



Homestead & Farm Notes

April-May-June 2016

LAWN TIPS

- Begin fertilizing newly planted lawns about two weeks after planting. Apply a complete (N-P-K) turf type, slow release nitrogen fertilizer (16-4-8 or 15-4-15) to provide 1/2 pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Do this every 2-3 weeks until lawn has completely filled in, and then follow fertility regimes as recommended for your grass species.
- Time for establishment will vary, but most lawns should be considered established 2-3 months after planting. If you are planting centipede grass, only apply fertilizer once during establishment. Look for the words slow-release or controlled-release on fertilizer labels. Nitrogen in this type of fertilizer will not burn or wash away as readily as quick release nitrogen sources.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

April 7th: Greenhouse & Outdoor Hydroponics Short Course for Teachers at the Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, Live Oak from 8:30AM to 4:30PM. For more information please call 386-362-1725, extension 102.

April 23rd: Hydroponic Gardening for the Homeowner at the Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, Live Oak from 8:15AM to 12:15PM. For more information please call 386-362-1725, extension 102.

May 13th: How to start a Food Business in Florida at the Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center, Gainesville from 8:30AM to 4:00PM. For more information please call 352-294-3909.

May 30th: Extension Office closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Union County Beekeepers Club Meeting: April 12th, May 10th, and June 14th at 7:00PM at the Extension Office.

Union County Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meeting: April 26th, May 24th, and June 28th at 6:30PM at the Extension Office.

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Livestock Calendar

APRIL

- This is the last month recommended for planting sorghum.
- Check Bahia pastures for mole crickets. Treat if necessary. June is usually the best month to treat for mole crickets if you have a problem.
- Be sure to keep hayfields fertilized with three parts nitrogen to two parts of potash when you fertilize after the first hay cutting .

MAY

- Spring is stressful to cows with calves, be sure that you keep mineral and salt feeders filled.
- Check dust bags or apply ear tags to control biting flies.
- Check for external parasites and treat if necessary.
- Check for Spittlebugs and treat hayfields if necessary. Cattle market information and trends are changing, now is time to "fine tune" how you're going to market weaned calves.

JUNE

- Check for external parasites and treat if necessary.
- Worm cows as needed.
- Market cull cows and bulls.
- Update market information and refine market strategy for calves.
- Observe bulls for condition and success, rotate and rest bulls.
- Vaccinate against blackleg and brucellosis after three (3) months of age and before twelve (12) months of age.
- This is the month to plant millet, sorghum-sundagrass, and browntop millet pastures.
- Check mineral feeders and keep them filled. This is the month of "spring starvation" and you might have to continue feeding hay and other low quality roughages until summer pastures come in.

Vegetables to Plant

APRIL: Is the last month to plant many vegetables because of the upcoming hot weather. Vegetables that should be planted no later than April include: Bush beans, pole beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, peppers, summer squash, tomatoes, collards, turnips and cantaloupes. Vegetables that can be planted from now into the summer include: Okra, southern peas, lima beans, and sweet potatoes.

Vegetables to Plant

MAY: Heat loving crops such as lima beans, eggplant, okra, southern peas, green beans, squash and sweet potatoes can be planted now.

JUNE: Eggplant, okra, New Zealand spinach, sweet potatoes from vine cuttings, lima beans and southern peas.



APRIL: Bulbs to plant: African lily (morea), Amaryllis, Aztec lily, Caladium, Dahlia, Dutch Iris, Gloriosa lily, Gloxinia, Ixia, Kaffir lily, Marcia (Walking Iris), Spider lily, Tritonia, Tuberose, Voodoo lily,

MAY: Achimenes, Aztec lily, begonia, blood lily, caladium, gladiolas, kaffir lily, moraea (African lily), spider lily, tiger flower, walking iris

JUNE: Plant tough, heat-tolerant plants like: Coreopsis, celosia, coleus, crossandra, exacum, hollyhock, impatiens, marigold, ornamental pepper, pentas, periwinkle, salvia, vinca and zinnia.

Wildlife Wonders

APRIL

- Sooty Turns take over Dry Tortugas for nesting
- Bobwhite Quail nest now through September
- Migrant Warblers concentrate on coasts after cold fronts
- Watch Hummingbirds feeding on blooms

MAY

- Courtship of adult alligators begins, noted by the loud and resounding bellows and water slapping continues through June.
- Loggerhead and green sea turtles begin night time nesting on sandy beaches.
- Soft-shell and alligator snapping turtles complete egg-laying.
- Gray bats congregate at maternity caves now through mid-July.
- Bluegill begins to bed during full moon.

JUNE

- Gopher tortoises are breeding.
- Red Bats and Seminole Bats are being born.
- Watch for Southern flying squirrels.
- On June 1, 1952, the first Cattle Egrets were sighted in Florida.



