



## Upcoming Events

**October 5** Clover Bud and Community 4-Club meeting, Extension Office

**October 8** Farm Judging Competition, Mayo Cow Palace

**October 12** Jessica's Cooking Club, Extension office

**October 19** 4-H Angers Club Meeting, Middle FL Baptist Assembly Grounds

**October 21** Mayo Small animal Livestock Show

**October 26** 4-H Archer club meeting, Extension Office

**November 13** North Florida Fair 4-H Day

## Important SVYLSS Dates Set

Shawn Jackson

It is time for youth to start making plans to participate in the 2022 Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale. There are several important dates that parents and youth need to remember if they plan to show a pig or steer in the SVYLSS.

Steer and pig exhibitors must be registered as an FFA or 4-H member by November 1. Youth should see their FFA advisor or 4-H Agent to register and pay their dues.

Exhibitors must complete a SVYLSS online registration form at <https://forms.gle/xfEi6rFayzNQfRfP8> as well as pay a \$20.00 SVYLSS registration fee by November 12. The link to pay their registration fee via pay-pal is [paypal.me/svylss](https://paypal.me/svylss). These links can be found at Lafayette 4-H and SVYLSS FB pages. Checks can also be mailed to SVYLSS c/o Emily Beach. 176 SW Community Circle. Mayo, FL 32066

Youth will be required to have their steer and/or pigs at the Suwannee County Fair Grounds for tagging (and steer weigh in) on November 20. Tagging and weigh in will begin at 8:00. All animals must be in line by 9:00 in order to be tagged or weighed in. The Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock show, and sale will be held March 21-24.

## Agriculture and Weather Report

Emily Beach

A large decrease in rain and some sunny days has proven to be very beneficial for our peanut and cotton growers in our area as well as our hay farmers. Thankfully those conditions have brought some favorable days to get peanuts dug, dried, and harvested and the yields seem to be showing good signs. There is also some cotton in our county this year and hopefully the very wet conditions didn't do enough damage to those early crops. Hay seems to be able to be cut and baled at a favorable rate now.

October is the time to fertilize your citrus trees one more time for the year until February and the final call for getting strawberries in the ground. This is also a good time to plant leafy cool-season vegetables like arugula, lettuce, and spinach. Onions are also

another vegetable that can be planted in October.

Hopefully we will begin to see some cooler temperatures soon and cool-season weeds can be treated with a pre-emergent to help with developing healthier lawns for the spring/summer.

### September Rainfall Totals (in)

	2021	2020	2019
<b>Cooks Hammock</b>	6.08	6.91	.42
<b>Mallory Swamp</b>	4.23	6.38	.76
<b>Midway Tower</b>	4.65	5.26	1.41

# Peanut Butter Challenge Kicks-Off on October 1!



Emily Beach

Lafayette County Peanut Butter Challenge Ambassador, Clay Koon, kicked off the event by donating the first jar of peanut butter. The Peanut Butter Challenge is a state-wide competition between counties as they collect jars of peanut butter until November 24, 2021 to then be donated to local food pantries.

Peanut butter is an ever-popular item in food pantries for its nutrient density and shelf stability. The project took on new meaning last year as demand for food bank assistance had increased as an economic effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest numbers from the United States Department of Agriculture shows food insecurity affected roughly one in 10 Floridians in 2020.

In addition to the community donations, Florida Peanut Federation (FPF) has partnered with the

project for years and provides a match for the donated jars.

We would love to win the competition this year but we need your help! Please talk to your local community groups and churches to help us collect as many jars of unopened peanut butter as they will donate. Once your donated jars are collected, you can bring them to the Extension Office or call Emily Beach to arrange a pick-up. Please let us know if you have any questions. (386)294-1279

## Light House Christian Academy 4-H Installs Tower Gardens



Lighthouse Christian Academy stands in front of their tower gardens planted in green beans.

Emily Beach

The 4-H group at Lighthouse Christian Academy had an interest in learning about the germination process and being able to watch the growing process of vegetables. With assistance from Judy Dampier, our Specialist in Family Youth and Community Sciences in the Family Nutrition Program, we were able to install 5, 4 Planter Tower Gardens. The members were able to learn about the parts of the seed as well as then get hands-on experience in the planting process after constructing the towers. Everyone was able to plant a few bean seeds and have been checking them, waiting for germination to happen.

# Lafayette 4-H Holds September Meetings

Shawn Jackson

4-H is back in full swing with five Lafayette 4-H Clubs meeting in the month of September. The four clubs currently meeting are Clover Buds, Community Club, Cooking Club, Anglers Club and Archery Club.

