

# HardisonInk.com

## Hydroponic Devices Built



Levy County 4-H summer day camps have started. The first day camp is titled 4-H Grows Here: Gardening & Nutrition (June 12 - 15). On Tuesday (June 13), the campers enjoyed the opportunity to continue learning about hydroponic gardening. In this photo, Levy County 4-H Youth Development Agent Genevieve Mendoza is creating a strip of washcloth to fit into a two-liter bottle that has been cut by Kayla Waldorff, a volunteer. Waldorff is a graduate student in Agricultural Education and Communication with a specialization in Leadership Development at the University of Florida. She is scheduled to graduate with a master's degree in the spring of 2018. The volunteer said she enjoys teaching campers about hydroponics. Mendoza and Waldorff created the materials for the campers to put together to create their own hydroponic devices. These will have the ability to grow cucumbers without the use of soil. Another crop that can be grown at this time of year in a hydroponic garden is watermelons.

# HardisonInk.com



The campers also are learning about how dyes are used to color carnations. There are four sets of white carnations the campers are getting to observe as those flowers absorb natural green, natural red, synthetic green and synthetic red dyes. On Wednesday (June 14), the campers in this program enjoyed an opportunity to visit an active watermelon field as Extension Agent (Agriculture, Commercial) Anthony Drew escorted them and helped them learn during that tour. They then enjoyed a visit to Winn-Dixie in Chiefland, where they could see the produce section where crops go before being purchased and taken home to the dinner table. The campers on Tuesday went home with hydroponic devices, complete with a start-up plant, and they took home bookmarks that showed different hydroponic methods, and they went home with other material to help them remember what they learned about this form of gardening. Some of the Levy County 4-H summer day camps are no longer accepting registrations, because they are completely full now. To learn more about these camps or to register for them, go to this website <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/levy-county-4-h-program-13352949903>. The telephone number to reach Levy County Extension is 352-486-5131.

*Photos by Jeff M. Hardison © June 14, 2017 at 4:27 p.m.*