



UF/IFAS EXTENSION

VOLUSIA COUNTY



HUD-APPROVED FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER CLASS

CLASSES IN ENGLISH

Session 1: Friday, January 9th at 9:00am - 1:00pm

Session 2: Friday, January 16th at 9:00am - 1:00pm

To register for English classes,

visit: <https://homebuyer.eventbrite.com>

CLASES EN ESPAÑOL

Unica sesión el miércoles 14 de enero a las 9:00am - 1:00pm

Para registrarse en clases de español

visite: <https://homebuyer.eventbrite.com>





Take Control of Your Money

for renters & homeowners

Offered on the 1st
Wednesday of each
month!



Why attend?

Empower yourself to make informed decisions about:
Budgeting & Money Management
Healthy Home
Principles Navigating the Rental Process

REGISTER NOW



ocextension.eventbrite.com

Questions? Contact Lisa Hamilton hamiltonl@ufl.edu

An Equal Opportunity Institution.



ANNIE'S PROJECT

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Our mission: To empower women in agriculture to be successful through education, networks, and resources.

Why Annie's Project?

This seven-week course is a discussion-based workshop bringing women together to learn from experts! **Part 1 of the series will be this Winter and Part 2 of the series will be late Spring.**

The classes are a relaxed, fun and dynamic way to learn, grow and connect with other women in agriculture.



"I took the class to gain a better understanding about agribusiness and how financial decisions impact our farm operation. I have a better understanding of balance sheets and the futures market...this class has improved communication with my spouse on concerns he works with on a daily basis." – Linda

Tuesday Evenings from 6 - 8 PM

Balance of in-person and virtual option

Light refreshments will be served.

UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County, Deland

For more information, call Ashley Stonecipher at 386-822-5778.

Only \$70 for all 7 sessions! Or \$12 for individual sessions.

Register Here:

<https://annies-project.eventbrite.com>

Annie's Project Topics

Part 1

January 20th

January 27th

February 3rd

February 10th

Part 2

April 30th

May 7th

May 16th*

***Farm Tour**

- Human resources
- Understanding risk assessment
- What is management?
- Farm programs
- Internet resources and tools
- Business plans
- Women and money
- Financial documents
- Marketing
- Insurance for farm families
- Agricultural spreadsheets for analysis
- Interpretation of financial statements
- Agricultural tax issues
- How property is titled
- Estate planning
- Retirement issues for farm families



SCAN ME

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Mastering Insect Pests: Homes & Urban Spaces

January 30, 2026

Register through
Eventbrite.com:

Registration is \$60
which includes
lunch, snacks, drinks
and materials.



Contact:

(386) 822-5778

Donna Coriano

DCoriano@ufl.edu

or

Karen Stauderman

Kstauderman@ufl.edu

UF | IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

A Class for Homeowners and Professionals Fleas, roaches, ants, termites, and more!

Florida has so many pests and we all encounter them at one time or another, but what are we to do? What are our best options to control and eliminate these pests?

This class, designed for professionals and homeowners explores safety, application techniques and products to help us safely maintain our homes and urban spaces.

Experts from University of Florida will explain what to do and how to overcome concerns about pesticide use in the home.

Join Karen Stauderman, UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County agent, and UF State Specialists to take control of your spaces safely and effectively!

Pesticide CEU's will be offered for the professional.



REGISTER HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/Mastering-insect-pests>



Mastering Insect Pests: Homes and Urban Spaces

January 30, 2026

AGENDA



9:00 am - 9:15 am Welcome and Introductions

9:15 am - 10:05 am Mastering Flea Control: Practical for Homeowners and Pesticide Professionals.

