

EXTENSION

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

Florida Saves Week

Dr. Millie Ferrer-Chancy, Interim Dean for Extension and Dr. Michael Gutter, Assistant Professor, Department of Family, Youth and Consumer Science recently met with Governor Rick Scott and Cabinet in recognition of Florida Saves Week. Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater presented the resolution to Dean Ferrer-Chancy. The Florida Department of Financial Services is proud to partner with the University of Florida Extension offices, local America Saves campaigns and the Financial Literacy Council in the Florida Saves program. Consumers interested in learning more about the Florida Saves program should go to <http://www.myfloridamoney.com/FloridaSaves.htm>



Presented from left to right: Governor Rick Scott, Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater, Dr. Millie Ferrer-Chancy, Interim Dean of Extension, IFAS, Dr. Michael Gutter, Family, Youth and Consumer Science, and Mike Miller, State of America Florida President

2010 Superior Accomplishment Awards

Congratulations to all the 2011 UF/IFAS Superior Accomplishment Award winners! A special shout-out to Seminole County Extension Director Barbara Hughes and Northeast District IT Expert Ben Beach.



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Fresh Florida Seafood for Lunch without Leaving Your Office

Concerns about product safety and increasing local food movements are compelling people to learn more about where their food comes from how it is produced; this concern is particularly true for seafood. Informed consumers who understand the importance of ecosystem health and sustainable harvesting practices, who appreciate the health benefits of seafood, and who understand how seafood is inspected and tested to assure safety can contribute to the long-term health and sustainability of Florida's seafood industry. To meet these needs, the Florida Sea Grant Extension Agents from Collier, Miami-Dade and formerly Bay County have developed The Florida Seafood Sustainability and Safety Brown Bag Webinar Series to educate seafood consumers about Florida's commercial seafood products and help them make more informed decisions about purchasing Florida seafood. The half hour webinars are scheduled once a month during the noon lunch hour so audiences can attend the sessions without leaving their offices or homes. The webinars address the ecology, sustainability, economic importance, as well as purchasing and handling tips associated with specific commercial seafood products. Participants are sent online surveys following each webinar and there will also be an end-of-the-year evaluation. Thus far, more than 80 participants from around the state have registered for the first two sessions, and evaluations indicate the webinars have been a convenient and effective method to learn new information. A schedule of future webinars and recordings of past sessions are available at:

http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/environment/sea_grant_seafood.shtml

[Contact: [Bryan Fluech](#)]

City residents signing up for 'Chicken 101'

Backyard chicken advocates who encouraged Sarasota politicians to legalize egg-layers in the city are reportedly lining up for a course called "Chickens 101," being offered by the Sarasota Extension Office. More than 30 people attended an initial 4-hour class in early January, and at least that many are anticipated to register for an April 2 session that will be conducted on a local farm. Since the city adopted an ordinance that allows chickens Extension has been contacted frequently about the fowl. The 4-hour classes will address local laws and resources, the benefits of chickens, breeds, housing, feeding, health, security, and how to get started. A chicken tractor is on display this week at the Sarasota County Fair similar to what the city requires. Sarasota approved a 3-year pilot project that allows up to four hens in the back yards of single-family homes, so long as the residents aren't in deed-restricted neighborhoods. No roosters are allowed. A sustainable living advocacy group known as CLUCK lobbied for city chickens, contending that a national movement towards homegrown food production could work in Sarasota, and it encouraged residents to suspend their preconceived notions about chicken nuisance issues. Sarasota Extension provides local ag education and hence Chickens 101! [Contact: [Robert Kluson](#)]

Reaching Spanish-speaking Parents

The task of reaching Spanish-speaking-only families with parenting education has many barriers, yet this target audience often desperately needs information on raising children in today's world. The high number of migrant families, specifically in eastern Hillsborough County, need guidance about the U.S. laws that govern parent behavior, discipline and corporal punishment of children. Hillsborough County Extension has partnered with several schools to increase the educational contacts among Spanish-only speaking parents. Burney Elementary and Cork Elementary School in Plant City and Bailey Elementary School in Dover assist the agent in reaching these typically hard-to-reach audiences. The PowerPoint, handouts and evaluations are sent to the

school 30 days in advance of the workshops so they can be translated into Spanish. At two of the schools, Spanish-speaking parents attend the workshop in one location while the English-speaking parents attend the workshop in another. At one Plant City school newer technology is used. The Spanish-speaking parents are given a headset and they listen to a translator, who is standing in the back of the room during the workshop. This arrangement allows for questions and discussions. Topics have included *Discipline for School-age Children, Helping Your Child Succeed in School, Building Your Resiliency to Stress, Helping Children Cope with Stress and Test Anxiety, Strong Families/Happy Children, and Raising a Responsible, Independent Child*. Parent turn-out and participation are high and evaluations show that parents are very grateful to have the information in Spanish so they can read and understand it. Workshops for the 2011/2012 school year are already being scheduled. (Contact: [Diana Converse](#))

Financial Management Webinars

In the fall of 2010, Hillsborough County Extension started offering personal financial management classes via webinar for the county's residents. The webinar featured a presentation and interactive discussion about topics such as managing money in tough economic times, building a credit history, and behavior strategies to reach financial goals. This spring Hillsborough County Extension began partnering with a team of Family & Consumer Sciences faculty that includes a UF/IFAS Extension Finance Specialist and Extension Agents from Okaloosa & Lake County to extend the webinar offerings to residents throughout the state of Florida. To date, nine webinars have been held and 91 people have attended. Attendees have been very enthusiastic and many have listed action steps they plan to take as a result of the webinars. Here are samples of those action steps: "I plan to continue to build a safety fund."; "As an educator, I plan to model future workshops after this one"; "The webinar was great. The pace of it all was comprehensible and it increased personal motivation to change."; "I love the lunchtime series of webinars. Very convenient!" and "I am going to really buckle down and re-evaluate my finances and stick to my budget." [Contact: [Lisa Leslie](#)]

Buddy Up Makes BMP Training More Effective

Horticulture agents from six counties have teamed up to teach green industry professionals about Best Management Practices. As green industry professionals must become certified before January 2014, tens of thousands are attending a day-long training that includes five hour-long modules with accompanying PowerPoints making for a long day. To make the course more interesting to participants and more manageable for the agent, horticulture agents in Pasco, Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, Pinellas, and Hillsborough counties co-teach these modules. With five different trainers, participants benefit from a "fresh" instructor for each segment, agents learn new ways to engage the audience from their colleagues, and the host county benefits from many qualified trainers. Program participants report increased satisfaction in learning from a variety of instructors and teaching styles. The team approach benefits all involved. [Contact: [BJ Jarvis](#), Pasco]

New Faculty

In March, we welcomed one new faculty member and we would also like to welcome Bridgete McKenna into her new position:

Patricia Roland (troland@ufl.edu), 4-H/Youth Development Courtesy EA I, Collier County, 3/7/2011

Bridgete McKenna, 4-H/Youth Dev/FCS EA I, Seminole County, 3/18/2011
