



UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County 2016 Annual Report

Note From the Director

As we reflect on our successes in 2016, I would like to thank you for your continued support. Agents, support staff and volunteers in our office have the education, training and the experience necessary to provide unbiased, scientifically sound educational information for the citizens of St. Johns County. When you have questions, we will help you find the answers. Please feel free to stop by, call, email or visit us on the web at stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu. Inside this Annual Report, you will find selected economic impacts, awards and programmatic impacts that benefit St. Johns County.

Timothy W. Wilson, Director
St. Johns County Cooperative Extension

Selected Economic Impacts

- Received more than **199,705** in grants to support programming.
- Volunteers donated 17,511 hours** to St. Johns County residents to assist programming. This is equivalent to **\$388,100** of value (based on 2015 Independent Sector data; \$22.08/hr.) or **8.45 employees for 1 year**.
- Agents working through collaborating partners received **in-kind donations** with a value of **\$67,731**.
- Agents developed **177 unbiased, scientifically sound, educational pieces** for the public related to their subject matter.

Awards/Honors

- Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals - **Individual Program Leadership Award** (Dr. M. McGuire)
- National Association of County Agricultural Agents - **Search for Excellence in Livestock, National Finalist - Team** (T. Wilson)
- Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents - **Denis Miller National 4-H Innovator Award - Team** (G. Sachs)
- National Association of County Agricultural Agents - **Southern Regional Communication Award - Best Newsletter by Individual** (T. Freeman)
- UF Graduate School - **Graduate Faculty Status granted** (Dr. M. McGuire)
- National Association of Extension 4-H Agents - **Educational Piece - Team Regional Award** (G. Sachs)
- Graduate School - Master of Science** - actively working on degree (J. Kelly)

Meet our Extension Agents

Tim Wilson	<i>Director, Production Ag Agent</i>
Dr. Bonnie Wells	<i>Commercial Ag Agent</i>
Geralyn Sachs	<i>4-H Youth Development Agent</i>
Julia Kelly	<i>4-H Youth Development Agent</i>
Joanne Cooper	<i>Family & Consumer Science Agent</i>
Dr. Maia McGuire	<i>Multi-County Sea Grant Agent</i>
Terra Freeman	<i>Commercial/Residential Horticulture Agent</i>

Selected Programmatic Impacts

- **A partnership has been developed** between the St. Johns County Extension Office, UF/IFAS Florida Friendly Landscaping and the UF Historic St. Augustine leadership to assist in establishing native plant landscapes in the downtown St. Augustine area.
- The **2016 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Contest** included more than 4,780 students from 4th, 5th and 6th grades from 31 St. Johns County schools.
- **A 10-chapter book on sea turtles** with accompanying lesson plans was developed and designed for fifth grade students.
- **Five field demonstrations were installed**, four on-farm locations and one at the St. Johns County Agricultural Center, to provide clientele with first-hand knowledge related to weed control in potatoes, wildlife food plots and cool-season forages.
- An 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.
- The **2016 Datil Pepper Fall Festival Cook-off contest** provided an opportunity for participants to sample appetizers and entrees that featured local cuisine made with the 'datil pepper' in each dish prepared by nine (9) local restaurants.
- A grant for \$1,000 was awarded to our 4-H program by **Northrop Grumman** to conduct a 4-H Science Camp.
- 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.
- Twelve youth improved their equine knowledge by participating in the **4-H Fall Riding Round-Up** held at the St. Johns County Equestrian Center.
- More than 70 participants gained knowledge related to mosquito biology/life cycle, illnesses, diseases and control at a workshop developed from a **collaborative partnership between the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Office, Anastasia Mosquito Control and the St. Johns County Department of Health.**
- One-hundred and forty-six participants gained knowledge related to microplastics. Participants ranged from second graders to water resource professionals. **The Florida Microplastic Awareness Project** (www.plasticaware.org), developed by our Sea Grant Agent, will be duplicated throughout the Gulf of Mexico region in 2017.
- The Hastings-based **Tech Wizards 4-H Club**, led increased the number of volunteer mentors from four to nine.
- Eleven participants completed a **Multi-County Master Food and Volunteer Program.**
- One-hundred and forty-four 2nd grade students indicated that after learning about **protecting sea turtles** they would initiate simple actions such as picking up trash at the school yard.
- **Six 4-H Chicken Embryology presentations**, provided by our 4-H Agents, **reached 361 elementary students** who are taking part in the 4-H Embryology project.
- Thirty-eight participants attended the **Hastings Potato Field Day** and gained knowledge related to current research on weed science, plant pathology, variety selection, nutrient management, postharvest innovations and irrigation.
- Seventy-five participants attended the **1st Annual CFLAG Hay Field Day** and were provided first-hand knowledge related to harvest equipment, management strategies and cow-calf BMPs.
- Of the 243 participants that attended **financial management programming**, 92%, at one site surveyed, agreed that they will plan on making financial changes related to spending plans and personal finances.

