



## Local Youth Participate In Ag-Ventures Day

### Up-Coming Events

June 7-9, Clover Buds  
Camp 4-H Classroom

June 13, Teen Cake Decorating  
day Camp

June 14-16, 4-H Journey  
Around the World Camp  
4-H Classroom

June 21-23, Tri-County  
Camp Cherry Lake,  
Madison FL

June 28-30 4-H Camp  
USA, 4-H Classroom

July 12-14, 4-H Conservation  
Camp, 4-H Classroom

July 18-21, 4-H Teen  
Build it Camp, Mayo Ag  
Complex

June 19-21 4-H Conservation  
Camp, 4-H Classroom

By: Emily Beach  
Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Beach participated in Lafayette County Ag-Ventures program hosted by Lafayette County Farm Bureau at the Farm Bureau office. Lafayette County fourth graders were able to learn about commodities that are important in Florida. The stations were corn, timber/forestry, poultry, watermelon, peanuts, cotton, and dairy. At each station the students learned about how each commodity grows, is harvested, and all of its uses. There were many things that come from these commodities as by-products that were surprising to the students. It was a great learning day!



Above: Lafayette County 4-H Agent Shawn Jackson speaks to fifth grader about cotton.

## June Weather and Ag Report

By: Emily Beach

We have experienced some hot, sunny days lately which causes the rainfall that we do get to not sustain our vegetation for very long. At this point in the year, vegetable gardens need to receive 2 inches of water per week whether by rain or irrigation. Lawns need 1/2 to 3/4 inch per week. If you aren't sure how much water your irrigation system is putting out, set out some water gauges or something that can have a 1/2 inch marked. Run your system and see how long it takes to get to that 1/2 inch mark then make your adjustments from there.

June is the ideal time for planting palms as well as vegetables like okra, acre peas, and sweet potatoes. Sweet potatoes need an adequate and consistent amount of water during the growing season to prevent splitting during growth.

In Lafayette County, watermelons and blackberries are being harvested and corn, peanuts, and cotton are the main crops being grown along with tobacco. This is a time of being diligent in pest scouting to keep crops healthy and as we enter a season of afternoon showers, keeping diseases and fungi at minimal levels is important.

May Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2022	2021	2020
<b>Cooks Hammock</b>	3.72	1.73	1.12
<b>Mallory Swamp</b>	3.56	2.11	2.12
<b>Midway Tower</b>	3.25	1.13	2.1

Summer 4-H Camps are filling fast! Contact Extension office for availability.

## Learning about a successful way to preserve those garden vegetables

By: Emily Beach

On Tuesday, May 24 Lafayette County UF/IFAS Extension and Three Rivers Library System partnered in a program taught by Emily Beach and Debbie Land offering ways to preserve the fruits and vegetables that are being harvested from spring gardens. Topics covered were food safety, canning basics, and preservation guidelines.

There were over 40 participants in attendance at this program and many of those there had some level of experience in harvesting vegetables and fruits and were able to share tips and tricks for preserving them. Debbie also was able to teach about how to preserve meat through this process as well. It was a successful night of learning about safe ways to enjoy the fruits of such dedicated labor!



Above: A full house of eager participants in the recent food preservation class eager to learn how to preserve their garden vegetable and fruits.

## Lafayette 4-H Honors Mayo Rotary

By: Emily Beach

On Wednesday, May 18 we were able to have the monthly Rotary Club meeting in our new 4-H building. Mayo Rotary club has always been a generous supporter of Lafayette 4-H and we wanted to show our appreciation by having them be the first group to have a meeting in our new building and take an opportunity to thank them for their continued support. At the meeting, Mr. Jackson gave the program explaining all of the activities and clubs that are offered to 4-H members as well as the Summer Camps that we have coming up. Thank you, Mayo Rotary Club, for your generosity and continued support!



Above: Shawn Jackson speaks to Rotary about youth programs.

## 4-H Members meet Florida Governor



By: Emily Beach

On May 11, Governor Desantis made a visit to Mayo at the Lafayette County Courthouse and the 4-H homeschool club members were invited to attend. This was a very unique opportunity for our members as they were able to hear about the benefits that Lafayette County will receive as a result of bills that were passed in session this year.

# LES Third Graders Harvest Cabbages in School Garden

By: Emily Beach

As the school year comes to a close, we were able to harvest the last of the vegetables from it as well. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students planted cabbage transplants in January and cared for them until they were ready to harvest the last week of school. These students learned about the difference in warm and cool season vegetables and also were able to learn about what is required of soil. They performed a soil test in the fall to understand what amendments needed to be added to the soil to have the most productive garden. They also learned about the importance of water conservation while still providing the amount of water needed to grow their vegetables.



