

# UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

## WORKING TOGETHER

**October, November, December 2022**

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners and UF/IFAS Extension work in a cooperative effort to provide relevant programming to citizens throughout the County. During the fourth quarter of 2022, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **4,829 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.



- Our Production Agriculture Agent teamed up with UF Historic St. Augustine, Inc., the Florida Ag Museum, the St. Johns County Cattlemen's Association, and the Florida Forestry Service to provide an educational program "**Florida Heritage Livestock and Agriculture History**" by exhibiting livestock at Ribera Garden in Downtown St. Augustine to more than 250 participants. These participants learned how cattle and horses were introduced to the United States and how the cattle industry began when Ponce de Leon arrived in Florida in 1521. This may have been the first-time cracker cattle have been in downtown St. Augustine in more than 100 years.
- Our Family and Consumer Science Agent provided 4 home **food preservation workshops** on water bath and/or pressure canning classes for 37 participants, increasing knowledge of food safety practices, food preservation techniques, and the benefits of preserving food at home.
- Fifteen (15) youth participated in the **4-H Pumpkin Project** and gained knowledge about harvesting, agribusiness, entrepreneurship, food safety and culinary arts. They also participated in hands-on learning opportunities led by St. Johns County Extension Agents and concluded their project by hosting a pumpkin stand at the "Growing Local in St. Johns County" program where they raised \$800 to be put back into the program for next year.
- With the assistance of Farm Bureau and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), our Commercial Agriculture Extension Agent helped to support the nomination of the next **County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) award recipient**, Mr. Dan Corey of DeLee Produce.
- Our St. Johns County Horticulture Agent taught **Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) to 15 students at First Coast Technical College**. This training is required for anyone in Florida who applies fertilizer commercially to apply to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for their Urban Landscape Commercial Fertilizer certificate.
- One (1) Healthy for Life® class, led by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, reached 7 individuals, providing **hands-on cooking experiences or demonstrations** to teach new skills for heart healthy living and lifestyle choices.
- Of the **45 farm tour participants**, led by our Commercial Agriculture Agent at the **Growing Local in St. Johns County** event, 20 of them completed the survey. They reported a 100% knowledge gain of SJC agriculture, and 100% of the farm visitors stated that the tour either inspired them to start purchasing local produce, or to utilize a wider range of vendors that supply local produce.
- Our St. Johns County Commercial Agriculture Agent and Ag Center Staff **proctored 34 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 fourth quarter.



- The annual **St. Johns County Master Gardener Volunteer recognition luncheon** was held in December to thank and honor our volunteers who contributed over 8,913 hours of volunteer service in 2022, as well as to recognize those who have reached 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-, and 25-year milestones of volunteer service.
- For its sixth year, our 4-H Department hosted its annual **St. Johns County 4-H Gingerbread House Contest**. This year, forty-eight (48) youth entered the contest. Entries included thirty-three individuals, three teams, and one 4-H club entry. By participating in the challenge, youth put their creativity to work while developing engineering, problem-solving, and teambuilding skills.
- Twenty-three (23) participants attended the **Livestock Education and Certification for Law Enforcement (LECALE) program** that was co-taught by our Production Agriculture Agent. Participants learned how to evaluate cattle and horses for body condition scoring and common animal husbandry practices conducted on ranches in Florida.
- At our newly developed **“Growing Local in St. Johns County”**, our Master Gardener Volunteer program generated funds to benefit the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Botanical Gardens, and other elements of our horticulture programming at a two-day plant sale.
- Fifty-four (54) attendees took part in the **St. Johns County 4-H Holiday Craft Teaching Night** where youth and adult volunteers partnered in teaching a variety of crafts. This event enabled members to develop their communication, public speaking, problem-solving, creativity and decision-making skills.
- The **Hastings Triage Lab** provided diagnostics for 15 crop and soil samples during the fourth quarter.
- More than 50 participants attended the **Mid-Atlantic Crop Management Workshop** in Ocean City, Maryland and gained knowledge related to using **unmanned arial systems (UAS)**, otherwise known as drones, for commercial purposes, co-taught by our Production Agriculture Agent. Several participants have already signed-up to attend our next workshop that will prepare them to take the FAA Part 107 General Knowledge Exam so they can obtain a license to fly drones.
- Our St. Johns County Master Gardener Volunteer program provided a **Greenery Centerpiece** workshop to 24 St. Johns County residents. This annual event is a favorite that educates about using native and local greenery to make festive table centerpieces for the holiday season.
- Our Family and Consumer Science Agent hosted a **4-part Food Systems in Series** for 76 individuals about how to grow and prepare sorrel, the FL 4-H Food Challenge, Food Forests and Vegetable gardening.
- The surplus **strawberry plants** used for the hydroponic demonstrations were distributed to **8 school gardens or youth projects in Putnam and St. Johns Counties** with the assistance of 4-H Agents, Master Gardeners and Putnam/St. Johns County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee members.
- The St. Johns County Horticulture Department hosted the **District IV Garden Clubs fall meeting** and presented “Gardening for Health and Wellbeing” to the 105 attendees.
- As a result of the **officer training workshop**, led by our 4-H Agent, 100% of historians, reporters, and secretaries understood their job at a 4-H club meeting, feel ready to serve as a club officer, and will use what they learned.

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**.