

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

Dean's Notes and Quotes

Extension Connections

Our "Extension Connections" webinar series this week was a great advancement in our communication. The addition of video has brought great feedback and an enhanced approach to our interaction. During this last session Dr. Michael Gutter was my special guest. Dr. Gutter discussed some very valuable information on extension advisory committees and extension scholarship. We also discussed numerous administrative updates. For those who missed this webinar, here is a link with the recorded session as well as future session dates so that you can reserve the time on your schedules.

UF/IFAS Extension Connections

I look forward to interacting with you during our next Extension Connections session on February 24th!

Strategic Staffing Steering Committee

As with any other organization, we must keep our eye on the future. Visionary thinking will allow us to be most effective as an organization, and particularly as the extension/outreach arm of the Land Grant University. Like no other time in our history, we need to show the difference we are making in the lives of the people we serve. In fact, there is greater emphasis today on ROI (Return on Investment) for all public institutions. We want to be in the best position to clearly communicate our ROI to stakeholders, decision-makers, and clientele.

With this strategic staffing plan effort, we need to start with our UF/IFAS Extension Roadmap. A great deal of internal and external input and investment helped develop the Roadmap we are following for the next 10 years. This plan not only lays out our programmatic foci through our statewide Initiative Teams, but it also lays out goals for how we can be most effective and efficient with our financial and human resources. The effort being undertaken by this steering committee is a major step in helping our organization address this overarching goal.

January 2014

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Traditionally in extension we have utilized a great deal of historical hiring, e.g., hiring based on how positions have been historically occupied for many years in the past. As you think about the programmatic opportunities that are in front of us as well as limited resources, we need to ensure that we have a long-term vision and strategic approach to how we look at our positions broadly across UF/IFAS Extension. Ultimately, we want to ensure that our organization is in the best position to have a comprehensive and strategic approach to how we invest our human resources that address major issues facing our clientele.

I want to take the opportunity to thank in advance those who are taking the time and effort to be part of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Co-chairs are Dr. Ed Osborne, Chair of Agricultural Education and Communication Department, and Katherine Allen, County Extension Director for Suwanee and Columbia Counties. Other committee members are John Arthington, Ona REC Director; Alex Bolques, Gadsden County and FAMU Agent; Jay Ferrell, Associate Professor of Agronomy; Sarah Hensley, 4-H Regional Specialized Agent; Lisa Krinsky, Miami-Dade Sea Grant Agent; Ramona Madosingh-Hector, Pinellas County Sustainability Agent; Gene McAvoy, Hendry County Extension Director and Multi-County Ag Agent; Madeline Mellinger, President of Glades Crop Care; Mary Anne Morgan, Director of UF/IFAS Human Resources; Eric Simmone, District Extension Director; Joan Dusky, State Ag Program Leader; and Tom Obreza, Senior Associate Dean.

The Steering Committee held their initial kickoff meeting on Friday, January 24, during which they did some overall planning and goal setting of their own. Communicating the efforts of this committee are going to be critically important. I will be working with them to ensure that appropriate communication and engagement occur both internally and externally. Stay tuned for further developments as they do their work.

*Regards,
Dr. Nick Place*

“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead

Deadlines & Events

February 21, 2014 - 2014 Internship Program Proposals Due

Meet Your Specialist



Jose Debeux

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Agronomy
with a minor in
Soil Sciences

Email: dubeux@ufl.edu
Tel: 850-394-9124

I came to the University of Florida from the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco State, Brazil where I was an Associate Professor.

My specialties are forage management, with focus on carbon and nitrogen cycling in grazed ecosystems and I also take a special interest in Forage legumes and their contribution to grassland in terms of N input, C and N cycling, and animal performance.

In 2005, I received my degree in Agronomy from UF. I joined the NFREC in September of 2013. I received my Bachelor's degree in Agronomy from Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco in 1990 and my MS in Animal Science from the same University in 1995.

My appointment is 70% Research and 30% Extension. I have an expertise in pasture/forage management, with focus in nutrient cycling in forage production systems and my focus will be to reduce off-farm inputs in forage production systems of Florida, targeting specifically reduction of N fertilizer application by establishing warm and cool season grass legume mixtures. I will also address in my program, the carbon footprint of cattle production systems in Florida, assessing C storage and greenhouse gas emissions.

