



## Up-Coming Events

May 3, Community Club, 4-H Classroom 3:00PM

May 10, 4-H Cooking Club, 4-H Classroom 3:00PM

May 17, Anglers Club, to be determined 3:00PM

May 18, Lafayette 4-H host Mayo Rotary Club, 4-H Classroom 12:00

May 18, 4-H Senior Commodity give-away, Mayo Community Center 1:30-4:00

May 24, Archery Club, 4-H Classroom 3:00PM

May 26, Final Day of School Lafayette School District.

Summer Day  
Camp  
Schedule  
inside!

## Anglers 4-H Club Has Big Catch

Shawn Jackson

4-H Anglers enjoyed a trip to Chuck and Melissa Hewitt's fishing pond for its April meeting. Those present enjoyed fishing in the pond stocked with channel cat. The trip was a success with most everyone catching and releasing

an abundance of fish. The trip was especially helpful in allowing youth the opportunity to practice safely removing catfish from hooks. Special thanks to Chuck and Melissa Hewitt for allowing the Anglers Club to use their pond and Justin Swinson for providing bait.



Miles Jackson and Kendall Beach patiently wait for fish to bite.



4-H Anglers work together to respect each other's space and not tangle lines.



Justin Swinson fishing after helping fellow anglers remove fish from hooks.

## Lafayette County Ag and Weather Report

Emily Beach

April was unusually dry which creates uncomfortable conditions for going into May. Running irrigation for lawns and gardens is extremely important in times like these as well as in the commercial setting for row crops and horticultural fruits and vegetables.

There are several heat loving herbs like basil, oregano, tarragon, and rosemary that can be planted this month along with vegetables like Swiss chard, okra, and peas. In your gardens and lawns be sure to scout for diseases and insects as both thrive in warmer weather. Damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustine is a problem this time of year as well as mole crickets in Bahia grass lawns.

April Rainfall Totals (in)

	2022	2021	2020
<b>Cooks Hammock</b>	1.87	5.33	5.08
<b>Mallory Swamp</b>	0.94	5.38	5.57
<b>Midway Tower</b>	1.49	4.87	6.03

# Register Now For 2022 Summer Day Camps

## **Clover Bud Camp** (ages 5--7)

**June 7-9** 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 tying shoes, responsibility and developing relationships with other future 4-H members.

## **Day of Cake Decorating** (ages 12-18)

**June 13** This one day only camp allows teens to learn the basics of cake decorating. Get ready to enjoy a day of making delicious master pieces!

## **Journey around the world** (ages 8-11)

**June 14-16** 4-H day campers will explore the cultures of countries around the world. Activities in the kitchen will allow youth an opportunity to prepare recipes and taste the flavors of foreign lands. Playing games and making crafts related to the camp theme will make this camp one kids will remember for a lifetime!

## **Camp Cherry Lake** (ages 8-17)

**June 21-23** This tri-county day camp allows youth the opportunity to enjoy some of the overnight camp experiences without the sleeping bags! All the fun activities of residential camp such as meeting new friends,

kayaking, swimming, archery, air rifle and crafts packed into 3 days of camping that begin with youth leaving Mayo each morning at 8:00 and returning at 5:00.

## **Camp USA** (ages 8-11)

**June 28-30** 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. Campers will learn the Bill of Rights, how laws are made and will be treated to a visit by state and local elected officials. A trip to the state capitol and other stops in the capitol city will make this trip a once in a lifetime opportunity. There will also be lots of patriotic crafts and plenty of time for outdoor games and activities.

## **Conservation Camp** (ages 8-11)

**July 12-14** Lafayette County is blessed to be surrounded by an abundance of natural resources. From the springs that dot the Suwannee River to thousands of acres of conservation land, This camp takes youth out into a natural classroom in our own backyard. Youth will experience a week of enjoying natural resources while learning to be re-

sponsible stewards and preserving these resources for generations to come.

## **Health Mind and Body Camp** (ages 8-11)

**July 19-21** Many of the choices youth make while growing up can have a lifetime of impact. In this fun filled week of camping, participants will learn that making healthy decisions can impact how they look and feel. During the week of practicing healthy living, campers will have an opportunity to participate in Ms. Longs "spa track" or Mr. Jackson's "Nature Hiking track". Tons of fun will be had by boys and girls attending this camp.

## **Build it camp** (ages 12-18)

**June 18-22** This weeklong summer 4-H camp is 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 five-day camp will culminate with participants completing a playhouse to be raffled in the fall of the year.

