

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

April, May, June 2023

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 second quarter of 2023, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **4,994 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **34 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.



- Six-hundred and thirty-seven (637) students and thirty-four (34) teachers from three (3) schools participated the **St. Johns County 4-H chicken Embryology Project**. 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.
- Our St. Johns County Horticulture Agent taught 6 programs to 49 SJC residents on topics such as Right Plant Right Place, Your Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Stormwater **Pondscaping**, Gardening with herbs in northeast Florida, and Plant to Plate.
- A total of 24 participants attended 2 “**Grow Your Healthy Lifestyles Farm To Fork Workshops**”, taught by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, and increased their knowledge of the dimensions of well-being and the health and nutrient benefits of whole grains.
- Thirty (30) participants attended the **2023 North Florida Beef Cattle Reproduction School**, co-taught by our Production Agriculture Agent, and increased their knowledge on cattle handling skills, anatomy and physiology, nutrition, ultrasound, and beef cattle palpation techniques.
- The Commercial Ag Agent presented on the results of the thornless blackberry variety trial at the **2023 Florida State Horticulture Society Annual Conference** and was **nominated as the President-elect of the society**.
- Three “**Healthy for Life**” workshops, taught by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, to 10 participants where they increased their knowledge of plant-based eating, preparing healthy desserts, and preparing quick, healthy meals.
- The Commercial Ag Agent and Ag Center Staff proctored **47 pesticide exams** on the 2nd and 4th Friday, and 4th Wednesday of each month in the second quarter.
- Our Production Agriculture Agent teamed up with the St. Johns County Horse Council to provide the **2023 St. Johns County Spring Equine Update**. Sixteen (16) participants gained knowledge related to pasture management techniques, soil sampling, equine nutrition, saddle fitting and bit selection.
- The St. Johns County Horticulture Department taught **Green Industry – Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) to 34 green industry personnel**, enabling them to apply to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to obtain their Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate, which is required by state statute to legally apply pesticides in the state of Florida.



- Forty-nine (49) youth and their families took part in the potato harvest for the **Tri-County 4-H Potato Project**, at the UF/IFAS Cowpen Branch Demonstration and Research Facility in Hastings. On harvest day, Extension professionals from the Tri-County Area collaborated to educate youth about many topics including pollinators, pests, potato grading, and plant parts. As a result of this project, youth gained first-hand experience learning about the potato industry from planting to harvesting, as well as marketing the potatoes.
- The **Hastings Triage Lab** provided diagnostics for 22 samples during the second quarter.
- Four St. Johns County 4-H youth participated in the **Florida 4-H Legislature**. This 5-day event provided members with an opportunity to experience state government by serving as Florida 4-H senators, representatives, lobbyists, media correspondents, Lt. Governor, or Governor in a “mock” style experience. Attendees walk away feeling more prepared for leadership in the American democratic process as they learned what it takes for laws to be considered and passed or vetoed in a model legislative session at the Florida State Capitol.
- In June, the St. Johns County Extension, Horticulture Department, with help of Master Gardner Volunteers, began installation of an **ADA accessible walkway** that will extend throughout our demonstration gardens to ease wayfinding and provide a safe path for visitors.
- **Artichokes from the county-funded nutrient management trial** were brought to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Farmer’s Market to assess the economic value of the edible produce compared to the cut flowers. Shoppers were willing to pay \$4 per globe for the edible commodity and \$5 for the cut flowers, retail value.
- The St. Johns County Master Gardener Volunteer team taught **vermiculture**, the science of raising worms to create nutrient-rich compost, to over 398 participants in 16 elementary school classes over 2 days at the 2023 St. Johns County 4-H Ag Adventure
- Our Family and Consumer Science Agent taught 5 UF/IFAS Extension Agents on **“Home Food Preservation Methods”** including boiling water bath and pressure canning.
- Forty-nine (49) youth attended the **2023 TCAA Potato Field Day Harvest** where our Production Agriculture Agent co-taught “Food Systems – From Farm to Plate”. This program increased participant knowledge on the process, from beginning to end, for potatoes to become potato chips.
- In collaboration with the **Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association**, the Commercial Agricultural Agent and Hastings Extension Director hosted the “Social Influencer Tour” at UF/IFAS HAEC to educate the social media influencers on how research is conducted and the importance of alternative crop trial endeavors.
- Thirty-two (32) youth ages 8-14 participated in the **SJC 4-H Intro to Archery Camp**. In addition to learning about how to shoot a bow, they learned personal safety, responsibility, the science of archery, and the rules of archery competitions. Youth increased their archery ability as evidenced by their ability to score at least four arrows on the target and knowledge gain of 72% using a pre-posttest.

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**.