

Northeast News

A District Newsletter

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Feature Story



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NAE4-HA 2012: What a Week!

Back in 2007, the Florida Association of 4-H Agents agreed to host the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference in October 2012. We were excited about the adventure and ready to host an amazing week for 1200 of our colleagues, but we had no idea what that actually meant. Five years later we tackled that event and lived to tell the tale. What an amazing experience!

The whirlwind week began at Epcot, where agents from all parts of the country converged on Orlando ready for a week of networking and fun. The weather was perfect and even our new Dean joined us to kick off a great week. Monday morning was our

official opening ceremony. A local ROTC unit presented colors and UF/IFAS administrators helped welcome us. The Keynote speaker, Scott Burrows, inspired us and set the tone for a great week. A day of seminars and poster sessions was followed by State's Night Out. With two days under our belts, Florida celebrated with pizza and had State's Night In! More than 80 agents piled into my suite and enjoyed a few moments of putting our feet up!

Tuesday tours went very well. All tours were sold out and we had Agents from Brahma Island to NASA, and at every park in Orlando. Agents were so excited to explore Florida! Wednesday's Taste of Florida was hosted around the



Sherrie Kraeft providing samples of Florida Honey during taste of Florida.

February – April 2013

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

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pool. Participants got to taste Swamp Cabbage and Gator Tail as well as see local exhibitions, artists, and crafts. Chris Decubellis and his talented 4-H'ers entertained everyone all evening long.

Our final day started with amazing speaker Patrick Grady, a local Floridian

who gave a great southern-style cap note. Our final event was the DSA banquet, and Florida banquet chairs Yolanda Goode and Julie Dillard hosted an amazing and fitting celebration for all our award winners. Immediately following the banquet our Florida crew began *their* celebration! We are so proud to have

hosted a great conference and even happier it is over! Thank you to all of our Extension colleagues for rolling up your sleeves and pitching in to help. We could not have done it without you!



Our Awards Banquet Chairs, Yolanda Goode and Julie Dillard celebrating their success with an amazing closing Banquet.



Brian Estevez leading the group during the Awards Banquet

From the District Director



Eric Simonne

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My New Year Resolution: Eat my Vegetables, Play Nicely and Exercise!

Happy New Year to everyone in the Northeast Extension District and welcome to 2013! It is hard to believe that another year has gone by. It is even harder for me to realize that I have had the honor and pleasure to serve as your DED for four years! Lots of things have

happened since I joined the district. Lots of things I have learned. Here are a few – randomly.

- The Northeast Extension District faculty is amazing – collectively and individually. We are all faculty members of the University of Florida: we are experts in our fields, have a strong creative power, and make a difference in the life of Floridians. Keep up the good work!
- The pillars of Extension success can be summarized in three words: partnership, relationship and trust. These apply at the faculty level, at the County Extension office level, at the county level

and of course at the state level. Partnership, relationship, and trust are fragile concepts that take a long time to establish and build, and a small event to challenge or lose. We need to continue to work at them every day.

- Leadership and micromanagements are two distinct concepts that get mixed too often. I like to reflect on the advantages of empowering professionals, trusting they will succeed, and expecting accountability.
- I often wish my training in drip irrigation and nutrient management were more useful in understanding the intricacies of the logic model, designing new programs,

navigating UF personnel policies or interacting with our stakeholders. Where can I sign up for the new-DED in-service training?

- Extension completed a twenty-month process of listening and reporting. The Extension Roadmap (as it is now called) will guide Extension programs for the next 10 years. Our clients like what we do, want more and our resources stay the same. We have solutions for your life! Get involved with the meetings of the High Priority Initiatives to better connect your county programs to the state objectives.
- We are lucky to have an upper administration with vision and values. We are lucky to have a new Dean. During the interview, candidate Place outlined his vision of success for Florida Extension:

(a) make the Extension brand a recognized one in today's world, (b) offer well known Extension programming, and (c) be recognized as national leaders. Today, Dean Place has shared his core principals to achieve this vision: (a) Collaboration, (b) Front Door to UF, (c) Marketing and Branding, (d) Scholarship, and (f) Funding. Stay tuned as we embark on the Extension Roadmap. If you could not attend the NE District workshop on Marketing and Branding, ask a colleague who did what he/she learned.

- Extension programs happen every day in the Northeast Extension District – based on clients' needs and thanks to the diligence and vision of Extension faculty. Just to name a few – at the risk of forgetting many: aquaculture and

shellfish, small and large ruminants, horses, urban forestry, new forage varieties, commercial horticulture, environmental horticulture, invasive species, apiculture, water quality, enterprise budgets, information technology, volunteer development, life skills for youth in the areas of STEM, health and leadership, food safety, nutrition, money management, housing, energy, disaster preparedness, and many others.

