

Extension Comings and Goings
From the Office of the Dean for Extension
July 2008 ([PDF version](#))

Table of Contents (CTRL + click to follow link)

[Streaming Presentation by Cheri Brodeur](#)

[Update on Federal Issues](#)

[Annual Achievement Award: Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman](#)

[Get Your IFAS Gear at EPAF](#)

[Florida Association of Counties](#)

[Extension Leads Strategic Forest Conservation Program](#)

[Tune up those lawn sprinklers to cut water waste](#)

[Changing Irrigation Practices and Re-landscaping Saves Dunedin Condo \\$\\$](#)

[Eat Better, Move More](#)

[Livestock Producers Reclaim Pastureland with Help of TSA Beetle](#)

[The Impact on Water Quality of a Community's Florida-Friendly Initiative](#)

[New Faculty](#)

[Resignations](#)

Streaming Presentation by Cheri Brodeur

This edition's streaming presentation is by Cheri Brodeur, discussing the Program Development and Evaluation Center. The presentation provided synchs streaming video of the presenter with her PowerPoint slides. Viewing the presentation requires the Microsoft Explorer browser, Windows Media Player 9 and a relatively fast Internet connection. However, for those using dial-up access, a modem version is also supplied, which plays an audio version of the presentation synchronized with the PowerPoint slides.

Comings and Goings July - Program Development and Evaluation Center (Video version)

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/comingsgoings_July08/index.html

Comings and Goings July - Program Development and Evaluation Center (Audio version)

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/comingsgoings_July08_audio/index.html

Update on Federal Issues - The recently passed Farm bill changes how our partnership with USDA will be managed and creates some new funding opportunities. A new organizational structure will be implemented. The key changes in the Farm Bill that influence Extension are outlined below.

1. National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
 - a. Replaces CSREES
 - b. Defines "capacity and infrastructure" and "competitive" programs
 - c. Implementation no later than October 1, 2009 (beginning of FY 2010)
 - d. Director
 - e. Authorizes such sums as necessary for all capacity/infrastructure and competitive programs
2. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (Replacing NRI and IFAFS)
 - a. Combines strengths of both authorities to create "Agriculture and Food Research Initiative"
3. Strengthened Under Secretary
 - a. Designated as Chief Scientist for USDA and representative of all research, education, and extension components of the USDA
 - b. Road Map
4. REE Budget Submission
 - a. Defines FY 2006 as "Critical Base Funding" year for capacity/infrastructure and competitive programs
5. New Targeted Funding (all competitive through NIFA)
 - a. Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative
 - b. Specialty Crops Research and Extension
 - c. Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
 - d. Biomass R&D (in Energy Title)
6. AASCARR Authorization
 - a. "Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Capacity Building Grants" are authorized for such sums as necessary
7. New Authorizations for Targeted Efforts
 - a. Agriculture Bio-energy Feedstock and Energy Efficiency Research and Extension Initiative

An Implementation Committee has been named and the members will be available as a resource for the Department of Agriculture to use as the structural changes are made.

Annual Achievement Award: Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman - Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman Associate Director of the UF/IFAS IPM Florida program received the Florida Entomological Society 2008 Annual Achievement Award for Extension. The award was presented July 15th at the 91st Annual meeting of the Florida Entomological Society in Jupiter Beach, FL.

Get Your IFAS Gear at EPAF - The IFAS Extension Bookstore is bringing Extension logo merchandise to EPAF. Be sure to look in your registration packet for "Jimmy and Larry Bucks" good for \$5 off, and also a coupon for a free gift from the bookstore staff.

Florida Association of Counties - Many thanks to the following people for their contribution to a very successful Extension booth at the annual conference of the Florida Association of Counties in Miami.

Core Team for Set-up and Break down: Doug Mayo, Mike Sweat, Teresa Olczyk & Liz Felter

Elena Toro & Brian Estevez- Hundreds Acorn squash, picked, washed and packed

Bill Schall - 200 Honey bear containers

Ron Rice - 120 bags of Rice

Gene McAvoy/ Lindsey Wiggins- Cases and cases of Everglades Seasoning, Gator Hammock Sauce, Rice, Sugar and additional raffle basket

Liz Felter -Over 200 pots Assorted Foliage

Teresa Olczyk - 100 Bromeliads & orchids and tropical fruits

Mary Lambert - Oriental Vegetables

Jason Osborne - Tropical Fruits

Henry Grant - Large smoked ham

Doug Mayo - 6 cases of Peanut packs

John Alleyne - 100 packs of Caladium bulbs

Brad Burbaugh - 2 cases loose caladium bulbs

Charles Brasher - Goat sausage

Escambia County - 1 case of jelly

Raffle baskets from FANREP by Alyssa Dodd, ESP & FEAFCS by Mary Sue Kennington, 4-H by Tracy Tesdale & Hendry County Extension for a total of 10 baskets.

