2015 UF/IFAS Extension Central District Faculty Symposium

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Programs and Abstracts
April 23, 2015
UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County
Welcome to Seminole County and your 2015 UF/IFAS Central District Symposium.

We hope your day will be beneficial, interesting and enjoyable. Many thanks to Commissioner Brenda Carey, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, who has come by to welcome you. And thanks to Dr. Tom Obreza, UF/IFAS Senior Associate Dean, for coming to give us an IFAS update.

Please complete and submit the inserted evaluation before you leave today. This will be very useful for the Lake County faculty, who will be planning the conference for April 21, 2016.
Agenda

Central District Extension Symposium
Thursday, April 23, 2015

9:30
Registration – Extension Auditorium
Poster set up in Extension Office
(Posters must be in place by 10 a.m.)

10:00
Welcome to Seminole County! - Chairman Brenda Carey, Board of County
Commissioners Seminole County

Welcome & Central District Update, Auditorium
Dr. Tim Momol, District Extension Director

10:15
IFAS Update – Dr. Tom Obreza, Senior Associate Dean

10:35
IFAS Faculty Assembly Update – Jim Fletcher, CED Osceola County

10:45
Brenda de Treville, Marketing Image Group

11:30
Questions and Answers

11:45
Lunch & view Posters & visit the Diagnostic Center in the Extension foyer.

1:00
Dr. Wendy Graham, Director of the Water Institute
fit in?”

2:00
Dr. Kathleen C. Ruppert, Program for Resource Efficient Communities
“Sustainable Floridians Program and How YOU Can Benefit From It!”

2:10
Break Out by Program Area

3:00
Acana Conferencing Systems Demonstration – Brooke Moffis, Lake County;
Norma Samuel, Marion County; Jim Davis, Sumter County; Jennifer Pelham,
Orange County

3:20
Abstract & Poster Awards – Shane Michael, Gabbie Milch

3:45
Adjourn

Program of Abstracts
University of Florida IFAS Central District Symposium
April 23, 2015
- 2 -
BRENSA CARTER de TREVILLE
Branding, Marketing, Advertising, Communications, Promotions Specialist

Brenda Carter de Treville has some 30 years of professional expertise in the planning, marketing, business and strategic development, public relations, media buying, broadcast production, branding, consulting and promotions fields. She has special noted expertise in brand development, medical/healthcare, non-profit sector, technical and the hospitality/travel/tourism/attractions industry the arenas.

A graduate of both the University of Central Florida (Orlando) and the University of Florida (Gainesville), Brenda directed, as executive vice president, the marketing, public relations, media buying, promotions and business development departments for a full-service Florida ad/PR agency with international clients. She personally developed more than $31 million in new business and support monies in less than 18 months. She also recently served several years as the senior marketing manager for Ypartnership (now MMGY Global), the largest international full-service marketing/advertising agency specializing in the travel, hospitality and leisure industries. Since 1983 she has also directed her own marketing and strategic planning company Marketing Image Group. Clients of her firm are varied and have included hotels/resorts/attractions, celebrities in the sports and entertainment industries, land development companies, various hospitals, physician groups (solo, equity and IPA practices); community health centers and health coalitions; as well as management companies, television and radio stations, financial institutions, manufacturing companies, retail centers and non-profit organizations.

Her management roles include 20 years in marketing, public relations management, promotions and special events, branding in the medical, healthcare and attractions and tourism industry with such companies as Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Walt Disney World, Six Flags Corporation, Florida Cypress Gardens (during the largest expansion in the company’s history), The Mercado International Village and Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World. She has developed and managed national corporate promotions with leading co-op participant companies like Pillsbury, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Sony Entertainment and others with these attractions and has directed openings of major events such as Disney’s Space Mountain, Pirates of the Caribbean and Village Marketplace. Additionally, she handled international press relations for these attractions working with major U.S. media broadcast networks and print outlets, as well as the BBC-TV, German TV, and Paris Match. She has led product development teams and created consumer events still underway at many of the attraction locations. Brenda has also worked closely with numerous tourism CVBs and TDCs.
Speaker's Biographies

Wendy D. Graham, Director
Water Institute, University of Florida, Gainesville

Professor Wendy Graham is the Carl S. Swisher Eminent Scholar in Water Resources in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at the University of Florida and Director of the University of Florida Water Institute. She graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering. Her PhD is in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She conducts research in the areas of coupled hydrologic-water quality-ecosystem modeling; groundwater resources evaluation and remediation; evaluation of impacts of agricultural production on surface and groundwater quality; evaluation of impacts of climate variability and climate change on water resources; stochastic modeling and data assimilation. She has served as PI or co-PI on over $17 million in grants and contracts, has supervised 30 doctoral and master’s thesis committees and has served on more than 60 additional graduate student committees. She served as Chair of the UF Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department from 2003-2006. In her current role as Director of the UF Water Institute, she coordinates campus-wide interdisciplinary research, education and outreach programs designed to develop and share new knowledge, and to develop and encourage the implementation of new technology and policy solutions needed to ensure a sustainable water future.
Subject Area Breakout Sessions

Breakout Groups
2:00-3:00PM

Extension Auditorium or Public Works Conference Room
Agriculture/Horticulture/FFL/Natural Resources

Choose one:
Jim Fletcher, Central Florida Water Initiative
Dr. Tom Yeager, BMP Greenhouse Agents discussion
Wendy Wilbur, Statewide MG Program Leader
CFLAG

Extension Office Polycom Conference Room
4-H / Youth Development

Discussion leaders:
30 minutes – Dr. Michael Gutter, Associate Dean for Extension and State Program Leader for 4-H Youth Development, Families and Communities
30 minutes – Sarah Hensley, Regional Specialized Extension Agent II

Extension Office Conference Room
Family and Consumer Sciences

Discussion leaders:
30 minutes – FCS Discussion
30 minutes – Dr. Michael Gutter, Associate Dean for Extension and State Program Leader for 4-H Youth Development, Families and Communities
Many Thanks

As you know, it takes a LOT of people to make this event successful. Thank You to the following:

Seminole County UF/IFAS Extension Staff
Registration - Taryn Sudol and Kelly DiCristina
Facilities – Bridgete Alfonso
Abstracts – Shane Michael and Gabbie Milch
Meals – Andrea Likens and Wanda Lynch – and Rita Law and Shelda Wilkens
Signage and Book Development – Kelly DiCristina

Seminole County Staff
Kim Nelson, Museum of Seminole County * Shorty Robbins, Manager of Parks * Joe Abel, Director of Leisure Services * Board of County Commissioners Chairman, Brenda Carey * Joseph Dual, Network Technician * Tommy Mitchell, Telecommunications Technician * Tommy Oliveras, Program Manager * Steve Bateman, Systems Coordinator

Volunteers
Melodie Griffin, Wellconnect, LLC, * Rudy White, Master Gardener Volunteer * Angelita Streeter, Seminole State College * Tom Tomerlin, Director of Economic Development, City of Lake Mary * Cyndi Tomerlin, Coordinator of Education and Training, Public History Center, UCF * Dr. Cookie Schultz, Community Based Care of Central Florida * Don Sarles, Master Gardener Volunteer * Bill Pandos, Seminole County Leisure Services

UF/IFAS Gainesville and County Extension Support
Dr. Tim Momol, District III Director
Nikki Wilson, Keeper of our Extension Lives
Dr. Tom Obreza, Senior Associate Dean
Dr. Wendy Graham, Director of the Water Institute
Dr. Michael Gutter, Associate Dean of Extension and State Program Leader for 4-H Youth Development, Families and Communities
Sarah Hensley, Regional Specialized Extension Agent
Jim Fletcher, Central Florida Water Institute & Osceola County CED
Dr. Tom Yeager, UF/IFAS Nursery Production/Environmental Horticulture Specialist
Wendy Wilbur, Statewide Master Gardener Program Leader
Dr. Carrie Lapaire Harmon, Director, UF/IFAS Extension Plant Diagnostic Center
Celeste White, UF/IFAS Extension Agent Orange County-Commercial Horticulture
Brooke Hoffis, Lake County
Norma Samuel, Marion County
Jim Davis, Sumter County
Jennifer Pelham, Orange County