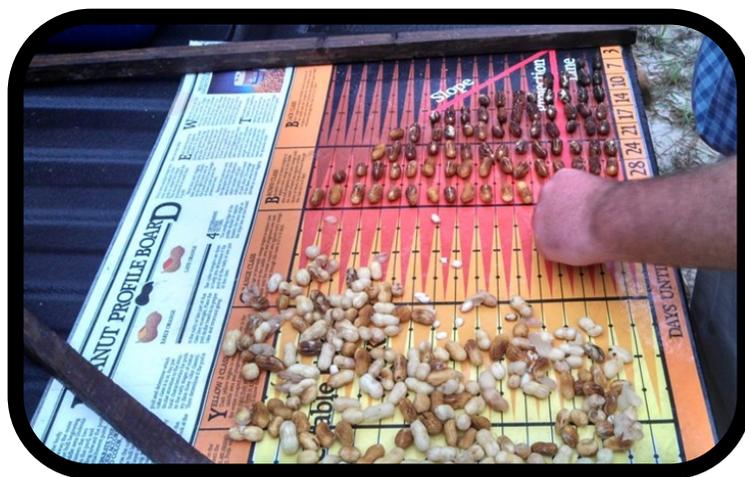
My long-term goal is to reduce fossil fuel inputs from fertilizer and equipment and to increase sustainability of cattle production systems.

Using Peanut Pod-Blasting to Determine Peanut Maturity

Each year, peanut producers must determine the appropriate time to harvest their peanut crop. In Hamilton County during the 2013 growing season 50 peanut producers generated approximately \$5,000,000 from the 5000 acres of peanuts produced. One factor that determines peanut yield and grade is seed maturity at harvest. Hence, producers strive to select harvest dates based on peanut maturity. The peanut plant's health and upcoming weather conditions also influence when peanuts are to be harvested.

Keith Wynn, Hamilton County Agriculture Extension Agent, works with a local peanut buying point manager in order to teach Hamilton County peanut producers how to determine peanut maturity using the peanut pod-blasting method.

A pressure washer with a rotating turbo nozzle is used to remove the peanut's outer tissue (the exocarp) in order to reveal its inner tissue (the mesocarp) color before placing the peanut pods in different color class columns on a peanut maturity board. Research suggests producers who do not use the peanut profile board to determine peanut maturity could observe yield reductions of at least 30%. In order for producers to examine peanut samples pulled from their fields, Agent Wynn invites producers to bring samples to the peanut buying point each Thursday during September to be pod-blasted. In 2013, 56 peanut samples were blasted to determine maturity.



A maturity board is used to determine maturity by placing peanuts in different color class columns based on the color of the peanuts mesocarp. Peanuts with the darkest or black mesocarp are mature while peanuts with a lighter or yellow mesocarp are immature.

Producers were encouraged to delay harvest anywhere from 7 to 21 days depending on the sample. Pod-blasting peanuts have resulted in yield increases of 300 to 500 lbs per acre. This increase translates into an additional peanut crop value of \$375,000 for peanut producers in Hamilton County.

Keith Wynn, Ag/Nat Res EA I, Hamilton Cty

Gilchrist County Teenager Helps the Environment, Decides on Career Through Her Marine Ecology 4-H Project

Society must to continue it is imperative for youth to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to assume the responsibilities in that society as they grow into adulthood. Part of this responsibility is choosing a career and taking the necessary steps to one day successfully work in that field. Another responsibility important to society is conserving the natural resources that make life on Earth possible and enjoyable. According to articles from diverse sources like the Wall Street Journal and Huffington Post, today's corporate job recruiters are having trouble finding enough talented and capable employees in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

According to our Roadmap, UF/IFAS Extension has targeted programming to help Florida youth develop science, mathematics, and technology (STEM) literacy; to help youth develop an interest in learning that will equip them to succeed in a rapidly changing society and global economy; to teach youth responsibility, developing their ability to become leaders, and engaging them in their communities; to help youth develop healthy lifestyles; and to encourage youth to get outdoors to appreciate nature, agriculture, and natural resources.

Cheyenne Siegel is a 15-yr-old member of the Mossy Oaks 4-H Club, the Students Working Against Tobacco 4-H Club, and Guitar 4-H Club in Gilchrist County. During the past 2 years, Cheyenne has blossomed into a phenomenal youth

leader in the Gilchrist County 4-H Program. Cheyenne participates in a variety of traditional 4-H projects from raising a beef steer to cooking, and Cheyenne is an officer on the 4-H County Council. Two years ago, Cheyenne learned about the Marine Ecology 4-H project and the State 4-H Marine Ecology Event (MEE), which is a competitive event that provides 4-H youth with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of the marine and aquatic worlds. To prepare for the MEE, 4-H Leaders and club members go on marine field trips, visit museums and aquariums, have group study sessions, conduct internet research, and develop their own "mock contests." In the process, youth learn important life skills. The contest is divided into 5 sections:



Cheyenne Siegel is on the left with some other members of the Marine Ecology team from Gilchrist County with a sea creature they seined in waters near Cedar Key (left to right-Cheyenne Siegel, Nelson Turner, Tucker McDaniel, Karina Turner and Kalin Siegel).

