



Up-Coming Events

June 8-10 Clover Buds Camp

June 14-17 Cherry Lake Tri-County 4-H Day Camp

June 21-25 Plan it, Build it Camp for teens

June 22-24 Life Skills for kids Camp

June 29-July 1 Camp USA

June 29 bagging and preparing commodities

June 30 Senior Commodity Pick-up

July 6-8 Mrs. Long's Spa Camp

July 8-9 Environmental Education and Natural Resources Camp

July 13-15 Science Fun Camp

July 15 -16 LOMO Camp (Living on my own) for teens

July 27 Bagging and preparing commodities

July 28 Senior Commodity Pick-up

UF IFAS Vice President Angler Visits Mayo

Lafayette County Extension Service was honored to welcome UF IFAS Vice President, Dr. Scott Angle, Chief Executive of agriculture and environmental sciences arm of the University of Florida, to Mayo on Wednesday, May 26. Angle visited with extension volunteers and 4-H council members giving out food commodities to Lafayette County senior citizens. "I was so impressed with your 4-H group. They are organized and efficient, and what a valuable community service they are performing for the area's senior population" stated Angle. After his visit with volunteers, 4-H members and clerk of court Steve Land, Angle toured the county extension office and discussed extension programming.

Dr. Angle joined The University of Florida in July of 2020. He leads nearly 2,300 employees who work in all 67 Florida counties. UF/IFAS en-

compasses the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, and the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station.



Pictured above: North East District Extension Director Dr. Eric Simonne, Lafayette 4-H members Tori Newman, Savannah King, Callie King, Miley McCray, Cason Driver, UF IFAS Vice President Dr. Scott Angle, Seth Chandler and Lafayette Extension Director Shawn Jackson.

May Brings Drought Like Conditions to North Florida

After a drier than normal month of May, the lush green landscape of the wet early spring has quickly turned to brown, crunchy vegetation. While the first part of the month brought minimum amounts of rain fall, the latter part of the month brought little to no precipitation. Drought like conditions have forced area farmers to increase irrigation to crops as well as elevated fire danger threat levels. Relief from the dry conditions may be coming. The National Weather Service rainfall outlook through June has a 33% chance that the Florida peninsula will have above average precipitation.

May Rainfall in Lafayette County

	2021	2020	2019
Midway Tower	1.13	2.1	1.08
Cooks Hammock	1.73	1.12	2.72
Mallory Swamp	1.96	1.43	2.52

Regional Crop Updates for Peanuts, Corn, and Watermelon

By De Broughton, UF/IFAS Row Crop RSA
Kelsey Stellar and Dalton Tiner, Extension Assistants
NFREC-Suwannee Valley

Peanut update

The end is near for peanut planting here in the Suwannee Valley region. This planting season has been cooler than previous seasons and fairly dry as of now. The earlier planted peanuts are looking good and pretty clean besides some sign of day flower on the North end of the Suwannee Valley region. The dry spell we are going through makes it a little tough for our producers. Although Florida farmers roughly produce 145 million dollars' worth of peanuts annually and of total, nearly half comes from farms within the Suwannee River Valley. This region produces roughly 70 thousand acres of peanuts each year.



Former Lafayette County Ag Agent, Chris Vann, scouting peanuts and evaluating maturity late 2020 growing season.

Corn update

Corn production this spring has overall been good. However, growth potential was reduced early in the season due to prolonged cooler spring temperatures and some leaching rain events. These late mild to warm spring days have helped corn pollination to become more successful by giving the corn

more time to process and absorb beneficial nutrients. Recently we have experienced dry and hot weather, which makes it difficult for corn to keep up the demand for good moisture during later stages of growth and reproduction. However, market prices are good and corn this season has balanced itself out well given the early challenges. Soon corn will be the “stalk” of the town when harvest arrives.

Watermelon update

Florida historically ranks first nationally in the production of watermelons. Florida produces about 18% of the nation's watermelon crop by total weight and by value. Watermelon harvesting in the Suwannee Valley area started the week of May 17 and will be in full swing on all farms in the last of May to early June. The crop quality looks very good, and demand is high. Early season cold weather slowed the crop somewhat and a few diseases have required attention, but prospects are good for a successful season. The Suwannee Valley region contains about one-third of Florida's 21,000 acres in watermelon production. Watermelon growers in the Suwannee Valley need research and Extension programs to learn how to improve the efficiency and profitability of their operations.



Fifteen Youth Participate in 4-H Grill Masters Training

Lafayette 4-H recently completed its spring Grill Masters workshops. Fifteen Lafayette County middle and high school Youth participated in the four-week, ten-hour training that consisted of four weeks of grilling chicken, pork, beef and seafood. Not only did participants learn to create delicious meals with these different meats on charcoal grills, but they also learned about food safety, how to select the best cuts of meat, and how to recognize quality meat.

Robbie Thomas, chef and proprietor of the Dixie Grill in Live Oak, Florida was the feature guest instructor. The first week of training, grill masters grilled chicken breast and leg quarters. Thomas carefully explained the seriousness of serving undercooked chicken, how to know when the chicken was done and applying seasoning or brining meats. The following week would focus on techniques for grilling pork. Grill masters grilled pork-steaks. During this week, participants learned techniques of how to position and turn meat on the grill that would result in a more attractive grill-looking meat. The third week of grill master training would be grilling beef. The cut of choice was the New York Strip. According to Thomas, the New York Strip is one of the most flavorful cuts of beef and is an excellent choice for grilling. Finally, the grill masters

training concluded in week four with the grilling of seafood. Thomas demonstrated techniques for successfully grilling fresh salmon and under his instruction youth used water-soaked bamboo skewers to grill the shrimp and scallops. Participants in the Grill-Masters workshops learned many valuable insights and tips to preparing professional quality meat on a grill, but the youth agreed one of the most helpful tips was to be sure the meat is always dried off well before placing on a hot grill to avoid the meat sticking.

