

Extension Update

SHARON FOX GAMBLE
UF/IFAS
INTERIM COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR
VOLUSIA COUNTY

Land Grant University System – Morrill Act 1862

- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Extension
 - ▶ Cooperative agreement between USDA, UF/IFAS and Counties
 - ▶ Mission to extend the university system
 - ▶ We are educators.

How many of you use your Extension Service?

- ▶ How many of you know your Extension Agents?
- ▶ How many of you participate on their advisory committees?

Disconnect?

- ▶ I see education all over documents about prescribed fire!
 - ▶ Rarely do they WHO!
- ▶ I think we do a really good job of talking among ourselves (the fire community)
- ▶ There is growing interest to the Extension network more in the Fire Topic.

<https://fireecology.org/2017-Videos>



National Conversation in Extension

- ▶ Wildfire vs. Prescribed Fire
 - ▶ Fire belongs to no one, organization, it is an over looked natural phenomena
- ▶ South Eastern Regional Conversation
 - ▶ Deans, Program Leaders from 13 Land Grant Universities
- ▶ Potentially developing capacity within our organization to train Extension Agents to "talk the talk"
- ▶ Master Gardener Module

Landowners

- ▶ Cattlemen are key!
 - ▶ I believe that if we want to get more fire on the ground, we need to work more closely with our cattlemen.
- ▶ Florida Cattlemen's Association is a fantastic organization!
 - ▶ FCA Convention – Environmental Committee
 - ▶ Barriers – Liability

Extension is trying to define our role

- ▶ We are seeking input from the fire community on how we might aid in the education process.
- ▶ Collaborations!