1. Marine and coastal plant identification.
2. Marine invertebrate animal identification.
3. Marine vertebrate animal identification.
4. Natural History Scavenger Hunt.
5. Knowledge of marine concepts and issues.

In completing this project and preparing for this contest, Cheyenne be-

came enamored with all things dealing with marine biology. She single-handedly organized junior, intermediate, and senior MEE teams in Gilchrist County. Cheyenne reached out to Jennifer Saranzak, an Environmental Specialist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in Cedar Key, who lined up several mock-classes on taxonomy, anatomy, and other marine biology skills as well as eco-tours and seining opportunities. Cheyenne earned her way to 4-H Congress with her 4-H demonstration on seining. Ms. Saranzak was so impressed with Cheyenne, her passion for marine biology, and how fast she picked up scientific concepts that she invited Cheyenne to intern with the Florida Fish and Wild-

life Conservation during the summer of 2013 where Cheyenne taught elementary-aged children about Florida's marine ecosystems.

In the past few months Cheyenne once again participated and coached her own MEE team in Gilchrist County. As a coach as well as a team member, Cheyenne has improved her leadership skills along with her STEM skills and appreciation for the environment. Once a quite shy young lady, Cheyenne approached local businesses to sponsor the 4-H Marine Ecology teams. Cheyenne raised almost \$1000 that paid for custom t-shirts for the team members, and also organized a behind-the-scenes trip to Sea World in Orlando where 4-H youth in Gilchrist County learned about the biology and care of several of the marine mammals at the Orlando theme park. As a result of Cheyenne's passion and aptitude for the Marine Ecology project, Gilchrist County now has about 20 youth enrolled in the project who participated in the November contest, taking 3rd place state wide, which isn't bad for a land-locked rural county with a teenage coach. The real star and leader is Cheyenne who has her eyes set on much larger opportunities in the field of marine biology.

Cheyenne recently learned from her 4-H agent about the Marine Sciences major at UF/IFAS CALS. Cheyenne plans on majoring in Marine Sciences at UF. Jennifer Saranzak with FWC says with her 4-H background in the Marine Ecology Project, Cheyenne will have no problem finding a job in her chosen field, and has agreed to continue to mentor Cheyenne through the remainder of her high school career. Cheyenne's parents, 4-H leaders, 4-H agent, and Ms. Saranzak agree that Cheyenne will one day be a phenomenal marine biologist and leave her mark in that profession, positively impacting the environment and allowing Cheyenne to find a career in the field she loves so much.

Chris DeCubellis, 4-H YD EA III, Gilchrist Cty

The 2013 Peanut Butter Challenge

Beginning in 2012 UF/IFAS Extension NW District agents and the Florida Peanut Producers Association initiated the "Peanut Butter Challenge." The Challenge is a food collection drive of peanut butter from within each of the district's 16 counties. In addition to what is collected from the Challenge, Ken Barton (Executive Director of the Florida Peanut Producers Association) with the support of his Board of Directors agreed to provide a pallet of peanut butter (approximately 1500 jars) to be divided between the counties. All the pea-



From left to right: Pamela Allen, Fran Lainhart Rick O'Connor, Janice Robinson, Carol Lord, Kay Brown and Dorothy Lee.

nut butter collected from each county plus the jars donated by the Peanut Producers was then given to local food pantries.

Not only does the Peanut Butter Challenge help publicize the important contribution of north Florida's peanut growers to the peanut industry of Florida, but it also helps provide a healthy and universally loved product, made from a locally grown product, to food pantries in northwest Florida counties from Escambia to Jefferson. In



4-H Members from left to right: Amanda Tanner, Taylor Nelson, Tori Kelson, Alyssa Leate, Rachel Grammer, Sarah Birdsong and Kyra Lammens.

2012, Extension collected 2,039 jars of peanut butter amounting to 2,855 pounds. All told, more than 3,500 jars were distributed throughout the district because of the pallet provided by the Peanut Producers.



The Gilmore Girls, Ella and Sydney Gilmore.

Because of the success in 2012, extension agents decided to hold another Peanut Butter Challenge in 2013. The second year proved to be an equally productive year. Through donations, support from various businesses and groups like county 4-H clubs, local Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, churches and Escara Young Farmers and Ranchers, districtwide more than 3,100 jars of peanut butter were collected. Moreover, Escambia County landed a windfall when Escambia County peanut growers Rodney and Michael Helton of Helton Brothers Farm donated an entire pallet of peanut butter and in turn asked a local buying point, Tri County Peanut LLC, to purchase another pallet. When all contributions were added to what was collected in the various counties, extension offices share 9,044 jars of peanut butter with local food pantries.

