging scoring 4 goals a game and average giving up less than 1 per game. The Hornets will carry a perfect district record into the district playoffs which will begin Friday, February 5, with a game against Oak Hall in Gainesville. The Hornets are being coached by Jose Resendiz-Becerra.

Right: Emanuel Tovar, Lafayette leading scorer



# Varsity Girls Soccer Has Record 9-1-2 Season

Lafayette Girls soccer team ends the regular season with a team record of 9-1-2 season. Junior athlete Lyda Plunkett leads the teams scoring with 11 goals closely followed by Spring Raulerson also a Junior with 10 goals. Coach Stephen Clark's team has no district losses and goes into the District play offs with a game against St. Francis Catholic in Gainesville on Friday, February 4.

Photo Right: Varsity soccer girls celebrate a victory in the record 9 winning game season.

