

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

July, August, September 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 third quarter of 2016, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **10,623 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **40 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.



- **Our Sea Grant Agent taught nineteen international adults** (from eight countries in Europe and South America) **about microplastics**. Participants collected water samples in the Timucuan Preserve and analyzed them for the presence of microplastics. One of the participants is planning to suggest that the group “Engineers without Borders” study the topic of microplastics.
- At a workshop, taught by our Horticulture Agent, more than **60 participants gained knowledge related to fall vegetable gardening in Florida**. Topic covered included site selection, proper irrigation, soil preparation, seasonal planting, seeding verses transplanting and maintenance.
- Eleven participants completed a Multi-County **Master Food and Volunteer Program**, in which our Family and Consumer Science Agent taught SafeStaff, food prep, food label reading and nutrient functions; because of this program, at least 25 hours of volunteer service will be provided to St. Johns County.
- Preliminary results of an **on-farm Asian vegetable nutrient management trial** were presented at a national conference in Little Rock, AR by our Commercial Agriculture Agent.
- Seventeen volunteer club leaders and assistants participated in a **Leader Enrichment Workshop**, taught by our 4-H Youth Development Agent. Participants indicated:
 - » **100% reported feeling more prepared to lead their 4-H club this year.**
 - » 63% reported that ‘Working with Mixed-Age Groups’ lesson was the concept they were most likely to use for the betterment of their club.
- Seventy-five participants attended the 1st Annual CFLAG Hay Field Day and were provided knowledge on harvesting considerations by our Production Agriculture Agent. Participants gained **first-hand knowledge related to harvest equipment, management strategies and cow-calf BMPs**.



- **Hands-on learning experiences** related to babysitting were provided to 10 youth at a **4-H Babysitting Camp** that was led by our 4-H Youth Development Agent. Because of this camp, 100% reported that they felt more confident about babysitting and improved their marketability by becoming **first aid and CPR certified**.
- Our Horticulture Department, which includes our Horticulture Agent, Horticulture Program Assistant and our Master Gardener Volunteers provided more than **750 individual diagnostic consultations**. These consultations provided education on turf, palm, citrus, vegetable and ornamental plant disease diagnostics and management; soil pH test results and plant identification.
- Thirty-three participants increased their knowledge related to **beef cattle technology, genetics, hands-on palpations and estrous synchronization** by attending a beef cattle management workshop taught by our Production Agriculture Agent.
- After attending workshop conducted by our Commercial Agriculture Agent, 11 new (9 in SJC, 2 in Levy County) **mosquito control employees are now certified as Public health Pest control applicators**.
- The UF/IFAS **FCS Family Nutrition Program** targeted 8 St. Johns County sites, 1,556 participants, and educated citizen on initiating healthy dietary practices. One site documented that adult participants are now making **healthier choices for lunches**.
- **Eight-seven faculty members** from the University of Florida that attended an in-service training event **learned activities** they can use to teach clientele about **climate change** during a workshop taught by our Sea Grant Agent.
- At the **Annual St. Johns County 4-H Award Banquet**, conducted by our 4-H Youth Development Agents, 46 youth were recognized for submitting 4-H Clover Awards and 50 youth were recognized for submitting one or more 4-H record book. By keeping a record book, these youths demonstrate the importance of documenting their goals and the skills they develop.
- Thirteen St. Johns County youth attended **Camp Cherry Lake** this year, of which four were counselors or counselors-in-training. In a post-camp survey, the following responses were recorded.
 - » 89% indicated that they learned to **make their own decisions** instead of going with the group.
 - » 100% indicated that they **learned to be responsible** for their own choices.
 - » 100% indicated that they **learned to consider how others feel**.
- An on-site **cool season forage** demonstration was prepared by our Production Agriculture Agent. Agronomic management strategies such as soil testing, fertilizing, liming and site preparation will be demonstrated.
- After taking the PSA Train-the-Trainer Course, our Commercial Agriculture Agent is now trained as a national **Produce Safety Alliance Trainer** and **can now teach** the FDA Approved **food safety trainings for vegetable growers in Florida**.

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**.