

Northeast News

A District Newsletter

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Feature Story

Short Visit by Extension Faculty Yields Long-term Change: Improving egg quality by changing Guinea fowl rations in Northern Ghana

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The US Agriculture Cooperative Development International/Volunteer Overseas Cooperative Association (ACDI/VOCA) invited me in June 2011 to carry out an assignment on formulation feeds in Tamale, Northern Ghana, Africa. Tamale is located two hundred and seventy (270) miles from the capital city, Accra. Upon arrival in Ghana, I began to focus on my 2-week assignment because time was not on my side.

During my stay I met some very hospitable people with an interesting culture, and could not help notice their love and passion for soccer. Meeting many volunteers from other countries made my stay pleasant. Tamale appeared to me as the volunteer capital of the world.

The host of this assignment was Alhassan Farm which has been in existence for the past five years and produces



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ALACHUA, BAKER, BRADFORD, CITRUS, CLAY, COLUMBIA, DIXIE, DUVAL, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, LAFAYETTE, LEVY, MADISON, NASSAU, SUWANNEE, TAYLOR, AND UNION COUNTIES

From the District Director



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How did we get to the Extension Faculty Summit and what to expect next

We have been involved in planning the next 10 years of Florida Extension for about a year now. As a quick reminder, the process started with (a) the listening sessions that took place in each of the 67 Counties in the Spring of 2011 and on-line; the next step (b) consisted of the reporting sessions, where the CEDs shared what they heard with the Extension Administration Team. Then, came (c) the focus groups and (d) the input from academic departments. All these data were (e) compiled by PDEC, (f) discussed at the first Extension Leadership Team retreat and (g) the writing team began its work. The current version of the “Florida Extension: Shaping solutions for Florida’s future” Long-Range Plan (LRP; dated 2/27/2012) is available at <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/summit2012.shtml> under the “Florida Extension Long Range Plan” tab. I hope you’ll take time to read it.

The essence of the LRP can be found in THREE state issues, FOUR organizational goals and SEVEN high-priority initiatives. The three issues are: **1) People** (Healthy life style; youth engagement, adult and youth leadership, volunteer development, family well-being), **2) Economy and Jobs** (Energy production, small farms and alternative enterprises, bio-energy and bio-based products, youth life skills and workforce development,

Congratulations to Extension Faculty:

“The Land Grant University is a proven model for bringing education to the masses” (*Jack Payne*)

“You, agents and specialists, are the face of Extension” (*Jack Payne*)

“Encourage annual leave and feel good about it!” (*Jack Payne*)

“Do not apologize for the role you play in making UF Extension one of the best in the country” (*Jack Payne*)

Extension workload:

“Our workload limits our ability to think” (*Georgene Bender*)

“We have expectations with no budget” (*Anonymous*)

“There should be another side to your life than your inbox” (*Jack Payne*)

The Extension Long-range Plan and the Future:

“We are agents of change, yet we are resistant to change ourselves” (*Al Wysocki*)

“IFAS suffers from institutional inertia” (*Anonymous*)

“It is time that Extension adopts a different model for urban counties” (*Anonymous*)

“In order to break silos, FYCS will now be “Family, Youth and Cow Sciences” (*Anonymous; just kidding!*)

“We need more infrastructures to do more income-producing programs” (*Tracy Irani*)

“As a new initiative, Florida should integrate agriculture into FCAT” (*John Capinera*)

food production, safety and security, community development and growth management, sustainable agriculture and horticulture, farm labor, technology use), and **3) Florida’s Environment** (Water quality and quantity, energy

“Extension should add sustainability as a core value in the LRP – as the first item” (*Bruce Delaney*)

“The future of IFAS and Extension is to collaborate with the medical, dental, and law schools” (*Jack Payne*)

“This list is a bunch of life skills mixed with several disciplines”. (*Anonymous*)

“We are concerned that we will end up with what we had before: the design teams” (*Anonymous*)

