



UP-COMING EVENTS

JUNE 3-5: Clover Bud Camp
8:30 AM-3:00 PM
4-H Classroom

JUNE 10-12: Farm To Table Camp
8:30 AM-3:00 PM
4-H Classroom

JUNE 17-19: Homesteaders Camp
8:30 AM-3:00 PM
4-H Classroom

JUNE 24-26: Camp USA
8:30 AM-3:00 PM
4-H Classroom

JUNE 24-26: Build It Camp
8:00 AM-3:00 PM
Lafayette Ag Complex

JUNE 25: Senior Commodity Giveaway
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Lafayette County Community Center

JULY 8-10: Marine Biology Camp
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
4-H Classroom

WEATHER AND AGRICULTURE REPORT

Emily Beach

It seems as though we will be starting June hot!!! But hopefully we can recoup some of the rainfall deficit as the forecast looks like we may be getting some afternoon showers.

May Rainfall Totals (in)			
	2025	2024	2023
Cooks Hammock	2.38	4.21	3.13
Mallory Swamp	2.36	3.95	2.9
Midway Tower	2.93	4.12	2.52

The dry, extremely hot weather that we have had has made it very difficult for crops like corn and watermelons to thrive. Peanuts and cotton have been planted atermelons to thrive. Peanuts and cotton have been planted around the county and blackberries are being harvested. For planting new crops, herbs such as basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary grow well in the heat that is coming and vegetables like okra, peas, and sweet potatoes should be planted this month. For the landscape, June is the perfect month to plant palms and lightly prune summer flowering shrubs. Irrigation is going to be essential right now for crops and lawns. Remember a good rule of thumb for lawns is to water no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch each irrigation event and to water in the early morning hours to avoid excessive evaporation

WHAT'S EATING MY TOMATO LEAVES?

Emily Beach

I've had several calls this season asking about leaf eating pests in tomato plants. I ask the gardener to look around for anything that doesn't belong and hornworms have been found. These are common to tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant and are easily identifiable by the horn at the back of the body. Tomato hornworms have diagonal lines on their sides with a black horn and tobacco hornworms have horizontal lines with a red horn. Both types can be found in tomato plants and have the ability to cause extensive defoliation in just a few days.



If these are found, removing them by hand and placing them in soapy water is the best method. Sevin dust is also proven to be effective. Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is a chemical control option, but multiple applications are typically needed and rainfall and/or irrigation washes it away.

Always pay close attention to your leaves and fruit and at the first sign of damage, find the culprit to determine a plan of action. Often times the situation is too far out of control to find a solution. Mitigation is key!

4-H CULINARY CLUB SERVES UP QUESADILLA CREATIONS AND SWEET TREATS

Emily Beach

This month, the 4-H Culinary Club turned up the heat in the kitchen with a fun and flavorful cooking session centered around one of everyone's favorite dishes — quesadillas! Members got hands-on experience crafting their own unique versions, choosing between a classic seasoned chicken and cheese combination or a pizza-inspired twist using mozzarella and pepperoni. With plenty of sizzling, flipping, and taste-testing, each member brought their own flair to the griddle, learning kitchen skills and creativity along the way.

To top it all off, the young chefs ended the day on a sweet note, building their own ice cream sundaes or floats. With a variety of toppings, syrups, and soda choices, the dessert station was just as exciting as the main course. It was a flavorful day filled with laughter, teamwork, and tasty bites — another great example of how 4-H helps youth grow through hands-on learning and a whole lot of fun!



LOCAL 4-H CLUB HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING WITH CREATIVE MOTHER'S DAY ACTIVITY

Shawn Jackson

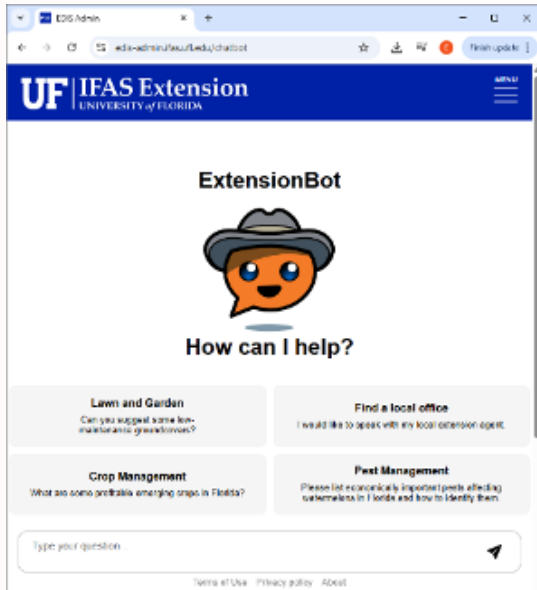
The local 4-H club held its regularly scheduled meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, bringing together 34 Cloverbuds and members for an engaging and fun-filled evening.