This presentation will define fleas and outline their complex life cycle, showcase their remarkable diversity, and examine the habitats that support their proliferation. It will then explore practical strategies for outbreak control and detail concrete steps to mitigate the impact of fleas on pets and humans alike. Karen Stauderman, Commercial Horticulture Ext. Agt. III, UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County, DeLand, FL

10:05 am - 10:55 am A Roach-Busting Tactics for Homes and Commercial Spaces

Learn about the roach by unraveling its life cycle, behavior patterns, and the silent destruction it causes in homes and businesses. Learn proven control treatments ranging from targeted baits to environmentally safe insecticides. Dive into Integrated Pest Management tactics that combine monitoring, sanitation, and deterrence for lasting results. Equip homeowners and commercial applicators with the knowledge to protect their spaces effectively. Dr. Rebecca Baldwin, Assoc. Professor, Dr. Phil Koehler, Professor, emeritus, UF/IFAS Urban Entomology, Gainesville, FL

10:55 am - 11:05 am Break

11:05 am - 11:55 am Ants Around Us

A dynamic session that delves into the hidden lives of household ants—examining their social behaviors, foraging patterns, and preferred habitats—while outlining effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to prevent outbreaks. Attendees will learn how an ant's life cycle informs timing of control measures, and will explore targeted, sustainable tactics that reduce reliance on chemicals and safeguard indoor ecosystems. Dr. Baldwin and Dr. Koehler



11:55 am - 12:30 pm Lunch - included in registration

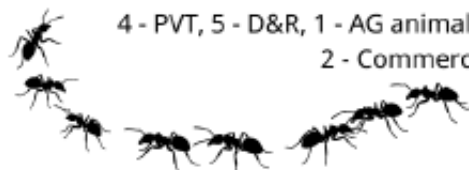
12:30 pm - 1:20 pm Urban Pest Management: Overcoming Chemical-Only Limitations

This presentation presents the importance of effective management of urban pests such as ants, bed bugs, cockroaches, filth flies, and termites. It is crucial for reducing their economic and health impacts. Yet overreliance on chemical control leads to insecticide resistance and lingering residues in built environments, undermining satisfactory pest control. Dr. Ameya Gondhalekar, Assoc. Professor, UF/IFAS Urban Entomology, Gainesville, FL

1:20 pm - 2:10 pm - Dry Wood Termites: Biology, Identification, and IPM

This presentation will cover drywood termite biology and behavior, identification of drywood termite species in Florida (and their close relatives), and cover management strategies. Dr. Johnalyn Gordon, Asst. Professor, Urban Entomology, UF/IFAS FREC, Davie, FL.

2:10 pm CEU Handout



4 - PVT, 5 - D&R, 1 - AG animal, 1 - LMT Wildlife, 2 - Wood Treatment, LMT Structural & Commercial, 2 - GHP,
2 - Commercial Termite, 2 - Commercial Structural, 2 - Public health (388)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 296.26, F.S. persons needing accommodations or an interpreter to participate in the proceeding should notify University of Florida/IFAS Volusia County no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting at (386) 822-5778.

Equal Opportunity Institution

UF/IFAS Volusia County HOA Leadership Summit

Join us as we enhance community leadership and engagement! This dynamic opportunity allows community leaders to strengthen skills, share solutions, and enhance neighborhood engagement. This summit brings together HOA board members, committee leaders, and residents to explore best practices in leadership, communication, and decision-making. Empower your community and elevate your impact—register today!

Eventbrite Registration Link:
<https://tinyurl.com/4x8at836>



Saturday, January 31, 2026



9:00am - 3:00pm

Registration Fee:
\$75.00/participant



Candlelight Room
Sugar Mill Country Club
100 Club House Cir.,
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168





For more information:

Brittany A. Council-Morton
Email: bcouncil1@ufl.edu
Phone: (386)-822-5778



EDIBLES TO PLANT IN *January*



North	Central	South
 EASY TO TRANSPLANT Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes	Arugula, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach	Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach	Aramanth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffah, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes
 USE SEEDS Carrots, Onion (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Turnips	Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onion (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Squash, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onion (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squash, Turnips, Watermelon