Lafayette 4-H plans to continue grill masters in the fall and looks forward to hosting a night of Dinner with 4-H Grill Masters in the future where youth can share their new grilling skills.



Robbie Thomas grilling New York Strip with 4-H Grill masters



Alissa Jones and AJ Swinson grill chicken breast and quarters.

Culinary Club Spices things up!

Lafayette 4-H Culinary Club members kicked off the month of 4-H Club meetings celebrating Cinco De Mayo by making chicken Fajitas. Members enjoyed cooking chicken breast with onions and peppers and family members enjoyed sampling their work. Members learned to safely handle and cook raw chicken as well as how to sauté vegetables.

Community Club Learns Character

The Lafayette County community Club held its monthly meeting on May 11. Prior to the day's activity, a lesson was presented by the County 4-H agent on "treating others with respect and kindness". After refreshments, each 4-H member made a "Minion flowerpot" with a recycled soda can and planted a plant in their flowerpot.

Angler's Club Makes Poles

On May 18, the Lafayette 4-H Anglers Club met. Rather than a monthly trip fishing, 4-H members walked to a near by residence to cut a bamboo pole. Each member chose a straight pole, stripped it of suckers and stored it for drying. The bamboo poles will be stained and varnished and used for anglers to fly fish and for fishing in ditches.

Gardening Club Learns About Curb-Appeal

The Extension office front porch got a needed make over when the 4-H Garden club met on May 25. Members placed six, twenty-gallon flowerpots on the porch. Each pot was filled with a boxwood shrub and a variety of herbs which can be used in the future by grill masters, 4-H Culinary members and in FNP programs.

How to Avoid Heat Stress in Goats

By Izabella Toledo

Regional Dairy Extension Specialist

As summer quickly approaches, we have to pay close attention to signs of heat stress in livestock. Heat index, which include the measurement of temperature plus relative humidity is the most accurate way to determine heat stress during the hottest months of the year.

Goats tend to tolerate heat better than other livestock species; however, they still need extra care to be comfortable, healthy and productive during periods of extreme heat. Young and older goats as well as animals with poor nutritional status and health issues are more susceptible to the effects of heat stress.

Water

Plenty of fresh, clean, cool water is essential to prevent heat stress in livestock. In periods of extreme heat and high humidity, it may be necessary to provide goats with extra fresh, clean, cool water. On average, goats drink 1-2 gallons of water per day, but, during the hottest months of the year, they will drink about 20% more water, especially dairy goats producing milk and younger animals.

Shade

Access to shaded areas is another important factor to be considered when managing goats during hot weather days!

When goats are outside, mature trees and/or simple shade structures made with shade cloths, mesh fabric, tarps, canvas or sheet metal provide good shade and shelter. When goats are housed in barns, the key is to have good ventilation and air movement. Cooling systems consisted of fans and soakers are also recommended.

Handling, Nutrition, Productivity and Health

Avoid handling, working and transporting goats during the hottest times of the day during the summer. If needed, work with them during early morning or late evening.

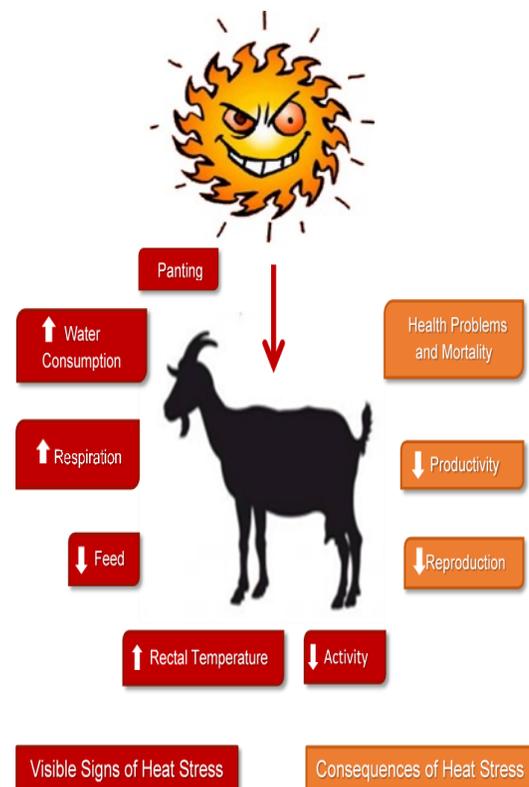
Nutritional adjustments are also recommended during the summer. More nutrient-dense diets are usually preferred to decrease the amount of heat produced by the animals during digestion. Also, during the summer, goats will decrease grazing time during the hot times of the day and will graze mostly during early mornings and late evenings.

Productivity, reproduction and health are also affected by prolonged exposure to heat.

Heat Stress

It is important to be able to recognize signs of heat stress to avoid heat exhaustion or stroke. Signs include continual panting, increased and rapid respiration, decreases in activity and increases in rectal temperature (over 105°F). If rectal temperature exceeds 107°F, death may occur. If you suspect that your goat is in heat stress, you should move the animal to a cool shaded area with good air circulation, offer plenty of fresh, cool water, and if necessary, carefully spray water and use ice to help decrease the body temperature. If the animal becomes dehydrated due to exposure to extreme heat, administration of fluids may be necessary.

In the summer, it is important to frequently check livestock for signs of distress! During the hottest months of the year, goats should be able to stay healthy, productive and maintain normal body temperature if they have shade and plenty of water available at all times!



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.