

# UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

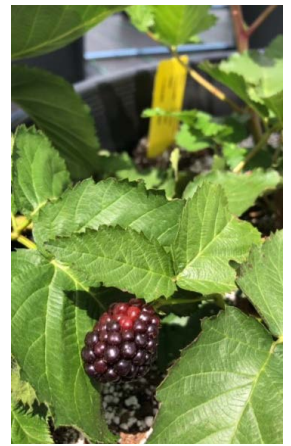
## WORKING TOGETHER

April, May, June 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. During the second quarter of 2021, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **5397 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **58 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.



- Two hundred (200) participants attended 24 community education, health and wellness classes such as “**Lets Walk Florida**”, “**Exploring your Health Indicators – Inflammation and Diseases webinar**”, “**Nutrition for Women**”, and “**Elements of Healthy Aging**”, led by our Family and Consumer Sciences/Food Systems agent.
- In collaboration with UF/IFAS NFREC-Live Oak, the Commercial Ag Agent teamed up with local extension agents and Harrell’s Fertilizer to conduct a trial utilizing **controlled-release fertilizers in snapbeans**. Bean production in expanding and up to 500 acres in SJC.
- Twenty-eight (28) youth and their families took part in the potato harvest for the **Tri-County 4-H Potato Project** at the Hastings Agricultural Extension Center. On harvest day, Extension professionals from the Tri-County Area collaborated to educate youth about many topics including beneficial and harmful insects, potato grading, drones, and alternative crops. As a result of this project, youth gained first-hand experience learning about the potato industry from planting to harvesting, as well as marketing the potatoes.
- The SJC Horticulture Agent **filmed 3 segments with “First Coast Living”** news to educate community about Right Plant, Right Place; Native Plants in the Landscape; and Gardening for Health and Wellness.
- Fifteen (15) St. Johns County youth participated in a two-day “**Introduction to Archery 4-H Day Camp**”, led by our 4-H Department, where they learned archery safety, proper shooting form, equipment identification and use and the physics of archery. Campers were provided one-on-one guidance when practicing the fundamentals of shooting. Using a pre/posttest assessment, the average knowledge gain increased 194%.
- **Four (4) forage research/demonstrations projects** were planned and installed at the Hastings Agriculture Extension Center (HAEC) and in Elkton with assistance from our Production Agriculture Agent. Projects include planting summer annuals, a bermudagrass nursery, an herbicide trial and strip-planting perennial peanut in a Bahiagrass field. Results will be shared at field days and reported in the appropriate publications.
- Three (3) St. Johns County 4-H youth competed at the Area North Horse Show in April. Each of these youth received highpoint in their divisions and **qualified for the State 4-H Horse Show** in July. 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 Extension Agent teamed up with a UF Extension Specialist to install and harvest 15 varieties of **bibb, loose leaf and baby romaine lettuce** in hydroponic demonstration towers to assess heat tolerance in spring production.
- Eight (8) Senior 4-Her's attended a weeklong **Tri-County 4-H Drone Camp** that was co-taught by our Production Agriculture Agent. At this camp, participants gained knowledge that prepares them to take the FAA Part 107, Knowledge Test. By passing this exam, participants can use their drones for commercial purposes. **All eight participants took this exam passed**; one participant has already used his certification to secure a well-paying job.
- Our Family and Consumer Sciences/Food Systems Agent serves as a mentor for 3 county faculty and **supervised a University of Florida intern** for 8-weeks.
- Approximately 100 families that visited the SJC 4-H booth at the Wells Farm Spring Farm Festival learned about the **14 summer day camps** offered by the SJC 4-H Department. In addition, these families gained knowledge on the importance of pollinators to agriculture, along with a craft making tissue butterflies.
- The **Hastings Triage Lab** provided diagnostics for 23 crop samples during the second quarter, including eggplant, potatoes, artichokes, and beans.
- One-hundred and forty-six (146) participants attended 4 **Florida-Friendly Landscaping workshops** taught by UF/IFAS Extension SJC Horticulture Department. Participants learned about selecting the right plant for the right place, plant morphology and identification, and mangroves.
- Thirty-six (36) stems of **artichoke flowers were donated** to the SJC beekeepers and 24 flowers to an **agritourism** u-pick farm by our Commercial Agriculture Agent. The goal was to assess marketability of cut flowers at the St. Augustine Amphitheater Farmer's Market and at a u-pick market. All flowers were sold out. This provides a second marketing opportunity for an emerging crop.
- Our Family and Consumer Sciences/Food Systems Agent presented at 1 state and 1 national **professional conference** and provided 2 multi-state and 1 state level in-service trainings for 568 participants.
- Fifty-seven (57) participants attended a **multi-state/multi-agent effort to provide Firescaping** education to Floridians that was co-taught by our SJC Horticulture Agent.
- The Commercial Ag Agent and Ag Center Staff **proctored 23 pesticide exams** on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month in the second quarter.
- Fifteen (15) participants gained knowledge during a **virtual Small Ruminant Workshop** that was co-moderated by our Production Ag Agent. This 3-day class provided advanced knowledge to participants on topics such as herd health, kidding, and general production practices.
- The Commercial Ag Extension Agent conducted the **4th year of artichoke trial research** in Hastings comparing controlled-release fertilizers to fertigated (quick-release) products. A total of 1,137 pounds of artichokes were **harvested and shared with farmers** interested in this crop as part of their rotation, and local chefs willing to buy them locally.

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**.