



The Mayo Clover Leaf



May 2025 Lafayette County Extension, Ag and 4-H News Vol 7 Num 5

Up-Coming Events

Tuesday May 6, Homeschool 4-H Club Meeting, 10:00 AM 4-H Classroom

Tuesday May 6, Clover Buds, Community Club Meeting, 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

Tuesday May 13, Culinary Club. 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

Tuesday May 20, Anglers Club Meeting, Picket Lake Camp Ground 3:00 PM

Tuesday May 20, Anglers Club Meeting. Alton Lake Contact Extension office for details.

Tuesday May 27, End of School Year 4-H Party! 3:00 PM 4-H Classroom

Wednesday May 28, 4-H Senior Commodity Pickup 1:30-4:30

Weather and Agriculture Report

Emily Beach

I was afraid we were going to end the month with less than a half inch of rainfall but we did get around an inch on 4/28.

We have had a very unusual weather pattern with a drastic change from cool

mornings and mild days to very hot and dry conditions. This has delayed plant growth and greening up of lawns and then put them in a stressful situation. A solution for gardens and lawns is to irrigate more frequently for less time.

For commercial production, watermelons and blackberries are in a crucial growth stage, corn and tobacco have emerged, and peanuts are just now beginning to germinate.

As far as home gardens go, those vegetables planted earlier should be producing fruits or close to it and new potatoes should be nearly ready to start harvesting. The only thing you can add to the garden at this point is okra, peas, sweet potatoes, and Swiss chard due to the increasing daytime temperatures. As temperatures increase there is also an increase in activity of insects so scout carefully for them as well as early signs of disease.

April Rainfall Totals (in)

	2025	2024	2023
Cooks Hammock	1.48	4.37	2.82
Mallory Swamp	1.24	2.38	3.66
Midway Tower	1.29	3.43	2.66

Variety Keeps Lafayette Archer Club Interesting and Fun

Shawn Jackson

The Lafayette County 4-H Archery Club continued to hit the mark at its April meeting, not just with bows and arrows, but with a growing variety of hands-on outdoor activities. In addition to sharpening their archery skills, members enjoyed hatchet throwing—a fun and challenging way to improve coordination and focus.

To keep things exciting, the club also introduced a new activity: knife throwing. While it sounds intense, the club uses butter knives and large tree cookies for targets, ensuring a safe and beginner-friendly experience. These new skills add variety to the program and keep youth engaged and eager to participate.

By mixing traditional archery with other outdoor skill-building opportunities, the club gives members a well-rounded experience that promotes focus, responsibility, and outdoor fun. The Lafayette 4-H Archery Club continues to provide a dynamic space for youth to learn, grow, and stay active.

Culinary Club Has Fun Baking Bread

Emily Beach

Cooking club was caught monkeying around this month as they learned how to make Monkey Bread! The members had fun cutting up their dough, rolling it in cinnamon sugar, topping it with brown sugar and butter and then anxiously waiting for it to bake in the oven. While they waited for them to bake, they mixed up a glaze icing to drizzle on top which made the perfect final touch! This was a recipe that could be followed by reading the step-by-step directions from the recipe card allowing for the members to have some independence in the kitchen.



Strengthening Families 10-14

The "Strengthening Families Program" designed for parents and youth aged 10-14, developed by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, is considered one of the most effective programs globally for enhancing communication and strengthening relationships between parents and children, backed by over 20 years of research and implementation. Join local families in this life changing journey. This seven night, fun filled event is coming this fall!

Contact Lafayette County Extension to register

386-294-1279

Milk-A-Way Dairy hosts Dairy Tour

Emily Beach

On April 6, around 150 college students visited Milk-A-Way Dairy of Mayo on their way to participate in the 2025 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge in Gainesville. The students were from all over the country and some from Canada, representing their college to participate in the challenge. During the visit, the students were rotated around the farm hearing about practices utilized that are necessary for production in Florida. The owners, Gary Keyes and Johan Heijkoop educated the students about herd health, nutrition, managing milking schedules, selecting genetics, and environmental stewardship practices. I had the opportunity to work with the UF Forage Specialist, Marcello Wallau, in a rotation to educate the students about forage options available in the warm and cool seasons. The students were very engaged and enthusiastic to hear about the varying practices due to geographic loca-



Another Successful Agventures

Emily Beach

Lafayette County Farm Bureau hosted AgVentures at their office on April 7 so that 4th grade students in Lafayette County could come learn about local commodities vital to our agricultural community. Lafayette Elementary and Lighthouse Christian Academy students came to learn about corn, forestry, watermelons, peanuts, cotton, and the dairy industry from experts in each of those areas. Learning about agricultural commodities grown in their county helps 4th grade students connect with their local community and understand where their food comes from. It fosters an appreciation for the work of local farmers and the role agriculture plays in the local economy. By exploring crops and livestock unique to their region, students can develop a sense of place, environmental awareness, and the importance of sustainable practices. This knowledge also supports critical thinking and links science, social studies, and health in a meaningful, hands-on way.