Breakfast and Luncheon
Jonathon Morris - Chef, Overall Advisory Committee Member, and Farmer Extraordinaire
Tom Minter – Agriculture Researcher, Overall Advisory Committee Member, Pappy’s U-Pick Farm
Bob Braun - Rest Haven Farms

Program of Abstracts
University of Florida IFAS Central District Symposium
April 23, 2015
- 7 -
# Abstracts Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-H Youth Development</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and Consumer Sciences</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture/FYN/FFL</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ATV SAFETY FOR MARION COUNTY YOUTH

A. Stewart, UF/IFAS Extension, Marion County, Ocala, FL.

Situation: According to the Journal of American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, Florida accounts for 29% of the nation’s all-terrain vehicle deaths. Of reported injuries, 68% are youth under 16. Research shows such injuries are the result of not wearing proper equipment or having adequate training. Marion County has 1,584.55 square miles of land, primarily consisting of farm/hunting lands and the Ocala National Forest, all of which have a substantial ATV presence. Many parents and youth in Marion County reported they were unaware of current regulations pertaining ATV use and have not received any training, thus creating a significant need for a youth ATV Safety program. 

Educational Methods: Six classes were taught throughout the county. Participants were informed about state regulations pertaining to the use of ATVs. Participants were instructed on ATV Safety practices as well as ways to identify, avoid, and if necessary, navigate potentially hazardous riding situations. Participants completed activities and participated in interactive online games to help reinforce the knowledge and skills learned. 

Results: Pre-test reports showed 90% of participants had little to no knowledge of regulations for ATV use as well as safe handling techniques. Post-test evaluation showed 100% of participants understood the content presented and the need for completing state requirements for riding ATVs. Of the 327 participants completing the ATV Safety classes, 219 successfully passed the Online E-Course and two participants created an ATV Safety public service announcement. 

Conclusion: This program seeks to change the behavior of participant ATV riding practices. Though long-term outcomes will be difficult to measure, a significant impact has been made on the youth who have completed this ATV Safety program. Through this program, participants have learned safe riding practices, regulations, and critical life skills such as personal safety, wise use of resources, and decision making.
4-H Youth Development

Poster #2

PROGRAMMING THE FUTURE: 4-H COMPUTER SCIENCE CLUB

Bridgette Alfonso. Seminole County 4-H, 250 West County Home Road, Sanford, FL. 32773

Situation/Problem Statement and Objectives: Amidst the glow of the latest tablet, smart phone or laptop is a young mind suited for learning new and advanced technological skills. When you think about the hours spent hunched over those electronics you begin to wonder if youth are learning anything other than the fastest way to get to the next level of MineCraft®.

4-H Computer Science Club reaches youth in 4th-8th grades in Seminole County. The club was established to capitalize on the propensity of youth being engaged in technology. The technological future is bearing down upon us and it is critically important to have a capable and adept future workforce to fill a high demand for technologically savvy positions in the fields of computer programming and engineering. Measurable objectives are as follows: 1) 80% of youth will learn about the use of code and provide the computer with a set of instructions to complete a task, 2) 75% of youth will be able to identify concepts of computer programming and coding in popular video games, and 3) 80% of youth will learn about qualifications for careers in the computer science field. Education

Methods/Procedure/Approach: Youth were introduced to computer programming concepts used in animation through the utilization of Scratch® programming from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT. Additionally, 4-H Inside the Box curriculum was used as a guide for learning about computer hardware. Results/Findings/Product:

1) 81% (n=9) of youth learned to provide the computer with a set of instructions to complete a task, 2) 90% (n=10) of youth identified concepts of computer programming and coding in popular video games, and 3) 90% (n=10) of youth increased knowledge about qualifications for careers in computer science field. Conclusion: Fostering opportunities for youth to engage in technology education facilitates an increase in knowledge base for lucrative and sustainable, future careers in computer science and engineering.
4-H Youth Development

Poster #3

4-H ENROLLMENT KICK OFF

G. Sachs, UF/IFAS Extension, St. Johns County, St. Augustine, FL.

Situation: Youth involved in the 4-H Youth Development Program are four times more likely to make contributions to their communities, two times more likely to be civically active and engaged in science programs outside of school (Lerner et al., 2013). The University of Florida/IFAS Extension 4-H Program in St. Johns County aims to increase 4-H club participation so that more youth will have this positive influence. Educational Methods: To increase 4-H members in St. Johns County and to educate the public on the variety of 4-H Clubs offered, 4-H staff and volunteers host an annual 4-H Enrollment Kick Off each September. Event fliers, signs and press releases inform the community of the event. 4-H club leaders and members set up/man a table display showcasing their 4-H club. A 4-H club "passport" is used to navigate the clubs available. Attendees, who visit the majority of 4-H club stations, are recognized for their efforts with 4-H promotional items. Results: As a result of this annual event and the information shared, the number of youth enrolled in 4-H clubs in St. Johns County has increased from 278 youth in 2012 to 354 youth in 2015. It can also be noted that the number of independent 4-H members has dropped from 104 youth in 2012, to only 40 youth in 2015. Since research shows that the 4-H club experience is more beneficial to youth than that of being an independent 4-H member, this decrease reflects a positive change. In addition to gaining new 4-H members, the Kick Off allows an opportunity for current 4-H youth to share their mastery of 4-H projects with others and experience a sense of belonging to their 4-H club. Conclusion: As a result of hosting this event, the number of youth taking part in the UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Program in St. Johns County has increased over the past three years. It is hopeful that this trend will continue and that youth in St. Johns County will continue to be the Best That They Can Be!
QUANTIFYING KNOWLEDGE GAIN IN A 4-H PROGRAM

K. Taylor, UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension 4-H Youth Development Agent I, Bushnell, FL.

Situation: Each year Sumter County has approximately 175 market animal exhibitors (swine, steer, lamb). Throughout the years the focus of their livestock projects became on how much money was to be earned during the fair auction. Instead of the overall learning experience and educational opportunities created from successfully completing a project. Eight years ago, volunteers and parents decided action was necessary to refocus livestock projects. From this, the Premier Exhibitor program was formed. The overall objective of the Premier Exhibitor program is to educate youth by increasing knowledge gained in the field of animal science and to improve their record book scores and showmanship abilities.

Methods: An optional educational workshop and field day were held for the Premier Exhibitor participants in which pre- and post-tests were given during the educational workshop to quantify the success of this program, in the area of knowledge gain. Both the knowledge and skill-a-thon test scores were recorded. An average score was calculated for those who participated in the educational workshop and field day versus those who did not participate.

Results: The pre- and post-tests scores showed a knowledge gain of 26.32% for swine exhibitors, 26.68% for steer exhibitors, and 36.65% for lamb exhibitors. For those who attended the educational workshop, an average increase in scores was found to be 28.88%, 11.15%, and 10.88% on swine, steer, and lamb knowledge tests, respectively. The skill-a-thon test scores and record book scores for attendees were also, on average higher, than those who did not attend the Premier Exhibitor workshop and field day. All three of our Overall Master Showmanship winners at the 2015 Sumter County fair were participants of our field day.

