

FEATURE Stories

The 2021 Northeast District all-faculty and staff meeting will be In-person!

We are pleased to announce that our annual district meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at the North Florida Research and Education Center – Suwannee Valley near Live

Oak, FL. After a year of productive virtual interactions, we will safely get together to share our successes, analyze our tribulation, meet new friends, and reconnect with all our colleagues. Tours will be arranged. As done in the past, attendees will also be able to make pre-arranged appointments with financial advisors. Mark your calendars and stay tuned!



Samantha Murray

Public Relations Specialist
UF/IFAS
Communications
grenrosa@ufl.edu

Meet Samantha Murray, PR Specialist for the NE District

Hello there! I've worked with many of you over the years in my role as a PR specialist. With IFAS Communication's recently expanded statewide PR team, I

am excited to focus my Extension support on the Northeast District. I will be your resource for working with local media outlets to promote your expertise and program impacts. I am also here to advise on your communications questions and challenges. My overall goal is to help each of you become better communicators and expand your reach in your communities. To do that, I always say, stay in touch! I'm at grenrosa@ufl.edu or 949-735-1076. Looking forward to hearing from you.

April – June 2021

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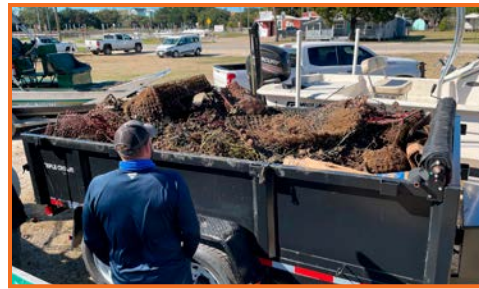
ALACHUA, BAKER, BRADFORD, CITRUS, CLAY, COLUMBIA, DIXIE, DUVAL, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON,
LAFAYETTE, LEVY, MADISON, NASSAU, SUWANNEE, TAYLOR, AND UNION COUNTIES



Victor Blanco
UF/IFAS Extension
Taylor County
Marine Extension
Agent II

Derelict traps removal: Saving our coastal heritage

Under the leadership of the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), on a yearly basis, different organizations have partnered to participate in a derelict crab traps clean-up activity on Deadman's Bay, at the mouth of Steinhatchee river, on Taylor and Dixie counties. The activity involves Florida Sea Grant and UF/IFAS Extension, the Nature Coast Biological Station (NCBS), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the US Geological



Service (USGS) and the Taylor County Sheriff Office. Every year the group removes around 300 derelict traps in average weighing around 4,000 lbs. UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County estimates that at least 1,000 traps are left in the water every year and become derelict, which have an impact on the ecosystem and the coastal resources as they become ghost fishing gear, that traps and kill fish. These activities align with UF/IFAS Extension mission and have a positive impact on the environment and in the perception of residents and visitors on our institutions and the health of our coastal areas.



There are different ways to get involved, especially with the Derelict Trap and Trap Debris Removal Program Volunteer Opportunities. This program provides a mechanism to authorize volunteer groups to collect derelict traps and trap debris. Volunteer groups may remove derelict traps and trap debris from state waters when they organize a cleanup event and obtain authorization from the FWC. These volunteer cleanup events may take place during the open or closed seasons, and must adhere to guidelines found at <https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/trap-debris/>

From the DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Eric Simonne
UF/IFAS Extension
DED - NE District
esimonne@ufl.edu

Mental health is out there: How do you find it?

Alternate work locations, virtual meetings, or distance diagnostics: the pandemic has obliged us to conduct our work differently from what we are used to. Yet, somehow, Extension faculty have found a new balance. On one hand, virtual meetings save us money, travel time, and no more room arrangements. Audiences are just one click away! On the other hand, we have lost personal touch, no more side

conversations, no more little talk; no more debriefing and sorting things out in our heads on our way to and from meetings either. With four clicks, we can jump from one meeting to the next for four solid hours (and get exhausted)!