***Space is limited for each camp. Contact the Lafayette County extension office at 386-294-1279 for registration details.***

# Benefits of Petiole Sap Testing in Watermelons

Emily Beach

Petiole sap testing is an up-to-date assessment of nitrogen and potassium levels in watermelons. To do this, we collect the first mature leaf from a vine runner which is usually the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> leaf back from the tip. The leaf is removed from the stem or petiole and then the sap, or juice, is squeezed out. The sap is then placed into a meter that measures the amount of nitrogen and potassium available to the plant at that moment.

This is a very important service that producers have available to them as they are able to make real time decisions based on the nutrient levels their plants are at in that given moment. Considering the ever-increasing cost of fertilizer, this testing will allow for producers to adjust application plans for the most efficient and maximum production.

Watermelons are at the top of the list of favorite summer treats and as consumers, we want to have commodities provided to us in a safe, affordable, and abundant way. This is going to be an inter-

esting year as we continue to be impacted by rising production costs. As consumers we should always remember that our producers are facing uncertain times also and already went through a couple of environmental setbacks for the crops this season. Remember to buy local and support our economies as much as possible and be thankful for those who work so hard to keep food in production for us!



Watermelons being grown in Lafayette County.

## Community Club Learns To Prepare and Present Demonstrations

Shawn Jackson

One of the best ways to demonstrate mastery of a skill is by teaching it to others. This was the topic at the April Community Club meeting. Those in attendance were shown how to plan and deliver a demonstration. The club leader gave an example demonstration on "How to create a Charcuterie Board" and encouraged members of the club to share their own demonstrations at future meetings as well as in local, district and state contests. Four Lafayette County youth will be representing Lafayette County 4-H at district Events in Gilchrist County this month. Lanae Colson and Natalie Newman will be presenting demonstrations. Catherine Jones and Easton Powers will be competing in public speaking. The meeting concluded with snacks and outdoor games.



*Door Prizes*

*Debbie Land's*  
**CANNING WORKSHOP**

**THIS ISN'T YOUR MAMA'S CANNING!**  
You'll learn the basics along with some great tips & recipes sure to impress your family. Also, there's going to be some great door prizes! IT'S FREE!  
EAT LOCAL ALL YEAR LONG!

**TUESDAY, MAY 24TH @ 5:30PM**  
**LAFAYETTE COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**UF IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**Three Rivers**  
Library System

# Reminders For When Mowing Your Yard

Emily Beach

Mowing is an important cultural practice for maintaining a healthy lawn. Proper mowing height promotes a denser lawn with healthier and deeper roots which will ensure a stronger lawn. Here are a few quick tips to remember as we have entered into the mowing season:

- Narrow leaf blade species should be cut shorter than wider blade species. Refer to the table for specific species and their recommended height:

Species	Optimal Mowing Height (inches)
Bahia grass	3-4
Bermuda grass	.5-1.5
Centipede grass	1.5-2
St. Augustine grass	2.5-4
Zoysia grass	2-2.5

- Turfgrass becomes stressed with each mowing there-

fore removing too much shoot can permanently damage the turf. Only 1/3 of the blade should be removed with each mowing event to prevent long-term damage and avoid other stressors like disease, drought, insects etc.

- If mowing is frequent, clippings help recycle nutrients and organic matter back to the soil.
- Blades on lawnmowers should be sharpened often and balanced regularly for best cuttings.
- Mowing when the grass is dry is best as wet turf will clog a machine and/or leave clumps on the lawn.
- Mowing in different directions each cutting can prevent wear patterns and reduces scalping.
- Always mow safely by picking up stones/limbs or any other debris that might become a flying object. Additionally, wear close toed shoes and protect your skin from the sun.

## Lafayette Homeschool 4-H Club Learns About Landscaping

Shawn Jackson

The Lafayette Homeschool 4-H Club worked hard this month learning about landscaping. The monthly meeting began with the pledge to the American and 4-H flags. Lafayette Agriculture agent Emily Beach taught the club how to properly transplant potted shrubs and proper placement of shrubs when landscaping. 4-Hers used the knowledge gained to landscape the new 4-H educational building. Shrubs planted included Pittosporum, boxwood, miniature azaleas, and crepe myrtles. The new beds were dressed with pine straw to help maintain moisture.



Youth preparing beds at new 4-H Classroom.



4-H members planting shrubs.

### “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 May 25, 2022  
1:30 PM to 4:00 PM

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.