Conclusion: Using pre- and post-tests and knowledge and skill-a-thon tests quantifying knowledge gain and the success for programming can be accomplished.
4-H Youth Development

Poster #5

FLORIDA 4-H ARCHERY

L. Cash, UF/IFAS Extension, Volusia County, Deland, FL.

OBJECTIVES: The Shooting Sports Committee seeks to expose youth across the state to S.T.E.M. topics and life skills development through the Archery project. Volunteer development is critical to the success and continuation of this program. METHODS: Through active clubs at the county level; matches offered by the state committee and counties; and continuous training for the volunteers, especially under-represented male volunteers, the program is expanding and improving. A master e-mail list exists as well as a Facebook page to update and keep current the families, agents and club leaders involved in the program. RESULTS: Since 2011, the present leadership has presented a pre-match, state match, F.I.T.A. match, field match, and a 3-D match each year. In 2015, an Indoor Match was held. Several Level I trainings are offered statewide each year to certify new volunteers and advanced volunteers can be re-certified by assisting with state programs. Over 1,000 youth have attended state matches. Funds raised by these matches pay for all incurred expenses and help to finance the youth that attend the national competition. The economic impact of this program involves income from grants and registrations, totaling $19,000 annually, and the value of volunteers and staff, which is over $39,000. Significant partnerships have been maintained between the N.R.A., the F.W.C., the Easton Center in Newberry and Florida 4-H. CONCLUSIONS: According to Florida 4-H Online, there are currently around 100 adults and nearly 1,000 youth enrolled in the Archery project, including youth of various races and disabilities. The Shooting Sports program is one of the fastest growing project areas in 4-H nationally and in Florida. Shooting Sports projects allow agents and volunteers to teach youth how to handle firearms safely, explore their environment, and to provide them with opportunities to exhibit mastery in the project.
4-H Youth Development
Poster #6

GROWING THE VOLUSIA COUNTY 4-H VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

L. Cash, UF/IFAS Extension, Volusia County, DeLand, FL.

Situation: Boone, Safrit, and Jones (2002) concluded that "active volunteer involvement not only is critical to the successful implementation of the [Extension] program ... but may also serve as important adult learning for the volunteers themselves" (p. 184). While volunteers are important human resources in all Cooperative Extension educational programs, they are especially critical in the successful planning and implementation of Extension 4-H Youth Development programs. Consequently, it is critical that Extension professionals providing leadership to 4-H programs better understand how to effectively and efficiently manage and support this enormous volunteer workforce, 4-H Youth Development Professionals' Perceptions of the Importance of and Their Current Level of Competence with Selected Volunteer Management Competencies, http://www.joe.org/joe/2007june/rb1.php. Methods: After attending two workshops, the agent created an organizational structure to engage volunteers. Club leaders meet for ninety minutes monthly. For the first thirty minutes, the 4-H Agent provides training. Volunteers have exhibited knowledge and behavior change in the areas of risk management, program involvement, club management, and Florida 4-H policies. For the following hour, the volunteers break into committees: Horse and Livestock; Policy and Awards; Events; and Club Management. Results: The committees have developed a Grievance Policy; a “New Club Leader Notebook”; changes to the Volusia County Fair livestock slot procedure; Record Book policy; awards; contest rubrics; a Family Fun Day; a Sheep and Goat Open Show; and updates to our County Events. Middle management volunteers have been another result: a volunteer oversees the Florida 4-H Archery program, one runs the Livestock and Meats Judging programs, and another is coordinating the development of a policies notebook for Volusia County 4-H. Conclusion: Over 85% of screened club leaders (n=50) attend each month. The leaders network with each other, provide well thought-out ideas, and provide “needs assessment” feedback. They have learned how to manage themselves and work together on workshops and events.
4-H Youth Development

Poster #7

CONNECTING URBAN YOUTH TO THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH 4-H

L. Valencia, E. Foerste UF/IFAS Extension, Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL and K. Millife and Elver Pardo, UF/IFAS Extension, Orange County, Orlando, FL.

Situation: Osceola County and Orange County, Florida are facing rapid urbanization. Our urban youth seem to have a disconnect with their environment. The goal is to serve underserved youth to help them develop lifelong conservation habits and environmentally focused learning opportunities through a 4-H environmental camp. Objective: Youth who participate in the Eco-Explorers Camp will demonstrate social action and environmental behavior change that will not only have a positive environmental impact on their respective local counties but also help develop lifelong conservation habits. Methods: A three day environmental education day camp was held throughout Osceola and Orange Counties. Each day was filled with hands-on learning in focus areas such as water conservation, invasive species, food waste (Take-In the Trash), composting, recycling and natural resources stewardship. Nature walks and nature encounters at local conservation areas in the middle of the city encouraged youth to explore the diverse ecosystems and understand the importance of being responsible citizens. Results: 4-H Common Measures was utilized to collect data and programmatic impact among the participants. To culminate the camp, a Skill-a-thon event took place to qualitatively and quantitatively demonstrate knowledge gained by youth. As a result, 88% (n=23) of participants sometimes or always separate items at home for recycling, 72% of participants and their families sometimes or always compost food waste, 72% of participants have asked family members to recycle items used at home and would ask friends to do so also; 96% feel it was important to use water wisely and 48% of participants have talked with adults at home about problems with the environment (48% have not) Conclusion: 4-H Common Measures results demonstrated that 100% of the participants care about the environment. Through this focus area educational camp, participating youth were able to learn to develop lifelong conservation habits.
4-H Youth Development

Poster #8

GROWING YOUTH, NOT JUST ANIMALS, THROUGH THE ANIMAL SCIENCE SKILL-A-THON PROGRAM

C. McCazzio, UF/IFAS Extension, Putnam County, East Palatka, FL.

Situation: Youth livestock projects are still one of the most popular projects offered and a great way to develop life skills in youth while encouraging them to explore the field of science. The Putnam County Fair Authority offers youth an opportunity to exhibit and show their livestock every year but there was a need to increase the educational component to maximize the learning experience for these youth. The Putnam County Fair Authority started enhancing the youth program by establishing a youth advisory group tasked with helping make the fair and more specifically the livestock projects better. The 4-H program collaborated with the fair authority to setup an educational program for the youth showing livestock at the fair which provided a unique opportunity for those teens to develop their leadership skills, public speaking abilities, and a variety of other life skills. Methods: The teens are assigned a subject area related to livestock that they start learning more about early in the year. Then they participate in sessions on teaching methods and providing experiential learning opportunities to others. Afterwards, the teens do a series of teach backs to adults and other youth where they are evaluated then given feedback on what they are excelling in and where they have opportunities to grow. Finally, the teens implement their hands-on, educational sessions through multiple stations for all the youth showing large animals at the county fair which includes approximately 197 participants each year. The youth participants will then return before they exhibit their animals to compete in skill-a-thons related to the topics they were taught through the program. Results: The teens continue to display an increase in their ability to teach, speak publicly and successfully pass on animal science knowledge to other youth. Of the 167 youth participants surveyed last year, 94% reported gaining animal science knowledge, 93% reported developing life skills such as responsibility and problem solving and 75% reported they were interested in a career in the agriculture industry all as a result of this animal science program. Conclusion: Popular livestock projects through the fair can offer more to youth then just the opportunity to raise, exhibit and sell an animal. Through this animal science skill-a-thon program youth in Putnam County are gaining additional knowledge, developing life skills, and creating interest and awareness in animal science career opportunities.
4-H Youth Development

Poster #9

INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN CONTESTS BY INCREASING AWARENESS AND SKILLS

R. Slocumb, UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County, Tavares, FL.

Situation: Game Boards are a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math project that 4-H youth in Lake County have the ability to enter in two different fairs (Central Florida Fair and Lake County Fair). Regardless of the ability to receive multiple premiums, and accessibility to these fairs, Lake County has traditionally had a low turnout for this contest. During the 2014-2015 4-H year, Lake County had four (4) entries at each of these fairs, respectively. Methods: The agent planned a Game Board workshop, “Get Your Game On,” that focused on teaching youth the basic skills of building a game board. Participants would create their own game boards and enter them in both the Central Florida Fair and the Lake County Fair. The fee for the program cost $5 per youth, which included materials. Results: Six (6) youth from Lake County and four (4) youth from Seminole County participated in the “Get Your Game On” program. For the Central Florida Fair, seven (7) of the participants received blue ribbons, two received (2) red ribbons, and one (1) received a Cloverbud participation ribbon. At the conclusion of the program, youth participants were able to describe a circuit, and multiple youth were able to successfully troubleshoot issues with the circuit on their boards. One-hundred percent of youth that participated indicated that they were planning on participating in this project again next year. Furthermore, there were requests for a more advanced class for those that participated this year.