As I complete the 2021 season of face-to-face meetings with all of you, I have noticed that the balance is overall positive. Schedule flexibility, new tools, new acceptance and expectations from some of our clients have been positive. The energy is visible. We are on a roll! How can we continue this trend?

Here are a few things that can help your mental health:

- Participate in virtual weekly faculty and staff meetings and individual check-ins in your office.
- Laugh.
- Schedule mental day - no phone, no email, no text!

- Take a break! And take a few steps.
- Schedule annual leave for the year while making long-term planning.
- Initiate a team building, themed event in your office: birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions.
- Celebrate together small (?) victories and take time to celebrate all accomplishments.
- Laugh some more.
- Walk when taking phone calls (some call this multi-tasking...)
- Participate in discussions to better know your co-workers.
- Make time for meeting preparation, meeting debriefing, and follow up.
- Recognize that mental health requires a different approach for different generations in the office.

What is your method to take care of your own mental health?

Good TO KNOW



Beth Kerr

UF/IFAS Extension
Hamilton County
4-H & Family and
Consumer Sciences
Agent

The Power of Laughter

It is April ~ already! Honestly, I thought I would have a soft start to 2021 with a couple of months of planning, reflecting, filing, and organizing and maybe even catch up on deleting emails, documents, and paper clutter. But here we are ~ it is April! A few of you experienced agents are chuckling at my youthful (okay – not in age, but in extension years) naivety. If so, I am glad I gave you a brief chuckle. In fact, when researching a TED talk for this article, I was drowning in serious topics, watching talks on everything from developing leadership skills to the impact of COVID-19 on workplace contentment, when I stumbled upon a segment on laughter, which led me down the rabbit trail of reading cartoons by marketing cartoonist Tom Fishburne (and wondering if I could borrow my son's collection of Calvin and Hobbes books). Suddenly, my mood was cheerier.

Laughter – it is serious stuff! Research studies, websites, TED talks, a Humor Research Lab, and professional journals are taking laughter seriously. There is even an association for humor professionals, no not just comedians, but professionals. *The Association of Applied Therapeutic Humor* studies the science behind the “magical, euphoric experience” of laughter. The association promotes laughter therapy for individuals experiencing difficult health challenges. Laughter has health benefits that include greater pain tolerance, increased blood flow, and enhanced immune function.



From Cartoonist Tom Fishburne. Great cartoons Marketoonist | “Tom Fishburne” Cartoon Powered Marketing.

The Benefits of Laughter at Work

So, what does this have to do with extension and professional development?

Laughter in the workplace can boost morale, productivity, and creativity. Paul Osincup's TED Talk titled *Leading with Laughter: The Power of Humor in Leadership* reminds us that leaders who can laugh at themselves and share humor with their co-workers are more relatable and build trust within their organizations better than all their too-serious counterparts. Laughter also relieves tension and lessens the fear of failure, making success more attainable on the job.

Tom Fishburne's TED Talk, *The Power of Laughing at Ourselves at Work*, reminds us that laughter does three things: 1) gives us a sense of belonging and shared experience, 2) disarms situations, allowing tension to retreat,

and 3) allows us to be vulnerable, getting past our fears. He shares that fear kills creativity and can limit risk-taking on the job, but humor is a powerful tool that can drive out fear.

Health Benefits of Laughter

Laughter is a stress reliever, changing your mood mentally and inducing physical changes to the body.

Short-term benefits of laughter include

- Enhances the intake of oxygen-rich air
- Increases endorphins released by the brain
- Soothes tension by stimulating circulation and relaxing muscles

Long-term benefits of laughter include

- Improves the immune system
- Relieves pain (body produces its own natural painkillers)

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The Power of Laughter...continued from previous page

- Increases personal satisfaction (making it easier to deal with difficult situations)
- May help lessen depression and anxiety by the release of serotonin
- May act as an anti-inflammatory, protecting blood vessels and heart muscles (Mayo Clinic: Stress Relief from Laughter? It's No Joke)

Research Says: Humor can Improve Work life

Conversational humor has been linked to job satisfaction and as a contributor to improving the "bottom line." One

study revealed that leaders who used humor at work increased goal acquisition and received higher performance ratings for their team. According to Fishburne, around age 23, adults begin to lose their sense of humor, not laughing as often or believing themselves to be funny. So, as adults, we need to invest in laughter for ourselves, families, and coworkers.