Remember to start prepping for hurricane season now by checking trees on your property for damaged or weak branches!



Mark Your Calendar!

2026 SVYLSS COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 23-27, 2026

Online Registration Deadline	Sunday; November 16, 2025 at 10:00 pm
Entry Fee Deadline	Sunday; November 16, 2025 at 10:00 pm
Initial Tag-In/Weigh-In	Saturday; November 22, 2025 at 8:30 am
MANDATORY Parent/Exhibitor Meeting	DATES TBA but there will be 2 options
Record Book Due	March 16, 2026 by 5:00 pm (at Extension Office) ***Record Books only apply to Market Animals***
Swine Weigh-In	March 23, 2026 at 7:00-10:00 am
Cattle & Sheep Weigh-in	March 23, 2026 at 12:00-2:00 pm
Swine Showmanship	March 23, 2026 at 6:30 pm
Swine Show	March 24, 2026 at 6:30 pm
Steer and Heifer Show	March 25, 2026 at 6:30 pm
Sheep Show (Breeding & Market)	March 26, 2026 at 6:30 pm
Sale	March 27, 2026 at 9:00 am

Lunch for Buyers will be provided during the sale at the fairgrounds

4-H Community Club Enjoys Learning About Chicks and Plants

Shawn Jackson

Lafayette County 4-H Cloverbuds and Jr. 4-H'ers had an exciting and educational April meeting focused on learning how to raise baby chicks. Members learned about the basic needs of chicks, such as food, water, warmth, and shelter, and discussed how to properly care for them as they grow. The activity helped teach responsibility and animal care in a fun, hands-on way.

In addition to learning about chicks, the group also enjoyed a creative gardening project. They planted marigolds in large cans they had painted and decorated during a previous meeting. The project gave members a chance to explore plant care while showing off their creativity with the colorful containers.



UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

Watermelon Field Day

MONDAY MAY 5TH

START AT 3:30 PM AT ADRIAN'S LAND FIELD
LOCATED AT COORDINATES:
30.03997965417095, -82.9118538424152
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FYR8LVEQUBYXDYHQA>

NO ADDRESS FOR ENTRANCE BUT THE PROPERTY
ADDRESS IS 8705 226TH ST, O'BRIEN, FL 32071

THEN, FOLLOW US TO NFREC-SUWANNEE
VALLEY FROM 5 PM TO 7 PM FOR A TOUR OF
RESEARCH PLOTS (DINNER PROVIDED).
8202 COUNTY ROAD 417, LIVE OAK, FL 32060

RSVP
<https://tinyurl.com/melons25>

Field's location

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION



UF IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

WATERMELON VARIETY TRIAL

BASF NUNHEMS

BASF/NUNHEMS NORTH FLORIDA WATERMELON VARIETY SHOWCASE

JUNE 11, 2025
08:30 AM - 01:00 PM

Event Highlights

About Our Event!
Attendees will view 16 varieties in the field & learn about the latest water and fertilizer application tools. Also, disease, insect and weed suppression.

Watermelon Tasting
Taste some delicious watermelon with a special appearance from our Watermelon Queen!

Sponsored Meal
Enjoy a fine lunch provided by Dukes Family Farm. A multi generation family farm

CEU Credits Available
Ag Row Private Applicator

REGISTER HERE!

Contact us
386-496-2321

Website
<https://styl.ifas.ufl.edu/unifon/>

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.

**UF/IFAS NFREC
SUWANNEE VALLEY**

8202 County Road 417
Live Oak, FL 32060

- **SAMPLE FLORIDA PRODUCTS**
- **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**
- **DOOR PRIZES**

The 24th Annual Suwannee CARES Celebration will honor local farm families who protect our environment throughout the Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins. Join us on Thursday, May 1 beginning at 6:00 PM!

YOU'RE INVITED!



RSVP your party using
the QR code or at
Eventbrite.com under
2025 CARES Dinner

www.ThisFarmCARES.org



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.

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.