Volunteer agents - Doug Mayo, Teresa Olczyk, Mike Sweat, Liz Felter, Pat Hogue, Chris Miller, Alyssa Dodd, Maisie Ross, Bill Schall, Monica Dawkins, Henry Mayer, Ralph Mitchell

Mark Your Calendar June 23-25, 2009 - Marco Island Marriott

Extension Leads Strategic Forest Conservation Program to Support Regional Sustainability in the Tampa Metropolitan Region - Collaborative working arrangements with the University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of South Florida and Hillsborough County Extension, along with support from the US Forest Service and the FL Division of Forestry, have led to the incorporation of urban forest sustainability language into the *City of Tampa's 2008 Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. As the City of Tampa has grown, large areas of the region's extensive forest land have been intermixed with urban development. Managing growth while protecting the environmental values inherent in the forest has become a challenge for local and county governments. Extension, in cooperation with various federal, state and local partners conducted a baseline inventory and analysis of the present condition and environmental value (public health, carbon sequestration, water quality, aquifer recharge, etc.) of this newly emerging urbanized forest. The outcomes from this investigation were presented to the City Council and to the general

public through a symposium hosted by Mayor Pam Iorio. The collaborative team is now guiding City leaders through a strategic planning process that will incorporate public consensus issues into a programmatic and policy approach to urban forest management that supports comprehensive urban sustainability goals. This process of bringing science and technology to bear on pressing forest land use and environmental issues is being seen as a model for other metropolitan areas in the state and southeastern region of the United States. [Contact: Rob Northrop]

Tune up those lawn sprinklers to cut water waste - Manatee County homeowners and small businesses, like those in many other areas, often adopt the lawn sprinkler system management style; "if everything is wet it must be working". But with the increasing watering restrictions, the rising cost of water, tighter budgets, and outdoor water use accounting for about 50% of residential usage, lawn sprinkler systems are getting a closer look for water and cost savings. Most homeowners have little understanding of their systems but some will improve their practices if help is offered in an easily understood, user-friendly way. Manatee County Extension Service, with the help of a Community Education grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, developed and distributed 600 lawn sprinkler tune up kits to educate and empower residents to cut their irrigation water waste. The kit idea was not original with Manatee County Extension, but new kits with simple four-step instructions and colorful illustrations made a handy, do-it-yourself project. Ten sprinkler calibration gauges were included to provide a way to find the correct watering times for each irrigation zone, often a big opportunity for saving water and improving lawn health. Later, the agent conducted an informal water meter follow-up study of 293 (49%) of the participants and found an average reduction in water use of 4,533 gallons a year for each participant surveyed. This resulted in an average utility bill saving of about \$24 yearly for each participant. The program is estimated to annually save the participants 2.7 million gallons of water costing \$14,400. [Contact: Jack Tichenor]

Changing Irrigation Practices and Re-landscaping Saves Dunedin Condo \$\$ - Royal Stewart Arms, a condominium complex near the entrance of Honeymoon Island State Park on the Gulf of Mexico, uses potable water for irrigation. Their landscape committee worked with the FYN Association Outreach Coordinator for UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension, to re-landscape common areas into Florida-friendly landscapes and to improve irrigation practices. The newly-landscaped areas have micro-irrigation that is turned on manually by the landscaping committee members when needed to properly establish new plantings or irrigate when necessary. The board of directors, landscape committee and property manager were educated by Pinellas FYN about dormancy of plants and reduced water needs during the winter along with how to observe the first signs of drought stress on turf and plants and then irrigate accordingly. The association tested the limits by going without any irrigation during the dormant winter season between October 2007 and March 2008 for the common areas of the master association. The water savings are documented and impressive. They used 2,279,000 gallons of potable water for irrigation between October 2006 and March 2007 for a cost of \$10,678.00. Between October 2007 and March 2008, they used only 502,000 gallons for a cost of \$2,443.00. The

