

UF/IFAS Extension, St. Johns County

2019 Annual Report

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Note From the Director

As we reflect on our successes in 2019, 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 <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/stjohns/>. Inside this Annual Report, you will find selected economic impacts, awards and programmatic highlights that benefited St. Johns County.

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

Selected Economic Impacts

- Received more than **\$289,154 in grants** to support programming.
- Agents working through collaborating partners received **in-kind/monetary donations** with a value of **\$159,695**.
- Volunteers donated 23,523 hours** to St. Johns County residents to assist programming. This is equivalent to **\$565,492** of value (based on 2018 Independent Sector data; \$24.04/hr.) or **11 full-time and 1 part time employees for 1 year**.
- Agents developed **345 unbiased, scientifically sound, educational pieces** for the public related to their subject matter.

Awards/Honors

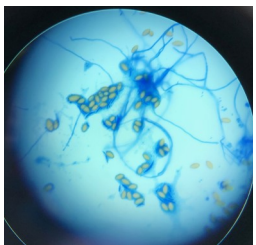
- UF/IFAS Extension - Master Gardener Distinguished Extension Professional and Enhancement Award (T. Freeman)
- Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals - Distinguished Career Leadership Award (Dr. M. McGuire)
- National Association of Extension 4-H Agents - Achievement in Service Award (J. Kelly)
- National Association of Extension 4-H Agents - Excellence in Educational Technology Award (J. Kelly)
- National Association of Extension 4-H Agents - Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion - Regional Award (J. Kelly)
- National Association of Extension 4-H Agents - Meritorious Service Award (G. Sachs)
- Central District Symposium - Agriculture Abstract Award (T. Wilson - Team)
- University of Florida - Special Recognition - Superior Accomplishment Award (A. Law)

Meet our Extension Agents

Tim Wilson	Director, Production Ag Agent
Prissy Fletcher	Commercial Ag Agent
Terra Freeman	Commercial/Residential Horticulture Agent
Julia Kelly	4-H Youth Development Agent
Joanne Cooper	Family & Consumer Science Agent
Dr. Maia McGuire	Multi-County Sea Grant Agent

Selected 2019 Programmatic Highlights

- Senior St. Johns County 4-H member, Caeli Benyacko, placed **1st in the State 4-H Horticulture I.D. and Judging Contest** in June. This 4-H'er follows a long history of St. Johns County 4-H'ers who have won this contest.
- More than 50 participants attended the 2019 **St. Johns County Agriculture Hall of Fame** Re-commemoration Ceremony which was held at the St. Johns County Cattlemen's Cracker Day Festival.
- A **feral hog mitigation plan** was developed for the 50-acre St. Johns County Ag Center, that was successful in removing 6 hogs. Damage from these hogs occurred from May 23rd thru August 4th which resulted in turf, flower and herb gardens being destroyed. Since their removal, UF/IFAS Master Gardener Volunteers have been able to repair all damage.
- Twenty students graduated from the **2019 Master Gardener Training Program** after attending 50.5 hours of training over three months and officially earned the title of Master Gardener Volunteer. As graduates, they are now part of the SJC Extension Master Gardener volunteer program and will provide volunteer services to the SJC community including plant diagnostics, educational programs to youth and adults, and garden consultations, among many other activities.
- The **2019 Datil Pepper Fall Festival** featured 12 local restaurants that competed for professional and people's choice awards in both datil inspired entrée and appetizer categories by providing 24 total menu items. This event was successful in providing Agricultural Awareness to more than 2,000 participants.
- The county wide **4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest** was held on April 22nd at the St. Johns County Extension Office. This public speaking program which involved over 5,200 fourth, fifth and sixth grade youth, culminated with thirty-three school winning speeches.
- The TCAA Agriculture team organized the **2019 Potato Field Day the 2019 Cole Crop Field Day, and Winter Weather School** for hands-on training to commercial clientele in the Ag industry.
- Thirteen (13) middle school students and two teachers from Polaris Charter Academy in Chicago participated in an intensive two-day microplastics program with our Sea Grant Agent. Upon their return to Chicago, these **students served as ambassadors** by teaching other seventh and eighth grade students what they had learned in Florida.



The Hastings Plant Pathology Triage Lab, led by our Commercial Ag Agent, diagnosed numerous fungal diseases, non-biotic stressors and processed soil samples for a cost savings for the Tri-County Agriculture Area Commercial growers.

- The UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County **Family Nutrition Program** reached 4,950 participants, provided nutrition education to 30 different sites

and brought more than \$163,000 of

Federal SNAP-Ed dollars to St. Johns County.

- One-hundred and eighty (180) participants attended the **2019 Spring Ranchers Forum**. Participants gained knowledge on developing feeding alternatives by adding value to culled commodities prepared by our Production Agriculture Agent.
- A **thornless blackberry variety trial** (1/2 acre), led by our Commercial Ag Agent, was installed at Ben Wells Produce in St. Augustine with the objective of getting fresh fruits into local restaurants and farmer's markets.
- Thirty-six participants gained knowledge related to beef cattle palpation, pregnancy evaluation, artificial insemination and cattle handling practices, from our Production Agriculture Agent, by attending the **2019 Beef Cattle Reproduction and Artificial Insemination School** held at the Deseret Ranch in Deer Park, FL.
- To remain proactive related to potential disaster assistance, 20 commercial row crop farmers were contacted **pre/post Hurricane Dorian**, by our Commercial Ag Agent, for preparation assistance and disaster assessments. Fortunately, there were no disaster impacts to report related to agriculture in St. Johns County due to this storm.
- Twenty-five (25) **Florida-Friendly Landscaping workshops** were taught, by our Horticulture Department, to 699 residents on topics including right plant, right place; introduction to FFL; Florida-Friendly Lawn Care; Landscape Design; Zoysia Lawn Care; St. Augustine Lawn Care; and Lawn Care BMP for Homeowners.
- Our Sea Grant Agent partnered with Anastasia State Park and The Amp during "**Earth Week**" to hold two screenings of the film, "The Smog of the Sea". The Amp provided funding to purchase fabric and beeswax pellets. All who attended the film and discussion sessions had the opportunity to make their own beeswax food wrap to take home with them.
- Over 315 fourth graders and 75 teachers and volunteers attended the **St. Johns County Ag EdVenture Days** in April at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds. This hands-on educational event provided an assortment of agricultural learning stations.
- The St. Johns County 4-H Meats Judging Team, competed at the **2019 State 4-H Meats Judging Contest**. Our Intermediate team placed 2nd with three team members placing in the top 10 and our Senior team placed 8th with one team member placing in the top 10.
- One-hundred and sixteen (116) participants at the **2019 EPIC Flower and Garden Expo**, attended educational workshops, on topics such as: Monarchs and other Pollinators; Salt Tolerant Landscape Plants; Gardening for Mental Health; Invasive Plant Species; Landscaping for Florida's Wildlife; and Growing and Culinary Uses of Fresh Herbs.

