

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

October, November, December 2018

The St. Johns County Board of Commissioners and UF/IFAS Extension work in a cooperative effort to provide relevant programming to citizens throughout the County. During the 4th quarter of 2018, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **10,494 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **41 on-site visits** (Agriculture, Horticulture, Schools, Livestock, and Forages) to assist residents one-on-one in St. Johns County. Below are a few examples of impacts reported by our Agents during this quarter.



- UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Horticulture Department provided consultations via site visits, office visits, plant clinics, e-mail and phone calls to over 212 residents. Consultations provided education and diagnostics on Florida Friendly Landscaping; turf, palm, citrus, vegetable and ornamental plant diseases; soil pH test results; plant identification and other horticulture-related topics.
- Thirty-six participants of which 27 were youth attended the SJC Extension 4-H Sugarcane Harvest Field Day, led by our 4-H Agents, at the Hastings Agriculture Extension Center. Educational stations included harvesting and stripping cane, pressing cane, sugar analysis, sugar types/syrup tasting, and creative craft making. At the end of the event, attendees were encouraged to harvest cane to take home and plant.
- The 2018 Datil Pepper Fall Festival featured 8 local restaurants that competed for professional and people's choice awards in both datil inspired entrée and appetizer categories. This contest was conducted by our Family and Consumer Science Department.
- Forty-eight (48) participants attended the Florida Horse Owners Workshop, led by our Production Agriculture Agent, that discussed nutrition, health and forage management. Participants reported an increase in their ability to manage their farm.
- The UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Sea Grant Agent, taught 40 third grade students about sea turtles at Julington Creek Elementary School. All 40 agreed that they could take at least one action to help protect sea turtles. She also loaned the teachers a class set of her sea turtle book, "One in a Thousand: Those Amazing Sea Turtles" so the students could read it.
- The UF/IFAS Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent and St. Johns County Home and Community Educators conducted a food storage/sanitation evaluation to 228 participants attending Datil Pepper Fall Festival.
 - » 32% learned about refrigerator safety
 - » 65% learned about the proper handling of meat/poultry before cooking
 - » 77% learned the proper temperatures to sanitize dishes
 - » 71% learned about the proper dilution rate of bleach as an effective sanitizer
- The Commercial Ag Agent taught 21 attendees of the UF/IFAS Hastings Extension Cole Crops Field Day about results from the brussels sprouts and cauliflower cultivar research and demonstration trials.
- Twenty-eight (28) participants competed in the 2019 Datil Pepper Fall Festival amateur sauce contests, led by our Family and Consumer Science Department, that included creating jams, jellies or hot sauce.



- Leadership training was provided to 29 St. Johns County 4-H Club officers, by our 4-H Agent Department, that included specific expectations for President/Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Recreation Leader, Reporter and Historian. A follow up survey resulted in
 - » 100% will use what they learned, understand their job at a 4-H club meeting and are more prepared to help their 4-H club leader
 - » 97% reported that they felt ready to serve as a 4-H Club officer
- Twenty (20) Master Gardeners graduated from the 2018 Master Gardener Training Program, led by our Horticulture Agent, after attending 50.5 hours of training over three months. As graduates, they 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 UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Sea Grant Agent, Dr. Maia McGuire was interviewed about microplastics by Fox35 News (Orlando) for their live morning news show.
- The St. Johns County Extension Commercial Ag Agent was invited to present a continuing education course at the 2018 Annual Florida Farm Bureau Conference in Ponte Vedra.
- During the 2018 Datil Pepper Fall Festival, UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Horticulture Department sold 610 Florida Friendly Landscaping plants to 224 customers; 168 of these customers were provided educational information on Florida Friendly Landscaping. Additionally, 66 individuals were educated about rain barrels and compost tumblers; 40 were provided diagnostic assistance at the Master Gardener Plant Clinic; and 143 were educated about gardening with datil peppers.
- One-hundred and fifteen (115) attendees took part in the SJC 4-H Holiday Craft Teaching Night, led by our 4-H Agent, where youth and adult volunteers partnered in teaching a variety of crafts. This event required the craft teachers to use their communication skills and the learners to utilize their problem solving, creativity and decision-making skills.
- Research and demonstrations projects funded by the St. Johns County Board of Commissioners were discussed at the Sharing Day, hosted by the Regional Specialized Vegetable Agent and Hastings Agriculture Extension Center Director. Participants gained knowledge from production, nutrient management, variety selection to value added product development.



For more information, visit the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Website at <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu> or contact us at **904-209-0430**.