

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

January, February, March 2020

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 first quarter of 2020, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **6,062 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **65 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.



- **The Hastings Plant Pathology Triage Lab**, managed by our Commercial Agriculture Agent and funded by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, diagnosed 8 fungal diseases, 2 bacterial diseases, 2 phytotoxic issues, and checked 3 water pH samples for the Tri County Agricultural Area (TCAA) growers that allowed them to **make better management decisions that saved them time and money**.
- One-hundred and forty-six (146) participants attended 7 **Florida-Friendly Landscaping** workshops taught by UF/IFAS Extension SJC Horticulture Department. Participants learned about selecting the **right plant for the right place**, pruning trees and shrubs, designing rain gardens, muscadine grape production, St. Augustine lawn care, and common pests of trees and shrubs.
- Twenty-six (26) adults participated in a program, by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, on cardiovascular and flexibility exercises as part of **health and wellness programs**.
- Over 40 youth and their parents participated in the **2020 TCAA 4-H Potato Project**. St. Johns County 4-H, FCS and Ag Agents along with the TCAA team (HAEC Staff, Agents from Flagler and Putnam Counties and volunteers) worked in education stations that included mechanical planting in the field. Participants also planted their own seed potatoes in a container so they could take a plant home and grow it themselves.
- Four-hundred and fifty-five (455) youth from 3 St. Johns County Elementary Schools participated in the **4-H Embryology Program** conducted by our Production Agriculture Agent. Youth gained knowledge related to the life cycle, observation, responsibility, and science during this program.
- 4-H Youth that attended the 2020 TCAA 4-H Potato Project also learned about brussel sprouts. Since harvest was occurring during that time, they were able to see this process. Our Family and Consumer Science Agent presented a **nutritional program on brussel sprouts** and provided air-fried brussel sprouts for them to taste. **35% of the youth indicated this was the first time they had ever had a brussel sprout.**



- Thirty-two participants from the St. Johns County Parks and Rec Department participated in an **IPM (Integrated Pest Management) training** provided by the SJC Commercial Agriculture Agent. Participants learned about how to identify beneficial insects, insect pests, invasive plant species, and herbicide application techniques for varying situations.
- One-hundred and forty-five (145) livestock managers gained knowledge from our Production Agriculture Agent by attending **workshops related to equine, beef and pasture management** that will improve their ability to make management decision.
- Thirty-seven (37) green industry professionals participated in a **Green Industries Best Management Practices program** by the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Horticulture Department. **99% passed the certification exam** enabling them to apply for a Limited Commercial Urban Fertilizer Certification through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) so they can legally apply fertilizer on homeowner lawns in Florida.
- In March, local **agricultural awareness** was displayed by our St. Johns County Family Nutrition Program staff and Commercial Agriculture Agent at the St. Augustine Amphitheater's Night Market. Several varieties of **artichokes grown at the Hastings Agriculture Extension Center Farm were on display**. Eighty (80) people participated in an evaluation for their favorite artichoke variety based on its physical appearance, with 'Colorado Red Star' and 'Green Queen' being the two favorites. Feedback from these evaluations will help growers determine which varieties their consumers will buy.
- Over 1,000 trees and fact sheets on tree care were disseminated to over 155 individuals by the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Horticulture Department at 5 **Florida Arbor Day** tree give-away events throughout the county.
- Fourteen (14) participants gained knowledge related to applying pesticides in preparation for taking their pesticide exam by our Agriculture Agents. In addition, 21 pesticide exams were administered. Three **pesticide classes** were planned for March but were canceled due to COVID-19.
- Ninety-six (96) participants learned about proper **handwashing and sanitation**. 44 of these participants handwashed to see if they were effectively washing, 71% (31) of participants had to rewash again.
- Two members of the TCAA team participated in an **interview with First Coast News** to discuss how rampant **weather patterns were impacting local agriculture**. View interview here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_mbt1pyEhk
- The St. Johns County Food and Nutrition Program held a vegetable tasting event at Osceola Elementary. Out of 712 students 44% tried **fresh coleslaw** made with cabbage donated by Sykes Family Farms. These students were surveyed and as a result, 57% of the students that tried it, loved it. Over 80% of the taster participants expressed that **they would like to see fresh coleslaw added as an option in the school cafeteria**.

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**.