

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

January, February, March 2024

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners and UF/IFAS Extension work cooperatively to provide relevant programming to citizens throughout the County. During the first quarter of 2024, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **6,602 contacts** with clientele, including emails, phone calls, office visits, and field calls. Agents conducted **six 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.



Ag Adventures – Beef byproducts rotation



Ag Adventures – Vegetable rotation



Drone class for the Florida Forestry Service

- For the second year, nearly 100 participants attended the annual **St. Johns County 4-H Barn Dance**, which was planned, organized, marketed, and run by the St. Johns County 4-H Teen Leadership Council. This council demonstrated life skills such as organization, leadership, and teamwork by taking leadership. 4-H families gathered to dance and compete in a homemade cake contest, and seven participants competed in a chili contest where participants tasted and voted on their favorite.
- Our Family and Consumer Science Agent facilitated and taught two **Bone Health and Osteoporosis in-service training courses** for 108 Extension faculty. Participants gained knowledge in recently published osteoporosis guidelines, recommendations for calcium, vitamin D, and protein, bone-healthy food patterns, and implementing the Florida curriculum, *Build Your Bones*.
- Master Gardener Volunteers taught **vermiculture** to 370 youth at our annual 4-H AgEdventures program.
- The Master Gardener Volunteer program distributed 1,000 native tree seedlings to 160 St. Johns County residents at 5 locations for our **annual Arbor Day Tree Giveaway**.
- The Commercial Ag Agent and Ag Center Staff **proctored 95 pesticide exams** on the 2nd and 4th Friday and 4th Wednesday of each month in the first quarter.
- Forty-five (45) participants from the Florida Forestry Service, UF/IFAS Communications, and the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center attended one of three **UF/IFAS Drone Exam Prep Courses**, co-taught by our Production Agriculture Agent. Participants gained the knowledge necessary to sit for the FAA Part 107 General Knowledge Exam. By passing this exam, participants can apply for their Part 107 Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) license, drones, for business purposes.



Brooklyn Anthony at the Western National Roundup



Headset technology for beef cattle ultrasound



SJC Beekeeper's Apiary renovation project

- The St. Johns County 4-H Program hosted its yearly **4-H Arts, Crafts, & Photo Contests**, which showcased 61 impressive entries. Among them, the top three youth winners from the photo contest are set to progress to the State 4-H Photo Contest this summer.
- Our St. Johns County Horticulture Agent taught five programs to 90 individuals on topics including **community butterflyscaping, pruning, plant selection, FFL principles, and muscadine grapes**.
- During the **Mother-Daughter Wellness Retreat** in Jekyll Island, Georgia, our Family and Consumer Science Agent taught effective stress-coping strategies to eight youth and six adults. During this workshop, participants practiced mindfulness activities, connecting the mind, body, brain, and behavior.
- Three hundred and thirty-three (333) fourth graders and thirty-seven (37) 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, forestry, and bees.
- **The Hastings Triage Lab** provided diagnostics for 6 samples during the first quarter for Commercial farmers in the Tri-County Agricultural Area (TCAA; St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler Counties).
- Sixteen (16) participants attended the **2024 North Florida Beef Cattle Reproduction School**, co-taught by our Production Agriculture Agent. They increased their knowledge of cattle handling skills, anatomy and physiology, nutrition, ultrasound, and beef cattle palpation techniques.
- One Thousand, three hundred and twenty-five (1,325) students and thirty-one (31) teachers from four (4) schools conducted the **St. Johns County 4-H Chicken Embryology Project**. Teachers who participated in the project reported that students gained a deeper understanding of a developing embryo's life cycle and needs, increased skills in observation and recording data, and increased their love of science.
- At the **Ignite by 4-H Conference in Washington D.C.**, our Family and Consumer Science Agent taught 267 youth a STEM workshop introducing ways to reduce food loss and waste through a synchronous hands-on mozzarella cheese lab.
- For the past three years, a **St. Johns County 4-Her** has competed in the Public Speaking contest and improved her yearly score. She won the State Level contest in July and was invited to compete at the **Western National Roundup in Denver, Colorado**. At this event, she competed in the Public Speaking Impromptu contest and placed **5th overall** in the nation.

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