ROA's, promotions, application deadlines, and programs will fade away as the years pass, so for the sake of your mental and physical health, don't forget

to laugh daily, or as comedian Ken Davis says, "Lighten up, and Live!"

[Leading with Laughter: The Power of Humor in Leadership | Paul Osincup | TEDxNapaValley - Bing video](#)

[The power of laughing at ourselves at work - Bing video](#)

[Stress relief from laughter? It's no joke - Mayo Clinic](#)

[How a Little Humor Can Improve Your Work Life \(berkeley.edu\)](#)

SUCCESS Stories

Breeding Dwarfism; Unwanted Traits

Lisa Strange

UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County
Ag and Natural Resource Agent

Hobby rancher, Bill Meacham called Taylor County's Extension office with (2) questions. One, where to get tags for his cows, second, he asked for an explanation of devastating events occurring to his newborn Mini Hereford calves. They would not show any interest in suckling immediately after birth. Within 2 days they die. He tried putting tubes down throat, bottle feeding, with no response. The 10-year-old cow had success with calves living, every other year and he used the same 10-year-old bull for breeding. Over several years of this loss, financially and emotionally for his family watching this, not being able to help the calves, he reached out to Extension. As a new agent and little background with cattle, was dumbfounded and disturbed, of his story, but did not let on to Mr. Meacham my sadness. I told him I had not heard of such a phenomenon; I would make a phone call and get back with him.

I called Dan Fenneman, DED of Madison County, knowing he was familiar



It is not uncommon to find Lisa Strange working with clientele to problem solve and find solutions.

with cattle, although he referred me to the Livestock & Forage agent in Levy County. I was connected to Mark Warren, Commercial Row Crop Agent who also had history with cattle. He listened patiently to my lengthy story of Mr. Meacham's dilemma. His response to me immediately said it "sounded like an abnormality, cleft palate. Newborns need the special milk, colostrum, only available from mothers immediately after birth. He did not confirm diagnosis and recommended Mr. Meacham to have a veterinarian check out the cow. He did mention that cleft palates have

been known to be a result of inbreeding. Immediately while he was talking, a light came on in my head. I associated this with my grandmother and great grandfather, both had cleft palates. After years of family research and family stories, I remembered this genetic trait, occur in every other generation.

Mark commented "he would get back with me if he found anything more on this". Within 3 hours, he called back with factual documentation about the hereditary disorder. The disease is associated with dwarfism, where calves with dysphagia (inability to suckle) and regurgitate milk through their nostrils, and usually pneumonia sets in. Everything Mr. Meacham described fit the description of the cause for his re-occurring newborn's death. He reported he would have sold a calf between \$200. - \$500, depending upon market of the year and its age. He estimated his losses since 2017 is over \$2000. He now can make an informed decision as to whether to continue breeding his Mini Hereford's or to slaughter the remaining left and rid him of the perpetual problem. He is aware he cannot sell them with this potential disease.

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Breeding Dwarfism; Unwanted Traits...continued from previous page

I am most proud of this success story for several reasons. My confidence that I expressed with Mr. Meacham that I would find something out for him, my knowledge of resources to know who to call, and the immediate and accurate

response I received from Mark Warren. I appreciate his interest, team effort and time he spent with me. "I felt like he had my back". Additionally, the life experiences I have, using old knowledge (about my grandmother) to help process

new knowledge. I was happy to be able to provide an answer and options for solution for such a devastating problem. On a personal note, this success story has spurred my interest further in cattle and small farm animals.



