

Northeast News

A UF/IFAS Extension District Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION

FEATURE Story

A Simple Way to Get Involved

It's a new year and it's time to get involved or stay involved with your district. One way to do this is by participating on district committees. District committees are important as they help drive and support district activities and functions. Taking part in these committees provide a platform for you to learn more about extension, interact with district colleagues and diversify your body of extension work. As a member you will be able to share your knowledge, skills, and abilities, with like-minded individuals and explore leadership roles to support your extension career. Here you will find the Northeast District committees, their role, function, and membership. If you are interested in becoming a member of one or more of these committees, contact one of the committee members for more information.



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

District COMMITTEES

Success Story Committee

This committee works to help agents write impactful success stories using the preferred style guide and length recommended by the DED and Deans offices for later submission into the district newsletter, state newsletters, and outlets. Additionally, our committee keeps agents accountable with the district success story calendar by sending reminders, organizing stories on SharePoint, and providing reviews and edit recommendations for each author. The committee was created in 2020 and is currently well staffed, but if you are interested in joining please contact jaltum@ufl.edu.



Jessica Altum Cooper (chair 2020)
County Extension Director - 4-H Youth Development
UF/IFAS Extension Gilchrist County Agent II
125 E. Wade Street
Trenton, FL 32693
jaltum@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 463-3174



Marnie Ward (co-chair 2020)
4-H Youth Development
UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County Agent I
3650 W Sovereign Path Ste 1
Lecanto, FL 34461-8070
mlward@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 527-5700



Stephanie Conner
4-H Youth Development
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent III
2463 State Road 16 W
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0278
sconner04@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 284-6355



Clay Cooper
UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County Agent I
Agriculture/Natural Resources
3650 W Sovereign Path, Ste 1
Lecanto, FL 34461-8070
coop1632@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 527-5700



Wayne Hobbs
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent I
Environmental Horticulture
2463 State Road 16 W
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0278
whhobbs@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 284-6355



Sarah Ellis
UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County Agent I
Family and Consumer Sciences
3650 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 1
Lecanto, FL 34461
ellissm@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 527-5700



Kim Griffin
UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County Agent II
Family and Consumer Sciences
1302 11th St. SW
Live Oak, FL 32064
griffink@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 362-2771

2021 NE District Permanent Status & Promotion Committee

The role of this committee is to provide guidance, feedback, and internal review of the packets of the candidates in the NE District for third-year assessment, permanent status, and promotion.



Annie Wallau (co-chair 2020)
 UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent II
 County Extension Director - Family &
 Consumer Sciences
 2463 SR 16 West, Green Cove
 Springs, FL 32043
aasheldon@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 284-6355



Mark Warren (co-chair 2020)
 UF/IFAS Extension Levy County Agent III
 Agriculture
 625 N Hathaway Ave
 Bronson, FL 32621
mwwarren@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 486-5131



Clay Cooper
 UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County Agent I
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 3650 W Sovereign Path, Ste 1
 Lecanto, FL 34461-8070
coop1632@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 527-5700



Keith W. Wynn
 UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County
 Agent II
 Agricultural/Natural Resources
 1143 US Hwy 41 NW
 Jasper, FL 32052-5856
kwynn@ufl.edu
 Tel: (386) 792-1276



Sarah Ellis
 UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County Agent I
 Family and Consumer Sciences
 3650 W Sovereign Path
 Lecanto, FL 34461
ellissm@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 527-5700



Lori Wiggins
 UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County
 Agent III
 County Extension Director- Family and
 Consumer Sciences
 203 Forest Park Dr
 Perry, FL 32348
lwiggins@ufl.edu
 Tel: (850) 838-350



Kelsey Haupt
 UF/IFAS Extension Duval County Agent I
 4-H Youth Development
 1010 N McDuff Avenue
 Jacksonville, FL 32254-2031
khaupt@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 255-7450



Stephanie Conner
 4-H Youth Development
 UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent III
 2463 State Road 16 W
 Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0278
sconner04@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 284-6355



Samara A. Purvis
 UF/IFAS Extension Bradford County
 Agent II
 County Extension Director-4-H Youth
 Development
 2266 N Temple Ave
 Starke, FL 32091
sdeary@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 966-6224

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Committee

The NEED Faculty definitions of and statements on I-D-E-A

Inclusion: the NEED faculty is committed to building inclusive extension, research, communication, and education programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives, and ways of thinking and learning. We cultivate creating a sense of belonging among staff, partners, and communities served. We recognize and value diversity.