“We should evaluate past planning processes before we start the next” (*Dale McPhearson*)

“We have the science over the emotion” (*John Arthington*)

Marketing Extension:

“Measure what matters” (*Al Wysocki*)

“Use the 5B’s as often as possible: be brief, brother, be brief” (*Mark Hostetler*)

“Until recently, we’ve had a band aid approach to marketing” (*Anonymous*)

“Our niche for survival is to not duplicate services” (*Barbara Hughes*)

“People today are getting their information through their cell phones” (*Jack Payne*)

“Keeping awareness everywhere will keep Extension alive” (*Jennifer Gillette-Kauffman*)

“We need to be up there in social media” (*Jack Payne*)

conservation and efficiency, natural resource management, sustainable landscape management, coastal and marine environment, climate variability, land use, pest/disease/invasive management, urban/rural interface).

The four organizational goals are: **Goal 1.** Identify and develop high-priority initiatives that address Florida's economic, social and environmental issues; **Goal 2.** Maximize organizational efficiency and effectiveness; **Goal 3.** Invest in Florida's Extension human capital, and **Goal 4.** Increase the visibility and measure the impact of Extension.

And, the seven high-priority initiatives (HPI) are: **HPI 1.** Increase the sustainability and competitiveness of agricultural and horticultural enterprises; **HPI 2.** Enhancing and protecting water quality, quantity and supply; **HPI 3.** Enhancing and conserving Florida's natural resources and environmental

quality; **HPI 4.** Producing and conserving traditional and alternative forms of energy; **HPI 5.** Empowering individuals and families to build healthy lives and achieve social and economic success; **HPI 6.** Supporting urban and rural community resources and economic development; and, **HPI 7.** Preparing youth to be responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce.

The most recent step in the LRP process was (g) the Extension Faculty Summit. State and county specialists discussed and strategized how to translate the broad ideas of the LRP plan into coordinated state and county programs. Hence, it is now time to start thinking which

County programs need to be offered, and where they fit in the new plan. It is also time to assess what is "new" and what is "same old, same old."

The Summit was the occasion to witness the creativity, knowledge and engagement of all those who attended. It was, for me, a comforting and intellectually uplifting experience. Not all of the Summit outcomes have been finalized, but included (page 2) are some thought-challenging quotes from the Summit. Take them seriously – some of them are far reaching. At times, the identity of the innocent had to be protected. Quotes are grouped by topic to make your reading easier. Enjoy and share your reactions!

Quiz Question

By **Nichelle Demorest**
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Last issue question: Who first introduced cattle to Florida?

Answer: A – Ponce De Leon

There are several acceptable ADA statements which may be used on printed Extension materials.

Which of the following statements is preferred by our Dean of Extension at this time for publications, newsletters, newspaper articles, and brochures?

- A)** "The Foundation for the Gator Nation An Equal Opportunity Institution"
- B)** "The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating."
- C)** "The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating."
- D)** "Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations should contact the Extension Office at least 10 working days prior to the event so that special consideration can be given to the request."

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guinea fowls as well as hatching eggs. The guinea fowl is a ground nesting bird that lays about eight (8) to fifteen (15) eggs which hatch after an incubation period of one month. The birds are native to Africa, but have been introduced to other parts of the world including the United States of America. The farm has a hatchery and a brooding house that produces day old chicks (called "keets") which are for sale. One of the greatest limitations to the poultry industry in Northern Ghana is the scarcity of good feed. Feed constitutes about seventy percent (70) of the cost of producing poultry. Based on careful studies, Alhassan Farm decided that it was necessary to add a feed production line to its operation to help reduce the cost of production for guinea fowl, and also to enhance feed production within the poultry industry. The farm has purchased most of the feed milling equipment. This would be the first feed mill to be in operation in the northern part of Ghana. However, the farm was challenged with the lack of knowledge and experience in the feed formulation. Technical support was therefore urgently needed to help kick start this operation and to strengthen poultry and livestock production as well

as adding value to the grain and oil seed industry in the area. This is when the Extension agent from Florida arrived.....