Courtney Darling

UF/IFAS Extension
Suwannee County
Agricultural Agent

iAgent

I am sure we can all agree that last year threw us a real curve ball. As extension agents it required some creativity to apply our typical hands on, in the field approaches virtually. In fact, I learned how to conduct site visits without leaving the comfort of my home. Sure, we get pictures all the time, mainly weeds, but have you ever asked your producers to FaceTime?

During the heat of COVID-19 when travel was restricted, I was sent some pictures from a pond owner and asked to identify weeds and nutrient issues that were taking over. Unfortunately, the pictures were lacking quality and it was too difficult to identify much from them. The idea of FaceTime was brought up and it ended up similar to an actual site visit. I was able to ask her to get a better angle or zoom in on certain things. It stimulated the typical uncontrived conversations you would have in the field. The best part was being able to still help a client during a



The toxic weed responsible for the cattle deaths. Coffee senna has been noted to give off a sweet smell after a freeze event that attracts cattle. Since there is limited plant foliage, sending the producer a video helped him identify the weed throughout his property.

time when we felt otherwise limited in our capabilities to serve as extension agents.

I had another experience in which the situation was reversed. It occurred later in the year when travel was allowed. However, in this case, the producer

could not make it to the farm visit. I had a cattle producer who recently purchased property in Suwannee County and moved some of his herd there. He contacted me because his cattle were dying and could not figure out why. It did not help that at the time he was battling COVID-19 and still residing in Manatee County, therefore he could not check on them himself. He had sent his wife to check on them but was mainly keeping an eye on them using a wild-life camera.

In this case I did conduct an actual site visit and determined that it was a toxic weed species that was killing off his cattle. However, I used my phone to bring the site visit to him virtually. I took pictures and videos of the cattle so that he was better able to assess the condition of his herd. I figured this might also provide him some reassurance that the rest of the herd was doing fine, especially since he had names for many of them. I also recorded footage of every location the toxic weed was present so there was no doubt where the culprits were.

The moral of these stories is that not even a global pandemic can stop our efforts as extension agents and that our phones are good for more than pictures and emails. Let us use technology in our favor to help our clients and keep ourselves safe.

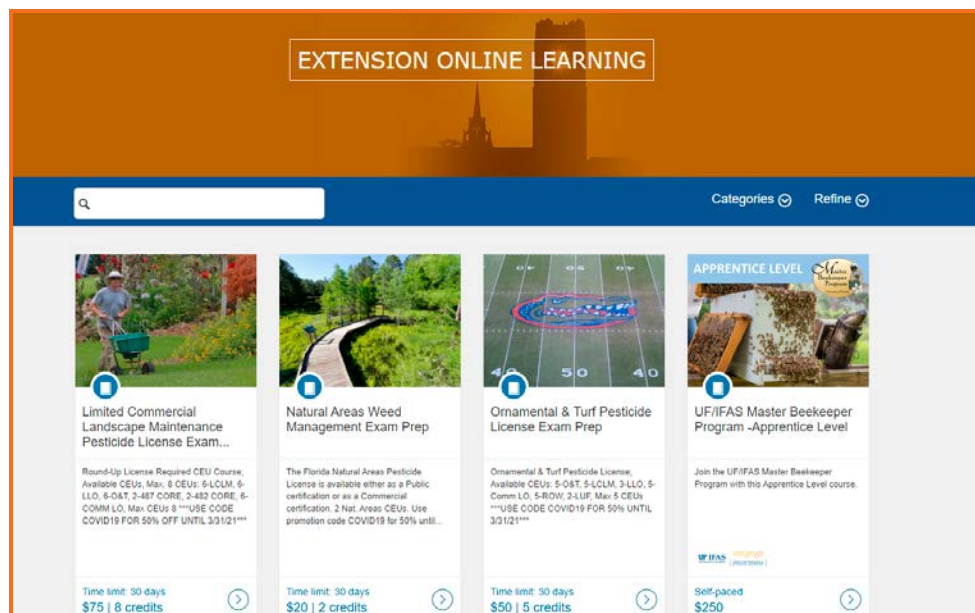
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Corner