Conclusion: The Agent found that there was a need and provided an opportunity for youth to learn a specific set of skills to participate in the Game Board project. After learning the skills associated with the creation of a game board, such as correctly defining and executing a circuit, youth expressed interest in participating in the future.
Agriculture

Poster #10

A NEW ST. JOHNS COUNTY SMALL FARM GETS BIG HELP FROM EXTENSION AND LOCAL FARMING COMMUNITY

B.C. Wells, DPM, UF/IFAS Extension, St. Johns County, St. Augustine, FL

Situation: Agriculture in St. Johns County is changing. Major crops are traditionally potato and cabbage; however, to stay competitive, growers are seeking alternative crops and marketing strategies. Additionally, there are an increasing number of new, small growers in the area interested in farm to table operations. These new growers, and ones trying alternative crops, face a steep learning curve with production, food safety and marketing challenges. A new farm in the county located on a high-traffic highway to the beach, wants to sell fresh, cold cantaloupe and u-pick pumpkins. Plasticulture has shown to be beneficial to cantaloupes, pumpkins, and vegetable crops. However, plasticulture requires a high set-up cost and increased management. Education from UF/IFAS Extension and support from the local agricultural community are essential for these new farming operations. Methods: A spring-fall planted, double-cropped cantaloupe-pumpkin production system in plasticulture was planned and implemented on 4-acres of the farm. Fields were fumigated with C14 at 9.5 ounces/acre and raised beds created with a Superbedder. Plastic mulch and drip irrigation was laid with a tractor adapted for such. Drip tape was centered in the middle of the 1200 foot rows with 36 inch wide tops. Cantaloupe transplants were planted approximately two weeks after fumigation. Results: Plasticulture for a cantaloupe-pumpkin double crop was successfully installed on the farm, and a food safety plan and a fumigation management plan were developed. Further evaluations on success will be conducted throughout the growing seasons. Conclusion: With UF/IFAS Extension guidance and help from the local farming community, a new, small-scale farm successfully established production methods that could greatly enhance their operation.
Agriculture

Poster #11

HANDS-ON PROGRAMMING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

C.E.E. McAvoy, UF-IFAS Extension, Sumter County, Bushnell, FL and S. Steed, UF-IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County, Seffner, FL.

Situation: One of the nursery industry’s greatest costs is weed management through the use of hand labor or herbicides. Most growers do not realize there are best management practices to pre-emergent herbicide applications. The objective of the workshop was to increase knowledge on herbicides effectiveness on common nursery weeds and change behavior through calibration of spray equipment and reduced herbicide use.

Methods: Two commercial horticulture agents teamed up to develop a comprehensive hands-on program which included a calibration activity, weed identification, and herbicide demonstration. Workshop attendees were asked to calibrate a selected backpack sprayer, and given all the tools to calibrate correctly. For the weed identification portion, a quiz was developed using live samples collected from local nurseries. Demonstration plots with 11 pre-emergent herbicides labeled for nursery use were set up 2 months prior to the workshop for attendees to review. Knowledge gained and behavior changes were tracked by using post-program surveys and personal testimonies 10 months post-program from a follow-up interview.

Results: One hundred percent of responding participants (n=10) reported they gained knowledge to identify and/or manage a new weed. After participating in the hands-on calibration activity, one hundred percent of the participants will calibrate differently. From the herbicide demonstration plots, one hundred percent of the responding participants will change herbicides after examining demonstration plots.

Conclusions: A follow up personal interview (n=2) with nursery producers scheduled 10 months post-program found major behavior changes and economic impacts. A participant reported including routine calibration, instead of ‘eye-balling’ the amount needed for the application. In addition, a participant realized that they were applying pre-emergent herbicides too early to their liners. Now they allow the liners to be rooted out before applying the pre-emergent herbicide. This change in practice has saved the client roughly $4000 per a crop in labor and material costs.
Agriculture

Poster #12

FORAGE DEMONSTRATION PLOT

Fluke A., UP/IFAS Extension in Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL

Situation: As the Osceola County population increases and ranchers are challenged with urban sprawl, innovative and efficient forage production is critical. The cost of pasture management is high bringing about the need to implement the most economically efficient management practices. Local cattlemen requested programming on forage production and management. Through a partnership with the Silver Spurs Riding Club the development of a forage demonstration plot was made possible. Fifty acres of pasture land was allotted to UF/IFAS Osceola Extension for producer focused forage trials and demonstrations. The purpose of the demonstration plot is to provide practical, economical, and environmentally sound management methods to ranchers to enhance production and sustain the industry. Two grants, industry contributions, and specialist support provided funding and resources for the trials. Methods: Permanent fence was installed around 30 acres and 10 acres were sectioned off by electric fence to begin the project. In October of 2013 2 acres each of Jiggs, Hemarthria, and Stargrass were planted, followed by Riata Bahiagrass in March of 2014. Alfalfa and two newly developed Hemarthria varieties were tried and finally a cool season demonstration was conducted in winter of 2014. Planting techniques, weed management, and fertilization options have been demonstrated along with Best Management Practices. Two field days and a forage forum were conducted. Results: Program surveys for 25 commercial beef cattle producers representing 85,850 acres in Osceola County indicated a 100% knowledge gain and 100% of participants found the information presented useful and interesting. 58% (49,793 acres) of those surveyed indicated that they will definitely use the information presented and 36% (30,906 acres) will make forage based changes on their operations as a result of the programs and demonstrations. Conclusion: Practical forage demonstrations have been well received by clientele and benefit the Osceola County beef cattle industry. Seasonal field days are preferred in order to demonstrate year round forage options that are economically and environmentally efficient. Willingness to adopt recommended techniques is increased by demonstration in applicable conditions. Trials will expand and continue.
Agriculture

Poster #13

EFFECT OF FLORAL BUD AND FRUITLET THINNING ON “EMERALD” SOUTHERN Highbush Blueberry

G. England, UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County, Tavares, FL

Objectives: Southern highbush blueberry (SHB) Vaccinium corymbosum (hybrids) producers strive to harvest most of their crop in the first few weeks of the Florida “harvest window” to realize higher monetary return. Bloom and fruit thinning enhances yield in other deciduous crops such as peach and a trial determining if thinning treatments would enhance harvest of early fruit was established. Methods: The study was initiated in December 2013 in a 7 year old commercial planting of “Emerald” SHB to determine any effect on earliness and/or crop value associated with no thinning and thinning either tight floral buds (Stage II), full bloom or early fruit-set. A hand held “Cinch” bloom thinner was utilized to thin approximately 30% of Stage II buds, full bloom or early fruit-set. Harvest data consisting of average fruit weight per bush was accomplished five times by a commercial harvest crew. Subsamples of 15 fruit per plot/harvest were measured for average diameter. Average USDA AMS FOB prices at each harvest were utilized for economic comparison. Results were presented at the 2014 Florida State Horticultural Society Meeting. Results: Although there was no statistical difference in treatments for all harvests, trends indicated potential yield and revenue benefits from bud and bloom thinning. Conclusions: Further evaluations of this practice utilizing increased plot size are warranted. Growers have expressed interest in conducting trials on their farms.
Agriculture

Poster #14

NATIONAL WEBCAST ON BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ENABLES IMPROVED MANURE MANAGEMENT FOR HORSE OWNERS AND MANAGERS

J. Cohen, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Marion County, Ocala, FL

Situation/Problem Statement and Objectives: Many equine facilities want to establish improved manure management practices and often have an interest in composting, but lack knowledge and education needed to properly develop effective systems. Education Methods/Procedure/Approach: A national webcast, through My Horse University: https://connect.msu.edu/p8yko9zhhoq/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal, was developed for farm owners and managers. Education about benefits/reasons for composting manure and development of farm/manure management plans to benefit the soils and protect the ground and surface waters was delivered. A PowerPoint presentation, with pictures and links, was included.

