

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

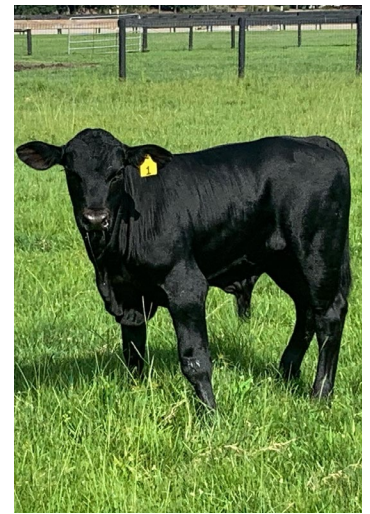
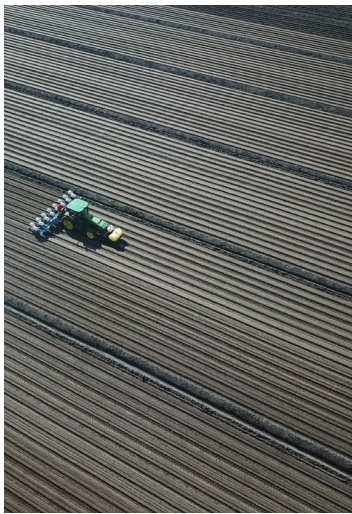
WORKING TOGETHER

July, August, September 2021

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. Covid-19 impacts have impacted many businesses around the world beginning in April 2020; however, our facility has remained open to serve our clientele. During the third quarter of 2021, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **6,086 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **46 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 FCS/Food Systems Agent received state Healthy Living funds to support 8-week **Food, Fun and Fitness at Ketterlinus afterschool program** (Parks & Recreation) for 24 youth.
- Our Horticulture Agent trained fifteen (15) participants for the **2021 Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) Training program**. This program provided 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 MGVs to educational gardening programs and projects throughout the county.
- Our 4-H Agent, participated in the **Wells Family Farm Festival** where she met over 200 families with whom she shared program information. Visiting youth made a spooky craft and were introduced to the fun of St. Johns County 4-H.
- The Commercial Ag Agent and Ag Center Staff **proctored 44 pesticide exams** on the 2nd and 4th Friday, and 4th Wednesday of each month in the second quarter.
- More than 50 participants attended the **2021 Equine Institute** held at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion in Ocala Florida. Our Production Agriculture Agent provided educational programming related to toxic weed identification and control.
- At the end of July, fourteen (14) youth participated in the **4-H Animal Science Summer Day Camp**. During camp, youth learned about different production animals and the role they play in society. For each animal, topics such as breeds, nutrition, anatomy, care, and purpose were covered. Youth had the opportunity to take a field trip to local ranches to see many of the animals in person. Of the fourteen (14) youth who participated, twelve (12) 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.
- Our Commercial Agriculture Agent received the **Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA)**. This award recognizes contributions to agriculture by the agent and is one of the highest awards an Ag Agent can receive from their peers.
- To enable the horticulture department to better serve St. Johns County residents with their lawn and landscape issues, thirteen (13) Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) were trained on proper protocol for **MGV help desk** and soil testing procedures.



- Our FCS/Food Systems Agent was invited to be a **guest lecturer at the UF/IFAS Food Science and Human Nutrition Department**. She provided educational materials to university students taking the HUN 6936: Nutrition Education (Dr. Jeanette Andrade, PhD, LDN, RDN, FAND) class.
- **The Hastings Triage Lab** provided diagnostics for 8 crop samples during the third quarter, including eggplant, potatoes, artichokes, and beans. In addition, the Commercial Ag Extension Agent successfully completed a graduate level course on “Applied Disease Management” through the UF IFAS Plant Pathology Department, to assist with the Triage Lab services.
- The Senior 4-H Hippology Team traveled to Perry, Georgia to compete at the **Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships**. The two-day competition involved four sessions including identification stations, a written exam, an orally presented team problem, and horse judging. The team was tested on equine related topics such as digestive anatomy, forages, and tack. As a member of the Hippology Team, youth gain important knowledge about equine science and management that can be transferrable to future animal science related careers. More importantly, being on the team encourages youth to develop valuable life skills such as time management, public speaking, critical thinking, and problem solving. These skills can benefit youth throughout their personal, academic, and professional lives.
- Our Production Agriculture Agent provided **drone images for sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and green beans**. These images will be used to scout insect damage and evaluate crop production techniques.
- **The St. Johns County 4-H Council Summer Workshop** was held in August and officers created a monthly plan for their meetings and events. They engaged in several fun team building exercises. Council members created two goals, along with corresponding objectives, and strategic actions for each that the Council planned to accomplish by the last meeting of the 4-H year in May. In a post-event survey, participants reported that this was the best 4-H workshop they had ever attended. They also reported feeling like they were part of an effective team.
- In September, feral hogs began damaging areas of the Agriculture Center Property. A **feral hog mitigation plan** was developed by our Production Agriculture Agent to trap and remove hogs from this facility.
- The Commercial Agriculture Extension Agent, with help from Ben Wells Produce, **supplied vegetable seeds (beans, corn, sunflowers, etc.) to the AgScience school gardens at Gamble Rogers Middle School**. Seeds were purchased with SJC/BOCC supported grant funds through our Hydroponics/Protected Ag project.
- The summer issue of **St. Johns Lawn and Garden Gazette** was distributed to over 1,000 St. Johns County residents to provide programmatic updates and seasonal gardening information. Articles included topics of zoysiagrass, vermiculture, herbs, rose rosette disease, and All-American Selection plants.
- Two-hundred and ninety-six (296) participants attended two in-service trainings for Extension faculty and health and nutrition related professionals, **Elements of Health Aging Dietary Guidelines for Americans: Recommendations for Adults for Healthy Aging and Building Bodies and Balance: Healthy Aging Programs** taught by our FCS/Food Systems Agent.

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**.