My first day on the farm was spent observing the production system with close attention to the feed formulation equipment, and the feed produced. The host told me that he is concerned that the shells of the eggs tend to break easily. The results of a recent feed analysis performed in Quebec, Canada indicated that the level of calcium in the ration was about one percent (1%). This is much below the typical 4% calcium required in the feed of laying birds. It became clear to me that the breaking of the shells was caused by low levels of calcium in the birds rations. The following day I taught him and one of his family members to formulate guinea rations using Microsoft Excel. We agreed to increase the level of calcium in the ration to the 4% required level, and to feed the birds with the new formulation. Within one week, the breaking of the eggs was greatly reduced. The owner also shared with me that he observed an increase in the egg production by about ten percent (10%). He was happy!

Equipped with a feed mixer, extruder and a pelleting machine with a steam conditioner, the Al Hassan farm's manager now planned to make feeds for other commodities so as to reduce his investment risks. He requested my assistance to develop feed formulations for other animal enterprises, such as guinea birds, poultry and feed concentrate for cattle, and even asked me to formulate two rations for fish although he does have the equipment to make floating fish feeds yet. I provided hands-on training on formulating these rations. A report was prepared for ACIDI/VOCA and a presentation on the outcome of the assignment was made to the regional staff in Tamale and to the country staff in the capital city of Accra. They were impressed!

Before leaving the area, I was able to travel with the host to Bolgatanga located about 100 miles north of Tamale where most of the feed ingredients are produced. We met the Secretary of Guineas Fowl Farmers' Association, Upper East Region. He noted that the main production concerns are worm infestations which often lead to high mortality among baby guinea birds and



Guinea fowls, Al Hassan's Farm, Tamale, Ghana



Hands-on training on formulating rations for guinea fowls, Al Hassan's Farm, Tamale, Ghana

the availability of quality feeds. A Swiss Non-Governmental Agency was working on the mortality problem when I arrived. The association believes that improvement in feeding and controlling worm infestation in the industry can have a very great impact in reducing poverty in the region because almost every farm raises some guinea birds.

I learn a lot through experiences like this one. Yes, I use the same old reliable Extension method: listen to people's real problems, gather data, make a science-base recommendation, and help implement it. In addition, I gained a broader perspective on what problems arise when the "basics" we have at home in the US (stable electricity, good roads,

reliable transportation, technical suppliers, etc) are not available. I also realized that many times, the simplest solutions are the ones that work best and the ones that growers can implement quickly. Every Extension agent in the NE District should participate at least once in such an international experience!

District Life

The Alachua County Master Gardeners Help Improve the Lives of Veterans

By **Aparna Gazula**, and **Wendy Wilber**
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Recently, some of the extension agents in the Northeast District had the opportunity to visit the Gainesville Veteran Affairs (VA) Domiciliary and view the Honor Center Gardens as part of a training session on horticulture therapy. The

Gainesville VA Domiciliary, created in 2009, provides shelter and services to 40 homeless veterans of both genders. Recreational, outdoor space is very limited and when materials for raised beds were donated, the therapeutic garden was launched. VA staff member Alee Karpf, HTR, MS, CTRS, a retired master gardener, enlisted the expertise of Alachua County Master Gardener/horticultural therapist/landscape architect, Leah Diehl and Extension Agent Wendy Wilber, and discussions began for creating a healing/enabling garden to support the programs and services available to the Gainesville "Dom" residents.

Master Gardeners Leah Diehl, Bobby Hammer, Greg Mullaley, Greg McGann, and Fred Fey involved. This multi-year project has accomplished the majority of its master plan during the last twelve months due to the efforts of Master Gardener volunteers who raised funds for cement sidewalks and hardscaping, planted trees and shrubs, and now work with the vets on a regular basis to provide hands-on horticultural training.

