

# UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

## WORKING TOGETHER

**January, February, March 2025**

The St. Johns County Board of Commissioners and UF/IFAS Extension work cooperatively to provide relevant programming to citizens throughout the County. During the first quarter of 2025, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **7,327 contacts** with clientele, including emails, phone calls, office visits, and field calls.

Our programs conducted **21 site visits** to assist clientele one-on-one and taught **71 group teaching events**.

Below are a few examples of impacts reported by our Agents during this quarter.



Jr. Division Photo Winner "Besties"



Interm. Division Photo Winner  
"Sofies Adventure"



Sr. Division Photo Winner "Rust and Roots"

- Three hundred and eighteen (318) fourth graders and fifty-nine (59) teachers and parents participated in the **St. Johns County 4-H Ag EdVenture Days** held at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds. Participants rotated through hands-on stations and learned about the agricultural industry, including cattle and beef by-products, vermiculture, equine, vegetables, and bees.
- Twenty-five (25) members of **Homeowner's Associations (HOAs), Landscape Committees, Landscape Committees, and Developers across five communities gained knowledge** related to Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) through site visits provided by our Commercial Horticulture Agent.
- Our Production Agriculture Agent taught **precision agriculture** to twenty-two (22) youth at the **Tri-County 4-H Potato Project** planting day in January. Participants gained knowledge related to drone technology and precision agriculture and its uses in agriculture.
- Our Master Gardener Coordinator taught 3 classes to 11 residents at Bayview Assisted Living. Topics include accessible **gardening, painting with watercolors made from plants, and indoor seed starting**.
- Eleven (11) youth participated in a hands-on workshop to learn how to perform an impactful demonstration and illustrated presentation. They also watched two videos of St. Johns County 4-H youth that both won at the state level. They went on to compete in our **St. Johns County 4-H Demonstration and Illustrated Talk Contest**, where the average score for all participants was 91.3%, resulting in eight blue ribbons and three red ribbons being awarded.
- Our Florida-Friendly Landscaping and Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent taught six programs to 42 residents on topics including **"Your Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Right Plant Right Place, Vegetable Gardening in NE FL, Growing a Backyard Food Forest, Common Landscape Plants of NE FL, and Gardening with Herbs in NE FL."**
- Our Family and Consumer Science Agent co-taught 3 **Mindful Me programs** for 12 youth. Topics included mindful practices that improve stress management, emotional regulation, and mindful eating practices.



4-H Demonstration and illustrated Talk Contest



St. Johns County Commercial Grower



Tri-County 4-H Potato Project

- Twenty-seven (27) youth at PVPV Rawling Elementary School learned about the **importance of pollinators** by attending a program taught by our Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs). Students made pollinator houses using recycled cans and bamboo sticks.
- Our Agriculture Program Assistant **proctored 30 pesticide exams** on the 2nd and 4th Friday and 4th Wednesday of each month in the first quarter. Participants who pass this exam can apply for the Restricted Use Pesticide License through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Once they receive their license, they can legally apply restricted use pesticides.
- Nine (9) St. Johns County 4-Her's and two chaperones participated in this year's **4-H Day at the Capitol**. This event allows youth to see behind the curtain to learn more about our state government and the political process in action. Our delegation met their Florida House of Representatives, Judson Sapp, in person.
- Thirty-two (32) participants from the commercial horticulture sector attended two **Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) classes** taught by our Florida-Friendly Landscaping and Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent. By completing this class, participants can apply for their Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certification with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).
- The St. Johns County 4-H Program hosted its yearly **4-H Photo Contest**, where a professional photographer judged 45 photos. Two-thirds (28) of the photos received blue ribbons. Best in Show awards went to the best photo in each division: Junior "Besties" by Ella D., Intermediate "Sophies' Adventure" by Faith G., and Senior "Rust and Roots" by Aurora B. These winners will all advance to the state competition in June.
- Our Master Gardener Coordinator and Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) created a **new demonstration garden** at the St. Johns County Ag Center Arboretum to showcase how to grow veggies, roses, and succulents in Florida.
- Sixteen (16) adults participated in an online 4-part diabetes prevention and management series taught by our Family and Consumer Science Agent to **increase knowledge of healthy foods**, demonstrate new cooking techniques, provide basic information regarding diabetes and nutrition, and encourage a healthy lifestyle focusing on **reducing the health risks of diabetes**.
- Through contact with our Production Agriculture Agent, a UF/IFAS Aquaculture Veterinarian provided one-on-one technical training for St. Johns Technical High School students in the Academy of Aquaculture program. As a result, two of the three students passed the **Florida Aquaculture Technician Exam** administered through the Florida Aquaculture Association.
- Forty-seven youth from St. Johns, Flagler, and Putnam Counties participated in the annual **Tri-County 4-H Potato Project** planting day. Participants learned about agriculture from UF/IFAS faculty and volunteers. Additionally, they went to the field where farm staff showed them how to plant potatoes and allowed them to plant some by hand.
- The St. Johns County Master Gardener Volunteer program **has over 100 species of Florida native plants** that were available at this year's Spring Plant Sale.
- Our 4-H Agent taught a **4-H Pie Baking Workshop** for 10 participants that introduced youth to food safety and the sciences of cooking. During this workshop, participants were able to prepare their own apple pie.

For more information, visit the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County website at [stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu](http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu) or contact us at **904-209-0430**.