Results/Findings/Product: Manure/compost bin designs were drafted for a Horse Trail system in New York State immediately following the webcast. Other short-term outreach indicated over 700 views (generated on My Horse University Facebook page) of PowerPoint slides taken from the webcast; multiple shares (18) of slides were forwarded to other horse enthusiast social media pages. Lastly, pieces of the webcast were taken to become part of a lead story article in Wisconsin State Farmer. http://www.wisfarmer.com/leadstories/290930631.html Future outreach includes upcoming webcast collaboration with extension specialists from multiple states, all generated from the agent’s webcast. Conclusion: Client practice change has enabled removal of the manure, resulting in negative impact reductions of nutrients (N) to ground and surface waters.
Agriculture

Poster #15

HIGH DENSITY HYDROPONIC GARDEN GROWING SYSTEM FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Cooper, Joanne, Wells, Bonnie. UF/IFAS Extension Agents, University of Florida IFAS St. Johns County Extension, 3125 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine, FL

Situation: Lack of physical space, limited volunteer and school personnel time, water conservation issues, extreme temperature location and maintenance requirements were issues St. Johns County schools were facing with growing gardens at their schools. The Family and Consumer Sciences agent, Agricultural agent and Family Nutrition program assistant (Kathy Ponce) provided alternative gardening as a solution. Requests from administration and faculty from three St. Johns County school were resolved and implemented with the construction of ‘Vertigo Towers’. The vertical growing system is a high density hydroponic growing system for many crops including strawberries, lettuce, herbs and foliage. Methods: Thirty towers, five insulated pots per tower were constructed at the schools. A raised bed garden was also incorporated at three of the schools. This system is low maintenance drip irrigation, conserving both space and time. Additional funding for construction came from the USDA Farm to School grant ($226.00), Jacksonville Jaguars ($500.00) and local potato farm (10,000.00 total). Results: Two hundred and ninety students, grades 3rd through 12, participated in the planting and maintaining of vegetable plants including a variety of lettuce, eggplant, cucumbers, radish, cabbage, winter peas, broccoli and carrots. Harvesting for the system and raised bed gardens will be in the spring of 2015. Conclusion: By learning about alternative growing systems and food production, students were educated about food sustainability and production through this once in a lifetime event. Southwoods Elementary and The Webster School are both identified as USDA food deserts in the Florida’s Roadmap to Healthy Living. Faculty and administration commented on the success of the gardening alternative and applauded University of Florida Extension at the Jacksonville Jaguars program event with their assistance. This education fosters children a chance to learn an important life skill, one that is overlooked in standard schools.
Agriculture

Poster #16

FROM THE GROUND UP: EDUCATING BEGINNING FARMERS IN OSCEOLA COUNTY

J. Sullivan, UF IFAS Extension Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL and A. Fluke, UF IFAS Extension Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL

Situation: Osceola County has recently seen increasing interest in small-acreage farming from a wide diversity of its citizens. Many potential farmers do not have prior experience farming in Florida and are not familiar with local codes, soils, or suitable enterprises. This lack of knowledge can easily translate to failed businesses and wasted investments of time and money. The objective of the agents involved was to provide critical agriculture and business education to help new Florida farmers build successful agricultural businesses. Methods: The Osceola County livestock agent and crop production agent created a three-part “Small Farm Success” series that introduced concepts of starting a farming operation including: land use and building considerations, crops and livestock suitable for small farms, funding, and business planning. The series was launched in 2014. Results: Fifteen people have participated in the Small Farm Success series so far. Evaluation is ongoing and includes pre and post-event surveys, business plan development, and follow-up consultations with the agents. Initial evaluation results indicate that all participants increased their knowledge of agricultural regulations, small farm enterprises, and resources available to help them with their farm operations. Some participants have followed through with recommendations offered by agents, such as obtaining soil analyses or necessary permits. Some participants have also requested additional assistance from Extension and have participated in additional small farm Extension programming. Conclusion: The Small Farm Success series offers beginning farmers relevant information, resources, and support to help them plan and grow their farm operations. Although small-scale and beginning farm producers request and clearly need education on agricultural enterprises, the agents have found that engaging them in educational programming can be challenging. This may be due to the participant’s often-limited time and resources.
Community Development

Poster #17

FARM TO FORK

M. Maddox, UF/IFAS Extension, Sumter County, Bushnell, FL, J. S. Strickland, UF/IFAS Extension, Hernando/Sumter County, Brooksville/Bushnell, FL, C. McAvoy, UF/IFAS Extension, Sumter County, Bushnell, FL, K. Taylor, UF/IFAS Extension, Sumter County, Bushnell, FL, J. Davis, UF/IFAS Extension, Sumter County, Bushnell, FL, L. Singleton, UF/IFAS Extension, Sumter County, Bushnell, FL, E. Jennings, UF/IFAS Extension, Pasco County, Dade City, FL, R. Crawford, Sumter County Farm Bureau, Bushnell, FL, B. Arnold, Sumter County Administrator, Wildwood, FL, K. Rice, Sumter County Farm Bureau, Bushnell, FL, M. Harrell, Livestock Market Manager, Webster, FL, N. Skertich, Villages Entertainment, The Villages, FL, and K. Lester, Villages Entertainment, The Villages, FL.

Situation: While Sumter County is primarily rural, it also has the fastest growing metropolitan population in the United States (The Villages). There are 1,367 farms on 183,246 acres. 1.3% of the 101,620 citizens are farm operators. These two distinct populations are interdependent, but don't communicate. To introduce these two populations, nine independent organizations cooperated and organized a committee to plan an educational program around the “Farm to Fork” concept. Methods: We targeted two distinct populations for agricultural education: The Villages residents and elected officials in consecutive years. Objective 1: increase knowledge in 100% of the elected officials about the importance of agriculture to the economy of Sumter County. Objective 2: empower elected officials to make more informed agriculture decisions. Objective 3: attract 2,000 Villages residents to the Farm-City Event. The program execution was 38 exhibitors to educated The Villages residents about their agricultural operations in conjunction with the elected official tour focused on the livestock industry and commercial horticulture. Results: The Farm-City event in 2013 attracted 73% of the elected officials. The elected officials that participated included: a U.S. Congressman, State Senators, a State Representative, County Judges, County Sheriff, County Commissioners, School Superintendent and Board, City Mayors, and others. Three month follow-up surveys were sent to the elected officials that attended. As a result of this event, 100% (n=11) self-indicated knowledge gain. Also as a result of attending the Brownwood event and Farm Tour, 80% (n=11) of the elected officials indicated that this event and tour helps them make more informed decisions regarding agriculture. At the 2014 event The Villages Entertainment estimates attendance at 2,000 for the event. Conclusion: The committee successfully organized and carried out two educational events showcasing agricultural commodities in the community, emphasized stability, and empowered elected officials to make more informed agriculture decisions.
Family and Consumer Sciences

Poster #18

SMALL STEPS TO HEALTH AND WEALTH IS MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY RESIDENTS

G. Murza and D. Rodriguez* - UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL.
*Program Assistant – Housing/Finance Program.

Situation: Today's individuals and families continue to face many challenges leading to financial and health-related duress. Major financial problems include increased consumer debt load, rising health care costs, poor money management skills and lack of personal savings to fund retirement. In Osceola County, 56% of households earn less than the median state and local income level. Additionally, the unemployment rate is around 9.6% with 70% having exhausted their unemployment benefits. There is a correlation between financial stress and health; increasing the risk for developing tension, anxiety, headaches, heart attacks, and ulcers. Participants are Osceola County residents at or below 200% of the poverty level with no health coverage. By participating in the SSHW program, participants will gain employment or skills to prepare them for employment, seek health services and programs, and develop and stick to a budget. Methods: Participants are required to complete three major components of the grant – Health, Financial, and Job Preparedness, involving one six-hour SSHW class; five health/wellness visits of which participants can choose to see a Registered Dietitian (RD), have lab work and diagnostics completed, see a doctor or specialist; or take an exercise class; three one-on-one financial coaching sessions; one four-hour Boot Camp; and five one-on-one sessions with a Life and Employment Coach. There are additional financial and wellness classes that participants can attend. Results: To date, 370 clients have totaled 424 doctor visits, RD appointments, and exercise sessions; 166 completed the SSHW class; 3,943 received financial education; 423 received financial coaching; and 93 were connected to employment. Participants are at varying levels of completeness, but to date, 30 participants have completed all three major components. Conclusion: Participants in the SSHW program received free or low cost healthcare, personal financial coaching, and attained employment or personal job coaching. Some were connected with other assistance programs and saw marked improvements. As a result, participants are on their way to gaining financial independence which will help them attain health services and make more positive health and financial choices.
WORKSITE WELLNESS: COUNTY EMPLOYEES TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT DIABETES

