



# UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County

## 2023 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

### Awards/Honors

- National Association of Extension 4-H Agents - Communicator Award - Video Program, National Award (A. Prevatt)
- Florida Association of Agricultural Agents - Search for Excellence in Livestock Production, State Award (T. Wilson and Team)
- Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents - Excellence in Professional Development, State Award (J. Kelly)
- American Society of Horticultural Science - Outstanding Leaflet Award (T. Freeman)
- American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Florida Affiliate - Extension Excellence Award (W. Lynch)

### Selected Economic Impacts

- Agents participated in grants valued at more than **\$1,373,000** to support programming with **\$810,856** allocated directly to them.
- Agents working through collaborating partners received **in-kind/monetary donations** with a value of more than **\$90,000**.
- **Volunteers donated 17,254 hours** to St. Johns County residents to assist programming. This is equivalent to **\$507,440** of value (based on 2022 Independent Sector data; \$29.41/hr.) or nearly **8.3 full-time employees for 1 year**.
- Agents developed **189 unbiased, scientifically sound, educational pieces** for the public related to their subject matter.

### Meet our Team

<b>Tim Wilson</b>	<i>Director, Production Ag Agent</i>
<b>Prissy Fletcher</b>	<i>Commercial Ag Agent</i>
<b>Terra Freeman</b>	<i>Commercial/Residential Hort. Agent</i>
<b>Julia Kelly</b>	<i>4-H Youth Development Agent</i>
<b>Allie Prevatt</b>	<i>4-H Youth Development Agent</i>
<b>Wendy Lynch</b>	<i>RSA/FCS and Food Systems Agent</i>
<b>Amy Law</b>	<i>Office Manager - Admin Spec.</i>
<b>Harriet Fleming</b>	<i>Administrative Support Asst.</i>
<b>Kellie Anderson</b>	<i>4-H Program Assistant</i>
<b>Sarah Tomlinson</b>	<i>Horticulture Program Assistant</i>
<b>Ken Cazarez</b>	<i>Agriculture Program Assistant</i>
<b>Angela Barrineau</b>	<i>Custodial Worker</i>
<b>Geralyn Sachs</b>	<i>Hosting - Central Dist. 4-H RSA</i>
<b>Andrew Usina</b>	<i>Hosting - Florida Forestry Service</i>

# Selected 2023 Programmatic Highlights



- The UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Office provided an estimated **153 one-on-one site visits to farmers**, landowners, and clientele within the county to address concerns firsthand.

- In 2023, the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County office **reached an estimated 21,276 clientele** through group teaching events, phone calls, emails, one-on-one visits, and walk-ins to our office.
- Three series were delivered in 13 educational sessions to 97 duplicated participants on fruits and vegetables, plant-based proteins, whole grains, **how to balance a healthy dietary intake**, cooking demonstrations, and an optional cook-along. 77% (48/62) of participants increased knowledge of healthy lifestyle behaviors to reduce risk for chronic disease and improve overall health.
- 398 fourth graders and 63 teachers and parents participated in the **St. Johns County 4-H Ag Ed Venture Days**. Participants rotated through hands-on stations that educated them on topics relating to the agricultural industry including poultry, beef, vermiculture, potatoes, equine, and bees. These educational stations were led by UF/IFAS Extension Agents, volunteers, and presenters from the St. Johns County Cattlemen's Association, Wesley Wells Farms, St. Johns County Horse Council, St. Johns River Water Management District, Bikini Bee Company, and Anastasia Mosquito Control.
- Our St. Johns County Horticulture Agent provided **18 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ educational programs** to county residents on topics including Your FFL, Gardening for Health and Wellbeing, Right Plant Right Place, Plant to Plate, Stormwater Pondscaping, Gardening with Herbs, Gardening with Muscadine Grapes, Salt Tolerant Landscapes, Gardening for Butterflies, Turf Maintenance, and Common Landscape Plants of Northeast Florida.
- Fifteen farmers within the TCAA used the **Hastings Triage Laboratory**. A total of 42 plant samples were submitted resulting in diagnostic savings to TCAA farmers and growers in 2023 of at least \$8,230.
- The UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County 4-H Agent conducted its **2023 4-H Embryology Project** for 2,554 St. Johns County students from 114 classrooms (up from 76 classrooms in 2022).
- **Six agricultural awareness events** were conducted at Ribera Garden (22 St. George St.) that provided 1,633 participants the opportunity to learn about cattle, bees, horses, sheep, chickens, worms, timber, and much more.
- Our UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Horticulture Agent provided education programming in which 57 participants passed their **Green Industry – Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) Certification** exam and received their certificate to apply fertilizers.
- Based on the needs of our stakeholders, a new **Agriculture Extension Program Assistant position** was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners and was approved to provide support in the areas of ag-row crop production.
- As the **State 4-H Archery Program Leader** and Level 2 Certified Archery instructor, our 4-H Agent taught 3 classes to 58 youth and adults on topics such as experiential learning to teach youth, creating a sense of belonging and personal safety, and 4-H archery guidelines.
- The UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Ag Agent teamed up with County Extension Agents from Sumter, Hernando, Osceola, and Volusia Counties, to provide **4 Drone Test Prep Workshops** to 112 participants for clientele to prepare to take the FAA Part 107 General Knowledge Exam. A drone license is required for commercial purposes.
- The UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Master Gardener Volunteer group "**The Worm Whisperer Team**" was the 2023 recipient of our annual "Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding contributions to the Florida MGV and UF/IFAS Program Award". This team inspires youth to get excited about science, including soil health, worm anatomy, and composting. Their dedication to educating youth throughout our county reached over 1,000 students in 2023, at agricultural awareness events and Title 1 schools.
- The Commercial Ag Agent and Ag Center Staff **proctored 130 pesticide exams** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month during 2023.
- The UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County 4-H Agent conducted its **2023 Florida 4-H Public Speaking Contest** for 3,841 (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade) youth from 156 St. Johns County classrooms.