Diversity: the NEED faculty embraces individuals of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, national origin, marital statuses, education levels, job classifications, veteran-status types, income, and socioeconomic status types. We are committed to increasing diversity of the UF/IFAS Extension workforce and communities we serve.

Equity: the NEED faculty provides all individuals and communities with the opportunity to be heard in decision making processes and to participate in any extension program. We are committed to a policy of fairness and equal opportunity for all persons, and to work to challenge and respond to bias, harassment, and discrimination

Access: the NEED community supports and enables capacity building, ability to participate, and knowledge of extension programs so staff, clientele, and partners may improve their quality of life.



D'Alicia Straughter (co-chair 2020)
UF/IFAS Extension Bradford County
Agent I
Family and Consumer Sciences
2266 N Temple Ave
Starke, FL 32091
dalicia1203@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 966-6224



Victor Blanco (co-chair 2020)
UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County
Agent II
Sea Grant
203 Forest Park Dr
Perry, FL 32348-6340
victorblancomar@ufl.edu
Tel: (850) 838-3508



De Broughton
UF/IFAS Extension Regional Specialized
Agent II
Agriculture
7580 CR 136
Live Oak, FL 32064
deonne@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 362-1725 ext. 112



Matt Olson
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent I
4-H Youth Development
2463 State Road 16 W
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
m.olson@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 284-3855



Shawn Jackson
UF/IFAS Extension Lafayette County
Agent II
County Extension Director- 4-H Youth
Development
176 SW Community Cir
Mayo, FL 32066
michaelsjackson@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 294-1279



Izabella Toledo
UF/IFAS Extension Regional Specialized
Agent II
Dairy
176 SW Comm Cir Ste D
Mayo, FL 32066-1901
izatol@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 294-1279



Keith Wynn
UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County
Agent II
Agricultural/Natural Resources
1143 US Hwy 41 NW
Jasper, FL 32052-5856
kwynn@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 792-1276



Natasha Parks
UF/IFAS Extension Duval County
Agent III
Family and Consumer Sciences
1010 N McDuff Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32254-2031
nparks@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 255-7450



Eric Simonne (ex officio)
UF/IFAS Professor/Northeast District
Extension Director
simonne@ufl.edu



Grace Carter
UF/IFAS Extension Duval County Agent I
4-H Youth Development
1010 N McDuff Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32254
grace.carter@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 255-7450

Holly Houghton

UF/IFAS Extension Dixie County Agent III
County Extension Director- 4-H Youth Development/Natural
Resources
PO Box 640
Cross City, FL 32628
hvh@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 498-1237



Ivonne Black
Northeast District Office Assistant
ilblack@ufl.edu



NE District Newsletter Editorial Team

The Northeast District newsletter is a quarterly newsletter distributed by the NE District Extension Agents to communicate regularly with district agents. The newsletter provides educational components, current events, updates, and programming successes throughout the district. If you are interested in this committee, please contact a committee member.



Kim Griffin (editor 2020)
UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County
Agent II
Family and Consumer Sciences
1302 11th St. SW
Live Oak, FL 32064
griffink@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 362-2771



Lori Wiggins
UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County
Agent III
County Extension Director- Family and
Consumer Sciences
203 Forest Park Dr
Perry, FL 32348
lwiggins@ufl.edu
Tel: (850) 838-350



Victor Blanco
UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County
Agent II
Sea Grant
203 Forest Park Dr
Perry, FL 32348-6340
victorblancomar@ufl.edu
Tel: (850) 838-3508



Stephanie Conner
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent III
4-H Youth Development
2463 State Road 16 W
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0278
sconner04@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 284-6355



Marnie Ward
UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County Agent I
4-H Youth Development
3650 W Sovereign Path Ste 1
Lecanto, FL 34461-8070
mlward@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 527-5700



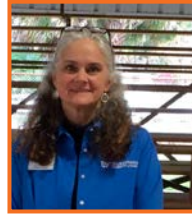
Jessica Altum Cooper
UF/IFAS Extension Gilchrist County
Agent II
County Extension Director - 4-H Youth
Development
125 E. Wade Street
Trenton, FL 32693
jaltum@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 463-3174