J. Taufer, UF/IFAS Extension, Volusia County, DeLand, FL and C. Cone, Wellness Coordinator, County of Volusia.

Situation: In Volusia County, 13.5% of the population has type II diabetes. This is above the national average of 9.3%. Diabetes presents a tremendous burden to quality of life as it is a cause of renal disease, lower-extremity amputation, and the leading cause of blindness among working age adults. It is estimated that over 19% of residents have pre-diabetes. As a result, this Agent became a lifestyle coach for the “National Diabetes Prevention Program” (NDPP) and implemented the program with County of Volusia employees. Individuals with pre-diabetes or at high risk were eligible for this year long diabetes prevention program. Education offered at the worksite made information more accessible and employees could share their plans and successes while moving towards a healthier lifestyle. Objectives: Fifty percent of participants will lose 7% of their body weight and exercise at least 150 minutes per week. Methods: The “Small Steps Big Rewards” Program used the NDPP curriculum which is an evidence-based lifestyle intervention course. Twelve participants met once a week for 16 weeks and then once a month for six months. Education focused on strategies to meet weight loss and exercise goals. Weekly weigh-ins, exercise journals, and pre/post A1c data were collected. Results: Completed weight data after the one year program showed 59% of participants lost over 7% of their body weight. The average weight loss was 15 pounds. Pre/post A1c values were shared by eight participants. Average decrease of A1c was 0.5%. This represents a drop in blood sugar levels of approximately 14.5 mg/dl. Ninety-three percent of participants reached the exercise goal. Conclusion: Results from this program are similar to those seen in the Diabetes Prevention Study Research Program and indicate that at least 59% of participants (n=7) have significantly reduced their risk of developing type II diabetes.
Family and Consumer Sciences

Poster #20

CLOSING YOUR SEASONAL HOME

J. England, UF/IFAS Extension Lake County, Tavares, Florida

Situation: A home left vacant for an extended period of time is susceptible to damage from the elements as well as human and non-human invaders. Seasonal homes are subject to heat, humidity, mold, storms and other disasters during unoccupied summer months. The most common problem, mold growth, affects air quality as well as the home interior (epa.gov). Additionally, proper documentation such as an up-to-date home inventory is needed to recover from financial problems that may result from damage or theft (extension.org). Objectives: Increase seasonal residents' knowledge, self-efficacy and adoption of home preparation procedures and organization of necessary financial documents when leaving their home for an extended period of time. Methods: Interactive educational sessions were conducted. Home preparation information included mold prevention and cleanup, room by room procedures, pests, security and protection from natural disasters. The importance of a home inventory, proper insurance and secure storage was also discussed. An extension publication including checklist of suggested procedures was distributed. Results: Post test results immediately following presentations in 2014 with 123 participants; 97% of participants learned ways to eliminate mold in their home, 97% plan to use at least one technique learned to prepare their home for an extended absence, 92% plan to start or update their home inventory, 69% plan to review insurance policies and 70% plan to improve storm preparation procedures. In a follow-up survey sent nine months after the presentation (17% response rate); 95% of participants stated that they improved home preparation procedures, 80% took steps to eliminate mold from their home before leaving for the summer, 50% reviewed insurance policies, 25% created or updated home inventory, 35% made new or additional preparation for storms and 95% used the provided Closing Your Home Checklist. Conclusion: Education on preparing your home for extended periods increases the adoption of improved preparation techniques and decreases possibility of damage to the home and financial consequences.
Family and Consumer Sciences

Poster #21

NAVIGATING THE PERSONAL ASPECTS OF END OF LIFE CONCERNS

L. Spence, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County, Ocala, FL

Situation: In their last two years of life, patients with chronic illness account for thirty-two percent of total Medicare spending. Said another way, the tests and procedures performed during this period do not change the outcome; the chronic illness will ultimately end their life. A 2012 study found that out of 2,000 Americans, ninety-four percent thought it was important to have end of life conversations, yet only twenty-two percent have discussed what they want when it comes to their care. The same study revealed eighty-two percent said it was important to put their wishes in writing, yet only twenty-three had actually put a plan on paper. In another study, eighty percent said that if seriously ill, they would want to talk to their doctor about end of life care, yet only seven percent reported having had that conversation. Lacking information and confidence, individuals and families commonly defer to loved ones and health care providers, hoping they will instinctively know how to carry out their wishes. This shifting onus can wreak havoc on survivors’ well-being, negatively impacting relationships and finances well beyond the loss. Educational methods/Approach: In a relaxed yet structured, educational environment, this two part program is presented using a combination of lecture, slide set, role play, and case study. It helps participants normalize topic-related conversations, strengthen communication skills, and change behaviors that in the past have rendered them unable to even think about, let alone meaningfully plan for, end of life concerns. Topics include 1. An examination of the research; 2. Awareness of, and strategies for overcoming barriers; 3. Navigating and developing an end of life plan. The program was presented to nineteen residents of a planned retirement community. Findings: At program completion, a retro-posttest was administered to measure knowledge gain, degree of confidence, and intent to further develop their plan. 1.) Ninety-five percent increased their knowledge about practices associated with a ‘good’ death. 2.) Eighty-five percent increased confidence in their ability to initiate conversations about end of life issues with loved ones and health care providers. 3.) Ninety-eight percent reported increased confidence in their ability to normalize conversations. 4.) Ninety percent implemented strategies to plan for end of life care. Implications: Unnecessary provisions and costly treatments can be avoided through informed conversation and understanding of service delivery. Individuals and families benefit when guilt, shame, and conflict are minimized through meaningful communication and planning. Confidence, hope, and satisfaction can prevail through informed planning.
Family and Consumer Sciences
Poster #22

Volunteers Expand FCS in Orange County

Duncan, L., UF/IFAS Extension, Orange County, Orlando, FL and Kennington, Mary Sue, UF/IFAS Extension, Orange County, Orlando FL.

Situation: Orange County, with a population of 1,225,267 people, is expected to increase to a population of 1,895,267 by 2040. Family Consumer Sciences (FCS) Agents provide programming for this population. As awareness of FCS programs increase, Agents need assistance in meeting the needs and requests of the public. Recruitment and training volunteers meets this need. The Home and Community Educators (HCE) have been in existence for 90 years. Kennington began the Florida Master Money Mentor (FMMM) volunteer program in 2012. Duncan has utilized volunteers through University of Central Florida, Disney, Volunteerism Pays, and has implemented a county Master Food and Nutrition volunteer (MFNV) program. Volunteers assist with programming in a variety of ways, educating both youth and adult audiences. Their outreach efforts have increased Extension’s ability to respond requests for services and deliver programs to people in the community to people who otherwise would not have been reached.

Methods: FMMM and MFN volunteers were trained using state approved curriculum for these programs. Other volunteers were recruited for occasional and specific events. All volunteers are background screened. Volunteers are asked to provide monthly or quarterly reports that designate how many hours they have worked, the type of assistance they provided, and the outcomes of those experiences.

Results: During 2013 - 2014, volunteers provided 13,600 hours to the FCS program valued at $288,864.00. HCE donated $28,000.00 in materials to make 13,000 items to give to people in need. Some have collected program evaluations at events. Evaluations document impact.

Conclusion: These volunteers have expanded the outreach of the programs in Orange County and have assisted the Agents in providing quality education to people living in the Orlando area.
Family and Consumer Sciences

Poster #23

PUT SNAP/EBT AT YOUR FARM OR FARMERS MARKET

M. Maddox, UF/IFAS Extension, Sumter County, Bushnell, FL, J. S. Strickland, UF/IFAS Extension, Hernando/Sumter County, Brooksville/Bushnell, FL.

