

UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County



Providing Solutions

2022 Year in Review

Greetings from the UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Extension Director

2022 completed our first year in our new facilities in Newberry. We also were able to have face-to-face programs and somewhat back to normal activities. The new facilities and auditorium has allowed our faculty and staff to conduct over 390 educational programs in the areas of agriculture, commercial horticulture, natural resources, environmental horticulture, family consumer science, and 4-H youth development. Our programs this year reached over 12,000 Alachua County citizens and provided research-based information to citizens and producers. We continue to have a strong volunteer

program in the master gardener and 4-H areas. In 2022, we had 230 volunteers donate over 19,000 hours equating to \$590,000 of service back to our community.

We hope that you enjoy the success stories in this year's 2022 Year in Review. If you have not been to our new office, I invite you to come see us in Newberry, and visit our website for upcoming programs and educational materials sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/Alachua. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Cindy Sanders

UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
Director/Livestock Agent

Budgeting & Storage Makeover Saved Families Money Grocery Shopping

A three-part financial management series with Catholic Charities turned into a four-part financial series after UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County FCS Agent Martha Maddox and Bishop Dixon saw participants were wasting money shopping through impulse buying and poor planning/decision making. Martha Maddox created the grocery shopping financial management series From the Perimeter to the Pantry...Planning, Budgeting and Storage Makeover that helped 15 families over 6 months make healthy food choices and plan menus using the MyPlate along with reducing food waste by 30% and cutting their grocery bills by 35%. Six of the 15 families reported weight loss and reduced blood



pressure by making planning menus and making healthier food choices. This series taught participants how to take a closer look at their grocery budget and find ways to cut cost by using the grocery budget calculator and tracking their food expenses. Participants learned how to plan healthy menus, make a grocery list using store ads, recipes, organizing their list according to store layout and checking to see what foods they have

on hand. Along with understanding the store layout and shopping aisle by aisle, buying produce in season, how to compare similar products by using unit pricing to find the best value and reading food labels to make smart choices while shopping.

Florida 4-H

Alachua County 4-H Forest Ecology Team Has a Very Successful Year

Each year the UF/IFAS Extension Florida 4-H Youth Development Program 4-H Forest Ecology Team competes in the Florida Forest Ecology Contest at Austin Cary Forest's Roland T. Stern Learning Center near Gainesville, FL. Teams from other counties across the state gather to take part in the competition. Forest ecology students learn how to identify trees, forest health issues (insects and disease), read maps and compasses, measure trees and manage forests for products like lumber and turpentine. The Alachua County team is led by two coaches, Emily Eubanks and Dr. Kevin Korus.



Virginia. In 2022, our Alachua County Senior team placed first at state, and qualified for nationals! Furthermore, our Senior team member, Abigail Pruden, received first-place individual and earned a \$2,000 scholarship to the UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences. The younger students were very competitive this year as well and the Intermediate team placed second.

4-H youth are categorized by age; Cloverbuds are 5-7, Juniors are 8-10, Intermediates are 11-13 and Seniors are 14-18 years old. Each age group competes as a team (minimum of four students) and as individuals but only the first-place Senior team gets to go on to represent Florida at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational.

This annual competition is held July 24th - 28th at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Conference Center in Weston, West

At the National competition, our team once again shined by placing 3rd overall and 1st in the Quiz Bowl! The team was also very successful at the individual level as Abigail Pruden received the 5th highest individual score, the top written exam score as well as the top score in compass and pacing. Luke Pinter received the 7th highest individual score and tied Alessandra Quintana for the top score in the forest health section.

The hard work ethic of the UF/IFAS Extension Florida 4-H Youth Development Program 4-H Forest Ecology Team is nothing short of inspirational.

Commercial Horticulture

Training Protects our Landscapes

The Green Industry employs nearly 3,000 people in Alachua County (Economic Contributions of the Florida Environmental Horticulture Industry in 2010; Hodges et al., 2010). Ongoing population increases and residential development create opportunities for the growth of existing Green Industry operations and the establishment of new businesses. This creates a constant demand for education and training of new workers, operators, and managers on safe horticultural practices, pesticide use, and worker safety. Teachings and trainings are based on the Florida Friendly Landscaping™ principles and hands-on activities that show the proper and safe use of pesticides and fertilizers. Dr. Tatiana Sanchez offers teachings, trainings, and materials in English and Spanish in partnership with Alachua County EPD. A total of 46 Continued Education Units (CEUs) were offered in 2022. Education units are necessary for pesticide license renewal resulting in a total economic change of \$184,920. Each CEU is valued at \$4,020 based on UF/IFAS EDIS

publication FE898. A total of 335 Continued Education Units (CEUs) have been offered (2016-2022). Education units are necessary for pesticide license renewal resulting in a total economic change of \$1,346,700.



Ag & Community Development

2022 Fall Ag Tour

In November the UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office sponsored the first Ag tour since COVID. Fifty Alachua County citizens toured ag businesses in Alachua County. The tour stops included: Tropic Traditions Nursery, Hodge Farms, Granville Plantation, Red American Cattle Ranch, McGehee Farms, and a tour of the new Ag Auditorium. In addition, the group was able to tour the water recharge area at Tropic Traditions which is a water conservation project in partnership with the Suwannee Water Management District and the Florida Department of Agriculture. Attendees learned about nursery production, blueberry production, watermelon production and marketing, tobacco production, pure-bred cattle management, perennial peanut production as well as cover crops grown in our area. 85% of those attending indicated a greater appreciation for agriculture and the environment as well as an increase in knowledge of the economic contribution of agriculture in Alachua County.



1st Agritourism Conference in 2022

The 1st Agritourism conference was held in September 2022. In partnership with UF/IFAS Extension and Alachua County Tourist Development, the conference was attended by 52 citizens. Speakers included Florida Agritourism Association President-Allan Hitchcock, Alachua County Growth Management, Alachua County Fire Marshall, Alachua County Commissioners, and the Extension Director. 92% of those attending increased knowledge in policy and regulation of agritourism in Alachua County. The committee has discussed a tour of agritourism operations in the future.



2022 Statistics

Workload Indicators for 2022 (Based on 6 Faculty UF/IFAS Extension Agents)

- **230** Volunteers donated **19,769** hours of service back to the community equating to **\$592,081** in value
- **396** UF/IFAS Extension programs were offered in 2022
- **12,002** citizens participated in group learning events

Total Educational Contacts	Educational Materials Prepared	Field & Office Consultations	Participants at group learning events	Telephone & email	Number of Extension Programs offered	Website hits	Social Media Contacts
841,509	329	749	12,002	9,964	396	46,000	214,884

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