So where does my New Year Resolution fit into all this? I will try to practice what we teach – in nutrition, leadership, and balancing professional and personal life. What is your New Year resolution?

The next four years are going to be a blast! Until next time, keep up the good spirit!

Success Stories

TCC Work Camp Transitioning to Home Grown

By **Clay Olson**
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To reduce costs, the local corrections facilities decided to begin producing some of their own food, but the sandy, nutrient-deficient soils near the Taylor County coast posed as a huge barrier to their success.

The Taylor County Extension Service's education program for inmates, TCC Farm Program, provided 20 hours of classroom and field instruction in basic plant and soil science and corrected production problems.

To date, 2000 pounds of collard greens, 175 pounds broccoli and cauliflower, and 250 pounds of cabbage have been harvested, amounting to a substantial food savings for the institution.

The re-entry program coordinator at the institution expressed interest in continuing the program, since inmate education is a major tool proven to reduce rates of recidivism.



Six week old cabbage plants (11/15/12); plants donated by Dr. Steve Olson UF/IFAS/NFREC

As the Florida prison population continues to grow (currently 100,000), efficiencies and cost cutting measures at the state level are receiving legislative and governmental attention. UF/IFAS county extension educational programs like this one have the potential to not only reduce food cost, but rates of recidivism as well.

District Life



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Tips for Promotion Packet Success

This year's Permanent Status and Promotion (PS&P) Workshop for the Northeast District is scheduled for Thursday, February 28th from 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Bradford County Courthouse. Whether you are going up for promotion this year or at some point in the future, remember to be kind to your readers (and yourself) and consider following these tips for taking your packets to the next level:

- If it is not on paper, it has not happened. Please devote quality time to your ROA.
- Reflect on what you achieved last year. Contemplate how much progress has been made in the last five years.
- Write thinking that your target audience is "reasonably intelligent, knows nothing about what you do, but believes you are doing a good job." (Hey! That could be your DED!) After all, the packet itself should be a piece of scholarly work, no?!
- Details matter. Nothing irritates a reader more than feeling he/she is spending more time reading the document than it took the author to write it.
- Explain the situation for someone who does not know what you are doing. Situations beginning with "The sky is blue, the grass is green, therefore" are not specific enough.
- The situation needs to introduce all the fundamental concepts involved in your program.
- Don't forget to state the problem clearly. What is the problem anyway? Failing to do usually makes it more difficult to report impacts.
- Identify clearly your target audience – in type and size.
- Develop specific objectives. Untypical target percentages (23%, 61%, or 98.5% for example) that exactly match pre-post test results are suspicious indices of reverse engineering.
- Reflect on how your 2013 programs will fit into the new Extension Plan of Action (referred to as Extension Strategic Plan until recently)
- Present teaching events showing how they contributed to the objectives. If needed, cross-reference publications and creative works.
- Explain what came out of your teachings and activities: that's the outcome!
- Address the "and so what?" question. In other words, how much progress has been made in solving the problem tackled? If it is too late for last year's program, think how impacts can be measured next year and include plans in the POW
- Include a success story that is centered on the target audience (not on IFAS personnel or activities).

How Does the University of Florida Work?



Tim Wilson

2010-2013 NE District
IFAS Faculty Assembly
Representative and
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Represent Your Peers, Your District, Your Issues: Shared Governance in Action

County Agents in the Northeast Extension District have diverse backgrounds. Some of us are horticulturalists, others have a livestock background, some focus on health and nutrition while all of us work to become generalists and know a little bit about a lot of things. The thing that binds us all together is that we are educators and agents of change. Our paths may be different, but our mission is clear; we are here to provide unbiased, scientifically sound educational material – free of

charge, to improve the lives and well-being of the citizens in Florida.

As County Faculty members of The University of Florida, we follow the same policies as departmental faculty. These policies are subject to change and through shared governance, we have a voice. Some of you may have served on the Faculty Senate and elsewhere, but my charge today is to invite you to consider this next "Great" opportunity. My 3-year term as the Northeast Extension

District IFAS Faculty Assembly Representative is set to end in May, and we need someone who is willing to represent us and voice our concerns and issues.

The IFAS Faculty Assembly meets once each month for about two hours. I try to go to campus if possible, but the meetings are available on Polycom. Each Department, Center, and Extension District has a seat at the table at these meetings. IFAS administrators (SR, VP, Executive VP, Deans, Department Heads, Extension Directors, etc.) often attend and interact during these meetings. The Assembly has committees that address tenure/promotion, infrastructure and resources, and curriculum. We have had a variety of discussions, including: salary increase and changes in benefits pay-out, proposed changes in health insurance, posthumous degrees and IFAS budgeting principles. We also

host Dr. Payne's 'State of IFAS' address each year.