As an added incentive to get county extension



From left to right: Chris Verlinde, Janis Simmons, John Atkins, Mary Derrick, Lynn Moore, Mike Donahoe, Betty Duncan and Blake Thaxton



The Heltons, Michael Helton, Bo Giddeons, Rodney Helton, and Adam Respers.

offices to participate, Florida Farm Bureau President John Hoblick is sponsoring a meal for the extension office in the county with a population of greater than 100,000 that collects the most peanut butter, while Jerry Davis, Santa Rosa Farm

Bureau President, is sponsoring a meal for the for the Extension office in the county with a population of less than 100,000. UF/IFAS Extension Escambia County won for the large county category and UF/IFAS Extension Liberty County won for the small county category!

Plans are in the works for the 2014 Peanut Butter Challenge, so contact your local extension office to see how you can get involved. UF/IFAS Extension extends a warm Gator Thanks to the Florida Peanut Producers Association, the Florida Farm Bureau, Helton Brothers Farm, Tri County Peanut, local businesses, and the

County	# of jars	lbs
Bay	94	143.7
Calhoun	37	55.5
Escambia	720	930.6
Gadsden	31	41.7
Gulf	80	80.9
Holmes	3	7.5
Jackson	150	153.4
Jefferson	212	246.9
Leon	16	21.3
Liberty	692	705.1
Okaloosa	434	512.7
Santa Rosa	532	688.9
Walton	40	50
Washington	83	97.6
TOTAL	3124	3735.8

local people who donated throughout the district for their support of the 2013 Peanut Butter Challenge! We couldn't do this without you.

Libby Johnson, Ag EA II, Escambia Cty

Women and Money Series

FCS county faculty in Gulf, Jefferson, Liberty, Leon, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington counties teamed up to provide women with financial education (*Women and Money Series*). This multi-county collaboration formed from our NW District Program Implementation Team allowed the FCS faculty to share expertise and program planning responsibilities.

The *Women and Money Series* program targeted women for their unique financial issues. The three-part series covered money basics, protecting assets, investing basics, and estate planning. Extension FCS faculty Judy Corbus, Elaine Courtney, and Kristin Jackson taught segments of the series from their own counties. Participating counties joined via interactive video (Polycom). Other FCS faculty in participating local counties led activities and local discussion. Special guests included Michael Hamby, an Okaloosa county attorney, and Sara Fordyce, an Okaloosa county financial planner. Guest speakers made short presentations and answered questions.



Elaine Courtney presents certificates of completion to the Okaloosa County

A total of 44 participants attended the series and were joined by nine FCS faculty. FCS faculty participated for professional development or personal purposes. Participants indicated that the *Women and Money Series* gave them the information they needed to develop spending plans, investment plans, and estate plans.

Kendra Zamojski, FCS/Comm Dev CED III, Leon

4-H Beef Camp 2013

Understanding the pasture to plate concept is something we strive to teach youth in Bradford County. Many 4-Hers participate in our youth livestock programs to gain firsthand knowledge of this process. Unfortunately, some youth still believe their food comes from the supermarket. The 2013 4-H BEEF CAMP was designed to introduce youth to each step of the beef production process.



"First Touch" - Duval 4-Her, Seledta Carlisle (12 yrs Old), participating in the 2013 4-H Beef Camp reaches out to touch her first cow. During this camp she learned the complete pasture to plate concept.

Eighteen youth from Bradford and Duval Counties participated in a 2-day event that included classroom instruction combined with on-site tour stops. To begin, youth were provided a general overview of the beef industry. To gain real world experience, this presentation was followed by tour stops to a local beef operation, hay operation, and feed mill. At each of these sites, owner/operators discussed how their farm/facility worked and why it is important in the beef production process. In an effort to introduce youth to a "University Experience," we traveled to Gainesville to have lunch at the UF Reitz Union. Youth had an opportunity to have a campus experience similar to what they may experience once they complete high school. While on campus we toured the Animal and Dairy Science Complex and UF Meats lab to learn about research, teaching and extension. At the Meats Lab, participants were able to see tools used to harvest beef. After

leaving the lab, we traveled to a local meat market and purchased beef that was cut to our specifications. On our second day, we toured a second meat market facility that focused on sausage production. Classroom instruction was provided on food safety and the nutritional benefits of beef. Of the youth participants, 100 % commented on their post-meeting evaluation that they understood where their meat originated and the process it takes to reach their plate.