Alicia Halbritter
UF/IFAS Extension
Baker County
Agriculture and
Natural
Resources Agent

Canvas Courses Offer New Virtual Opportunities

Looking for an opportunity to offer asynchronous virtual programming? Canvas is a program available to extension agents to offer free or paid programs to clientele. These self-paced courses can be available at any time to clients or can have structured timelines similar to for-credit courses. The system is rather easy to set up and you likely already have material you can convert into a Canvas course! This revenue-enhancement opportunity gives agents the ability to focus on significant course development with little long-term commitment involved. UF IFAS even has an entire team (Center for Online Learning & Teaching- COLT)



dedicated to supporting you and your Canvas courses! Be aware that revenue generated from Canvas programs is put into a 143 account and subject to 25.6% in various fees, however adjustments in course pricing can be made to reflect these fees. I recommend utilizing Canvas to collaborate with working groups or other agents to develop extensive online programming. This

ensures we don't "flood the market" with repetitive material and are able to publish quality learning experiences for extension clientele. To get started, you can browse currently available Canvas courses (<https://ifas.catalog.instructure.com/>) and visit the Center for Online Learning and Technology website (<https://cals.ufl.edu/colt/>) for more information and assistance.

UF/IFAS Infographic Web Page Redesigned

Infographics are visual representations of information, data, or knowledge intended to present information quickly and clearly. Infographics offer an understandable overview of any given topic and are a great way to turn information into an interesting, informative and memorable graphic.

Are you in need of an infographic? Look no further than IFAS Communications. They have made the UF/IFAS infographics web page easier to navigate. Check out the categories and all the colorful infographics that are ready to use and share with your clients.



Northeast District IDEA



D'Alicia Straughter

UF/IFAS Extension
Bradford County
Family and Consumer
Sciences Agent

Northeast District Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access (IDEA)

IDEA Talks provides monthly webinars on inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Each webinar has a different guest speaker presenting on relevant

IDEA topics. As a committee, we felt this would be a great way to provide information on how we can progress as faculty and staff. IDEA Talk is also a way for us to come together and have an open nonjudgmental platform for discussions. On November 19, 2020, we had our first IDEA Talk webinar with guest speaker John Diaz. John Diaz presented on Asset Mapping and reaching our full potential when it comes to helping all in the community. For 2021, we kicked off the New Year by having Noelle Guay from Palm Beach County present on inclusion and working with

extension clientele who have disabilities. Your IDEA committee is committed to helping the university provide IDEA education throughout the Northeast District. If you are interested in a specific topic or would like to be a guest speaker, please reach out to D'Alicia Straughter at

dalicia1203@ufl.edu or Victor Blanco at victorblancomar@ufl.edu.

Featured County EXTENSION OFFICE



Amanda Morgan Pittman

UF/IFAS Extension
Alachua County
4-H Youth
Development Agent
amorgan133@ufl.edu

Featured Office: Clay County

What are some interesting facts about Clay County or Extension?

During the first 100 years Clay County was known for its "snowbirds" coming to stay at the numerous luxurious hotels along the St. Johns River in the winter months. The United States Army is also a large part of the county's history with more than 800,000 soldiers being trained at Camp Blanding from 1940 to 1945. Clay County also has a rich agricultural history and was the home of Gustafson Dairy Farm which at one time was one of the largest privately owned dairy farms in the Southeast. In

more recent years the county has been known for its "freebirds" being home to the legendary southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd.

When was your office built and what year did Extension start in your county?

The earliest historical records of Extension in Clay County date back to 1935. Our current building was designed and built under the direction of Clay County Extension Director Jesse Goldbold in 1978 along with much of the Clay County Fairgrounds. Today our exhibit building is named in his honor, the T. Jesse Godbold, Sr. Extension Education Center.