The creation of the Honor Center Gardens has improved the lives of homeless and transitional veterans by creating a healthy green space for both active and passive interaction with nature. The three component parts of the garden – café garden, kitchen garden, and sanctuary garden – provide a continuum of experiences which enrich veterans' lives physically, emotionally, and psychologically. The Honor Center Gardens have become a platform for expanded life skills programming for recreation, nutrition, and therapeutic horticulture while also improving the physical facilities at the Gainesville VA Domiciliary. This therapeutic landscape would not exist had it not been for Alachua County Master Gardener efforts, and after two years of community support the Honor Gardens were officially opened this year on April 24th.



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Because of the magnitude of the project, planning and implementation have occurred over a three year period. Prior to November 2010, Leah Diehl designed the master plan for the outdoor space. Implementation and construction of the Honor Center Gardens began in earnest in fall of 2010 with

Success Stories

Boy Goes Above and Beyond with His Pig

By **Christopher Decubellis**
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The 4-H Targeting Life Skills model is a fantastic way to conceptualize the learned abilities and competencies young people gain through successfully completing 4-H projects (Hendricks, P. 1998). Using one's Head, Heart, Hands, and Health to 'learn by doing', often-times a young person can accomplish some amazing things in 4-H. One young man in Gilchrist County recently did something amazing as he demonstrated how he cares for his fellow human being. Chandler Beach is a ten-year-old member of the Buckaroos 4-H Club in Trenton. Chandler has been in 4-H since he was a Cloverbud, but this year he raised his first hog project to compete

in the Suwannee River Youth Fair. Chandler's hog "Buckshot" won a blue ribbon in the fair...but the real story is what Chandler decided to do with any money he made from his pig.

Chandler had read in *The Gilchrist County Journal* about a young man he had never met named Corbin Wiggins. Corbin was a star athlete at Trenton High but his athletic career was cut short after doctors diagnosed Corbin with at least four different types of cancer. After praying about it, Chandler decided to donate all the money from his pig to Corbin. According to Chandler, "I just got to thinking that I wanted to do something for him (Corbin), so I prayed and asked God if I should and He told me to do it."

When Chandler's hog came through the sale, one of the volunteers at the fair made the auctioneer aware of

Chandler's intentions. The crowd of buyers responded in a huge way, and with people from three counties pooling their resources Chandler's hog brought a Suwannee River Youth Fair record price of \$105.32 per pound for the 255 pound swine. That translated into a donation of almost \$27,000.00 for Corbin Wiggins.

In the Targeting Life Skills model, Caring is demonstrated as concern for others, empathy, sharing, and nurturing relationships. What Chandler Beach did for a teenager he had never met is the embodiment of these skills. Chandler and Corbin are now close friends and Chandler wants Corbin and his family to do something fun with the money. As a 4-H youth development agent it is fantastic to work with such incredible young people and watch them blossom into productive members of society who are determined to "make the best better".

Teaching Tips



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Speak their Language with Cell Phones

The push to use technology in society remains constant. According to the U.S. Department of Education (2003), learners can absorb and manipulate information through richer experiences using various forms of technology. However,

the ability for programs to obtain new technology is low; economic difficulties and budget cuts have limited the funding available for technology purchases and training. Programs can benefit from the acknowledgment and use of free technology opportunities brought to the learning environment by the learner.

In a study conducted in 2010, Pew Research Center reported that 85% of Americans own a cell phone. This percentage increases to 96% when examining adults ages 18 to 29. When utilized appropriately, cell phones brought to a learning environment by learners can enable program specialists to increase

the engagement of learners without having to spend funds on technology purchases. How Can Cell Phones Enhance My Program?