The meeting began with the traditional pledges to the American flag and the 4-H flag. One of the highlights of the evening was a demonstration by junior 4-H member Brynlee Walker, who showed fellow members how to make a bird feeder using a recycled gallon can. Her presentation was both educational and inspiring, encouraging creativity and environmental awareness.

During the meeting, members discussed several upcoming plans and ideas, including the end-of-the-year party and ways to show appreciation for mothers. In celebration of Mother's Day, the evening's activity involved making a thoughtful gift: a jar filled with chocolate kisses and a Mounds candy bar, accompanied by a heartfelt note that read, "Mounds of kisses for Mom on Mother's Day."

After the activity, the kids enjoyed snacks and spent time playing outside before heading home, wrapping up another successful and meaningful 4-H meeting.

INTRODUCING UF'S EXTENSIONBOT: YOUR NEW DIGITAL ASSISTANT FOR EXTENSION RESOURCES



Emily Beach

We're excited to introduce UF's ExtensionBot, a smart, AI-powered tool designed to help you quickly access information, resources, and answers related to UF/IFAS Extension programs. Whether you're a county agent, volunteer, or Florida resident looking for science-backed guidance, ExtensionBot is here to help — anytime, anywhere.

What is ExtensionBot?

ExtensionBot is a conversational assistant trained on UF/IFAS Extension materials. It can answer questions about agriculture, gardening, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, youth programs, and more.

What Can You Ask ExtensionBot?

"How do I test my soil for a home garden?"

"What's the best way to manage lawn pests in Florida?"

"Where can I find 4-H youth programs in my area?"

"How do I start a backyard compost pile?"

How to Use ExtensionBot

1. Visit the ExtensionBot page – [Insert URL or QR code here].
2. Type your question in the chat window.
3. Get instant answers sourced from trusted UF/IFAS publications, resources, and faculty expertise.
4. If the bot can't help, it will direct you to a local expert or relevant UF/IFAS office.

Why Use ExtensionBot?

- Fast, 24/7 access to accurate information
- Saves time for agents and clients
- Supports consistent messaging and outreach

ExtensionBot is here to enhance how we serve Florida's communities. Try it out today and see how UF/IFAS is using technology to extend our reach.

LIGHTHOUSE ACADEMY 4-H CLUB HONORS YOUTH AT END-OF-YEAR AWARDS BANQUET

Shawn Jackson

The Lighthouse Academy 4-H Club recently held its end-of-the-year awards banquet, recognizing the hard work and achievements of its members throughout the 4-H year.

A total of 22 youth were awarded their club member pins, recognizing their dedication and participation in club activities. In addition to membership recognition, special honors were given to members who completed 4-H record books and to those selected to serve as officers for the 2024-2025 club year.

Recognition for outstanding record book work went to several members. Davin Tyre and Katherine Nemcovic both earned first place honors for their excellent record books. Wyatt Hillwig received second place, followed by Emma Arnold in third place, and Molly Putnal received an honorable mention for her work.

Project pins were also awarded based on the specific focus of each member's record book. Davin Tyre received a pin for his work in the swine project. Katherine Nemcovic was awarded pins for both the swine project and a pin in recognition of her President record book. Wyatt Hillwig earned a pin for his work in the beef project, while Emma Arnold and Molly Putnal were both recognized for their work in the swine project.

FRESH FACES, NEW IDEAS: MEET OUR INTERN AMY HERRING

Amy Herring

My name is Amy Herring, I am a senior at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, majoring in agricultural communications. I am originally from South Florida but moved to Mayo shortly after graduating high school, and over time, I have grown to truly love everything about this small town and the people in it. The sense of community and strong agricultural roots here have deepened my passion for this field.

I'm excited to be interning here and gaining hands-on experience while working with youth and sharing the importance of agriculture. My passion lies in bridging the gap between the agriculture industry and the public. Helping people understand why agriculture is so important. Whether it be through journalism, photography, videography, or getting a little dirty, I'm committed to making agriculture approachable and exciting for those of any age.



ANGLERS HAVE SUCCESS AT MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Shawn Jackson

The Lafayette County 4-H Fishing Club gathered this month at Pickett Lake Assembly Grounds for a day of outdoor fun, fellowship, and fishing. Despite the heat, spirits were high and the fish were biting. Club members reeled in a variety of catches, including trout, bass, and brim, making it a successful outing for all involved. Although recent dry weather has caused lake levels to drop slightly, fishing conditions remained favorable. Wigglers proved to be the bait of choice, attracting plenty of fish throughout the day.



