Vann Retires After 30 Years of Service To Extension and Farmers

After 30 years of work with UF IFAS Extension as the Lafayette County Agriculture agent and dedication to the farmers of Lafayette County and North Florida, the Lafayette County Extension Office announces the retirement of Chris Vann. Vann began his career as an ag agent in Lafayette County in 1990 after completing his eighth year as an ag teacher at Lafayette High School. When starting his career as an ag agent, the county was dotted with watermelon and tobacco farms, dairies, and poultry farms passed down from one generation to another. Vann has been more than an ag advisor to farmers through his years of service. He has also been their friend, supporter and confidant during times of struggles that have been all too familiar to farmers.

Vann also served as a 4-H agent during his years of service. He has coached numerous judging teams, helped countless numbers of youth with show pigs and steers and organized the annual Lafayette County Farm Judging contest which is attended by 7 North Florida Counties.

Although the Lafayette County Extension office along with area farmers will miss Vann, we congratulate him and wish him the best in his years of retirement.

December Ushers In Winter Temperatures and Rain Showers

The final weeks of 2020 saw a pattern of cold temperatures with multiple morning temperatures falling in the mid-20’s and frequent hard frost. Average temperatures for the month ranged from lows in the mid 40’s and highs in the low 70’s with warmer temperatures rounding out the month. December also had its share of rain including several downpours leading to the month’s rain fall averages exceeding that of December 2019 but well behind 2018 averages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midway Tower</td>
<td>12.75</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks Hammock</td>
<td>12.77</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowery Swamp</td>
<td>8.62</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>3.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source, Suwannee River Water Management
All Ages Win Big in Mayo Gingerbread House Competition

A Gingerbread House Competition sponsored by The Lafayette 4-H Culinary Club and The Mayo Woman’s Club was held on December 11 and 12, at the Mayo Community Center. There were 97 gingerbread houses entered in the competition which was divided into three categories: youth ages 11 and under, a junior category ages 12 -17 and the adult/family category. A “how to build a gingerbread house” workshop was held for youth during the week leading up to the event with 30 youth participating. Their gingerbread houses which were made of graham crackers, icing, and candy were only some of the houses entered in the competition. Lafayette Elementary School Kindergar- teners also entered gingerbread house made with their teachers in the competition. Other houses entered in the competition were made of anything from gingerbread to cereal.

Winners of the competition were: youth category – Anistyn Bass, junior category - Maggie Day, and adult/family category – Kemi Jackson. Each winner received 100 dollars for their winning entry.

The Lafayette 4-H Culinary Club as well as the Mayo Women’s club thanks those who participated in this event and hopes it encourages families to spend more time together this holiday season and through-out the new year in fun, family bonding activities.

Top Left: Maggie Day and Miley McCray show their finished work after an evening of gingerbread house decorating.
Top Middle: Gingerbread houses of all shapes and sizes submitted in the competition.
Top right: Jessica Johnson presents Anistyn Bass with her 100 dollar award for 1st place in the youth division
Farm Bureau and Rotary Recognize Farm City Week

Mayo Rotary and Lafayette Farm Bureau joined together to celebrate Farm City Week on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. Farm City Week is the week before Thanksgiving every year to acknowledge farmers for the important role they play in our every day lives. Without farmers, we would not have clothes on our backs, food on our tables, or gas in our cars. Farm Bureau is an active supporter of Ag Education such as Ag in the Classroom and works to support youth organizations such as FFA and 4-H.

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President, Rod Land, also recognized retiring Ag Agent Chris Vann, for his 30+ years of dedication to Lafayette County and the surrounding communities.

Local Youth Register Steers and Hogs for SVYLSS

Steer weigh in and tagging along with pig weigh tagging for youth planning to show steers and hogs in the SVYLSS in the spring of 2021 was held on Saturday, December 12. All animals being shown in the show had to be brought to the Suwannee County Fairgrounds for the identification and tagging event. 150 youth from Lafayette and surrounding counties qualified to show their steer or hogs at the tag and weigh in event. Other important dates to remember include:

- Swine weigh in for show March 22, 8:00-10:00 AM
- Swine showmanship show March 22, 6:30 PM
- Steer weigh in for show March 23, 8:00-10:00 AM
- Swine show March 23, 6:30 PM
- Steer Show March 24, 6:30 PM
- Awards March 25, 8:30 AM
- Steer and hog sale March 25, following awards

Senior Commodity Pick-Up Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>January 27, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>February 24, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 31, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>April 28, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>May 26, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commodities are distributed from 2:00-4:00 on dates above and should be picked-up on those day 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.

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President Rod Land honors Chris Van for his service to the Ag community.
Lafayette 4-H Participate in Tri-County Chick-Chain Show

Lafayette 4-H recently participated in a Tri-County Chick-chain Show held in Madison. Twenty-eight 4-H members from Madison, Lafayette and Taylor county participated in the November 19 event. Lafayette County 4-H members competing were Holland Jackson, Lanae Colson, and Derby Sherrell. Participants in the show purchased their chicks in the spring specifically for this program. The Chick-Chain Show is a program designed to help youth learn how to raise baby chicks into mature production pullets. Youth learn responsibility, ethical treatment of animals, biosecurity, record keeping and communication skills. The youth from these three counties attended virtual webinars addressing these topics as well as how to prepare for and show their hen. Lafayette County 4-H Congratulates all participant and winners on a great show with a special congratulations to Lafayette’s Holland Jackson for placing 3rd in the intermediate showmanship competition.

Photos below: Holland Jackson, Lanae Colson and Derby Sherrell with their hens at the chic chain competition.

4-H Bake Sale A Big Success

Special thanks to friends of 4-H who donated cakes and Christmas candy for the Pioneer Christmas 4-H bake sale. 10 cakes, 20 boxes of Christmas candy and 2 candy trays were sold at the event. 4-H culinary club members also made “recipes in a jar” gifts that were sold at the fundraiser as well. Funds raised at this event will be used to support 4-H club projects and help sup-

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.

Check out our YouTube Channel:

Lafayette County 4-H