



Extension News!

August 2021

Dear Readers,

It's been a great summer with three summer camps happening at our facility. Many youth participated in our camps and learned a lot while having fun. Programs are now in the works for the upcoming fall season, so stay tuned to Facebook and future newsletters.

It's that time to go back to school and get back to normal as much as we can. The Jefferson County Extension Office is working with area schools, scouts, and



other area businesses to provide new programs and see how we can benefit this wonderful community.

If you have any Agriculture questions, or any soil testing to be done, please don't hesitate and call us.

We finally have a full staff, and new programs involving Gretchen, the family consumer services agent, and Emily Program Assistant. Our office is open and ready to assist you with any need you may have. Have a great August!

Sincerely,
Bryan Danford
Program Assistant



Website: sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/jefferson/

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Field-to-Fork 4-H Day Camp was a Success!

As farmland continues to decrease and cities grow, consumers are further removed from agriculture and where food comes from. Younger consumers are more likely to eat out or purchase prepared foods and less likely to cook at home. Many youth lack an understanding of our food system, as well as the life skills they need to purchase and prepare food. Gardening, cooking at home, and purchasing local foods instead of eating out are ways to not only help address rising obesity in our county, but also support local agriculture. One way we wanted to help address these issues was through a summer camp.



In June, we hosted the Field-to-Fork 4-H Day Camp, a camp for youth ages 11 to 14. The purpose of this camp was to connect youth to agriculture and where their food comes from and build life skills for growing, preparing and grilling their own food. We had 10 campers and 6 camp counselors participate in the three-day camp.

We started camp off with team building activities where the group got to know one another. After that, we learned about gardening, gardening tools and things to consider when planting a garden. From there, campers were able to get hands-on experience with the gardening tools and we're able to plant their own garden!



The second day of camp was jam packed! First, we took a field trip to visit 210 Cattle where Mr. Chris Tuten and Mr. Junior Tuten gave us a tour of a cow-calf operation. Campers learned about beef production, hay production and some of the steps ranchers take to conserve the environment while ensuring they produce a quality product for consumers. Many campers had never even been on a working farm.

Agriculture & Horticulture News

Field-to-Fork 4-H Day Camp Continued

On the third and final day of camp, campers learned about different cuts of meat, food safety, and how to grill. Each camper was able to grill fresh vegetables from the garden as well as a pork tenderloin! From the field to their fork.

At the end of the camp, campers filled out an evaluation and shared some of the things they learned:

- “Our food does not come from a box and is clearly made from animals, most especially cows and others that produce meat. And that you can test your soil to see if it is good soil.”
- “I learned how to grill my own food and how to plant a garden.”
- “One thing I really liked about camp was grilling and going to the cattle farm.”
- “I like we were able to have fun and learn new things and meet new people.”
- “The USDA inspector keeps us safe by making sure there aren’t diseases in the cows.”
- “The most important thing I learned is how to grill. I have a lot of my food grilled so it’s nice I can do it on my own.”



We hope to continue to engage youth in agriculture education, and we look forward to continuing this summer camp next year!



4-H Youth News

4-H August Events

Jefferson County 4-H Clean Up Project Thank You!

On Saturday morning, July 17, 2021, the Jefferson County 4-H Working Soldiers Club with the help of area leaders, volunteers, and others completed their first community roadside cleanup project. They picked up over 300 pounds of trash on a 2 mile stretch of Pinney Woods Road, located near the Springfield AME Church. They were all excited to give back to the community!! This is one of many wonderful activities that our club programs get involved in every year. If you are interested in getting involved in other 4H activities, please contact the Jefferson County Extension Office.



August Outdoor Challenge

This month we are going to start to learn about how to identify plants. There are 4,700 plants in Florida, some that belong and others that don't belong. You will need a plant guide to help you on your quest. There are many plant guides out there and some free online plant guides, including the iNaturalist app, Picturethis app, and others.

When I first try to identify a plant, I look for flowers (what color, how many petals, stamens, anthers). Then, I look for seeds, fruits, and nuts that may be on the tree or on the ground. Next, I move to the leaves, what is the leaf arrangement (alternate, opposite, whorled, pinnate). If you are still unsure, look at the leaf margin (are they linear, ovate, elliptic, etc). Other things you can take a look at is it hairy, what does the bark look like, what is the habitat its in (certain trees grow in certain areas), find any other characteristics that will help identify the plant.

There are many plants out there, and it can be a challenge to identify certain plants, but there are many benefits, including being eaten. My challenge this month is to go into your neighborhood and try to identify at least 3-5 plants. Have fun and go ID those plants!

4-H Youth News

4-H Half Day Camps

4-H Half Day Camps

On July 13-15, Jefferson County had a three day **Natural Resources Summer Camp** that included lots of fun hands-on activities, games, and a little learning thrown in. First, youth learned all about plants of the forest; how to tell how healthy the forests were with the help of our county forester (Colin) and how foresters used tools to do this. The second day was all about wildlife and had a lot of fun games where we became deer, bear, birds, and more. The final day we talked about conservation, water issues, and bugs. Most of the youth wanted more



time, more games, and more fun. Maybe next year!

The **Cloverbuds Camp** was held on July 20 and 21, where youth 5—7 year olds learned some new skills, did some cool crafts, and did some grilling and eating. They even got to go to the library, learn about living things, made puppets, made weather wheels, and just had great fun!

Overall, camps were a success and hopefully next year will be longer and filled with more fun activities.



Natural Resources Camp 2021



2021 Fall Looking Forward

How can you get involved with FAMU 4-H this fall?

* National 4-H STEM Challenge— Galactic Quest

Kids learn foundational STEM skills while wrestling with the same questions as today’s top aerospace scientists and engineers! Activities can be done all at once or individually, making it great for classrooms, after-school programs, clubs, parents, and more.

***For more information, please see the 4-H online website or contact Emily Nolen at emily.nolen@famuedu!



* 2022 In –Person 4-H National Summits in Washington D.C

Please see below for the different summits being offered this upcoming year and the dates. If interested, please contact Emily Nolen at emily.nolen@famuedu!

- ◇ Healthy Living Summit—February 10th –13th
- ◇ Agri-Science Summit—March 10th –13th
- ◇ Citizenship Washington Focus—June 5th—July 16th (week long programs)
- ◇ Leadership Washington Focus—July 18th—July 22nd
- ◇ STEM Summit—September 15th—18th

Poster Contests

Zoonotic Diseases Wanted Poster Contest—Create a wanted poster about the zoonotic diseases you find most fascinating! Compete with other posters to win cool prizes. Submit poster via email to emily.nolen@famuedu.

Livestock Breed Contest—Submit a poster about your favorite cow, pig, horse, or chicken to win prizes.

****Drop posters by the Jefferson County Extension Office by August 23rd ****

FAMU Tech Changemakers

We Want YOU! Tech Changemakers is a program designed to pair teenagers (who are very tech literate) with older persons in the community to teach them valuable tech skills to make these people more employable and confident in the ever growing/changing workplace. FAMU Tech Changemakers is recruiting motivated teenagers who are interested in helping close the gap of the digital divide. They will be responsible for teaching adults digital skills. For more information, contact Emily Nolen at enolen@ufl.edu

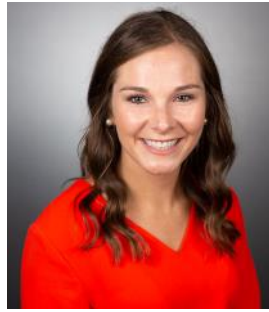


4-H TECH CHANGEMAKERS
 #4HTechChangemakers

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