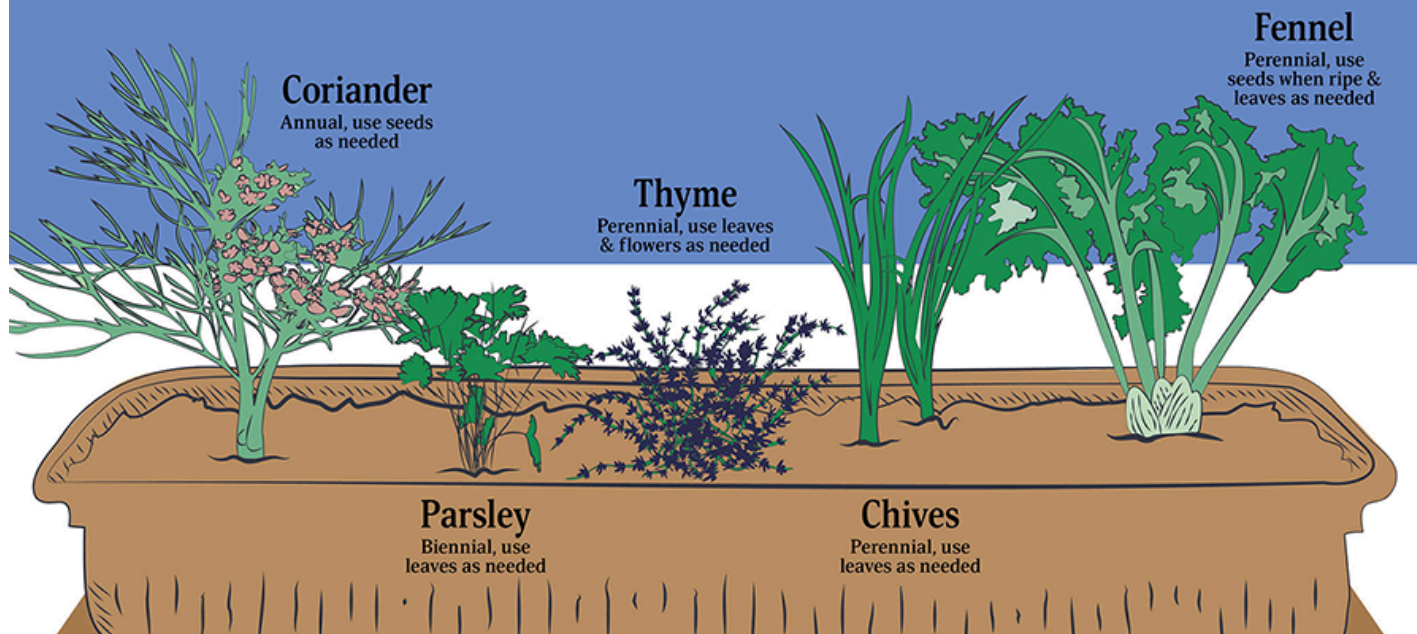
IFAS Extension



Gardening

For more information, please visit GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Plant These Herbs WINTER



Coriander
Annual, use seeds as needed

Parsley
Biennial, use leaves as needed

Thyme
Perennial, use leaves & flowers as needed

Chives
Perennial, use leaves as needed

Fennel
Perennial, use seeds when ripe & leaves as needed

LIBRARY PLANT CLINICS & TALKS

DEBARY HALL

2nd Thursday of each month
11:30am - 12:30pm

DELAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

1st Tuesday of each month
1:00pm - 2:30pm

PORT ORANGE REGIONAL LIBRARY

3rd Tuesday of each month
2:00pm - 3:00pm

DELTONA REGIONAL LIBRARY

2nd Thursday of each month
2:00pm - 3:00pm

NEW SMYRNA BEACH REGIONAL LIBRARY

1st Tuesday of each month
1:30pm - 3:00pm

SUGAR MILL GARDENS 2nd

Wednesday of each month
9:00am - 11:00pm

ORMOND ENVIROMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER

1st Wednesday of each month
10:00am - 12:00pm

Scan for a
list of topics



Letting Your Garden Beds Rest: Preparing for a Healthy Next Season

Written by: Sarah Grace Pavelchak, Florida Master Gardener Volunteer,
UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County



As gardeners, we spend much of the year tending, pruning, watering, and harvesting. But even the most productive garden benefits from intentional rest. Allowing your garden beds a recovery period, whether over the heat of summer, the cool season, or between plantings can help to restore soil structure, reduce pests, and improve future yields. Preparing your beds properly now can set the stage for an even more abundant season ahead.