Tim Wilson, Livestock/Forages CED II, Bradford Cty

Before You Tie the Knot - a Premarital Opportunity for Extension

Some marriage statistics have not changed since research in 1992:

- Of first marriages that end in divorce, many end in the first 3 to 5 years.
- Money is what that people say they argue about the most in marriage, followed by children.



Dr. Brenda Williams is a facilitator as well as an update author for the *Before You Tie the Knot* premarital class.

Effective in 1999, the Florida Legislature enacted the *Marriage Preparation and Preservation Act* to provide an incentive of \$32.50 credit on the marriage license fee to encourage couples to participate in an approved class. *Before You Tie the Knot*, updated in 2012, is extension's opportunity to help couples build a strong foundation by developing a strong marital relationship.

Of the 400 couples reached in the 10 years that Dr. Williams has facilitated the class, only two have not completed the sessions to receive a certificate. That result equals \$13,000 saved on the license fees. It is interesting that it is usually the female partner that registers the couple for the class; however, as the class progresses, the males become quite engaged in the activities and discussions. Of all participants, 100% have indicated that they would recommend the class to others.

Dr. Williams used to read the listing of divorce petitions in the newspaper. No participants were listed, but being college students, many have moved away. For 98% of the participants, this was their first contact with extension programming. Participants are encouraged to attend other extension classes, especially the financial series, and are welcome to have a session with a Florida Master Money Mentor volunteer.

Dr. Brenda Williams, FCS EA IV, Alachua Cty

It Pays to Clip!

With a little time and using store coupons you can eat healthy and stay on-budget. It is "almost" as if you are getting paid to shop! Two parents' groups (of students attending two elementary schools on eastside) will be starting a couponing club to help anyone interested to learn the tricks they learned in Family Nutrition Program class this month. They will be bringing in any coupons not being used by their household to the school meeting and help other parents learn how it is done. One parent of a child attending New River Elementary said, "I get paid to shop!" (Everyone's eyes popped out with amazement!) I explained how we do it at our office, and the parent coordinator at the school said she would start a couponing club like ours so that parents could share their coupons and successes. The FNP program assistant pointed out that even if they get to save 50% of their \$100 weekly grocery bill by spending only 2 hours re-

searching sales and clipping, it is as if they were getting paid \$25 an hour, which is much more than most of our SNAP families make per hour in today's economy.

Betsy Crisp, FCS EA IV, Pasco Cty

My Brevard Yard (MBY) for the Protection of the Indian River Lagoon

The health of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), which runs the entire length of the county, has been a hot topic in Brevard County for many years and the lagoon recently gained national notoriety. In response to the concerns of the health of the IRL, some local municipalities have begun passing fertilizer ordinances more stringent than the statewide Model Fertilizer Ordinance, with some adding summer fertilizer restrictions.

Realizing a need to be on the forefront of water quality programming and to provide science-based solutions to help the IRL, Brevard County Extension developed *My Brevard Yard for the Protection of the Indian River Lagoon*, a creative and hands-on approach to educate homeowners on how to apply fertilizer and irrigate their properties in an environmentally sound way. There are two parts to the My Brevard Yard, a three hour workshop and an optional site visit to be done by the Agent or Master Gardener Volunteer. The MBY workshop consists of four segments that were adapted from the GI-BMP sections: Overview, Lawn & Landscape, Irrigation, and Fertilizer. The Overview chapter was created in conjunction with the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program to help educate residents about how unique the IRL is. Once the segments were created, they were piloted using Master Gardener Volunteers before offering them to the general public. The workshop also includes a hands-on portion in which participants get to calibrate a fertilizer spreader and set up a micro-irrigation system.

Homeowners who complete this training receive a MBY workshop completion certificate and discounts to local garden centers to purchase environmentally friendly fertilizer and irrigation supplies.

The MBY site visit portion allows the residents to receive a comprehensive "landscape audit" at their property. This audit includes a soil test, water salinity test, and an overall on-site consultation for homeowners to learn the best ways to take care of their properties without harming the environment. At the end of the workshop, those interested in a site visit are given a survey to fill out so the agent or Master Gardener conducting the site visit will have an idea of what plants are in



the landscape, if there are any problem areas on site, and any questions the homeowner may have.

Collaboration with local municipalities has provided venues and marketing efforts to help promote the workshops in their communities. Additional workshops

are also being held at the extension office. Now that the program is up and running we are expecting a very busy and productive year!