Abbey Tharpe
UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County
Agent II
4-H Youth Development
203 Forest Park Dr
Perry, FL 32348-6340
abbeytharpe@ufl.edu
Tel: (850) 838-3508



Heather M. Janney
UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County
Agent II
County Extension Director - 4-H Youth
Development
437 NW Hall of Fame Drive
Lake City, FL 32055
hfutch@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 752-5384



Beth Kerr
UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County
Agent I
4-H/Family and Consumer Sciences
1143 US Hwy 41 NW
Jasper, FL 32052
makerr@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 792-1276



Alicia Lamborn
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Agent II
County Extension Director -
Environmental Horticulture
1025 W Macclenny Ave
Macclenny, FL 32063
alamborn@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 259-3520



Sylvia Willis
UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County
Agent I
Agriculture/Commercial Horticulture
1302 11th St SW
Live Oak, FL 32064
swillis1@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 362-2771



Amanda G. Pittman
UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
Agent I
4-H Youth Development
106 SW 140th Terr
Jonesville, FL 32669-2658
amorgan133@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 955-2402



Eric Simonne
UF/IFAS Professor/Northeast District
Extension Director
simonne@ufl.edu

North Florida Livestock Agents (NFLAG)

The UF/IFAS Extension North Florida Livestock Agents Group (NFLAG) is made up of University of Florida county extension agents and specialists from 13 North Florida regional counties, including Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Hamilton, Levy, Madison, Nassau, Suwannee, and Union county. The group is an extension partnership dedicated to enhancing Extension clientele knowledge in agricultural production and natural resources to sustain the profitability and competitiveness of agricultural operations within the state of Florida. It also functions to increase the agricultural and natural resource knowledge among fellow extension agents. NFLAG understands that by collaborating and bringing our diverse expertise together, we can increase the impact of our programming efforts. This serves to improve and diversify individual knowledge and enhances the mission of each county extension agent. NFLAG focuses on livestock and pasture programmatic efforts but welcomes any other agents that wish to be involved as many topics tend to cross program areas and can improve educational efforts through agent collaboration. We maintain a website through UF/IFAS Extension at <https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/nflag/about-us/who-we-are/>



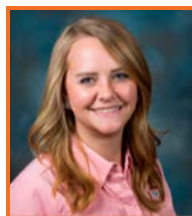
Kevin Korus (chair 2021)
UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
Agent II
Agriculture/Natural Resources
106 SW 140th Terrace, Suite 3
Jonesville, FL 32669-2658
kkorus@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 955-2402



Luke Harlow (chair 2020)
UF/IFAS Extension Union County Agent I
County Extension Director - Agricultural/
Natural Resources/4-H Youth
Development
15120 SW 84th St
Lake Butler, FL 32054-0278
harlow1231@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 496-2321



Cassidy J. Dossin
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent I
Agriculture/Natural Resources
2463 St. Rd. 16 W.
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0278
cdossin@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 284-6355



Courtney L. Darling
UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County
Agent I
Agriculture/Natural Resources
1302 11 Street, SW
Live Oak, FL 32064
gryderc@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 362-2771



Cindy B. Sanders
UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
Agent IV
County Extension Director - Livestock
106 SW 140th Ave.
Jonesville, FL 32669
sanders1@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 955-2402



Dan K. Fenneman
UF/IFAS Extension Madison County
Agent II
County Extension Director - Agricultural/
Natural Resources
184 NW College Loop
Madison, FL 32340-1412
dfenneman@ufl.edu
Tel: (850) 973-4138



Keith Wynn
 UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County
 Agent II
 Agricultural/Natural Resources
 1143 US Hwy 41 NW
 Jasper, FL 32052-5856
kwynn@ufl.edu
 Tel: (386) 792-1276



Clay Cooper
 UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County Agent I
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 3650 W Sovereign Path, Ste 1
 Lecanto, FL 34461-8070
coop1632@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 527-5700



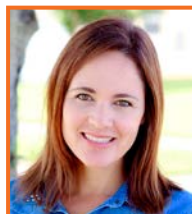
Ed W. Jennings
 UF/IFAS Extension Levy County
 Agent IV
 County Extension Director - Livestock
 625 Hathaway Ave
 PO Box 219
 Bronson, FL 32621-0219
edjennin@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 486-5131