What is one thing that makes your office different?

The culture of our office is collaborative, supportive, caring, and most importantly fun which makes for a great team that feels more like a big family. We are always laughing!

What has been the most surprisingly successful idea implemented in the office?

We set the goal of establishing an endowment for our 4-H program with the UF Foundation. We exceeded that goal and now have three endowments that support our program.

What is the 1st thing you want people to think when they walk in the door?

How friendly and responsive the staff member who greeted them is. We believe that the first impression is the most important for building relationships with our clientele.

Describe your Extension office facility?

Our facility is comprised of our main Extension office building that has a large reception area, individual offices for each of the faculty and staff members, a conference room, plant clinic, break room, work room, and large classroom with a stage and kitchen. We also

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Featured Office: Clay County...continued from previous page

have the exhibit building located next to our main office building that holds up to 135 for large events (before the pandemic) and has a catering kitchen.

What is your favorite physical feature about your office?

Our beautiful grounds that include Florida friendly landscaping, a shade garden with walking trail, an herb garden, greenhouse, and urban demonstration garden all maintained by our Master Gardener Volunteers.

If you could create your dream Extension office, what is one thing you would make sure to add?

More centralized location to better serve the entire county.

What has been a main shift in Extension that has put us in the direction of where we are today?

In Clay County our population growth and decrease of agriculture in the county has forced us to shift to addressing new needs.

What is the size and population of your county?

Clay County has a total land area of 604 square miles and has 219,252 residents.

How many people does the Extension office serve?

In 2020 we served 33,737 individuals through field and office visits, phone, email, or group workshops and had an additional 103,874 contacts through social media.



Clay County office staff and agents. Left to right: Matthew Olson, Stephanie Conner, Wayne Hobbs, Annie Sheldon Wallau.

What is one office tradition your office has?

Our former CED created the tradition of the "power clap" that we have carried on as a way to show appreciation to our fellow team members. One, two, three, clap!

Tell us a little bit about the people in your office.

We have an excellent team with a combined 86 years of Extension experience.

- Stephanie Conner, 4-H Agent, 14 years with Clay County
- Cassidy Dossin, Ag/Natural Resources Agent, 1 ½ years with Clay County
- Wayne Hobbs, Horticulture Agent, 4 ½ years with Clay County
- Matthew Olson, STEM 4-H Agent, 2 years with Clay County

- Annie Sheldon Wallau, CED/FCS Agent, 11 years with UF/IFAS Extension, 4 ½ years with Clay County
- Katrina Pierce, Program Manager, 6 ½ years with Clay County
- Michelle Alters, Ag/Hort/FCS Secretary, 24 years with Clay County
- Julia Gordie, 4-H Secretary, 3 years with Clay County
- Roxane Strickland, Custodial, 14 years with Clay County
- Christine Snyder, FNP Program Assistant, 2 years with Clay County
- Sheryl Mize, 4-H Program Assistant, 3 years with Clay County

**Thank you, Annie Wallau, for answering these questions about Clay County.*

Let's Meet Some Agents: IN OUR DISTRICT



Heather Janney

UF/IFAS Extension
Columbia County
CED/4-H Agent

Robert Hochmuth

Regional Specialized Agent IV -
Vegetable Crops
Assistant Center Director,
NFREC- Suwannee Valley
UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County



Bob Hochmuth evaluating nutrient status in a Suwannee Valley watermelon grower's field.