**Clover Buds** learned all about seeds including the parts of a seed and germination. Emily Beach led the club meeting where the Clover Buds dissected wet lima bean seeds in order to identify the parts. The Clover Buds made their own delicious snack, Cowboy Caviar, from corn, beans, and peas. Surprisingly, Cowboy Caviar served with corn chips is one of the kids at 4-H's favorite snack. After preparing and enjoying the Cowboy Caviar, members made pictures by gluing different seeds on paper.

**Community Club** members also learned all about seeds in a lesson delivered by Shawn Jackson. Members learned to identify the parts of the seed, identify different types of seeds and learned about seeds that could be planted in late summer or early fall. The club's outdoor activity consisted of cleaning out the tower garden and replanting with fall peas. After planting the tower gardens. 4-H members also prepared their own snack of Cowboy Caviar. Members divided into groups and prepared their own caviar, enough to enjoy at the meeting and carry home.

**Cooking Club** members had a fun meeting making pancakes. Youth had to use measuring cups and measuring spoons to prepare the pancakes. Using the measuring cups and spoons is always a learning experience, especially when they realize multiple cups or spoons can be used make equivalent amounts called for in recipes. After learning to tell if the batter was too thick or thin, members

cooked their pancakes on electric griddles. The fluffy pancakes with syrup made a delicious snack and extras were taken home to share with family members

**Anglers Club** members learned about the different types of artificial bait including worms, beetle spins and flies. They also learned how to place a weedless hook in rubber worms that were donated by Bass Assassin of Mayo. The members then went outside and made a worm bed with a small livestock watering trough. Before adding worms, the trough was filled soil, peat, and decomposing vegetables. The finished bed was sprinkled with water and covered with leaves to maintain moisture.

The **Archery Club** held its first ever meeting last month. For most members present, this was their first time using archery equipment. These members had to learn all safety rules of archery, how to use a compound bow and how to aim. Members were surprised at the strength it required to pull draw back even a youth bow and the dangers of dry firing a bow.

4-H Meetings continue in October continuing the current set schedule. Youth interested should have their parents contact the Lafayette County Extension Office at 386-294-1279.

Keep up with Lafayette 4-H activities by following us on Facebook UF-IFAS Lafayette County



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.

# Fall Tips For a Successful Spring Lawn

Emily Beach

Fall is the optimal time to aerate and overseed lawns as these things are necessary to repair the wear and tear that summer fun inflicted. Now is the best time to rejuvenate your turf for a lawn you can love and enjoy next spring and summer! The first and best method of weed control and a healthy lawn begins with proper management practices that encourage a dense, thriving turf. Healthy turf shades the soil so sunlight can't reach weed seeds ready to germinate. A thick turf also minimizes the physical space available for weeds to become established. Proper fertilization, watering, mowing, and pest control are required to produce a dense turf that can prevent weed infestation.

The combination of warm days and cool nights with adequate moisture in the ground creates the ideal growing conditions for grass seed. Additionally, those warm-loving aggressive weeds are slow to germinate at this time of year so the little grass seedlings can flourish and get strong before winter arrives.

## **Why Aerate?**

Aeration loosens soil, reduces compaction which allows grass roots to reach deep for water. Aeration also penetrates soil allowing water, air & food to reach the roots and be absorbed. Finally, it enhances seed germination. Seeds germinate easily in aerator holes.

## **Why Overseed?**

A lawn that's never overseeded tends to grow old. If it is consistently mowed, it doesn't even have the opportunity to go to seed to propagate itself. Eventually, an old lawn will have trouble maintain-

ing vigorous growth, competing with weeds, and dealing with other lawn stresses. Also, new varieties of grass species are entering the market every year, so it's beneficial to integrate grass that may be resistant to drought, disease, or insect damage into a lawn with older varieties that lack these features.

Here are a few steps to follow: First, aerate your lawn by whatever method/tool best fits your needs. Next, choose the appropriate seed for your lawn and follow the recommended rates for seeding. Follow the seeding with an application of your favorite fall fertilizer, applying it the same day as the seed, then water the lawn. Water once or twice every day until the new grass has begun to grow. The seed may need two weeks or more to germinate. Continue to mow the lawn as usual until it stops growing for the season.

## **What about Weeds?**

If you have a problematic yard where weeds are concerned, our temperatures are still warm enough for you to spray a post-emergent herbicide now and then wait to aerate/overseed later. Be sure to read your labels carefully for what herbicide to use on your particular turf and how long your yard needs to rest before overseeding.

A very important point to remember and understand is weeds don't create a void- they fill a void. So, maintaining healthy and thriving turf by utilizing practices like aeration and overseeding help to achieve that goal.

If you have specific questions about how to care for your lawn this fall, please feel free to reach out to me at [elbeach@ufl.edu](mailto:elbeach@ufl.edu) or call the office (386) 294-1279.