

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

July, August, September 2017

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 third quarter of 2017, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **10,620 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **29 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.



- **Twenty-five youth including 2 counselors and 2 counselors-in-training attended the 4-H Camp Cherry Lake Summer Camp.** During a last-minute schedule change, an autistic camper experienced an episode and she was insistent on going home. **One of the counselors took her under her wing and worked to calm her down by employing strategies for group dynamics and specialized behavior problems.** Due to the counselor's compassion and facilitating an environment of personal safety, the autistic camper decided to stay. By the end of the week she had joined the other campers in her cabin in group activities. On the bus ride home, she shared that she had a great time and wants to come back next year. **Not only did this camper have a positive experience, the counselor was able to apply life skills she learned** during her training by our 4-H Youth Development Agent.
- UF/IFAS St. Johns County Extension Horticulture Department (Extension Agent, Program Assistant and Master Gardeners) provided consultations via site visits, office visits, plant clinics, e-mail and phone calls to more than 480 individuals. Consultations provided education and diagnostics on **Florida Friendly Landscaping; turf, palm, citrus, vegetable and ornamental plant diseases; soil pH test results, plant identification and other horticulture-related topics.**
- Nineteen participants attended the **2017 Horse Health and Management Seminar** held at the Toco Feed Mill. Participants indicated they **gained knowledge on poisonous plants and the nutritional needs of their livestock** from our Production Agriculture Agent.
- One-hundred percent (n=11) of participants at a **Food Preservation Class**, taught by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, gained knowledge in both water bath and pressure canning. Participants experienced hands-on preparation of water bath canning and indicated they planned to use the skills they learned when canning in the future.
- Our Commercial Agricultural Agent presented three presentations (1 oral, 2 posters) at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her poster, **"Digging into the potential of sweet potato production in the Tri-County Agricultural Area of Northeast Florida"** won third place in the Applied Research category.
- At a recent **Patriot Oaks Academy Family Science Night**, the St. Johns 4-H Youth Development Agent and one volunteer led a hands-on "find the iron in your cereal" activity for **nearly 200 students and parents**. Families were challenged to mine for iron in their breakfast cereal, **learned about reading food labels, and the importance of iron in their diet.**



- Participating in a **Fresh from Florida program**, taught by our Family and Consumer Science Agent, seventy-seven youth learned about the importance of eating local St. Johns County produce and the health and economic benefits of supporting local agriculture. Students learned how to incorporate local grown products into their daily diet.
- A **new 4-H Insect Project** was developed by our Commercial Agriculture Agent that will prepare participating 4-H youth to compete in the **2018 Insectathon** at 4-H University in Gainesville.
- As a result of receiving the **St. Johns County 4-H Program/ Justine Fernandez Memorial Scholarship**, one **St. Johns County 4-H'er attended the University of Florida Horsemanship School and learned a different riding discipline called Ranch Riding**. At this weeklong event, youth are able to introduce their horses to cattle and learn how the ranchers are able to herd cattle and how to separate and rope a single cow for inspection or vaccinations. This St. Johns County 4-H member, who initially enrolled as an English Hunt Seat rider has decided to compete in the **Ranch Riding Division for the 2017-2018 4-H year**.
- As a result of **pesticide education**, taught by our Commercial Agriculture Agent, more than 25 individuals (farmers, landscape professionals and mosquito control) **learned how to apply pesticides safely and correctly**.
- Each year the St. Johns County 4-H program conducts an orientation for new 4-H volunteers. From this effort, the **4-H program gained two new 4-H club/project volunteer leaders**. One volunteer started a **cooking club** and one started a **STEM based project** that will take part in the Odyssey of the Mind competition in January. The orientation also helped recruit and train two other 4-H volunteers who will assist with other 4-H clubs throughout the year.
- At the **2017 Beef Cattle Reproduction Management School held at the Deseret Ranch** coordinated and taught by the Central Florida Livestock Agent Group, 94% (n=32) of participants indicated that they **planned to adopt palpation techniques** and 86% (n=28) indicated they planned to **make changes to their genetic management strategies** they learned from the St. Johns County Extension Production Agriculture Agent. The participants this school, represented approximately 25,000 head of cattle and if they made the changes they indicated they could expect to potentially increase revenues by \$100 per head or \$2,500,000.
- **The Urban and Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent provided 17 programs to 729 individuals**, which included 3 programs for green industry professionals (Green Industries Best Management Practices and Certified Arborist training), 3 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ programs (covered 9 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles), 2 food system programs (blueberry and herb production), 8 Master Gardener training programs for the 2017 Master Gardener course, and 4-day camp programs to 4-H youth. The SJC Horticulture Program Assistant provided 1 program on household pest management to 40 individuals.



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**.