

# UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

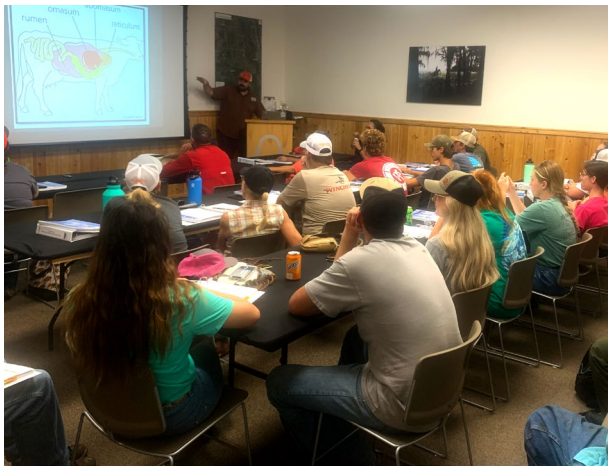
## WORKING TOGETHER

**July, August, September 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 third quarter of 2023, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **4,195 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **19 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) senior aged youth represented St. Johns County by attending **4-H University** to compete at the state-level for demonstrations, public speaking, and the share the fun talent contest. The youth did a phenomenal job representing our County at the event, receiving first place in both the demonstration and share the fun divisions.
- The Commercial Ag Agent teamed up with a state specialist and four other female Extension Agents to form the new **“UF Women in Agriculture Association”** which will create a group of women who want to learn or be empowered by participation in agriculture.
- Five (5) participants that attended a **Boiling Water Bath and Pressure Canning Class**, taught by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, gained knowledge on self-reliant practices, food safety, and reducing food waste.
- Twenty-four (24) participants that attended the **2023 CFLAG Beef Cattle Reproduction Management School with Artificial Insemination**, co-taught by our Production Ag Agent, gained hands-on training related to beef cattle palpation, pregnancy evaluation, cattle handling techniques and artificial insemination practices. 85% (n=20) intend to implement rectal palpation, 75% plan to use cattle handling techniques they learned, and 90% plan to monitor body condition scoring as a result knowledge they gained from this program.
- The SJC 4-H Youth Development Agents led a **Forensic Science Summer Day Camp** in which they partnered with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Central investigation Division. Marilyn Butts, Crime Scene Technician, presented several investigative techniques with hands-on activities. Campers reported her presentation as being the best part of the camp. They also reported that they had so much fun in camp, they are looking forward to next year's summer day camp selection.
- **Eight (8) horticulture programs were taught to 111 St. Johns County residents** on topics of Your Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Salt Tolerant Landscapes, Turf Maintenance, Right Plant Right Place, Gardening with herbs in northeast Florida, Gardening with Muscadine Grapes, and Gardening for Butterflies by our Horticulture Agent.
- Ten (10) participants attended the **“Kids in the Kitchen”** workshop where they increased knowledge of kitchen equipment, and food safety, MyPlate, and food preparation techniques. Youth successfully prepared a healthy recipe.
- Our Family and Consumer Science Agent taught **3 Healthy for Life workshops** for a total of 50 participants increasing knowledge of eating fruits and vegetables, healthy ingredient substitutions, and plant-based proteins.



- The Commercial Ag Agent and Ag Center Staff **proctored 32 pesticide exams** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month in the third quarter. As surrounding counties are phasing out of testing, we are evolving into the new hub for the TCAA for pesticide testing.
- Three (3) **Green Industries-Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) trainings**, were taught by our Horticulture Agent to 20 green industry personnel, enabling them to apply to Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to obtain their Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate. This certificate is required by state statute to legally apply fertilizer in the state of Florida.
- The **SJC 4-H Teen Leadership Club** kicked off the start of the 4-H year on September 1<sup>st</sup>. At the beginning of the 2022-2023 year, they set a goal for retaining 65% of its members. Through **engaging leadership experience and team building** activities at every meeting, **they retained over 86% of its members by the end of the year**. Word got out about how much fun everyone had that 10-youth returned and 6 new members, one of which only joined 4-H because of this club. Our new officers have another dynamic year planned to keep the energy going.
- Our Production Agriculture Agent provided training to 114 participants that attended the **2023 CFLAG Equine Institute** related to pasture management, nutrient management, and weed management. Of survey responses, 53% planned to use the knowledge they gained to scout pastures for weeds and treat appropriately.
- Three (3) participants attended the **Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Pesticide Exam Review Class**, led by our Horticulture Agent and co-taught by our Production Agriculture Agent.
- Ten (10) youth participated in the **4-H Equine Science Summer Day Camp**. During camp, youth learned about different aspects of equine science including nutrition, anatomy, breeds, and health. Youth had the opportunity to take a field trip to local farms to learn from industry professionals. Nine (9) participants said they would like to pursue a 4-H horse 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 teamed up with a specialist from the Citrus Research and Education Center to **establish a variety demonstration of finger limes at Tater Farms of Hastings**. This is an emerging new crop that can survive with exposure to the Citrus greening disease.
- One of our **Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) teams** taught 3 vermiculture classes, the science of raising worms to create nutrient-rich compost, to over 50 youth at a SJC elementary school.
- **The Hastings Triage Lab** provided diagnostics for 5 samples during the third quarter.
- Two (2) St. Johns County 4-H youth competed at the **State 4-H Horse Show** and qualified to compete at the **Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships**. These youth earned multiple first place and high point awards. 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.
- The Commercial Ag Agent was invited back to teach new Extension Agents and professors with Extension assignments for the **"Extension Academy"** in September. She emphasized the importance of **communication, collaboration, and work/life balance**.

For more information, visit the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County website at [stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu](http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu) or contact us at **904-209-0430**.