

UF/IFAS Extension, St. Johns County

2020 Annual Report

UF/IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Note From the Director

As we reflect on the challenges and successes in 2020, 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://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu>. 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 **\$232,333 in grants** to support programming.
- Agents working through collaborating partners received **in-kind/monetary donations** with a value of **\$18,367**.
- Volunteers donated 9,112 hours** to St. Johns County residents to assist programming. This is equivalent to **\$219,053** of value (based on 2018 Independent Sector data; \$24.04/hr.) or **4 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 - James App Award for Outstanding Extension Team - Café Latino (T. Wilson - Team member)
- Central District Symposium - Agriculture Poster - 1st Place (T. Wilson and P. Fletcher)
- Central District Symposium - Agriculture Abstract - 1st Place (T. Wilson and P. Fletcher)
- National All-America Selections 2020 Landscape Design Challenge "Make an Entrance" - 3rd Place (SJC Master Gardener Volunteers)

Meet our Team

Tim Wilson	Director, Production Ag Agent
Prissy Fletcher	Commercial Ag Agent
Terra Freeman	Commercial/Residential Horticulture Agent
Julia Kelly	4-H Youth Development Agent
Allie Anderson	4-H Youth Development Agent
Vacant	Family and Consumer Science Agent
Amy Law	Office Manager - Admin Spec.
Harriet Fleming	Administrative Support Asst.
Kellie Anderson	4-H Program Assistant
Joe Kirby	Horticulture Program Assistant
Angela Barrineau	Custodial Worker
Ashley Kelly	FNP Extension Program Manager
Kathy Ponce	FNP Extension Educator
Susan Layfield	FNP Extension Educator
Geralyn Sachs	Hosting - Central Dist. 4-H RSA
Greg Dunn	Hosting - Florida Forestry Service

Selected 2020 Programmatic Highlights



- Commercial growers in St. Johns County utilize the latest precision agriculture tools available. To assist them, our Production Agriculture Agent completed the FAA Part 107 test to become a **licensed drone pilot**. Plans are underway to provide training to growers on how this technology can be used to make management decisions as well as

incorporating this technology into our research and demonstration efforts.

- Our Horticulture Agent partnered with the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Naturalist to produced 11 videos for distribution on SJC social media to educate SJC residents on topics related to **Florida-Friendly Landscaping**, including composting and native plant identification, such as saltbush, wax myrtle, Carolina willow, St. Johns wort, coreopsis, Spanish needles, catbriar, and prickly pear cactus, and invasive species such as lantana.
- Nine-hundred and forty-five (945) youth and 39 teachers from 6 St. Johns County Elementary Schools and 3 Home school groups, participated in the **4-H Embryology Program** conducted by our Production Agriculture Agent. Youth gained knowledge related to the life cycle, observation, responsibility, and science during this program. Although the in-person experience was not available for some youth, our team partnered with the University of Nebraska to provide students a virtual experience.
- The Hastings Triage Lab**, managed by our Commercial Agriculture Agent and funded by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, diagnosed diseases such as Brown spot, Early blight, Ringrot, Late blight, Dry rot, Bacterial wilt, Stemcanker, Pectobacterium, and Powdery mildew in potatoes, artichokes, and squash. She also identified insect pests such as aphids, stink bug larvae, fall armyworms, slug damage, thrips and whiteflies in potatoes, sweet corn, brussels sprouts, artichokes, and green beans. Additionally, she identified abiotic/non-pathological issues.
- Nine (9) participants graduated from the **2020 Master Gardener Volunteer Training program**, which provided over 50 hours of education and hands-on training. Participants will donate 75 hours of volunteer service during their first year as MGVs to educational gardening programs and projects throughout the county.
- Over 40 youth and their parents participated in the **2020 TCAA 4-H Potato Project**. St. Johns County 4-H, FCS and Ag Agents along with the TCAA team (HAEC Staff, Agents from Flagler and Putnam Counties and volunteers) worked in education stations that included mechanical planting in the field. Participants also planted their own seed potatoes in a container so they could take a plant home and grow it themselves.
- Our Family and Consumer Sciences Agent provided

educational programming for thirty-four adults on **debt management** that included debt to income ratio, budget management and savings, and how to lower interest rates on credit cards. Twelve participants contacted their credit card company to reduce their current interest rate.

- One-hundred and one (101) participants gained basic knowledge related to developing a small agriculture enterprise by participating in one or more of eight **"Living on a Few Acres"** workshops coordinated by our Production Agriculture Agent. These programs were taught by multiple Agents with subject expertise from 5 different Counties.
- Eighty-five (85) pesticide exams were proctored by our Commercial Agriculture Agent with an average passing rate of 60%. By taking these exams participants who pass can apply for a pesticide license through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- 4-H Youth that attended the 2020 TCAA 4-H Potato Project also learned about **brussels sprouts**. Since harvest was occurring during that time, they were able to see this process. Our Family and Consumer Science Agent presented a **nutritional program** on brussels sprouts and provided air-fried brussels sprouts for them to taste. Of these youth, 35% indicated this was the first time they had ever had a brussels sprout.
- Although 99% of artichokes consumed in the US are grown in the western USA, our Commercial Agriculture Agent evaluated **artichoke varieties** at the Hastings Agricultural Extension Center as a possible alternative crop for our growers. Not only was she able to demonstrate that artichokes can be grown in NE Florida she was also able to determine which varieties work best for our environment. In addition, her team evaluated the effects of controlled-released fertilizers on this crop in our environment.
- Thirty-seven (37) green industry professionals participated in a **Green Industries Best Management Practices program** by the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Horticulture Department, of which 99% passed the certification exam. This allows them to apply for a Limited Commercial Urban Fertilizer Certification through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) so they can legally apply fertilizer on homeowner lawns in Florida.
- The **SJC 4-H Department** developed an **eight-episode video series** on the outdoors in St. Johns County. In the videos, they demonstrated activities including kayaking and cycling to show how to stay active while visiting local destinations. After 440 views results from assessments reflected that knowledge gain was achieved related to plants, wildlife, and animals. 96% indicated they were interested in visiting featured locations. <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/stjohns/4-h-youth-development/where-in-the-county-are-ms-julia-and-ms-kellie/>