Working with the IFAS Faculty Assembly, I have a better understanding of how IFAS and University Administrations operate, how decisions are made, and know that our voice is being heard. I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know faculty from various departments throughout IFAS. This experience has been beneficial to me personally and professionally. IFAS and University policies affect the way we do our jobs, and for me, being able to speak up and let others know the perspective of a county faculty member is reassuring and helps me become better in my role as an educator. I encourage you to consider this opportunity.

If you are interested in representing our peers and serving our District in this

capacity, please contact me (timwilson@ufl.edu) or Dr. Simonne (esimonne@ufl.edu).

The IFAS Constitution (Article III, Section 2, B) says, "Elected members shall serve three-year terms commencing on the first day of classes of the fall semester following their election the previous April."

Our timeline for this cycle is:

- January – March 2013: Solicitation of candidates
- April 1, 2013: List of proposed candidates announced to the district
- April 30, 2013: During the NE District Faculty meeting, nominations from the floor will be considered and a vote will be made
- Fall 2013: The term of the new representative begins

Information Technologies



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Agriculture Applications for Your Smartphone (Android and iPhone)

Do you own a smartphone? Given the latest statistics, you probably do. According to recent data (<http://money.cnn.com/2012/09/20/technology/iphone-5-sales/index.html>), by the end of 2012, 57% of wireless subscribers in the United States will own and use a smartphone and the number is expected to increase to 70% by the end of 2013. There are a lot of applications (apps)

for devices, including news, sports, information and games. If you are in the agriculture community, you might be wondering if there are apps out there for your smartphone. The answer is YES. Below are four agriculture apps that I have found handy in different situations.

SoilWeb: SoilWeb was developed by the California Soil Resource Lab at UC Davis in collaboration with the USDA-NRCS (United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service). This app is GPS-based and has access to the USDA-NRCS soil survey data (with a data connection). Users can get accurate information about the soil types and compositions from the app based on their GPS location. This app is free from both the Google Play Store (Android) and Apple App Store (iPhone).

Forages of Florida: Now that you know what kind of soil you have, what kind of forage would be good for your area and will it suit your needs? You can find this information with the **Forages of Florida** app. This application will give you information on warm and cool season grasses and legumes, along with information on forage plants that are native to Florida. Information included on listed species include: scientific name, growth habit, life cycle, origin, production season and nutritive value along with information for plant adaptation to soils and plant management. This app is currently only available for Android devices (via the Google Play Store), but the information can be accessed by those with an Apple device via the mobile website: <http://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/foragesoffloridamobile/site/index.php>.

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Tank Mix Calculator: Everyone loves doing math, right? One of the most tedious things to deal with when spraying for weeds in your crops and forage is performing the math to make sure you are following the label directions of the pesticide. The **Tank Mix Calculator** app can help you out. Using your device, just enter the acreage, tank size and spray volume. You can select from pre-entered chemicals or add your own. The app then calculates the number of loads required to spray the acreage (both full and partial). The app also lets you store

the mixtures that you sprayed so that you can refer to them at a later date. This app is free from both the Google Play Store (Android) and the Apple App Store (iPhone).

Farm Progress: The **Farm Progress** app is a news application that will keep you up to date on current news stories related to agriculture and farming. With the app, you will have access to many Farm Progress publications such as American Agriculturalist, Southern Farmer, Mid-South Farmer and others.

The app also gives you access to weather data from the National Weather Service and NOAA, and market prices for certain products. You will need an active data connection to access the data from the app. The **Farm Progress** app is available for free from both the Google Play Store (Android) and the Apple App Store (iPhone & iPad).

If you know of other applications that could be useful to someone in the agriculture field, please share them with me at michael.davis@ufl.edu.

Roaming Interview Section

Stacie Sachs 4-H Agent Duval County

By **Larry Figart**
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This edition's roaming interview is contributed by Stacie Sachs, a new 4-H Agent in Duval County. 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? I hail from the lovely St. Augustine, Florida.

How and when did you decide you wanted to be an Extension agent? About a year ago, after completing my masters, I saw a posting for a Science and Technology 4-H position in Duval. The position was close to home, and I felt that I should give back to the program that helped me develop life skills as a 4-H Youth. I truly believe in the 4-H program and have first-hand experience with the benefits and opportunities that it provides for both youth and adults who are willing to learn and grow.

What are your hobbies? I love learning

and experiencing new things. When I get the chance, I enjoy reading, sewing, running and researching historical clothing.