Matt Lenhardt, Commercial Hort EAI, Brevard Cty

Dig Into Gardening

To get youth to dig into gardening, promote STEM education, promote healthy lifestyles learning, and grow a 4-H program, why not start a school garden? School gardens are a huge trend because data suggest that garden programs "increase the number of fruits and vegetables eaten, vegetable preferences, and fruit and vegetable asking behavior" of youth participants. Working with schools allows access to a captive audience, but how do you convince schools to turn those gardens into after-school clubs? Dangle the carrot!

Brevard County Extension offers horticulture, nutrition, and youth development expertise to the general public, but by creating afterschool clubs, sites have access to more in depth resources. Brevard County 4-H helps to secure grants, provide supplies, help start up the club, provide volunteer training, and provide educational lectures (including access to FCS and Horticulture Agents) to afterschool clubs.



Youth enjoy being outside and learning how to garden in 4-H afterschool clubs.

Last year, Brevard County 4-H targeted low income sites that currently have partnerships with Extension through the Family and Nutrition Program. Three new afterschool clubs were formed using

this method (two had existing gardens, one created a new garden). One of these sites is at a Parks and Recreation Community Center. All three have continued on to their second year with the addition of five new clubs this year (two existing gardens, two new gardens). Brevard County has secured \$6,500 in grant funding through FDACS, Ag in the Classroom, JC Penney Afterschool Funds, and Farm to School to assist with these gardens. The funds go towards building the beds, providing compost, seeds, transplants, and garden supplies (gloves, tools, fencing, etc.), and purchasing educational materials. Seeds were donated from local farmers and sown with the assistance of Master Gardeners. Schools



Check out this harvest! Youth are able to sample what they grow in a 4-H afterschool club.

were provided with a variety of transplants to start their gardens at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.

The success of the garden clubs has allowed the 4-H program to expand and reach new audiences.

Garden clubs have been able to take field trips to the local farmers' markets, exhibit in the Brevard County Fair Horticulture Competitions, and learn how to cook what they harvest. Pre and post-surveys captured increases in vegetable consumption and trying new vegetables, including a 37% increase in youth liking veg-



Exam time! Pest exam that is. Youth scour the garden for any pests that may be damaging their garden vegetables during a 4-H afterschool club meeting.

etables listed on the survey a lot and many youth trying new vegetables because of their participation in the garden club.

As 4-H Extension Agents look toward the current 4-H Program Standards and Expectations, increasing youth enrollment in clubs and training volunteers are priorities. Creating after-school gardens are an excellent way to promote STEM, healthy lifestyles, and increase 4-H enrollment.

Vanessa Spero-Swingle, 4-H YD EA I, Brevard Cty

FCS Professional Development Crosses State Lines

Northwest District FCS county faculty Ginny Hinton, Ricki McWilliams, and Kristin Jackson attended the *Better Process Control School for Acidified Foods* training program in Athens, GA. They participated with the Univ. of Georgia College of Agri-

cultural & Environmental Sciences, Department of Food Science & Technology Food Science Extension Outreach



Pictured left to right: Ginny Hinton, JoLynn Peoples, Mr. Bob Neligan, FDA, Dr. Anand Mohan, Dr. Bill Hurst, Kristin Jackson, Ricki McWilliams

Program for a professional development opportunity on November 5-7, 2013. The 3-day course consisted of lecture, an instrumentation lab, and examinations.

The county faculty received lifetime certification in all eight course sections that include:

- Microbiology of thermally processed foods
- Principles of acidified foods
- Principles of thermal processing
- Principles of food plant sanitation
- Food container handling
- Records and record keeping
- Equipment, instrumentation and operation of thermal processing systems
- Closures for glass containers



Ricki McWilliams demonstrating how to take temperature with an ice bath.

These lifetime certificates are reported to the FDA and USDA. Completion of this course/certification will allow the FCS faculty to conduct programming related to the topics of food preservation and food safety that are reemerging areas of interest among clients. Dispelling the myths of canning while discussing food safety and security can improve client behavior related to nutrition, food handling, and resource management. This experience and these certificates would not have

been possible without the generosity of the 2013

UF/IFAS Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant opportunity.

Ricki McWilliams, FCS EA II, Walton Cty

NW District Family and Consumer Sciences and Agriculture Agents Collaborates on Beekeeping Tradeshow!

On November 1-2, 2013, the NW District Agriculture and FCS Agents Program Implementation Teams collaborated to offer classes during the annual Beekeeping Field Day & Tradeshow held in Chipley, FL. This 3rd annual event was part of the Florida State Beekeepers Association yearly conference and had a total of 196 attendees for the entire 3-day event. State Representative Marti Coley and State Senator Greg Evers were keynote speakers at the Bee Conference.



FCS Agent Marjorie Moore teaching.

