

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

October, November, December 2019

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 2019, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **9,975 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **71 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.



- The UF/IFAS Extension **Hastings Triage Lab** diagnosed 4 fungal diseases, 2 bacterial diseases, and checked 3 water pH samples for a cost savings of \$270 for TCAA growers.
- The UF/IFAS Extension, St. Johns County, Family Nutrition Program along with our Family and Consumer Science Agent, participated in the Florida Crunch Event at Southwoods Elementary School. Grades K-5 students sampled fresh local cabbage and cauliflower donated by Barnes Farm.
- **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.
- The newly developed **“Living on a Few Acres” in St. Johns County workshop series**, led by our Production Ag Agent, provided educational materials on beef cattle, sheep and goat and backyard poultry production basics to 25 participants at three workshops. The next series of classes will include material related to peaches, grapes, cottage food laws, ponds and horses.
- Thirty-two youth and adults participated in the **“St. Johns County Ag Trivia”** challenge at the 2019 Datil Pepper Fall Festival, conducted by our Ag Agents.
- Twenty students graduated from the **2019 Master Gardener Training Program** after attending 50.5 hours of training over three months and official 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 conducted by our Family and Consumer Science Department and was successful in reaching more than 2,000 participants.
- The Commercial Ag Agent participated in an **8-day agricultural tour of Ireland**, with the National Association of County Agriculture Agents, to gain knowledge related to their vegetable and dairy production, and how their methods can be applied in Florida.



- A **4-H Leadership Retreat** was held at **Welaka State Forest** by our 4-H Youth Development Agents. This event was attended by 29 4-H youth ages 8-17 and included Tayler Dykes, Florida 4-H State Council President as the featured speaker. Along with a campfire and s'mores, youth participated in a **team building exercises** that were planned and led by the St. Johns County Council President. While at this retreat, participants planned the direction for the county program, **strengthened their leadership skills** and increased their knowledge of environmental science through hands-on activities. As a result of the weekend, volunteer club leaders of clubs whose members attended reported that their 4-H'ers were **more confident** in their leadership role.
- More than 50 participants attended the **2019 St. Johns County Agriculture Hall of Fame Re-commemoration Ceremony**, led by our Ag Agent, which was held at the St. Johns County Cattlemen's Cracker Day Festival. During this ceremony, the 10 original recipients that were inducted into this group in 1998 were recognized for their efforts in promoting agriculture in St. Johns County.
- The Commercial Ag Agent and Ag Center Staff **proctored 163 Pesticide exams** and taught two pesticide training classes for the golf course industry.
- Our Family and Consumer Science Agent, along with volunteers from the Home and Community Educators program, conducted a food storage/safety evaluation to 221 participants related to **Hurricane Preparedness**. Knowledge gain was determined using a pre- and post-test which included temperatures necessary to maintain food during power outages in both refrigerators and freezers.
- The **Tri-County Legislative Farm Tour** included an update to county and state officials on the progress and impacts of the **Hastings Triage Laboratory** by the Commercial Ag Agent.
- During the 2019 Datil Pepper Fall Festival, the UF/IFAS St. Johns County Extension Horticulture Department sold 620 Florida Friendly Landscaping plants to 240 customers; 180 of these customers were provided educational information on **Florida Friendly Landscaping**. Additionally, 48 individuals were educated about rain barrels and compost tumblers; 53 were provided diagnostic assistance at the Master Gardener Plant Clinic; and 135 were educated about gardening with datil peppers.
- Thirty-eight 3rd Graders from Julington Creek Elementary School gained knowledge related to **Amphibians** from our Agriculture Agent. Students commented that they enjoyed learning what each frog sounded like and trying to replicate that sound in our Frog Chorus at the conclusion of the program.



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**.