

# UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

## WORKING TOGETHER

April, May, June 2016

The St. Johns County Board of Commissioners and UF/IFAS Extension work in a cooperative effort to provide relevant programming to citizens throughout the County. During the second quarter of 2016, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **20,718 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **34 on-site visits** (Agriculture, Horticulture, Schools, Livestock, and Forages) to assist residents one-on-one in St. Johns County. Below are a few examples of impacts reported by our Agents during this quarter.



- In preparation for summer camp at **4-H Camp Cherry Lake**, 20 youth from Putnam, Flagler, Clay and St. Johns County received training to become camp counselors from our 4-H Agent. The two-day training included modules on communication, conflict resolution, youth development, bullying and risk management. **Youth gained valuable life skills related to responsibility, decision making and leadership.**
- The Family Nutrition Program (FNP), hosted by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, provided **nutrition educational programming for 2,260 St. Johns Elementary students and 204 middle students.** Of these, 427 students participated in the hands-on gardening activities.
- More than 70 participants gained knowledge related to mosquito biology/life cycle, illnesses, diseases and control at the “**Mosquitoes & Zika Virus Class for Gardeners & Private Residences**”, a program that was coordinated by our Interim Horticulture Agent. This program was the result of **a collaborative partnership** between the UF/IFAS St. Johns County Extension Office, Anastasia Mosquito Control and the St. Johns County Department of Health.
- **A 10-chapter book on sea turtles with accompanying lesson plans was developed and designed for fifth grade students** by our Sea Grant Agent. This project was supported by a grant from Florida’s sea turtle license plate grants program.
- Sixty-three (63) participants attended a **Small Paddock Pasture Management Workshop**, led by our Production Agriculture Agent, 96% of participants indicated they plan to implement changes to their operation related to soil testing and pasture management after attending this program. Landowners that use these practices efficiently can **reduce environmental effects and production costs related to forage production.**
- As a result of efforts from our Commercial Agriculture Agent, **4 individuals have successfully passed their pesticide exams** and are licensed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service in the areas of aquatic, right of way, general household pests, and natural area weed management.



- **A grant for \$1,000 was awarded to our 4-H program by Northrop Grumman to conduct a 4-H Science Camp.** This grant application was an effort between the partnership of our 4-H Agent and a 4-H Volunteer. The same 4-H Volunteer planned and led this camp which provided subject matter that included aeronautics, marine life, pedology, bubble-ology, crime scene analysis and DNA.
- Thirty-eight (38) participants attended the **Hastings Potato Field Day**, led by our Agriculture Agents, and gained knowledge related to current research on weed science, plant pathology, variety selection, nutrient management, postharvest innovations and irrigation. This annual event provides first-hand knowledge to commercial vegetable growers in the Tri-County Agriculture Area (TCAA).
- Thirty-four (34) **8th grade students increased science and math skills** after they learned how to use quadrats to estimate the population of fiddler crabs at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve by our Sea Grant Agent.
- The **2016 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Contest**, led by our 4-H Agent, included more than **4,780 students from 4th, 5th and 6th grades from 31 St. Johns County schools**. They receive instruction on writing and presenting an effective speech and compete at the classroom and schoolwide levels to earn a spot in the countywide event. Winners of the contest were awarded scholarships to 4-H residential summer camp.
- Eighty-five (85) participants from Putnam, Flagler and St. Johns County took part in the potato harvest for the Tri-County 4-H Potato Project, co-led by our 4-H Agent, at the Hastings Agricultural Extension Center. **Youth gained first-hand knowledge of the potato industry** related to potato varieties, planting, harvesting, food safety and marketing of potatoes.
- A partnership between University of Florida IFAS Extension, University of Florida Entomology Department, St. Johns County farmers and two private industry chemical companies has been established to **develop research to investigating solutions for diamondback moth resistance in cabbage in the Tri-County Agriculture Area**.
- Seven hundred and thirty-seven (737) participants gained knowledge related to following **Florida Friendly Landscaping Principles** (“Right Place and Right Time”; “Attracting Wildlife”; “Water Efficiently”; “Reducing Stormwater Runoff”) from St. Johns County Master Gardeners and our Interim Horticulture Agent at the 2016 Flower Expo.
- Of the 243 participants that attended financial management programming, provided by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, **92%, at one site surveyed, agreed that they will plan on making financial changes** related to spending plans and personal finances.

For more information, visit the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Website at <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu> or contact us at **904-209-0430**.