

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & ST. JOHNS COUNTY

WORKING TOGETHER

October, November, December 2016

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 fourth quarter of 2016, Extension Agents and Staff recorded approximately **7,887 contacts** with clientele that included emails, phone calls, office visits and field calls. Agents conducted **32 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.



- More than 20 individuals representing commercial potato producers and industry increased their knowledge of **seed potato health** during a hands-on workshop co-taught by the Commercial Agriculture Agent.
- **One-hundred and forty-six (146) participants gained knowledge**, from six presentations, related to microplastics by our Sea Grant Agent. Participants ranged from second grade to water resource professionals. Her **Florida Microplastic Awareness Project** (www.plasticaware.org) will be duplicated throughout the Gulf of Mexico region in 2017.
- **Three Community Pride Grants (\$540)** were recently awarded to three St. Johns County 4-H clubs/projects, led by our 4-H Youth Development Agents, by the Florida 4-H Foundation. Youth taking part in Community Pride projects learn more about their community and the impact it has on their lives, develop skills and knowledge in community leadership, and gain experience in carrying out community projects to improve their environment.
- The UF/IFAS St. Johns County Extension Horticulture Department sold **1,028 Florida Friendly Landscaping plants** to 338 customers at the 2016 Datil Pepper Fall Festival; 244 of these customers were provided educational information on Florida Friendly Landscaping.
- **Four (4) field demonstrations were installed**, three on-farm locations and at the St. Johns County Agricultural Center, to provide clientele with first-hand knowledge related to wildlife food plots and cool-season forages. These demonstrations are useful in showing clientele the differences in soil nutrient management, variety selection and soil preparation.
- The **2016 Datil Pepper Fall Festival Cook-off**, led by our Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, generated \$3,984 in one dollar ticket sales to participants that sampled appetizers and entrees prepared by **nine (9) local restaurants**. These samples featured local cuisine made with the 'datil pepper' in each dish; first-hand experience related to sampling these dishes encourage local spending in our community.



- Twenty-three (23) commercial growers in the TCAA increased their knowledge on how to be compliant with the new **Worker Protection Standard Regulations and Produce Safety Alliance Grower requirements** after attending a workshop co-taught by the Commercial Agriculture Agent and FDACS Pesticide Regulatory Specialist.
- **Twenty-four (24) youth exercised their leadership and teaching skills** by taking part in the county wide **4-H Visual Arts teaching night**, led by our 4-H Youth Development Agent. 4-H Youth teachers planned and guided over 40 youth ages 5-17, to use engineering and creativity skills to construct an assortment of holiday crafts. Youth taking part in the 4-H Visual Arts Project gain a sense of positive identity, self-motivation, ability to communicate with artistic expression and problem solving abilities. (Hendricks, 1998)
- At the 2016 Datil Pepper Fall Festival, 30 individuals were educated about **water conservation** using rain barrels and 80 individuals were provided diagnostic help at the Master Gardener Plant Clinic.
- The Sea Grant agent taught 29 Master Gardener trainees about **invasive plants**. Understanding how to determine whether plants are considered invasive in Florida helps Master Gardeners make appropriate planting recommendations and helps protect Florida's environment.
- Twelve (12) youth improved their equine knowledge by participating in the **4-H Fall Riding Round-Up** held at the St. Johns County Equestrian Center. At this riding clinic youth in the 4-H Horse Project improved their riding skills, learned about horse judging and participated in team building exercises. This clinic was taught by 4-H Alumni Volunteers, a Member of the UF Horse Judging Team and our 4-H Program Assistant.
- Sixty-four (64) participants learned **food safety principles and guidelines** at programs conducted by our Family and Consumer Sciences Agent. Eighty-one percent (81%) of participants indicated they understood food safety risks related to proper storage and handling of refrigerated, leftovers and fruits and vegetables.
- Three (3) St. Johns County 4-H clubs (Marine Ecology, Happy Hoppers Rabbit and Tech Wizards) celebrated the holidays by participating in the **St. Augustine Christmas Parade and the Hastings Christmas Parades**.
- **Two-hundred and forty-six (246) adults at five St. Johns County low income sites attended nutrition education classes on eating healthy on a budget**. Participants gained knowledge related to eating fruits, vegetables and grains. Comments included 'I didn't think I liked that' and 'I will now include this food in my diet'.
- **The St. Johns County 4-H Marine Ecology Club teams**, led by a 4-H Youth Development Volunteer, **won first place in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions at the 4-H State Marine Ecology Event (MEE)**. Winners received scholarships for marine-related educational activities. In addition to these awards, youth gained life-skills related to competition, responsibility and sportsmanship. Experiences such as these provide confidence and knowledge that are essential in youth development.
- Sixty (60) attendees increased their knowledge of sustainable cabbage and cole crop production in Florida after attending the **Hastings Agricultural Extension Center's Cabbage/Cole crops field day** that was co-taught by the Commercial Agriculture Agent.

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**.