1. Clear Out Spent Plant Material

Start by removing any spent annuals, diseased foliage, or crop residue. Healthy plant material can be composted; anything showing signs of disease or pests should be discarded to prevent future issues. Clearing the surface allows you to see your soil more clearly and prevents overwintering pests from settling in.

2. Loosen the Soil, Don't Overturn It

Lightly loosen compacted areas with a garden fork, being careful not to deeply disturb the soil layers where beneficial organisms live. Gentle aeration improves drainage, helps roots penetrate next season and invites microbial life to thrive while the bed is resting. This is a step that is not necessary for every bed, area, or pot, especially if it hasn't been overused or walked on. This would apply to older areas that have clumpy, dried or compacted soil.

3. Add Organic Matter

Before letting a garden bed rest, feed the soil. Spread 1–2 inches of finished compost, aged manure, or shredded leaves. Organic matter supports a healthy soil and improves texture for both sandy and clay-heavy Florida soils.

4. Mulch for Protection

Mulching is one of the simplest and most effective ways to protect a resting bed. A 2–3 inch layer of mulch (such as pine straw, leaves, pine bark, or wood chips) helps moderate soil temperature, retain moisture, and prevent weed germination. As the mulch breaks down, it becomes another layer of organic material the soil can use.

5. Consider a Cover Crop

Cover crops can help to rejuvenate the soil while it rests. They suppress weeds, add nitrogen, attract beneficial insects, and improve soil structure. Choose a cover crop that fits the season and remember to cut it down before it sets seed.

6. Water Occasionally

Even resting soil needs moisture. During dry spells, provide occasional irrigation to keep microbial activity alive and to support decomposition of organic matter and mulch. Healthy soil life doesn't go dormant overnight; it needs moisture to stay active. As a reminder, continue to follow the suggested water usage of your zone and be sure you are watering in the optimal times of early morning or before sundown.

7. Plan Ahead

Now is the time to dream, plan out those future plant goals. Resting periods are a great time to sketch out next season's layout, rotate crops, or adjust bed design. Thinking ahead helps prevent disease cycles and improves overall productivity.

In finality, rest is not neglect, it's stewardship. Preparing your garden beds to rest allows the soil to rebuild itself, the ecosystem to rebalance, and your next crop to thrive. With a little care now, your garden will thank you in the seasons to come. Let this also give you a reason to reflect on your own rest and personal growth. The garden makes for a great example of how we must care for ourselves and the world around us.

For further information please visit some of these sites as resources from AskIFAS powered by EDIS from the University of Florida:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AG277> - Managing Cover Crops for Improved Soil Health

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/SS661> - Raising Soil Organic Matter Content to Improve Water Holding Capacity

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP323> - Composting Tips for the Home Gardener



Explore Volusia Programs

JANUARY 6TH

8:30AM TO 11:30AM

Gemini Springs Bike and Hike

Gemini Springs Park, 37 Dirksen Drive, DeBary

JANUARY 9TH

8:30AM TO 11:30AM

Pine Tree ID Hike

Longleaf Pine Preserve, 3637 E. New York Ave., DeLand

JANUARY 13TH

9:00AM TO 11:00AM

Carter Ranch Eco-Buggy Tour

Carter Ranch, 532 S. State Road 415, New Smyrna Beach

JANUARY 13TH

1:00PM TO 3:00PM

Deep Creek Eco-Buggy Tour

Deep Creek Preserve, 964 S. S.R. 415, New Smyrna Beach

JANUARY 16TH

8:30AM TO 11:30AM

Martin's Dairy Hike

Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve,
1755 Martins Dairy Road, New Smyrna Beach