Bob Hochmuth was born and raised on a large, diversified vegetable farm on the Eastern Shore of Maryland where he began his love of agriculture and respect for farm families. Bob graduated as a University of Maryland Terrapin with a BS degree in Agricultural and Extension Education and a MS degree in Entomology. Although Bob is perhaps better known in his career for his vegetable and horticulture programs, he still really enjoys the entomology projects and maintains his original insect collections, with hundreds of specimens travelling with him since the mid-1970s. His County Extension career began in 1982 in Kent County, Delaware and transitioned to Florida in 1988 where he has served at the same unit (NFREC-Suwannee Valley) ever since. Over his career, he has conducted programs in field vegetable crops, cultural practices, drip irrigation,

integrated pest management, water and nutrient BMPs, small farms, and food safety, to mention a few. In addition, Bob and his brother George (retired UF/IFAS Professor Emeritus) developed a greenhouse hydroponic vegetable program from scratch in 1989 at Live Oak, a program which has grown to gain a national reputation for the hands-on trainings offered there. Bob says he especially enjoys working on Extension programs as a member of high performing teams and the opportunity to get to know better the colleagues in those efforts. He credits any of his success to the incredible mentors, especially his first County Extension Director, Dave Woodward, as they have collectively formed who he is professionally and how he approaches Extension work. Bob and his wife of 42 years, Terri, have twin sons, Scott and Lee, both pharmacists in the St. Pete area. Terri and Bob's greatest new joy is the role in the last three years of grandparents to Zana and Logan. Around Columbia County, many know him as "Coach Bob" as he served as a soccer coach of competitive travelling teams for several years and 12 years at the high school level.



Martha Maddox

Family and
Consumer Sciences
Agent IV
UF/IFAS Extension
Alachua County

Martha grew up
in the Arkansas
4-H program and

worked as a 4-H program assistant and Expanded Food and Nutrition Aid while attending college. She has been involved in Extension programming since the age of 8 and has worked as an Extension Agent for 35 years. She worked for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service as 4-H/FCS Agent for 12 years before joining

UF/IFAS Extension in Sumter County and currently is serving as the Family and Consumer Science Agent IV in Alachua County. She received her B.S.E. in Agricultural Education from Arkansas State University and her M.S.E. in Home Economics Education from Harding University. Martha is specialized in nutrition, health and wellness, food preservation, food safety, food systems and financial management. She serves as the co-chair of the Nutrition and Food System Priority Work Group and Action Team under the leadership of state food safety specialist. She has been recognized nationally for her work with Herbs through programming to reduce sodium in the diet. She had the opportunity to travel to Italy to learn about Mediterranean cooking, olives, and olive oil. She looks forward to conducting class in the new culinary kitchen in the Alachua County Ag Center. She's especially excited to do team programming and classes in food preservation, herbs, breads, and International food expos along with other educational programs.

Martha serves as Parliamentarian for FEAFCs and is also a member of ESP, FAE4-HA and FACAA. She has served in various officers' positions in these associations and has received numerous awards from all associations. Her most cherished awards are DSA from FACAA, DSA from FEAFCs, and DSA from FAE4-HA.

She enjoys sharing with other agents and helping them build their programs. Her door or phone is always open to help other agents.

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Let's Meet Some Agents: in Our District...continued from previous page



Abbey Tharpe
4-H Youth
Development
Agent II
UF/IFAS Extension
Taylor County

Since 2012, Abbey
Tharpe, 4-H
Extension Agent

in Taylor County, has successfully developed, implemented, and evaluated educational programs in several areas based on the needs of Taylor County. She has developed exciting and award winning 4-H programs, trained passionate and impactful 4-H volunteers and staff and has led youth in healthy living and summer camping activities in Taylor County and throughout

the State. Abbey is passionate about her work as the 4-H Agent in Taylor County. If you happen to see her at a competition with her 4-H members she may be found taking air with excitement when she sees her kids win! She currently oversees approximately 279 4-H club members as well as all the events they participate in; club meetings, county events, chick chain shows, Ag judging, livestock judging, and livestock shows. She develops, implements, and evaluates over 300 youth through the Taylor County 4-H Summer Day Camping program, annually. She has taught Bullying Prevention lessons for six years to all 6th grade youth in Taylor County.

