A wet September has presented challenges to area peanut farmers attempting to harvest their crops. While most area peanuts are ready to be harvested, daily showers are interfering with the need to have several days of continuous sunshine to dry the pull peanuts and bring their moisture content below 10%. Peanuts may be up to 25% moisture when first dug.

### September Rainfall Presents Challenges For Local Farmers

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midway Tower</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>.42</td>
<td>6.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks Hammock</td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>.76</td>
<td>6.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mower Swamp</td>
<td>4.44</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>5.26</td>
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*Source, Suwannee River Water Management*
Lafayette Extension Agents Presenters at Annual EPAF Conference

Lafayette County Extension Agents Chris Vann and Shawn Jackson recently participated in The Extension Professional Associations of Florida (EPAF) Conference which was held virtually. Vann and Jackson were selected by the state EPAF Committee to share their local success in creating a virtual summer camp during the COVID Pandemic. The summer camp was presented in a morning show format and released on the county extension YouTube channel weekday mornings during the summer months of June and July. Jackson was also selected to share abstracts from two other Lafayette County Extension programs; Back to school Summer Camps and its impact on student success as well as making a Census Awareness Video and its influence on educating local youth.

EPAF is a coalition of the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents, the Florida Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, the Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents, Epsilon Sigma Phi – Alpha Delta Chapter, and the Florida Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals. The EPAF Conference is held annually and is an opportunity to award agents who have shown excellence in their fields of specialty. It also provides opportunity for agents to share and learn from the success for other agents across the state.

Scott Prine named Lafayette Farm Family of the Year

Tobacco farmer Scott Pine and his family have been named the 2020 Lafayette County Farm Family of the year. Scott is a third generation farmer in Day, Fl. He and his wife Alicia have three kids: Cole, Calyn, and Greg. The Prine Family have a reputation of producing high quality and yield tobacco and are well deserving of this honor. They produce 100,000 pounds of tobacco annually and have also farmed vegetables and grain. Lafayette County Extension congratulates the Prine family for their accomplishments.

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.

Like us on Facebook
For daily updates on local IFAS, 4-H News and events, visit and “like” our FB Page UF IFAS Extension Lafayette County 4-H.

Check out our YouTube Channel:
Lafayette County 4-H
Lafayette FBLA Elects Officers

By: Tori Newman

The Lafayette High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) have elected officers for the 2020-2021 school year. Officers include President Tori Newman, Vice-President Yomedia Hernandez, Secretary Davis Jackson and Treasurer Lidia Laguna. Lafayette High FBLA member Amandia Smith has the honor of leading FBLA District 5 as its president and Lafayette High School FBLA Advisor Toni Sherrell will serve as district advisor as well.

Lafayette FBLA will continue to operate the LHS School store selling school supplies to students. Profits from this endeavor are used to cover expenses for the annual banquet and to assist in sending members to compete in state and national competitions.

FBLA is a Career Student Business Organization serving youth around the world. It inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences.

How We Became the Hornets

As told by the late Vasco Koon

When Lafayette High School moved to its new location in 1939, the sports program consisted of a boys and girls basketball team. The school's basketball court, made of red clay, was located by the new school, where the high school teachers' parking lot is today. In 1947, the school principal, Mr. Eldridge Collins, noticed a hornet's nest in one of the many trees that surrounded the court. With the hornet nest so close to the basketball court, Principal Collins began to refer to the basketball teams as the “Lafayette Hornets”. The school's mascot is officially referred to as “The Lafayette Hornets” in the 1949 school year book.

In the mid-70s, there was a movement by students and parents to change the school's mascot. Rodeo had become very popular in the community and many felt that “The Cowboys” would better reflect the community. The idea of changing the school mascot was seriously considered, however the student government decided against the change and the school mascot remained “The Hornets”.

LHS Football Team Defeats Arch Rival

By: Cason Driver

This year’s Lafayette County Hornet Varsity Football season has kicked off to a great start despite an initial setback. This year’s season opening game was away at Brookwood where the Hornets faced defeat. This loss inspired them to work harder in practice which led to a win at their next game against St. Joseph Academy. On October the 2nd the Hornets faced their rival The Branford Buccaneers at Lafayette High School’s Dale Walker Field. Despite an impressive show by the Buccaneers, the Hornets earned the right to keep the coveted “Helmet” with a 27-13 win. The Hornets travel to Dixie County October 9, followed by two consecutive home games against, Joshua Christian wrapping up October games with a trip to Bell.
Lafayette Golf Team Starts Impressive Season

By: Davis Jackson

The 2020-2021 LHS Golf team held their fingers crossed for them to be able to complete this fall season in match play due to COVID restrictions. With a short season practice schedule and compacted game schedule, Hornets awaited the green light for a go season. Hornets played their first game in September with a three week later start date than normal. The Hornet team is playing really well together as a team and has a current record of 7-1, all the while shooting their record low in team scoring since their Coach Robbie Kirby took over as head coach there years ago. Members of the LHS Golf team are: Juniors – Davis Jackson, Seth Chandler; Sophomores- Riley Edwards, Brent Sullivan; Freshman- Trey Galbraith; 8th grader- Durand Driver; 7th grader- Harrison Jackson; and 6th grader- Colton Sullivan. Since the Hornets have no local practice course, Quail Heights in Lake City, FL, is their practice course along with a short putting green at Coach Kirby’s home. Keep up the hard work Hornets!

Florida Farmers Face Unique Challenges

By: Seth Chandler

The challenges facing Florida farmers are many. The agricultural industry is constantly evolving, and all farmers have to consider challenges such as feeding a growing population, capital for growth, and the impact of government regulations on their farms. Let’s take a closer look at three of the major challenges that Florida farmers face.

Weather is always an uncertainty here in Florida. Our state ranks 4th overall in total average rainfall with over 54 inches each year, and no other state can claim a direct hit from 120 hurricanes and counting. It seems like each year some part of the Florida agriculture industry will have a loss due to the impact of a hurricane.

Another challenge facing Florida’s farmers is urban development will shrink. Both industries will continue to compete for critical natural resources such as land and water.

The ability to source legal and reliable workers is a major challenge. Agricultural producers cannot find enough qualified, willing workers to complete many of the planting, production and harvesting tasks. Many have had to use the H2A program which is expensive and the higher costs make it difficult to compete in the global market.

These are just a few of the challenges farmers face on a daily basis. However, farmers are experts at innovation and making the best of things even when some of the challenges they face are out of their control. Florida farmers are always…up for the challenge!

Don’t forget the October Senior Commodity Pickup has moved to Wednesday, October 14, 2:00-4:00 PM