JANUARY 23RD

9:00AM TO 12:00PM

Water Lettuce Paddle

Deering Preserve, 1615 Osteen Maytown Road, Osteen

JANUARY 27TH

9:00AM TO 11:30AM

Sleepy Hollow Paddle

Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve,
3251 N. Dixie Freeway, New Smyrna Beach

JANUARY 28TH

10:00AM TO 12:00PM

Tiger Bay Eco-Buggy Tour

Tiger Bay State Forest,
4315 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach

**Registration Required: Search for Green Volusia activities on
Eventbrite.com or contact Tommy Nordmann at
tnordmann@volusia.org or 386-736-5927, ext. 12072.**

INVASIVE ANIMAL

RED-EARED SLIDER

The red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) has become one of Florida's most widespread invasive species, threatening the state's native turtle populations. While these colorful turtles may look harmless, their presence in Florida's waterways poses significant ecological challenges that require public awareness and action.

Distinctive Appearance

Red-eared sliders are medium-sized freshwater turtles that are relatively easy to identify once you know what to look for. The most distinctive feature is the thick red stripe located behind each eye, which gives the species its common name. Their shells typically measure between 3 to 11 inches in length, with females growing larger than males.

The upper shell, or carapace, is oval-shaped and features a slight keel running down the middle with a serrated back margin. Juvenile red-eared sliders display a bright green carapace with beautiful yellow patterns, while the bottom shell (plastron) is yellow with dark blotches. The body is dark green or black with fine yellow stripes running along the skin. As these turtles age, their coloring becomes more muted—the carapace darkens to olive or brown, and the vibrant yellow markings fade.

It's important to note that red-eared sliders can be confused with Florida's native yellow-bellied slider (*Trachemys scripta scripta*), which is found only in northern Florida. The key difference is that yellow-bellied sliders have a large yellow patch on their cheek rather than the red ear stripe.



Photo Credit: Joy Viola,
Northeastern University



Photo Credit: Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org



Photo Credit: Mike Pingleton, University
of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

INVASIVE ANIMAL

RED-EARED SLIDER

CONTINUED

Habitat and Behavior

Red-eared sliders are highly adaptable turtles that can occupy virtually any freshwater habitat. They are found in ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, canals, ditches, and even retention ponds and golf course water features. These turtles prefer water bodies with slow currents, abundant sunlight, and aquatic vegetation, though their adaptability allows them to thrive in less-than-ideal conditions.

Ecological and Economic Impacts

The primary ecological impact is competition with native turtle species. Red-eared sliders outcompete native turtles for essential resources including food, basking spots, and nesting sites. They are faster on land and better swimmers than many native species, giving them a competitive advantage. Studies have shown that in areas where food resources are limited, red-eared sliders are able to consume more food and maintain better body condition than native turtles sharing the same habitat.

Red-eared sliders also pose disease and parasite transmission risks to native wildlife. As carriers of various pathogens, they can introduce new diseases to native turtle populations that may lack immunity to these threats. Additionally, by displacing native turtles, red-eared sliders disrupt established ecological relationships and can alter the functioning of aquatic ecosystems.

Control and Management Strategies

If you encounter a red-eared slider in the wild, leave it alone. Animals taken from the wild do not make good pets, and attempting to capture or relocate wildlife without proper authorization is illegal. Instead, report sightings to FWC to help track the distribution of this invasive species. Prevention remains the most effective control strategy. Public education about the ecological impacts of releasing pet turtles is crucial. Many red-eared sliders in Florida's waterways are former pets released by owners who underestimated the care requirements or became unable to provide for them. By understanding the full scope of pet ownership responsibilities and the ecological consequences of release, Floridians can help protect the state's native turtle populations.

Article written by Kalan Taylor, County Extension Director and Natural Resources agent,
UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County

SAVE THE DATES!