She also facilitated bullying prevention trainings for the University of Florida Residential Camp Staff. In 2019 she developed and implemented a 4-H led Afterschool Program that served 17 youth each week. She has received \$25,000 in grant funds, \$220,000 in monetary contributions to support 4-H programming and in 2019 was awarded an additional \$21,000 in funding by the Taylor County Board of County Commissioners to support a part time 4-H program assistant. Her background and expertise in Healthy Lifestyles, Bullying Prevention, Summer Camping, and Fund Development has enabled her to be recognized as a resource for other agents across the state.

Let's Meet Some Staff: IN OUR DISTRICT



Arlene T. Eminisor
Extension Program
Assistant
UF/IFAS Extension
Duval County

Arlene Todd
Eminisor has
been the Program
Assistant/

Receptionist at the Duval County
Extension Office for two years.

She began her career as a telephone operator at Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company between her junior and senior year of high school while in the Diversified Cooperative Training program. Southern Bell became BellSouth Telecommunications

and she retired with 37 years of service. During her tenure with BellSouth, she spent six years as an Instructor at the BellSouth Training Center in Jacksonville teaching technical courses, such as: basic electricity, transmission, signaling, etc. The last 20 years of her career with Ma Bell was spent as an Infrastructure Analyst in the IT Department. She then worked for Electronic Data Systems on the BellSouth account as a Systems Analyst for nine years.

Arlene enjoys her position at the Extension Office as it allows continued contact with a variety of people

who participate in the programs that are offered there. There is something new, and generally exciting, to learn every day.

In her spare time, she loves to sing in her church choir; cook for family and friends; make jellies and homemade bourbon vanilla; read; and garden.

Her pride and joy are her family, which consists of two daughters, their husbands, two grandsons, and two step-granddaughters.

For past Northeast News issues, visit:
EXTADMIN.IFAS.UFL.EDU/COMMUNICATIONS/NENEWS

UF/IFAS EXTENSION Northeast District Offices – Find your local office at <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/>

Alachua

2800 NE 39th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32609
Phone: 352.955.2402

Baker

1025 W Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063
Phone: 904.259.3520

Bradford

2266 N Temple Avenue
Starke, FL 32091
Phone: 904.966.6224

Citrus

3650 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 1
Lecanto, FL 34461
Phone: 352.527.5700

Clay

2463 SR 16 West
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
Phone: 904.284.6355

Columbia

971 West Duval Street, Suite 170
Lake City, FL 32055
Phone: 386.752.5384

Dixie

99 NE 121st Street
Cross City, FL 32628
Phone: 352.498.1237

Duval

1010 N McDuff Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32254
Phone: 904.255.7450

Gilchrist

125 E Wade Street
Trenton, FL 32693
Phone: 352.463.3174

Hamilton

1143 NW US HWY 41
Jasper, FL 32052
Phone: 386.792.1276

Lafayette

176 SW Community Circle, Suite D
Mayo, FL 32066
Phone: 386.294.1279

Levy

625 N Hathaway Avenue, Alt. 27
Bronson, FL 32621
Phone: 352.486.5131

Madison

184 College Loop
Madison, FL 32340
Phone: 850.973.4138

Nassau

543350 US Hwy 1
Callahan, FL 32011
Phone: 904.879.1019

Suwannee

1302 11th Street SW
Live Oak, FL 32064
Phone: 386.362.2771

Suwannee Valley Ag. Ext. Center

7580 County Road 136
Live Oak, FL 32060
Phone: 386.362.1725

Taylor

203 Forest Park Drive
Perry, FL 32348
Phone: 850.838.3508

Union

25 NE 1st Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
Phone: 386.496.2321

NENEWS Editorial TEAM

Kim Griffin (editor), Lori Wiggins, Jessica Altum, Alicia Lamborn, Abbey Tharpe, Stephanie Conner, Amanda Morgan Pittman, Victor Blanco, Heather Janney, Marnie Ward, Beth Kerr, Sylvia Willis, Eric Simonne.

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