Association's savings for the six month period was 1,777,000 gallons of potable water and \$8,235.00. Now, Pinellas FYN is working with the individual building associations to foster the spread of these impressive savings to their landscapes. [Contact: Doris Heitzmann]

Eat Better, Move More - Pinellas County Extension in collaboration with the CARES Health and Wellness Program offered a 12-week program entitled "Eat Better, Move More." The curriculum developed by Florida International University teaches older adults how to eat healthier, exercise safely, stay motivated and develop a physical activity plan. The overall goals of the program were to help participants maintain their health and independence, increase their intake of fruits, vegetables, fiber and calcium, and to eat sensible portions. A total of 18 seniors completed the program. Using step counters and tracking daily progress, participants reported an average increase of 1,000 to 2,000 steps daily (2,000 steps equals 1 mile). Fifteen of the 18 participants reported an increase in their daily intake of fruits and vegetables, and 13 indicated they were eating more fiber-rich foods. According to North Carolina State University, the cost estimate for inactivity is \$1,412 per inactive person per year (Source: *Identifying Economic Value*, P. 9, North Carolina State University Extension Publication, 2005). Using the 18 people who reported increasing their physical activity, the total cost savings for this program would be \$25,416 (not accounting for our costs to offer the program). [Contact: Nan Jensen]

Livestock Producers Reclaim Pastureland with Help of TSA Beetle - In 1993, it was estimated that Tropical Soda Apple (TSA), a highly invasive noxious weed from South America, had invaded nearly 9,000 acres of pastureland in Polk County with an annual economic loss in livestock production of more than \$585,000. Cooperatively, IFAS Extension, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, and the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services have identified and are educating livestock producers on means of controlling the invasive weed that include biological control. Since 2003 there have been six releases of a natural pest to the weed, the Tropical Soda Apple Beetle, *Gratiana boliviana*, in Polk County. Since the first releases, the beetles have multiplied and are expanding their territory. Of the Polk County cattle ranchers that have identified the beetles on their operation, they estimate a reduction in the weed of between 30 and 70 percent. Today, the annual economic return in livestock production attributed to the reclamation of pastureland from TSA infestations in Polk County is estimated at nearly \$200,000. It is expected that as the beetles further expand their territory, this value will continue to increase. [Contact: Bridget Carlisle, Bill Overholt]

The Impact on Water Quality of a Community's Florida-Friendly Initiative- On Earth Day 2008, Calusa Lakes in Nokomis, a deed-restricted 460-acre community association with 575 homes, inaugurated the Florida-friendly and Native Plant Demonstration Garden. Nineteen volunteers planted 500 plants of eleven varieties in the new garden and micro-irrigation was installed to help get the plants established. The purpose of the garden is to educate residents about how Florida-friendly principles and micro-irrigation can be utilized in their

community, and also serves as an example for other communities. Results of studies suggest that the behavioral changes implemented by homeowners as a result of the Florida-friendly Landscaping program can have a significant impact on water quality (FLDEP 2006 FYN Report). In addition, observed water savings of community associations that have implemented Florida-friendly landscape principles in Sarasota County are approximately 390,000 gallons per acre. Potential future water savings of this association (460 x 390,000 gallon/acre): 179,400,000 gallons annually. [Contact: Annemarie Post]

New Faculty - Please welcome the following new faculty:

Donna (Nichelle) Demorest, Commercial Hort. Ext. Agent II, Columbia County, 7/11/2008

Monica Bonsett, Family & Consumer Science Extension Agent I, Citrus County, 7/14/2008

Leslie Baucum, Ag Crops M/C Extension Agent II, Hendry County, 7/21/2008

Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Extension Agent I, Baker County, 7/22/2008

Lynn Barber, FYN Courtesy Extension Agent I, Hillsborough County, 8/4/2008

Xiomara Diaz, 4-H Courtesy Extension Agent I, Marion County, 8/18/2008

Resignations - We want to wish the following faculty the best of luck in their endeavors:

Alyssa Dodd, Ag/Nat. Resource Extension Agent II, Palm Beach County, 7/18/2008

Retirement - After many years of service and dedication Roger Elliott (Escambia 4-H/Livestock/Nat. Resources Extension Agent II) and Dr. John Baldwin (Northeast District Extension Director) have retired. We want to thank them for all of their contributions to UF/IFAS Extension.

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 Liz Perez at lizann@ufl.edu.