With summer in full swing, it's the perfect time to get kids outdoors and on the water. Local rivers and lakes, including Pickett Lake, continue to offer great fishing opportunities. The recent drop in river levels has made conditions especially favorable for fishing with wigglers, mealworms, and crickets. The Lafayette 4-H Fishing Club encourages families to enjoy the outdoors together and experience the joys of fishing, a timeless and educational activity for youth of all ages.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY YOUTH EXCEL AT 4-H DISTRICT EVENTS

Shawn Jackson

Three Lafayette County 4-H members showcased their talents at the 4-H District Events held Saturday, May 3, in Perry, Florida. Caylin Floyd and Keelan Lamb competed in the public speaking category, while Brynlee Walker participated in the demonstration division. Caylin delivered a speech about her favorite travel destination, Cades Cove in Tennessee, and Keelan shared his enthusiasm for Disney World in his speech. Both impressed the judges with their confidence and presentation skills.

Brynlee Walker demonstrated how to create a bird feeder using a recycled gallon can, providing a hands-on and engaging presentation that combined creativity with environmental awareness.

Caylin Floyd earned first place in the speech contest, and Brynlee Walker also earned first place in her demonstration. Both were awarded blue rosettes for their outstanding performances.

The 4-H District Events give youth an opportunity to develop public speaking skills, gain confidence, and present their knowledge and interests in front of an audience. All three participants represented Lafayette County 4-H with pride and excellence.

LAFAYETTE 4-H CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL YEAR WITH END-OF-YEAR PARTY

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette County 4-H recently wrapped up another successful year with a fun and festive end-of-the-year celebration for its members. The event recognized the hard work and dedication of 4-H youth throughout the year. A total of 39 club members earned membership and competition pins, while 21 Cloverbuds got their Cloverbud pins, celebrating their growth and participation in the program. These were kids representing the 4-H Community Club, Cooking Club, Anglers Club, Archery Club, and the Home School Club. The Light House Club members were recognized at their school awards.



These awards honored achievements in areas such as competitive events and record book completion, highlighting the variety of skills and learning experiences the youth gained through their involvement in 4-H.

Following the recognition ceremony, members enjoyed an outdoor celebration filled with water games and a playful marshmallow paint war, offering a fun and refreshing way to celebrate the year's accomplishments.

During the event, 4-H leaders explained the criteria for earning pins and encouraged all members to increase their participation in the upcoming year. The celebration marked a positive close to a year of learning, leadership, and community, with excitement already building for the next 4-H year.



2025 Lafayette 4-H Summer Day Camps

Clover Bud Camp ages 5-7

June 3- 5 Youth are introduced to the fundamentals of 4-H. Kids will enjoy three days of fun including making crafts, playing games, learning basic life skills such as responsibility and developing relationships with other future 4-H members.

Junior Camps grades 3rd-5th

June 10-12 Farm to Table Camp Youth learn how food commodities are produced with hands on activities including planting seeds, harvesting crops, and preparing recipes. A visit to the UF IFAS Agriculture Research Center will feature a trolley tour of their farm where research is being conducted to increase safe and affordable food supply.

June 17-19 Jr. Homesteaders Camp 4-Hers will learn to make the most of what they have and skills that lead to becoming more self-sufficient. Activities will include food preservation methods, using tools created for pioneer living and basic survival skills. **Camp concludes with a trip to Dudley Farm State Park**

June 24-26 Camp USA – Becoming Productive Citizens As America prepares to celebrate her birthday, Lafayette 4-H kicks off the festivities with a camp all about her! Youth learn about the rights, responsibilities, and civic duties of Americans and what makes USA exceptional.

July 8-10 Marine Biology Camp Learning about the creatures that live in fresh water, salt water and hide in the marshes in between will have campers thirsting for reptile knowledge. Camp is capped off with a day at UF's Nature Coast Lab in Cedar Key Florida.

Middle/high school Camps

June 24-26 Build it Camp Designed for older youth to learn how to use wood working tools safely and properly. Small wood working projects increase in complexity as youth master the use of a tape measure, speed square, hammer, drill and circular saw. The 3 day camp will culminate with participants completing a tiny house. Camp will also include career counseling and visits from area employers giving these teens an opportunity to explore employment opportunities as well as start **BUILDING** those skills that will be needed in the workforce.

Camps are open to youth participating in Lafayette County 4-H. All Camps are from 8:30AM-3:30PM. Times, camp themes, and fieldtrip locations are subject to change. Camps are \$50.00 per youth and should be paid at registration.



Lafayette 4-H Senior Commodities



<u>Day</u>	Date	Time
<u>Wednesday</u>	May 28, 2025	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	June 25, 2025	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	July 30, 2025	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	August 27, 2025	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	September 24, 2025	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	October 29, 2025	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	November 19, 2025	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	December 17, 2025	1:00pm – 4:00pm

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

Join Us This Summer For 7 Nights Of
Fun, Food, and Family Strengthening
Strengthening Families has scheduled to start on Tuesday,
June 10, at 6:00PM

What to expect?

Delicious meals, fun games, prizes and youth who are receptive to parent expectations and more enjoyable family time at home!

SIGN ME UP!

Call the Extension Office at 386-294-1279

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.

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UF IFAS Extension Lafayette County 4-H.