Situation: Twelve percent of Sumter County’s population is below the poverty level. The average household received $274.98 in SNAP monthly benefits. Twenty seven local produce farmers sell fruits and vegetables at the Sumter County Farmers Market. No farmer or farmers market in Sumter County prior to this education program was accepting SNAP/EBT. **Methods:** A presentation was made to the market board on why they should accept SNAP/EBT at the local market. The presentation covered: the overview of EBT contributions to the market and the community, guidelines on how to get started, how transactions work, funding opportunities and the application process. A needs assessment and vendor survey was conducted to gauge interest. The market and one farmer made application to start accepting EBT cards. **Results:** On September 8, 2014 the Sumter County Farmers Market started accepting EBT cards. Also one local farmer started accepting EBT cards at this local produce stand on his farm. To date $2,800 in EBT has been exchanged for tokens to 25 families to buy fresh/local products for their families. **Conclusion:** Economic Impact to Sumter County Farmers Market and local produce vendors in a three month period is $2,800. This program has brought a larger customer base to the market, increased sales, kept dollars within the community, and provided consumer education while providing families with fresh/local fruits and vegetables.
Family and Consumer Sciences

Poster #24

A New Partnership to Provide Financial Life Skills to Incarcerated Youth

S. Taylor, Hernando County Extension, Brooksville, FL.

1) Situation/Objectives: Many youth at the Juvenile Justice Detention Center come from impoverished circumstances. A number of them struggle to pass their GED in order to become employable. Many have never had proper guidance on establishing legitimate banking/financial management practices for their life. Many turn to crime as a way to make ends meet. (Dr. K. Coggins, Lead Teacher, Pasco Juvenile Detention Center.) 2) Educational Methods: To reach this audience, the G.O.L.D. (Getting Organized for Life’s Demands) Program was developed. This three week program provides financial life skills to these youth during their 21 days in the Juvenile Justice facility. G.O.L.D. covers budgeting, prioritizing needs versus wants, tracking expenses, and becoming self-sufficient. The program covers the importance of emergency funds, long term saving strategies, and how to read salary statements (gross income vs. net income, taxes, etc.). Lastly, the program drives home the importance of educational levels as a predictor of financial success and the importance of getting at least a high school diploma. 3) Results: Knowledge gain through pre and post testing has been 47%; 63% want to begin a savings program when they are released; and 81% have stated they feel better about their ability to “make ends meet” when they become independent (N=231). Another result, although not measurable, is that many of the youth want to speak with their parent/guardian about “mainstream” bank accounts or becoming “bankable.” Four youth and one parent have engaged in vocational rehabilitation services. Three have started to attend community college (J. Smialek, M.A., M.Ed., LMHC), and probation officers have seen a “change in the way some of our kids are handling money.” R.C., S.A., 2014.

4) Conclusions. Life Skills and financial planning for students falling into nontraditional graduation scenarios are crucial. This program offers our students a valuable alternative.
Horticulture/FYN/FFL

Poster #25

Partnering with Community Business for Sustainable Extension Program

G. Negron, E. Pabon, E. Muniz, and G. Ricketts, UF/IFAS Extension, Osceola County, Kissimmee FL.

Situation: Aging affects nutrition and diet choices. According to Florida Department of Elders Affairs, 15% of Osceola County population is seniors age 60 and over. In addition, the number of seniors in Osceola County in year 2000 increases by 98.9% in 2015. Over 30% of Osceola County elderly residents suffer from disability that limits physical mobility. The management of Oak Leaf Landings (OLL), a low income senior housing facility located in Osceola County has observed that their residents were making unhealthy food choices which resulted in many of them experiencing poor health. The management team contacted the UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program to assist their residents in making better food choices. The existing garden site was uneven and presented barriers for many participants who have limitations with their physical ability and therefore use walkers or wheelchairs. Methods: Extension staff from Family Nutrition Program and Horticulture Program met with the Oak Leaf Landings management team to discuss ways to implement a nutrition and garden education plan. The Home Depot awarded a grant of $3,500 in materials to the Oak Leaf Landings project. In addition, Home Depot Project Team contributed about 15 staff for 16 hours (a total of 240 hours of labor) to build new adaptive raised garden beds providing 576 square feet of planting space. The UF/IFAS Extension staff conducted a meeting to develop a selection process to identify participants for the project. Participants received instructions and were given Journals at training. The Family Nutrition program purchased supplies for the project including garden hose, hand tools and plants. A planting day was arranged when all the participants met at the garden to install vegetable plants. The Food and Nutrition Program collaborated with the Horticulture Program to provide eight (8) nutrition and garden education classes. Results: Since the establishment of the new wheelchair accessible beds, the numbers of participants increased by 50 percent compared to the previous year. According to questionnaire given, participants are consuming more vegetables compare to when they were not involved in the garden project. Conclusion: The Oak Leaf Landings management team is satisfied with the outcome of the nutrition and garden program and has requested that extension services make it an ongoing project. Also, as a result of the success of this program, both the Family Nutrition Program and the Horticulture Program staff will be seeking funds for new programs at other facilities.
Horticulture/FYN/FFL

Poster #26

Landscaping Workshops Demonstrate Significant Behavior Change in New Residents Using Pesticides More Appropriately

J.E. Davis, UF/IFAS Extension, Sumter County, Bushnell FL

Situation: Reducing and managing pesticides appropriately using Integrated Pest Management principles (IPM) can help protect Florida’s environment and non-target organisms. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported that by using methods such as teaching homeowners to spot treat for pests results in significant reduction of pesticide use. Research conducted reports that pesticide use can be reduced by as much as 79 to 87% using methods such as spot treating for pests. IPM emphasizes smart planning, proper maintenance, and natural or low-toxicity controls in ensuring plants stay healthy and resist insect and disease infestation. The target audiences were residents of The Villages in Sumter County, a retirement community of over 101,000. Methods: Landscape workshops were held in different venues throughout Sumter County. A post-survey evaluated residents who attended workshops at the end of the year. Qualtrics® was used for the follow-up post-survey. Results: A total of 430 residents completed the survey. 241 (47%) of the residents have lived in Florida for less than two years. 269 (60%) read and follow the pesticide label before applying the product. 230 (51%) spot treat for pests. 203 (45%) use the least toxic method of pest control (soaps, oils, Bt, etc). 188 (42%) identify the pest before using a pesticide. 194 (43%) match the correct pesticide for the pest. 110 (25%) avoid preventative spray applications. 49 (11%) rotate chemicals to avoid resistance.

Conclusion: Incorporating one or several methods of managing pesticides correctly in workshops will increase the number of residents impacted. This is turn results in higher number of potential behavior change. More educational components regarding avoiding preventive spraying and rotating chemicals needs to be addressed. Methods taught in workshops will help protect the environment, reduce exposure to non-target organisms and save homeowners approximately 22% in cost savings by spot treating for pests.
Extending Extension: Expanding Extension Outreach in Volusia County by Partnering with County Library Branches to Conduct “Roaming” Plant Clinics

Joe Sowards, UF/IFAS Extension, Volusia County Urban Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator

Situation: County Extension has long been considered (by many) the best kept secret in Florida. Awareness and use of Extension programs is problematic. Awareness of Extension programs ranges from 38% for Community Development to 69% for 4-H (Warner et.al. 1995). Use of Extension programs is much less. When asked if they had ever used Extension services, 26% said yes. When asked if they had used our services in the last year, only 8% said they had. This is partly due to the remote location of some Extension Offices as well as the general lack of awareness of the various services provided. People are generally aware of one particular Extension program associated but are unaware of Extension overall. Extension’s image is fragmented. Funding has declined the past several years resulting in states reorganizing the structure of the organization, reducing staff, and forming partnerships to deliver programs. Methods: In order to increase the use and visibility of the UF/IFAS Extension, Volusia County Urban Horticulture program, we began a partnership program with county library branches to have “mobile” plant clinics throughout Volusia County. Master Gardeners are partnering with five library branches to have monthly plant clinics where people ask questions, bring plant samples and learn about Extension, in general. Clients provide e-mail addresses so that fact sheets can be e-mailed while they are in the clinic and waiting for them when they get home. Results: Participation in the 2 hour plant clinics has increased throughout the county averaging 15-25 people at each of the various locations. Conclusion: Partnering with other county facilities can help increase awareness and use of Extension services.
PICTURING YOUTH IN HORTICULTURE