Approximately 163 individuals attended the Saturday Beekeeping Field Day & Tradeshow, with 114 attending the FCS program.

Participants rotated among three 35-minute classes: "What's the Buzz about Honey?," "Splitting Beehives," and "Products of the Hives." Noted scientist Dr. Jamie Ellis of the UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab presented a class on the state of the beekeeping industry and how IFAS Extension works with beekeepers to enhance the success of their honey production and pollination operations. The FCS Agents presented information on sugar vs. honey, is honey more nutritious, diabetes and honey, foodborne illnesses, and types of



Dr. Pete Vergot, DED and Ag Agent Judy Ludlow, Registration Chair

honey.

A honey facts handout and recipe cards were developed and shared with participants. Participants sampled honey pumpkin bread, honey lemonade, and a honey-glazed snack mix. One batch of the honey pumpkin bread was made with honey and one batch with sugar to demonstrate the different properties of these two sweeteners. There was a panel of experts discussing scouting



FCS Agents Judy Corbus and Melanie Taylor teaching

beehives for insect and disease problems. Also, attendees participated in hands-on hive splitting and hive smoker lighting demonstrations taught by bee inspectors from FDACS.

Important impacts as a result of this program show 23 individuals joined a beekeeping club as a direct result of UF/IFAS Extension efforts. Additionally, 86% (71) of attendees surveyed indicated that they would increase the number of hives in their operation as a result of attending the field day. Program participants spent an estimated total of \$4,036 with the 12 beekeeping vendors present at the trade show and intend to spend more with these vendors in the future. Of the participants, 85% now understand the types and amount of sugar in honey as compared to table sugar, 51% plan to reduce the total sugar in their diet, 85% learned how to substitute honey for sugar when baking, and 68% now understand the role of sugar (including honey) in a diabetic's diet.

Dr. Marjorie Moore, FCS EA IV, Bay Cty

Increasing the Quality of Child-care for Military Families

On-base military child development centers have long been recognized as a leader in quality care. However, in today's military climate, many reservists and guard have been deployed and must rely on community-based child development centers instead. These centers do not consistently have the quality of care needed to help military families feel secure with their care options. As a result, the Department of Defense partnered with the USDA to create the Child Care and Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project (CYTTAP), which provides training for childcare staff in 13 states home to high rates of military families. Florida is among those states. The Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln provides leadership for the project, with curricula developed by Penn State Univ. At UF, Dr. Heidi Radunovich provides support to agents in counties identified with a high number of military families.



Childcare providers with materials supplied through CYTTAP at an Art Appreciation 101 workshop.

In Duval County, we have 2,883 children of reservists and guard out of a total of 13,634 military youth (The Florida Braive Fund/7-Dippity, 2011).

We began providing child care staff training targeting these military families in March 2013. Eighteen workshops have been offered either at our extension office or off-site at child development centers, reaching 430 providers. Early analysis of nearly 200 providers found that confidence in strategies learned increased from 81% to 97% after the training. A bonus is that the workshops are free, plus the extension agent receives \$10 per participant from the project to use for future program materials. For four of the twelve curricula provided by the USDA/DOD project, relevant educational supplies are shipped to the extension office to distribute to participants for use in their

classrooms. In Duval County, we have received nearly \$20,000 in supplies from Lakeshore Learning and Kaplan Early Learning companies.

Stephanie Toelle, FCS EA IV, Duval County

Florida Seafood @ Your Fingertips Mobile App

Floridians eat nearly twice as much seafood as consumers in the rest of the country. With the variety of choices in the market today, consumers have more questions about seafood. Based on a statewide survey of 717 Florida residents, we know that approximately 40% of Floridians are not consuming the recommended USDA dietary guidelines of eating two servings of seafood each week. The biggest barriers to purchasing Florida seafood were that respondents didn't know where to find it, don't know what types of seafood are specific to Florida (caught or raised here), and the cost of Florida seafood. The Florida Seafood at Your Fingertips program helps answer consumer questions about seafood safety, handling, and cooking. The program promotes Florida's commercial seafood industry and provides current information about Florida seafood. To help get this information out to the public, a mobile app was developed for Android and Apple devices that gives consumers advice on seafood selection and preparation tips, popular Florida seafood species information, recipes, maps showing seafood markets in each county with GPS directions, and seafood facts. You can download the Android app <http://bit.ly/H1utsJ> and Apple app <http://bit.ly/ICP7iw> to your phone or tablet today. Let us know what you think about the mobile apps and write a review!

