

# UF/IFAS Extension, St. Johns County

## 2022 Annual Report



### Note From the Director

Evaluating our challenges and successes during this past year, 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 <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/stjohns/> anytime.

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

### Selected Economic Impacts

- Agents participated in grants valued at more than **\$696,000** to support programming with **\$138,700** allocated directly to them.
- Agents working through collaborating partners received **in-kind/monetary donations** with a value of more than **\$74,000**.
- Volunteers donated 14,451 hours** to St. Johns County residents to assist programming. This is equivalent to **\$380,350** of value (based on 2021 Independent Sector data; \$27.68/hr.) or nearly **6 full-time employees for 1 year**.
- Agents developed **303 unbiased, scientifically sound, educational pieces** for the public related to their subject matter.

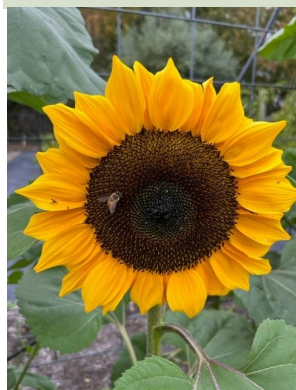
### Awards/Honors

- National Association of County Agricultural Agents - "Featured Story" National Award Winner (P. Fletcher)
- National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences - "Continued Excellence" National Award Winner (W. Lynch)
- Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents - "Excellence in Shooting Sports" Award (J. Kelly)
- Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents - "Educational Package" Award (J. Kelly, A. Prevatt)
- UF/IFAS Extension - Blogger Award: Central District Award (T. Freeman, A. Prevatt)
- UF/IFAS Extension - James App Award - Outstanding Extension Team, Health Extension Team (W. Lynch)
- Central District Symposium Award Winners (T. Wilson, A. Prevatt, W. Lynch, T. Freeman)

### 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 Prevatt	4-H Youth Development Agent
Wendy Lynch	RSA/FCS and Food Systems Agent
Amy Law	Office Manager - Admin Spec.
Harriet Fleming	Administrative Support Asst.
Kellie Anderson	4-H Program Assistant
Vacant	Horticulture Program Assistant
Angela Barrineau	Custodial Worker
Geralyn Sachs	Hosting - Central Dist. 4-H RSA
Greg Dunn	Hosting - Florida Forestry Service

# Selected 2022 Programmatic Highlights



- Two thousand four hundred and ninety-two (2,492) students from Eleven (11) schools conducted the **SJC 4-H chicken embryology projects**. Teachers who participated in the project reported that students gained a deeper understanding of the life cycle and needs of a developing embryo, increased skills in observation and recording data, and increased their love of science.

## • The Hastings Triage Lab

(funded by grants provided by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners) provided diagnostics for 69 crop and soil samples for commercial agriculture in the Tri-County Agricultural Area.

- Three (3) water bath and/or **pressure canning home food preservation workshops**, led by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, were delivered for 21 participants. Program participants increased knowledge of food safety practices, proper food preservation techniques, and the benefits of preserving food at home.
- Our Commercial and Production Agriculture Agents provided **259 in-person farm visits** to clientele throughout St. Johns County on topics ranging from crop production, disease management, pond management and pasture management.
- Twenty (20) students participated in **the 2022 St. Johns County Master Gardener Volunteer Training program**. This 12-week training program is led by the St. Johns County Horticulture Agent; during this time, she taught 15 labs and 6 presentations. The MGVP program provides over 50 hours of education and hands-on training to participants, who will in turn, donate 75 hours of volunteer service during their first year as MGVPs to educational gardening programs and projects throughout the county.
- A 4-H Horse club parent utilized her experiences to start a **4-H Fishing Club**. Since she started, she has recruited a co-leader, secured a meeting site at a marina with a fishing boat captain as subject matter expert, received training from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission on youth and fishing, and co-wrote and received a \$1,000 grant for fishing equipment from Bass Pro Shops. Her club has gone on to be the largest in the county.
- The Commercial Ag Agent and Ag Center Staff proctored **105 pesticide exams** on the 2nd and 4th Friday, and 4th Wednesday of each month in the second quarter. Numbers have been steadily declining since the adaptation of remote testing.
- Fifty-Eight (58) attendees took part in the St. Johns County 4-H **Holiday Craft Teaching Night** where youth and adult volunteers partnered in teaching a variety of crafts. This event required the craft teachers to use their communication and public speaking skills and the

learners to utilize their problem solving, creativity and decision-making skills.

- Thirty-three (33) participants who attended a **"Healthy for Life" series** of six workshops (total of 67 duplicated for all sessions), taught by our FCS/Food Systems Agent, increased their confidence in applying heart healthy strategies such as eating produce in season and removing barriers to physical activity. 89% (25/28) intend to implement heart healthy practice such as preparing meals with fruits and vegetables.
- Our Production Ag Agent assisted the State-wide Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement (LECALE) by providing educational materials related to body condition scoring and Animal Handling to **25 Agriculture Deputies from 19 Florida Sheriff's Departments**.
- One hundred and seventy (170) fourth graders and thirty (30) teachers and parents participated in the **St. Johns County 4-H Ag EdVenture Days** held at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds. Participants gained knowledge about agriculture topics including beef, vermiculture, potatoes, poultry, and healthy Florida drinks that were taught by UF/IFAS Extension Agents, Foresters, and volunteers from the Putnam-St. Johns County Farm Bureau and St. Johns County Horse Council.
- Twenty-two (22) participants, both youth and adults, earned their **Florida Hunter Safety Certification** by attending a class hosted by our Production Agriculture Agent. This certification trains participants in firearm safety and handling techniques, life skills they will be able to use regardless of how old they are. Participants indicated they planned to hunt locally with their family.
- 25 crates of artichokes**, grown in Hastings, were donated, and delivered by our St. Johns County Commercial Ag Agent to local restaurants, farmers markets and produce stands in the Tri County Agricultural Area for community feedback on artichoke palatability. Comments have been overwhelmingly positive.
- The St. Johns County **4-H Horse Judging & Hippology Teams** placed in the top three at the State 4-H Horse Judging & Hippology Contest. Youth who participated in this project developed their knowledge of equine science and sharpened their decision making and public speaking skills.
- Our Horticulture department taught **GI-BMP to 60 green industry personnel**, enabling them to apply to FDACS to obtain their Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate, which is required by state statute to legally apply pesticides in the state of Florida.