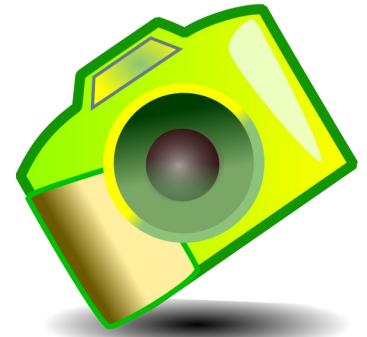
4-H HAPPENINGS



Happy Spring! We are coming into the home stretch of school and with the fair season over, it may seem like the 4-H year is as well but that is far from true! 4-H offers a wide variety of summer programs and camps to keep any child entertained! We are still working out the kinks for our July activities and camps so keep an eye on Facebook and your News & Notes emails. These camps fill up very quickly so don't delay signing your child up!

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Bradford County Fair! We had a great turn out at all of the events and I am very proud of everyone's hard work and dedication to their projects! Union County 4-H was well represented!

Attention!!! Please email pictures of your 4-H activities to Mrs. Kristi at kmccallister@ufl.edu so that we can include them in the slideshow for annual awards! Deadline is May 13th. Thank you!!!!



4-H

Annual Awards

May 17th ~ 6:30 pm

Lake Butler Community

#4heverywhere

Try a day of camp!

APRIL 23, 2016



4-H Camp Cherry Lake

Join us for a fun-filled day of camp activities!



Let us show you what adventures you could have with this summer!



Cost: \$5 per youth, lunch provided

Parents experience the day and eat free!



save the date

April 22nd at Lakeside Park 6:30 Zumba
Warm Up ~ 7:00 Run/Walk

Sign up at the 4-H office or active.com

\$25 registration includes t-shirt

**RUN 4-HEALTH
5K**



UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
4-H Youth Development





4-H HAPPENINGS



April:

~ **April 9: Livestock Judging Competitions** Senior Livestock Judging team will be judging at UF in the state competition. Intermediate and Junior teams will be competing at the Clay County fair.

~ **April 22: 4-H 5K** Sign up at the 4-H office or online at Active.com (search for Lake Butler, FL and it will come up). The cost is \$25 after April 1st. Proceeds will be used for annual awards and keeping the cost down for summer programs. Come support our youth!

~ **April 23: Camp Preview Day** Come try a day at Camp Cherry Lake. \$5 per student and no charge for parents. Please let Mrs. Kristi know by April 18th if you plan to attend.

~ **April 26: County Council** 6:30-7:30 at the Union County School Board meeting room. We will be discussing Annual Awards and summer camps. This meeting is open to all 4-H members in UC. Only intermediate age and higher (11+) can be a voting delegate.

~ **April 30: District Events** First Baptist Church of Glen St. Mary. This competition is for all the winners at County Wide Events in February. The eligible students will receive additional information in the mail. Senior age 4-H members who win at this event can progress on to the state event.

May:

~ **May 13: Clover Awards Application Deadline** Applications for the Clover Awards must be turned in by 4:00 to the 4-H office.

~ **May 17: 4-H Annual Awards** 6:30 at the Community Center in Lake Butler. Boston Butt will be provided. Check with your club leader for side dish assignments. This is our annual event to recognize our members for all their hard work! Please come help us celebrate our 4-H year and our members' many accomplishments!

June:

~ **June 1-4: Northwest Georgia Livestock Judging Camp** This camp is held in Calhoun, GA. The cost is \$175 which includes camp fees (also a t-shirt, literature and more), hotel accommodations, most meals and transportation. You will need to send additional money for meals while we travel, snacks and spending money. This camp is packed full of livestock judging information from national coaches. Deadline to register is May 16th. FYI-This is the last week of school.

~ **June 9: Clover Award Mystery Trip** Our Mystery trip for the youth who earn a n Emerald Clover Award! We will announce the location and activity at the annual awards banquet. Keep working on your application! Applications are due on Friday, May 13th!

~ **June 13-17: Camp Cherry Lake** "Game On!" is the camp theme for the year. \$110 includes transportation, camp, snacks, meals, everything! Your child will participate in activities such as fire building and other outdoor skills, archery, swimming, camp fires, a dance, games and recreation, and much more! Registration deadline is June 3rd! Campers are required to be 8 years old as of 9/1/2015.

~ **June 20-23: Baking Camp** 9-2 at the 4-H office. \$15 each which includes meals. Limit of 10. Cloverbuds are welcome! This camp will fill up fast so don't delay!

~ **June 27-July 1: 4-H Legislature** Senior 4-H'ers come develop your skills to debate, analyze legislation and speak publicly, all while making new friends and having a whole lot of fun. At this civic education event, you can sponsor a bill, amend, or lobby it, then debate the issues on the Capitol house and senate floors with your friends. Legislature is open to Senior 4-H'ers ages 13 to 18 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. The cost is \$235 which includes transportation, lodging and food. Deadline to register is May 2nd.

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Lake Butler, FL 32054

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Union County Extension Office

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Phone: (386) 496-2321 Fax: (386) 496-1111

Email: union@ifas.ufl.edu **Hours:** 8:00AM - 4:30PM Monday-Friday

<i>Andy Toelle</i>	<i>Kristi McCallister</i>	<i>Samara Deary</i>	<i>Terricena Kittles</i>	<i>Pamela Toney</i>
<i>Interim CED</i>	<i>4 -H Program Assistant</i>	<i>FCS Agent I</i>	<i>FNP Assistant</i>	<i>Secretary</i>

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