Volusia County Master Gardener Volunteers invite you to the.....

6TH ANNUAL SPRING EDIBLE PLANT SALE

SATURDAY
February
21

8:30am - 10:30am

UF/IFAS Volusia County
Extension Office
3100 E. New York Ave.
DeLand, FL 32724

Bring a wagon!!!

Bring a friend!!!

We accept **CASH** or **CHECK**
ONLY!

Make all checks payable to:
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

For more details, contact Brittany Council-Morton at
the UF/IFAS Extension office: Phone: (386) 822-
5778

Email: bcouncil1@ufl.edu



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SAVE THE DATES!



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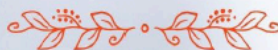


27th Annual Plant Faire

*Hosted by UF/IFAS Extension-Volusia County
Master Gardener Volunteer Program*

**UF/IFAS Volusia County Extension Office
3100 E. New York Avenue, DeLand, FL 32724**

Saturday, March 21, 2026 8:30 am - 12 pm



We will have a variety of plants available for sale:

- Florida Natives
- Butterfly & Hummingbird Plants
- Shrubs
- Antique Roses & More!



All proceeds from sales go to support our educational programming.



CASH OR CHECK ONLY

Make all checks payable to:

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Ask a Master Garden Booth will be on site.

BRING YOUR WAGON OR CART!

BRING A FRIEND!

For more details, contact Brittany Council-Morton at the UF/IFAS Extension office:

Phone: (386) 822-5778

Email: bcouncil1@ufl.edu

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SAVE THE DATES!



SMALL FARM START-UP SCHOOL: TAKE A SERIOUS STEP TO BECOMING A FARMER

THIS PROGRAM BEGINS THE WEEK OF APRIL 14TH, 2026, AND WILL BE COMPLETED THE WEEK OF JUNE 23RD. THE INTERACTIVE DESIGN OF THE 9-WEEK SMALL FARM START-UP SCHOOL ALLOWS PARTICIPANTS TO ENGAGE WITH AND BENEFIT DIRECTLY FROM ESTABLISHED FARMERS, TAPPING INTO A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE OF CROP AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION, ENTERPRISE EVALUATION, BUSINESS PLANNING, MARKETING, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE, AND MORE.

PARTICIPANTS WILL ENGAGE IN ONLINE CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS AND FIELD ACTIVITIES WHILE CRAFTING AND REFINING, A BUSINESS PLAN FOR THEIR FARMING ENTERPRISE. THE COURSE WILL REQUIRE 2-3 HOURS WEEKLY OUTSIDE OF CLASS TO MAXIMIZE LEARNING AND TO COMPLETE DELIVERABLES.

CLASSES USE BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL FORMATS. THE FIRST SESSION INCLUDES A FARM TOUR, WHILE THE FINAL SESSIONS FEATURE A VIRTUAL EXPERT ROUNDTABLE AND AN IN-PERSON NETWORKING EVENT. STARTING IN 2026, THE START-UP SCHOOL WILL HOLD IN-PERSON CLASSES AT MULTIPLE SITES, AND THE PARTICIPANT WOULD CHOOSE THE NEAREST LOCATION!

START-UP SCHOOL GRADUATES MEET THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRODUCTION AND/OR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR FARM SERVICE AGENCY BORROWERS (FSA-2375).

\$299 FEE INCLUDES:

BUSINESS AND MARKETING TEXTBOOKS REGISTRATION FOR ONE OR TWO PEOPLE (PER FARM)
PRINTED MATERIALS, WITH ONLINE ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND COURSE MATERIALS,
BUSINESS PLAN GUIDANCE, FARM TOURS AND FARMER PANELS NETWORKING WITH PEERS AND EXPERTS
EVIDENCE-BASED, UNBIASED INFORMATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ASHLEY STONECIPHER AT (386) 822-5778



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MAIN FACEBOOK PAGE



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URBAN HORTICULTURE PAGE



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PAGE

