**Up-Coming Events**

Sept. 7, Community 4-H club meeting 3:00, Extension Office

Sept. 14, Cooking Club meeting 3:00, Extension Office

Sept. 21, Angler Club meeting 3:00 Extension Office

Sept. 28, Home School 4-H Club Meeting 10:00 AM, Extension Office

Sept. 28, Shooting Sports 4-H Meeting 3:00, Extension Office

Oct. 8, Lafayette Farm Judging Contest 9:00AM Cow Palace

Oct. 21, Mayo Chic-Chain and Goat show 5:00 PM, Cow Palace

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**Enroll Now For 2021-2022 4-H Membership**

By: Shawn Jackson

Enrollment for Lafayette 4-H began September 1. As Lafayette 4-H grows, so does the options available for your child to participate in 4-H. Details regarding club availability can be found on page 2 of this edition of *The Mayo Cloverleaf*. There is an annual membership fee of $20.00 that covers both state and local dues. Youth events such as state judging contest and The Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show require 4-H membership if the youth is participating under 4-H. Parents may enroll their child at v2.4honline.com or at the Lafayette county extension office.

As the county 4-H program expands, so does the need for volunteer leaders. Please contact the extension office if you are interested in becoming a club leader or simply would enjoy sharing your skills and talents.

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**Lafayette County August Weather Update**

By: Emily Beach

July’s rainfall patterns carried into August which caused flooding in a large portion of our county. This month has had many days of cloud cover and showers which creates intense pressure on our crops for disease and makes it impossible to harvest hay and corn. We have seen more clear, sunny days towards the end of the month which will hopefully help move those crops toward maturity and allow them to dry out for harvesting. As of September 1, Mayo has had 49.6 inches of rain, 6.35 inches above average.

The photos above were captured by drone footage over a local grower’s peanut fields. This condition will cause damage beyond repair and will not allow for harvesting. These situations are all over our county. Our producers are not able to access some fields due to roadways being underwater or the road side portion being flooded. This prevents being able to get in there to check the condition of the non-flooded areas and the ability to prevent spread of disease and other pests.

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**Lafayette County August Weather Update**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August Rainfall Totals (in)</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooks Hammock</td>
<td>17.04</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>10.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallory Swamp</td>
<td>16.87</td>
<td>8.83</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midway Tower</td>
<td>15.15</td>
<td>9.16</td>
<td>7.45</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
LES Second Graders Plant Peas in School Garden

By: Emily Beach
On August 19 and 20, 2021 LES 2\textsuperscript{nd} graders learned about the three parts of a seed: the embryo, cotyledon (food storage) and seed coat. Students learned that the embryo is fed by the cotyledon and protected by the seed coat until germination happens. Second graders also learned that temperature, moisture, air, and light conditions must be correct for seeds to germinate. After learning about those topics in the classroom, each student from each class went out to the school garden and planted 3-5 pea seeds. The seeds have already germinated and the peas look great!

Would you like to win this shed/playhouse built by local 4-H members? It could be yours when you support Lafayette 4-H? See a 4-H member for details.

Important Information about Senate Bill 712

“The Clean Waterways Act” was signed into Florida Law on June 30, 2020 in order to further protect Florida’s water resources and focuses on minimizing the impact of known sources of nutrient pollution. The sources include septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, stormwater runoff, as well as fertilizer used in agricultural production. This bill affects all landowners and producers that are enrolled in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ (FDACS) Best Management Practices (BMP) Program. Under the bill every 2 years FDACS will make an onsite implementation verification visit to land enrolled in the BMP program to ensure that BMPs are properly implemented. The visits will review records that the producers are required to keep under the BMP program and the FDACS staff will collect copies of nitrogen and phosphorus application records. The fertilizer records are not public information and are protected under the public records exemption.

Other provisions of SB712 include regulation of septic systems as a source of nutrients, contingency plans for power outages to minimize discharge of untreated wastewater, provision of financial records from sanitary sewage disposal facilities to ensure funds are allocated to upkeep infrastructure, and updated stormwater rules and design criteria.
**AG CORNER with Emily Beach**

**All About Peanuts!**

It’s the time of year for harvesting peanuts. Determining when to dig is one of the most important economic decisions a grower must make. Peanut poses a unique challenge for maturity determination because it is an indeterminate crop that forms pods underground. We started testing for maturity this week with a method called blasting. We dig up random plants in the field, pick off the peanuts, blast them with a pressure washer to remove the exocarp (outer layer of the shell), and then use a chart to compare the colors of the peanuts’ mesocarp (inner layer of the shell) to determine maturity. It appears most peanuts in our area are still a week or more away from digging.

We have about 1,200 acres of land planted in peanuts in Lafayette County this year of the 165,000 acres planted in Florida. Even with the unfavorable weather conditions, the peanut crop looks very good! Our producers do an excellent job of managing farmland with cultural practices that reduce diseases and pests to have high yields and high-quality grades of peanuts. Peanuts in the United States are grown for peanut butter, peanut candy, roasted peanuts, peanut oil, and other peanut products. No part of peanut is wasted either as the hulls and plants can be used to feed animals.

Here are some fun facts about peanuts:

* 94% of Americans have a jar of peanut butter at home
* Peanuts have more protein than any other nut
* It takes about 145 days after planting for peanuts to be ready to harvest
* The peanut is technically the “fruit” of the plant.
* There are enough peanuts in one acre to make 35,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.
* Two peanut farmers have been elected president of the USA – Virginia’s Thomas Jefferson and Georgia’s Jimmy Carter.
* Peanuts are packed with nutrients like Vitamins E, B6, folate, niacin, magnesium, zinc, copper, and potassium.

Each year our county participates in the Peanut Butter Challenge which is an effort to help put peanut butter in the hands of hungry and/or malnourished people in our area. The goal is for local groups to donate unopened jars of peanut butter that will be donated to food banks and ministries to provide a nutritionally rich product to those in need. A flyer will be published in an October edition but I would like to ask you to consider organizing this project now with an organization, church, or group that you are associated with. If you have questions, please contact me directly.

The pictures above show the blasting process starting with using the pressure washer to making sure the exocarp is removed then looking at the coloration of the peanuts to determine maturity. The darker the mesocarp, the more mature. Finally, we place them on a chart to determine the ratio of mature peanuts and make a determination about when to harvest.
The North Florida Fair is scheduled to take place November 4-14 at the fair grounds in Tallahassee. 4-H Day will be observed on November 13. This is a perfect opportunity for local 4-H members to showcase their talents and skills.

- 4-H members can enter crafts, baked goods, photography and more in the fair and earn ribbons and premium money. Entry forms need to be brought to the Lafayette County Extension office by October 1.
- Extension Agents will deliver all Lafayette County exhibit items to the fair on November 1.
- Lafayette 4-H judging teams will compete on Saturday, November 13.
- 4-H members may purchase unlimited ride wrist bands to be used on November 13. These bands MUST be pre-ordered from through your extension office by . 4-H members can enter the fair at no charge on this date with their 4-H membership card.

For more information and rules for exhibiting in the fair, go to: https://northfloridafair.com/ departments/ or contact the Lafayette County Extension Office.