

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

July, August, September 2022

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 third quarter of 2022, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **7,908 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **43 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.



- 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 Production Ag Agent Co-Chaired the **27th Annual CFLAG Florida Beef Cattle Reproduction Management School with AI held at the Deseret Ranch in Deer Park, FL**. Thirty-nine participants gained firsthand knowledge from our Agent on topics that include: introduction and advanced, artificial insemination and pregnancy detection palpation techniques, wet labs, and bull selection. Of the participants that completed a post-meeting survey, 94.2% indicated knowledge gain on the various topics while 95.4% intend to implement at least one change to their operation.
- Twelve (12) youth participated in the **St. Johns County 4-H Animal Science Summer Day Camp** that was led by our 4-H Agent. Youth learned about different production animals and the role they play in society. Youth had the opportunity to take a field trip to local farms to see many of the animals in person. Of the participants, ten (10) said they would like to pursue a 4-H animal project in the future. By participating in a 4-H animal project, youth can develop life skills such as decision making, record keeping, positive self-esteem, and responsibility.
- The Commercial Ag Agent's UF/IFAS grant funded SEED-IT Teams (**Blackberry, Lettuce and Pumpkins**) presented their findings on the first year of trials, including those at UF/IFAS HAEC, at the **2022 UF/IFAS Emerging Enterprises Summit**.
- 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 MGVT 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 MGVTs to educational gardening programs and projects throughout the county.
- Sixteen (16) 8-15-year-old St. Johns County youth participated in the Intro to **Archery Summer Day Camp** held at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds. The two-day camp, led by our 4-H Agent, is a pre-requisite for membership in the **Toxophily 4-H Archery Club**. Twelve of the 16 participants have joined the club which stresses safety and fosters a sense of belonging.
- Over 1,000 St. Johns County residents received the summer issue of **St. Johns Lawn and Garden Gazette**. This newsletter, published by the SJC Horticulture Agent, provides programmatic updates and seasonal gardening information. Articles included topics of Houseplants for Health and Wellbeing, Florida Wildflowers, Herbs, Fairy Gardens for Mental Health, Oakleaf Hydrangea, and All-American Selection plants.



- The Commercial Ag Agent and Ag Center Staff proctored **28 pesticide exams** for clientele on the 2nd and 4th Friday, and 4th Wednesday of each month in the second quarter.
- The St. Johns County 4-H Equine Program, coached by our 4-H Agent and Staff, led **four (4) St. Johns County 4-H youth to compete at the State 4-H Horse Show** and of these, three (3) qualified to compete at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships. These youth earned multiple top five awards at both the State and Regional levels. Moving up through the levels of 4-H horse shows is a very competitive process and requires good sportsmanship and a thorough knowledge of horsemanship skills.
- Our Family and Consumer Science Agent led sixteen (16) **Healthy for Life®** classes for 138 individuals, **providing hands-on cooking experiences or demonstrations** to teach new skills for heart healthy living and lifestyle choices. Participants increased knowledge on ways to improve meals and snacks with nutrient dense ingredients and how to replace saturated and trans fats with healthier fats to support heart health.
- One-hundred and thirty-nine (139) participants attended the **2022 Equine Institute** held at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion in Ocala Florida. Our Production Agriculture Agent provided **educational programing related to horse trailer safety and maintenance**. Eighty-eight percent of participants who responded to the post-meeting assessment found this information very useful and 95% indicated they planned to implement recommendations they learned from this event.
- The FCS/Food Systems, Commercial Ag and Production Ag Agents created the first **SJC Food Systems Advisory Committee** which represents the food industry, agriculture, local media, and county government. We have 14 new members.
- Forty-five (45) youth from 5th – 8th grade attended a 3 session, **environmental science summer enrichment experience** at the W.E. Harris Center led by our 4-H Agent.
- Our Production Agriculture Agent attended the **newly established St. Johns County School District “Academy of Aquaculture”** advisory board meeting to provide guidance for faculty and staff. He has been able to connect this Academy with University professors who have expertise that will benefit their program.
- Two (2) senior aged youth attended **4-H University** to compete at the state-level for **demonstrations, public speaking, and the share the fun talent contest**. Both youth did a phenomenal job representing St. Johns County at the event and one was awarded first place for her compelling opera performance of “Das Veilchen” by Mozart.
- Our Family and Consumer Science Agent provided educational support for two county faculty to present **a food systems workshop** including dairy science to approximately 35 youth attending 4-H University. Youth demonstrated **critical thinking and decision making** during the workshop and successfully completed a dairy science lab.

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**.