Paulette Tomlinson
 UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County
 Agent II
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 437 NW Hall of Fame Drive
 Lake City, FL 32055
apt@ufl.edu
 Tel: (386) 752-5384



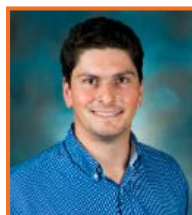
Alicia N. Halbritter
 UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Agent I
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 1025 W Macclenny Ave
 Macclenny, FL 32063-9640
aliciah1221@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 259-3520



Izabella Toledo
 UF/IFAS Regional Specialized Extension
 Agent II
 Dairy
 176 SW Comm Cir Ste D
 Mayo, FL 32066-1901
izatul@ufl.edu
 Tel: (386) 294-1279



Justina J. Dacey
 UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County
 Agent II
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 543350 US Hwy 1
 Callahan, FL 32011
jdacey@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 530-6350



Marcelo Wallau
 Assistant Professor - Agronomy
 Forages
 2083 McCarty Hall B
 PO Box 110500
 Gainesville, FL 32611-0500
mwallau@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 273-2216

Northeast Green Team

The NE District Green Team plans and coordinates different horticulture training events, programs, and other extension-related activities with UF/IFAS Extension's Northeast District. The goals of this program are to increase the availability of horticultural information for the community at large through advanced training opportunities and other volunteer-related activities. Currently accepting new members.



Taylor Clem (chair)
UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
Agent II
Environmental Horticulture
106 SW 140th Terrace, Suite 3
Newberry, FL 32669-2658
taylorclem87@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 955-2402



Lisa Strange (co-chair)
UF/IFAS Extension Taylor County
Agent II
Agriculture/Natural Resources
203 Forest Park Dr.
Perry, FL 32348
lstrange@ufl.edu
Tel: (850) 838-350



Wayne Hobbs (past chair)
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent I
Environmental Horticulture
2463 State Road 16 W
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0278
whhobbs@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 284-6355



Charles Barrett
UF/IFAS Extension Regional Specialized
Agent II
RSA Water Resources
7580 County Rd. 136
Live Oak, FL 32060
cebarrett@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 314-1194



Savanna C. Barry
UF/IFAS Extension Regional Specialized
Agent
Sea Grant, Seagrass, Living Shorelines,
Horseshoe Crab
552 1st Street
PO Box 878
Cedar Key, FL 32625
savanna.barry@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 325-6080



Barbara L. Edmonds
UF/IFAS Extension Levy County
Program Assistant
Residential Horticulture/ISA Arborist
625 N Hathaway Avenue
PO Box 219
Bronson, FL 32621-0219
savemygarden@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 486-5131



Larry T. Figart
UF/IFAS Extension Duval County
Agent II
Forestry/Arboriculture/Urban Forestry
1010 N McDuff Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32254-2031
lfigart@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 255-7450



Erin E. Harlow
UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County
Agent III
Residential/Commercial Horticulture
437 NW Hall of Fame Drive
Lake City, FL 32055-2031
eeeck@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 752-5384



BJ Jarvis
UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County
Agent IV
County Extension Director - Urban
Horticulture/FFL/Residential water use
3650 W Sovereign Path, Ste 1
Lecanto, FL 34461
bjjarvis@ufl.edu
Tel: (352) 527-5700



Alicia Lamborn
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County
Agent II
County Extension Director -
Environmental Horticulture
1025 W Macclenny Ave
Macclenny, FL 32063
alamborn@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 259-3520



Julio Perez
 UF/IFAS Extension Putnam County
 Agent I
 Residential & Commercial Horticulture
 111 Yelvington Road
 PO Box Suite 1
 East Palatka, FL 32131
pjulio@ufl.edu
 Tel: (386) 329-0318

Elisha A. Cash
 Education-Training Specialist II
 Center for Landscape Conservation & Ecology
 Florida Friendly Landscape Program
 2046 IFAS Research Drive
 PO Box 110675
 Gainesville, FL 32611-9328
ecash@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 2817702



Carolyn S. Saft
 UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County
 Agent III
 County Extension Director -
 Environmental Horticulture
 1302 11 St SW
 Live Oak, FL 32064-3696
csaft318@ufl.edu
 Tel: (386) 362-2771

