

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

January, February, March 2019

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 2019, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **11,333 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.



- **Seventeen (17) Florida-Friendly Landscaping workshops** were taught, by our Horticulture Department, to **508 residents** on topics including right plant, right place; introduction to FFL; Florida-Friendly Lawn Care; Landscape Design; Zoysia Lawn Care; St. Augustine Lawn Care; and Lawn Care BMP for Homeowners.
- **Three-hundred and fifty-nine (359) St. Johns County high school students** gained financial knowledge from our Family and Consumer Science Agent by participating in the **“On My Own” Reality Fair**. Students learned the value of a credit score, how to balance a checking account and practical financial skills such as how to budget. This fair was conducted in partnership with the University of Florida and Vystar Credit Union.
- **Fifteen (15) presentations on microplastics** were taught, by our Sea Grant Agent, to 673 people. During these talks, she explained actions that people can take to reduce their production of plastic waste.
- **Fifteen-hundred and thirty-seven (1537) participants** from 107 classes at 13 different locations received **direct nutritional education** from our Family Nutrition Program.
- **Fifty-three (53) participants attended the 2019 Potato Field Day**, conducted by Ag Agents from the St. Johns, Putnam and Flagler Counties and the Hastings Agriculture Extension Center, and gained knowledge related to current potato research on nutrient, weed, disease and nematode management.
- **Thirty St. Johns County 4-H youth participated in a Public Speaking Contest**. Fourteen of the participants from the Pioneer School club had attended at least one of two public speaking workshops conducted by our 4-H Agent. Youth that attended this training placed first, second and third in this contest. The first and second place speakers went on to compete in District Events on May 4th, where one of them earned second place in the District.
- **One-hundred and eighty (180) participants attended the 2019 Spring Ranchers Forum**. Participants gained knowledge on developing feeding alternatives by adding value to culled commodities prepared by our Production Agriculture Agent.
- **Six (6) Florida Arbor Day tree give-away events** were conducted throughout St. Johns County in which our Horticulture Department disseminated 879 trees and fact sheets on tree care to over 180 individuals.



- **Two (2) Florida Animal Tracks workshops** were conducted by our 4-H Agent at three classes at Julington Creek Elementary. Students learned about six Florida mammals, both native and invasive and completed an activity creating sponge paintings of the tracks they had learned about.
- **Fifty-five (55) participants at an alternative cooking workshop**, conducted by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, sampled alternative proteins including mycoprotein and soy protein. Eighty-nine percent of the participants sampled these plant-based foods for the first time.
- **A partnership between the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Family Nutrition Program, the Hastings Recreation Center, and Hastings Council on Aging was developed** to provide a hands-on learning sustainable garden. This garden was and is funded by our Family Nutrition Program and maintained by our Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Nutrition education programs were provided in conjunction with hands-on gardening.
- **Twenty-eight (28) participants attended the Emergency Preparedness for the Horse Owner Workshop**, conducted by our Production Agriculture Agent. Partnering with the St. Johns County Emergency Management and Animal Control Departments and a private large animal veterinarian, participants indicated they planned to implement knowledge they learned on microchipping, health certificates, disaster planning and having an up to date first-aid kit.
- **Seven (7) participants (from: New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, United Kingdom and Canada) in the 2019 Nuffield International Farming Scholars Program toured the 2018 – 2019 Cool Season Forage Demonstration** conducted by our Production Agriculture Agent. These participants gained knowledge related to planting technique, variety selection and nutrient management.
- One-hundred and sixteen (116) participants at the **2019 EPIC Flower and Garden Expo**, attended educational workshops, provided by our Horticulture Department, on topics such as:
 - » Monarchs and other Pollineighbors,
 - » Salt Tolerant Landscape Plants,
 - » Gardening for Mental Health,
 - » Invasive Plant Species,
 - » Landscaping for Florida's Wildlife, and
 - » Growing and Culinary Uses of Fresh Herbs.
- The New York television show **"Kids Can Cook"** producer Sylvia Garson, interviewed our Sea Grant Agent, about ways people can protect the ocean. This interview will be incorporated into a show that was filmed in Fort Myers Beach, Florida.
- **The President of the University of Florida awarded the UF Special Recognition Award** at the Superior Accomplishment Awards Ceremony to our Office Manager, Amy Law, **for going above and beyond** her normal job duties during the past year.

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**.