- 1. Learner Engagement.** Learners use their cell phones for numerous reasons, including instant information and accessibility and to combat boredom. Many of these uses can challenge a program; the learner distracted by a cell phone is disengaged from the program experiences. Alternately, cell phones can be used to increase the engagement by asking

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Roaming **Interview** Section

By **Larry Figart**
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This edition's roaming interview is contributed by Dr. Joan Bradshaw the County Extension Director of Citrus County. As you know Citrus County was

just added to our district. We thought it would be fitting to get to know one of our new district co-workers.

Where are you from/where did you grow up? Canada: Hamilton, Ontario Canada- I am still a Canadian Citizen.

How and when did you decide you wanted to be an Extension agent?
 I taught horticulture for about five years

and was looking for an unstructured educational environment- Extension fit the bill.

What are your hobbies? Outdoor activities: kayaking, camping, bicycling, hiking, camping, skiing, snorkeling, gardening.

State something about yourself that most people don't know about you. I have two vintage English sports cars (1975 Triumph spitfire and 1979 TR7) that I enjoy taking out for a spin on Sundays.

If you won the lottery tomorrow, what would you do/how would you spend your time? Travel, travel, travel and more travel! I would also support the Nature Conservancy and Heifer International.

Where did you go on your last vacation? Camping and hiking on Vancouver Island, British Columbia Canada

What was the last book you read? Historical novels that take place in England.

What is the weirdest question you had to answer as an extension agent? There have been so many.....

Do you play a musical instrument?
 No, I can't carry or play a note.

What is the most exciting place you have ever visited? I have visited several exciting places St Petersburg, Russia, tundra area of Norway (Oslo to Bergen train), Great Barrier Reef and outback of Australia.

Information **Technologies**



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Could technology be the answer to greater collaboration?

At the first Northeast District Family and Consumer Science working group meeting the question was posed: Is there a secured private spot for agents to share not only documents, but ideas, and program materials such as fact sheets, PowerPoint

presentations, and displays? Well, there IS a creative way for agents to share our creative works, chat back and forth on discussion boards, even help edit grants and documents, and it's all in ONE spot. The site compiles the technology used on Facebook, YouTube, Wiki, Google Doc's, Blogs and many more sites. But the software is not new to IFAS. In fact, each one of us already used this technology to upload our annual ROA/POW for review. That's right, the technology is SharePoint!

Currently, IFAS uses the 2007 version of SharePoint, but an upgrade to the system is underway which also includes some cosmetic changes. The 2010 version allows users to blog, comment, and even uploads

videos that can be viewed on the site itself. The new interface will be managed by the University, and the IFAS Information Technology Department (IFAS IT) will be developing templates for the diverse needs of Extension. Among these templates will be a much needed networking page for agents.

A recent survey conducted by the Northeast District Technology Committee is being used to determine technological needs and current practices within the district. The results of this survey will be shared with the IFAS IT Department to facilitate training on the SharePoint Collaboration tool. The goal, of course, is to better serve Extension Agents and our clientele.

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learners to contribute to the learning experience through their technology. For example, <http://polleverywhere.com> is a free website that enables learners to text responses to open-ended or multiple-choice questions asked by the program specialist. Learners' responses can be viewed in live time, enabling the entire group to provide their answers, as well as see how their answers differ from others.

2. Different Information Formats. Most information supplied to learners is through the written word. However,

many learners gain more from experiences involving listening or watching. The camera and recording capabilities of many cell phones can be used to help learners capture examples.

3. Finding Information. Learners that have access to the internet on their cell phones can look up almost anything. However, the internet isn't the only way to look up answers using cell phones. By calling or texting ChaCha (242242), learners can get any question answered by paid guides that scour the internet for accurate

answers. Be cautious of the age groups you use with this service; text advertisements for a variety of websites are attached to guides' responses.

These three methods are only a sample of the benefits a program can see through the use of cell phones. A quick internet search can reveal a host of ideas and activities to incorporate cell phones into learning experiences. By acknowledging that learners are happy to use their own cell phones, programs can enhance their technology usage without shelling out additional funds.

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