

# UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY WORKING TOGETHER

**January, February, March 2023**

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 first quarter of 2023, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **7,258 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **59 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 hundred and ninety-eight (398) fourth graders and sixty-three (63) teachers and parents participated in the **St. Johns County 4-H Ag EdVenture Days**. Participants rotated through hands-on stations that educated them on topics relating to the agricultural industry including poultry, beef, vermiculture, potatoes, equine, and bees. These educational stations were led by UF/IFAS Extension Agents, volunteers, and presenters from the St. Johns County Cattlemen's Association, Wesley Wells Farms, St. Johns County Horse Council, St. Johns River Water Management District, Bikini Bee Company, and Anastasia Mosquito Control.
- Our St. Johns County Family and Consumer Science Agent taught a **Pressure Canning Class** for 6 participants and co-taught a **Home Food Preservation Workshop** for 17 youth, providing a hands-on experience where participants increased their knowledge of canning, food safety and how science is integrated in preserving food at home.
- The Commercial Ag Agent completed an FDACS Mini-Grant trial in collaboration with DeLee Produce, to demonstrate the use of varying nitrogen applications along with soil moisture monitoring equipment in Napa cabbage. The trial concluded with an on-farm **"Napa Cabbage Field Day"** to demonstrate the equipment and biomass of cabbage with varying N-rates.
- Nine (9) green industry professionals participated in the **Green Industries – Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) Workshop**, taught by our SJC Horticulture Department, enabling them to apply for their Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate from the Florida Department of Consumer Services (FDACS). This Certificate is required by state statute to legally apply fertilizer commercially in the state of Florida.
- For the first time, the **St. Johns County 4-H Annual Barn Dance** was planned, organized, marketed, and ran by the St. Johns County 4-H Teen Leadership Council. The SJC 4-H Teen Leadership Council demonstrated life skills such as organization, leadership, and teamwork. This year's event had the largest attendance in five years.
- Thirty-six (36) participants from County Mosquito Control Departments, Public Works Departments, Water Management Districts, and private industry attended an online **UF/IFAS Drone Exam Prep Course**, co-taught by our Production Agriculture Agent. Participants gained the knowledge necessary to sit for the FAA Part 107 General Knowledge Exam. By passing this exam, participants can apply for their Part 107 sUAS license that is required to fly unmanned aerial systems (sUAS), drones, for business purposes.



- At the **2023 Arbor Day Tree Giveaway**, St. Johns County Master Gardener Volunteers distributed 1,200 native tree seedlings to over 175 St. Johns County residents at 5 locations.
- One thousand two hundred and nineteen (1,219) students and thirty-four 34 teachers from seven (7) schools conducted the **St. Johns County 4-H Chicken Embryology projects**. Teachers who participated in the project reported that students gained a deeper understanding of the life cycle and needs of a developing embryo, increased skills in observation and recording data, and increased their love of science.
- The Commercial Ag Agent collaborated with Edible Magazine at the **Flavors of Florida** event held in Gainesville, to provide samples of Napa and conventional cabbage from St. Johns County farms to the guests. Over 50 guests visited our table and took samples of cabbage pot stickers from Sykes Family Farms and Ben Wells Produce.
- Our Production Agriculture Agent teamed up with UF Historic St. Augustine, Inc., Florida Ag Museum, St. Johns County Cattlemen's Association, St. Johns County Horse Council, St. Johns County Horticulture Department, and 4-H Departments to provide the **"Florida Heritage Livestock and Agriculture History"** program in January and February. This program provided hands-on exhibits that included livestock at Ribera Garden in Downtown St. Augustine to more than 750 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.
- Sixteen (16) youth participated in the **St. Johns County 4-H Demonstration Contest**. All but one qualified to compete at the District Contest in May.
- The Commercial Ag 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 second quarter.
- The St. Johns County Family and Consumer Science Agent and Horticulture Agents teamed up to offer the **"Plant to Plate"** workshop. At this food systems workshop, 7 participants learned about dehydration techniques, seasonal and local foods, vegetable, and herb gardening, how to prepare freezer jam, and engaged in a community garden tour with a Master Gardener volunteer.
- The **St. Johns County 4-H Horse Judging & Hippology Teams placed in the top five** in both the Intermediate and Senior Divisions at the State 4-H Horse Judging & Hippology Contest. Youth who participated in this project developed their knowledge of equine science and sharpened their decision making and public speaking skills.
- Twenty-four (24) youth that attended the **Tri-County 4-H Potato Day** gained knowledge about modern food systems, identified the journey of a commodity in the food system from production to disposal.
- Our St. Johns County Horticulture Agent taught 4 programs to 58 individuals on topics including **Gardening for Health and Well-being** and **Your Florida-Friendly Landscape**.
- **The Hastings Triage Lab** provided diagnostics for 15 samples during the first quarter for Commercial farmers in the Tri-County Agricultural Area (TCAA; St. Johns, Putnam and Flagler Counties).

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**.