K. Fuller, UF/IFAS Extension, St. Johns County, St. Augustine, FL.

Situation: Global demand for food and farmers is on the rise. In Florida less than 4% of farm operators are under the age of 35. Getting youth interested in horticulture is one way to expose them to a career in the agricultural field to help fill the generational gap. Since ‘selfies’ have become popular, many youth are interested in taking photos. Capitalizing on this interest by conducting a horticulture photography workshop is one way to get youth to really look at plants and perhaps take an interest in them. This can encourage them to consider an agricultural career. Methods: A half day horticultural photography workshop was conducted for 4-H youth during ‘Flora and Fauna’ camp. A lecture on photo composition was given by St. Augustine Camera members. The nine camp participants then went on the grounds of the St. Johns County Arboretum with borrowed cameras and supervision provided by camera club and St. Johns County Master Gardener volunteers and took photos of horticulture subjects. Once the digital photos were downloaded the campers each picked their favorite photo and assisted with editing for sizing, color enhancement and cropping in Power Point. Results: The photos of the camp participants were submitted to the 2014 National Junior Horticulture Association Photography Contest. The photos were on display and the 2014 convention in Lexington, Kentucky. This activity allowed the youth to participate in a national event which they can use in their 4-H portfolio. One entry was selected as a Grand National Winner and two others as National Winners. Conclusion: Some campers have requested that the workshop be repeated in 2015. This indicates that their interest has been sparked to do a horticultural project.
GROWING A CHURCH'S OUTREACH PROGRAM WITH A COMMUNITY GARDEN

L. Singleton, J. Davis, UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension, Bushnell, FL.

Situation: The Villages, FL, a 100,000+ resident retirement community situated primarily in Sumter County has homeowner covenants and restrictions that do not allow vegetable gardening on residential lots; many of our northern “transplants” are interested in growing food. The United Church of Christ at The Villages is a progressive Christian denomination interested in helping to build strong communities, promote social justice, and care for our environment. This church, with primarily Villager membership, owns a large meadow with a 4” well adjacent to the church building. One member of the church is UF/IFAS Sumter County Master Gardener and recognized the potential partnership of the church and Extension for a common mission and project of establishing a community garden. Methods: A development team of three Master Gardeners coordinated the garden planning, permission to use the church site, necessary donations and publicity with the support of the Extension Agents. 40 raised bed garden plots (4’x12’) were built and planted in two phases with volunteer labor in less than one year from concept. The area is fenced with irrigation water available. Grants and donations were secured to fund the effort. Results: The church is pleased with the garden success; it has acknowledged its heightened community awareness and attributes a few new members to the garden project. The 40 beds are fully subscribed at a nominal annual rental fee, with a waiting list of 15. The gardening participants report bountiful harvests. Conclusion: This project will serve as a potential model for other congregations of the United Church of Christ to bring its progressive brand of Christianity into the community.
Horticulture/FYN/FFL

Poster #30

GAGING HOMEOWNERS IDENTIFICATION SKILLS AND WILLINGNESS TO REMOVE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

T. Sudol, UP/IFAS Extension, Seminole County, Sanford, FL.

Situation: Invasive plants are known to cause harm to the environment, economy and/or human health. Residential properties are potentially a source of invasive plants if homeowners plant or allow them to become established. Likewise, responsible homeowners can reduce invasive plants if they remove or prohibit them from their yard or neighborhood. As part of National Invasive Species Awareness Week 2015, Seminole County Urban Horticulture and Florida-Friendly Landscaping led, “Getting to Know Invasive Species”. Our objectives were: 1) increase participants’ identification skills of common invasive plants, and 2) motivate participants to remove invasive plants. Methods: We organized a two-hour program, comprised of a PowerPoint overview on invasive species issues, a small group rotation of 23 invasive plant samples, and then a test of participants’ knowledge in a “Bingo” format. Using Turning Point technology, I had participants identify 15 pictures of invasive plants through multiple choice questions. I followed up with whether or not the plants were in their yard/neighborhood and if they were willing to remove them. This class was repeated for the Seminole County Master Gardeners. Results: We had 47 participants. More than 90% of participants could identify Mexican Petunia, Sword Fern, Lantana and Torpedo Grass. Sword Fern, Camphor Tree, and Asparagus Fern were the top three common plants in yards/neighborhoods. Participants indicated they were most willing to remove Sword Fern and Asparagus Fern. Results showed that Sword Fern, Camphor Tree, Mexican Petunia, and Heavenly Bamboo were the top plants that participants were unwilling to remove from their yard/neighborhood. Conclusion: The class format helps people identify invasive species and prompts the plants removal. The results will guide future programming on which invasive species to target for removal. The homeowners who remove invasive species will improve habitat for native Florida flora and fauna.
MADE IN THE SHADE- EVALUATING THE BENEFITS OF URBAN TREE WORKSHOPS

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Situation: Adding trees to a suburban landscape increases shade, helps to mitigate runoff from water and fertilizer, improves air quality and increases the value of a property. Based on the fact that Hernando County’s waterways are impaired, resulting in a fertilizer ordinance being instituted, increased plantings of trees would benefit the local environment and provide residents with tangible economic benefits. Educational workshops on the value of trees in the landscape, proper planting methods and information on which tree species will perform best in this area would benefit county residents. Incorporating a free tree giveaway would encourage residents to actually add more trees to their landscape. Education Methods: Two classes were held in the county during December 2014 and January 2015. Participants were taught about how the proper use of trees in the landscape can benefit the environment and increase their property values. At the end of each class the participants received a maximum of five tree seedlings at no charge to plant on their property. A total of 100 residents participated in the classes. Results: Pre-test of knowledge was 70 percent and the post test score was 81 percent, indicating a 16 percent gain in knowledge on the benefits of trees in the landscape. Approximately 400 tree seedlings were given to residents free of charge. Conclusion: Follow up surveys will be sent to the participants to evaluate the percentage of trees that were planted and survived. The value of each successfully grown tree to the homeowner will be calculated using the National Tree Benefit Calculator, based on increased property value, decreased utility bills and decreased stormwater runoff. We anticipate that, over time, a significant economic and environmental benefit to the community will be realized and calculated.
Natural Resources

Poster #32

WASTE OR RESOURCE? A TABLETOP ANAEROBIC DIGESTER MODEL

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Situation: Florida agricultural producers are required to reduce nutrient runoff reaching ground and surface water. Anaerobic digesters (biodigesters) can be used to manage farm “waste” including manure, weeds, crop residue and food waste converting these to gas and soluble nutrients. The resulting components can be utilized on the farm or sold as a value-added commodity. Extension faculty, farmers and animal producers are not familiar with the anaerobic digestion (AD) process or how it can help prevent pollution. A portable working model is important to demonstrate AD and options for managing “waste” to reduce water and air pollution. Objectives: Thirteen UF/IFAS Extension faculty will: 1) learn about AD, 2) build a working tabletop model, 3) produce a fact sheet on how to build a tabletop model, and 4) identify local farmers interested in building biodigesters for field demonstrations.

Methods: UF/IFAS faculty worked with Dr. Ann Wilkie and toured the UF/IFAS Energy Park to learn about AD and biodigesters. Agents got hands-on experience in building a tabletop model as well as larger scale biodigesters for use on client’s farms. Results: Twelve faculty from six counties increased their knowledge of the AD process and demonstrated construction skills by building tabletop models to use for programs at schools and field days. Faculty also identified local farmer/rancher cooperators to build larger scale models. UF IFAS Extension faculty scheduled poster sessions and presentations at forums, field days and meetings demonstrating their knowledge and attitudes about biodigesters as a possible tool to decrease nutrient pollution produced on Florida farms and ranches. Conclusion: A tabletop model and supporting educational materials help UF IFAS Extension faculty change attitudes and behaviors of farmers, ranchers and students. As a result, biodigesters can become a common, easy-to-use Best Management Practice (BMP) resulting in environmental and economic benefits to farmers/ranchers and the community.