The larger portion of the Florida Seafood at Your Fingertips program was created by a multi-disciplinary team of seafood, marine science, and nutrition extension professionals and seafood industry representatives. The objectives of this pro-

gram are to provide extension agents in Florida with updated and easy-to-access information regarding seafood, to provide clear and concise education materials to address consumer concerns, and to promote Florida's commercial seafood industry. The program is divided into four modules with topic areas of nutrition and health, seasonality and availability, seafood preparation, and purchasing and handling. Each module contains PowerPoint slides, notes, supplemental materials such as handouts and activities, and evaluations for each of the topics. Topics can be taught individually or all together depending on the program. To learn more about the program and to get information about materials available to Extension agents, please visit our website at <https://www.flseagrant.org/seafoodatyourfingertips/>.



Holly Abeels, Marine Science EA I, Brevard Cty

Brooke Saari, Marine Science EAI, Walton/Okaloosa Cty

Lisa Krinsky, Marine Science EA II, Miami-Dade Cty

Bryan Fluech, Marine Science CED III, Collier Cty

Elizabeth Shephard, FCS EA III, Brevard Cty

Kendra Zamojski, FCS CED III, Leon Cty

Elaine Courtney, FCS EA IV, Okaloosa Cty

The ANREP Professional Development Webinars

In 2012, the ANREP Board conducted a survey to determine the professional development topics and delivery format needs of its membership. The Professional Development Committee (PDC = 17

members across the US) then conducted a qualitative analysis of the 119 responses revealing five main themes: utilizing emerging technologies, teaching and leadership skills, transparency/communication of natural resources programs, extension-specific skills, and pressing/current natural resource issues. Using this information, the PDC guided development of seven webinars in 2013. Groundwork included developing registration forms, promotional flyers and evaluation tools for the webinars. Committee members were also trained in developing, preparing and conducting webinars, assisting with the technology, and promoting the webinars. Two webinars focused on international extension opportunities, others focused on social media, producing webinars, climate science, and the ANREP awards procedure. One webinar was hosted by a FANREP agent and featured our own Al Williamson presenting "Winning Webinars With Adobe Connect" ([LINK TO FLYER](#)).

Five of the seven webinars were evaluated via online survey. Survey results across webinars showed 42% (n=72) of respondents saved an estimated \$100 to \$200 in time, travel and resource savings by participating in the online webinar (versus face to face training), translating to \$3,000 to \$6,000 in savings. The webinars were highly recommended with 92% (n=72) agreeing or strongly agreeing to recommend ANREP webinars to others and 65% (n=68) agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement, "I will change my practices based on what I learned from this presentation". Overall, the webinars have been a huge success reaching extension agents/educators in a range of fields throughout the nation. The ANREP PDC plans to continue these professional development webinars to JCEP members in the coming years. Recordings of six of the seven webinars can be viewed at: <http://www.anrep.org/resources/anrep-webinars/>

Lara Miller, Nat Res EA I, Pinellas Cty

Easy as PIE

Save the Date! Easy as PIE Webinar Series



Date: February 25th
Time: 10-11 am
Topic: Water

Join speaker Wendy Graham to learn more about water issues in Florida.

Registration is required, visit our website to register and to learn more about the Easy as PIE Webinar Series: <http://www.centerpie.com/easy-as-pie/>

Contact Nicole Dodds for more information: ndodds@ufl.edu or 352-273-3139

Special Mention

The following agents have recently completed advanced degrees. We would like to congratulate them on this great accomplishment:

Jim Davis, FFL EA I, Sumter Cty, Master of Science Degree in Entomology and Nematology from the Univ. of Florida

Dan Fenneman, Ag/Nat Res EA I, Madison Cty, Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Education and Communication from the Univ. of Florida

Keith Wynn, Nat Res EA I, Hamilton Cty, Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Education and Communication from the Univ. of Florida

Shaina Bennett, 4-H YD EA I, Baker Cty, Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Education and Communication from the Univ. of Florida

New Hires

We would like to welcome the following new faculty:

Laurie Albrecht, Env Hort EA I, Palm Beach Cty
Sara Ellis, FCS EA I, Citrus Cty
Amy Warwick, 4-H YD EA I, Flagler Cty

New Positions

We would like to congratulate the following faculty members on their new position:

Laura Valencia from 4-H YD EA I in Lake Cty to Osceola Cty

Retirements

We would like to give our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement after many years of service and dedication:



Rita Law, FCS EA III, Seminole Cty

Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter distributed by the Office of the Dean for Extension via e-mail and on the Extension web site at <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu>.

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit your own recognition or short article of interest, please send them to Valkyrie Shah.

Please feel free to also forward any questions or comments about this periodical to Valkyrie Shah at valkyrieshah@ufl.edu.