Mrs. Wimberley's Class



Mrs. Lands Class



Mrs. Jackson's Class



Mrs. Brocks Class

## Anglers Club Enjoys Big Catch

By: Shawn Jackson

Lafayette 4-H Anglers Club met on May 21 at the fishpond of Scott Jackson. Everyone present was successful at catching both catfish and brim. Some of the catfish weighed as much as five pounds. Catching larger fish created a challenge for some of the anglers but allowed them the opportunity to practice their skills of repairing fishing lines with new tackles. It also was a great opportunity to practice safely removing catfish from hooks. All fish caught were released back into the pond to enjoy catching on a future trip. This was the last fishing trip for the 4-H year. The club will resume regular meetings the second Tuesday of the month in September.

## Culinary Club Makes Doughnuts

By: Shawn Jackson

The 4-H Culinary Club had fun at their May meeting making doughnuts. The young cooks were eager to learn an easy way of making the delicious snack with a can of biscuits. Each member had their own can of biscuits which Ms. Beach showed them how to make into the shape of a doughnut. Mr. Jackson helped them place the doughnuts in a pot of hot oil. Once golden brown, the doughnuts were allowed to cool before each person coated their doughnuts with a sugar glaze they had prepared. The Culinary Club will be taking a break for summer camps but look forward to an exciting new year of cook come fall.

# Prepare Now For 2022 Hurricane Season

By: Emily Beach

June 1 officially started hurricane season and although we normally see the peak of the season in August and September, it's never too early to be prepared. If you haven't started doing so already, now is the time to get prepared for hurricane season in case disaster strikes.

It is important to be educated on the terminology to understand the level of intensity to expect. According to weather.gov a Tropical Depression is a tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds (one-minute average) of 38 mph (33 knots) or less; a Tropical Storm is a tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds ranging from 39-73 mph (34 to 63 knots); and a Hurricane is a tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds of 74 mph or greater (64 knots or greater). When those conditions occur, we are under a "watch" if there is a possible threat within 48 hours and a "warning" when those conditions are expected in 36 hours or less.

When a watch or warning is given, it is advised to already be prepared for whatever may come. Many disaster relief programs advise to have at least 7 days of supplies which include food, water, medicine/first aid kit, flashlights, batteries, etc. In the event of power outages, having a generator is especially helpful to keep your refrigerator/freezer going to prevent food spoilage. Florida has declared May 28-June 10, 2022 as Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday so now is the perfect time to stock up on those supplies you will need. There have been times in the past that Lafayette County was advised to evacuate due to being in the path of a storm and although it may seem unlikely, we can't predict the weather. In this case, having a plan for evacuation and the supplies necessary to make it happen, especially fuel, can alleviate stress in a chaotic situation. You can get a checklist from FloridaDisaster.org to be certain you have everything you need in terms of supplies and learn more information about being prepared to evacuate.

Be sure to secure your home and property to reduce unnecessary damage. Assess your roof in advance for any vulnerable areas and make any repairs needed. Also make sure there are no areas for possible water intrusion around windows and doors. Trim limbs of trees and clear rain gutters and if a storm is near, either secure or bring in outdoor furniture and/or decorations. Filling up bathtubs with water and large containers is especially handy for being able to wash and flush.

For those with animals- either pets or livestock- making sure you have feed and water as well as fuel to run equipment or generators is vital. Keep the fence lines with as few trees as possible to reduce major damage to fences. Test generators and wells ahead of time and assess trees close to shelters/buildings to minimize damage. If a storm is forecasted to hit our area, secure animals, and equipment on high ground. For those with livestock, hay should be assessed and monitored closely after a storm as wet conditions paired with high temperatures will encourage mold and yeast that significantly decrease nutritive value and is potentially hazardous to livestock.

## **"Mayo Farm to Table" Facebook Page**

Go on Facebook and like our new page "Mayo Farm to Table". This is a site that will serve as an online Farmer's Market for people in and around Lafayette County. The purpose of the site is to encourage the buying, selling, and/or trading of fresh produce, eggs, or other homemade goods. Please use the site as a way to explore all of the local niches that we have in our community and become acquainted with one another by sharing tips and tricks of the trade!

## **4-H Senior Commodity Give Away**

**Wednesday June 29, 2022**

**1:30 PM to 4:00 PM**

*Intermediate and Senior 4-H members  
may volunteer to help.*

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.