State something about yourself that most people don't know about you. I am a terrible poet.

If you won the lottery tomorrow, what would you do/how would you spend your time? I would invest most of it, fund archaeological research, and volunteer for 4-H. :-)

Where did you go on your last vacation? After I finished my dissertation, my sister and friend visited me in the UK. I got to give them a tour of York, and then we went to London, Salisbury, and Lyme Park near Manchester.

What was the last book you read? I am currently reading *Malafrena* by Ursula K. LeGuin.

What is the weirdest question you had to

answer as an extension agent? I am not sure. I think I have not been an agent long enough to get a really good one. :-)

Do you play a musical instrument? I am only proficient in the kazoo.

What is the most exciting place you have ever visited? Possibly Old Sarum. Old Sarum is the earliest settlement site in Salisbury, UK. This site is a less popular visitor destination than the nearby Stonehenge, but it was such an incredible experience. The magnitude of the surrounding earthworks was mind blowing and the remains of the castle were really interesting to explore.



Derbyshire, Peak National Park

Quiz Question

By **Nichelle Demorest**
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Last issue question: Which foreign country is currently developing a Master Gardener Volunteer Program designed after our U.S. program?

Answer: A – South Korea

The provincial government of GyeongGi-do, South Korea, has sought the help of U.S. Extension Master Gardener coordinators to successfully establish a master gardener volunteer program. This Korean MG program is sponsored by government offices of rural and agricultural development, not by universities. The country has grown without respect to green space or urban gardening. Now they simply have great expanses of grey city buildings and pavement. Their mission is to increase local gardening activity and green spaces, form community, rooftop and allotment gardens, and develop leadership in communities.

The major unexpected setback: Koreans do not have our ethic of volunteering 'time, talents and resources'. They have no value for volunteering and it has been difficult to find people who are willing to do this 'free' work. South Korea will have to find a key to this dilemma if they are to train 1400 volunteers over the next 2 years.

The Florida manatee population has increased significantly in the last ten years.

What is considered to be the greatest threat to survival of this species?

- A) Severe cold events from increasing weather extremes
- B) Increasing loss of genetic diversity
- C) Warming water temperatures from global warming
- D) Increasing algal growth in spring-fed waterways
- E) Propeller injuries from increasing 'manatee tourism'

Teaching Tips



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The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teachers Who Use Technology

Article retrieved from
http://www.cals.ufl.edu/faculty_staff/documents/TRCNewsletterDec2012-Jan2013_000.pdf

We've all heard about Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Some

teachers out there may have heard of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teachers. Below are our 7 habits of highly effective teachers who use technology:

- 1) **They always start with the why.** Technology for technology's sake is dangerous. Highly effective teachers who use technology always have a reason for using new technology tools. Whether it saves them time, improves learning outcomes, or helps with lesson planning, highly effective teachers always start with the why.
- 2) **They are malleable and can easily adapt.** Technology is constantly

changing, and the classroom environment will be drastically different in 2 years. Understanding the big picture is key.

- 3) **They embrace change.** Most teachers who use technology today are innovators or early adopters. Embracing (not fighting) change is key. The world hates change yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.
- 4) **They share, share, and then share some more.** Technology has opened the door for collaboration beyond the school walls. A teacher in Romania can now

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collaborate with a teacher in the UK. Knowledge is power, but it is also free (and it should be). Technology lovers share best practices, which benefits everyone (which is the point!)

5) They think win-win-win-win.

Technology cannot work properly if there is not buy-in from the administration, parents, teachers, and the student. First and foremost, there is nothing worse than having an administrator not embrace technology. Secondly, it is imperative that you show parents the value of technology. Thirdly, as a teacher, you have to truly believe that it can impact learning outcomes. Lastly (and most

importantly), students must see the value!

6) They are extremely thorough and think two steps ahead. How are you going to present new technology at the professional development meeting, especially if you know some teachers don't embrace change? Highly effective teachers who use technology already know the answers to any question, and they have concrete examples showing its effectiveness.

7) They actively care. Teachers who use technology typically are the ones who can't sleep at night because they are so excited about a lesson plan idea, are thinking of

ways to engage their classroom, and pinch themselves at night, wondering how they get paid to inspire students. They don't just care; they actively care, and they embrace technology, not because it makes their job easier, but because it allows them to make a greater impact.

What are your thoughts?

Always Prepped. Your educational data, all in one place.

Source: Always Prepped. (2012, October 26). The 7 habits of highly effective teachers who use technology [blog]. Retrieved from <http://blog.alwaysprepped.com/the-7-habits-of-highly-effective-teachers-who-use-technology/>.

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