Chris R. Kerr
 UF/IFAS Extension Duval County Agent II
 Commercial Horticulture
 1010 N McDuff Ave
 Jacksonville, FL 32254-2031
ishbua@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 2557450



Tatiana Sanchez
 UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
 Agent II
 Commercial Horticulture
 106 SW 140th Terr, Suite 3
 Jonesville, FL 32669-2658
tatiana.sanchez@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 955-2402

Claire Lewis
 UF/IFAS Extension Extension Program Manager
 Center for Landscape Conservation & Ecology
 Florida Friendly Landscape Program
 113 Mehrhof Hall
 PO Box 110675
 Gainesville, FL 32611-0675
clairelewis@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 273-4518



Wendy L. Wilber
 UF/IFAS Extension Agent III
 County Operations
 Florida Master Gardener Program/Urban
 Horticulture
 107 Mehrhof Hall
 Gainesville, FL 32611
wilbewl@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 273-4521

Luke D. Miller
 UF/IFAS Extension Bradford County Agent I
 Horticultural/Small Farm
 2266 N Temple Ave
 Starke, FL 32091-1612
lukemiller1@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 966-6224

4-H Agents Working Group

This committee oversees the 4-H@4 virtual engagement program. 4-H@4 was developed to engage youth with virtual programming during the pandemic. The leadership team decided to continue the format into the new year. Currently accepting new members.



Andy Toelle (chair 2019)
UF/IFAS Extension Regional Specialized Agent IV
4-H Youth Development
595 E St Johns Ave
PO Box 728
Hastings, FL 32145-0727
aetol@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 692-4944



Beth Kerr
UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County Agent I
4-H/Family and Consumer Sciences
1143 US Hwy 41 NW
Jasper, FL 32052
makerr@ufl.edu



Matt Olson
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent I
4-H Youth Development
2463 State Road 16 W
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
m.olson@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 284-3855



Shaina L. Spann
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Agent II
4-H Youth Development
1025 W Macclenny Ave
Macclenny, FL 32063
sibennett@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 259-3520



Grace E. Carter
UF/IFAS Extension Duval County Agent I
4-H Youth Development
1010 N McDuff Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32254
grace.carter@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 255-7450

Row Crop Agents Working Group

Members of the NE district row crop team and NFREC-Suwannee Valley farm crew meet in person for the first time in months to discuss upcoming regional projects at the center and on farm. The team also celebrated Lafayette County agent, Chris Vann's Retirement from extension.

The Row Crop Team consists of 12 Extension Agents with row crop responsibilities in the Northeast district. There are often representatives from the central and NE district who attend to provide reports on row crops in their region. The team meets monthly during the growing season, either virtually or in person, depending on the number of attendees. The group collaborates on educational videos (ex. peanut, corn, and BMP series), virtual meetings, applied projects and demonstrations on farm and at the North Florida REC, Suwannee Valley, and in person field days and meetings for growers.



De Broughton (chair 2018)
UF/IFAS Extension Regional Specialized Agent II
Agriculture
7580 CR 136
Live Oak, FL 32064
deonne@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 362-1725 ext. 112



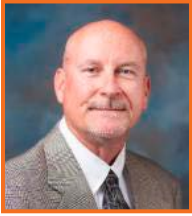
Sylvia Willis
UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County Agent I
Agriculture/Commercial Horticulture
1302 11th St SW
Live Oak, FL 32064
swillis1@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 362-2771



Keith W. Wynn
UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County Agent II
Agricultural/Natural Resources
1143 US Hwy 41 NW
Jasper, FL 32052-5856
kwynn@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 792-1276



Jay M. Capasso
UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County Agent I
Agronomy/Row Crops
437 NW Hall of Fame Drive
Lake City, FL 32055
jcapasso@ufl.edu
Tel: (386) 752-5385



Dan K. Fenneman
 UF/IFAS Extension Madison County
 Agent II
 County Extension Director - Agricultural/
 Natural Resources
 184 NW College Loop
 Madison, FL 32340-1412
dfenneman@ufl.edu
 Tel: (850) 973-4138



Prissy Fletcher
 UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County
 Agent II
 Commercial Agriculture
 3125 Agricultural Center Drive
 St Augustine, FL 32092
pfletch@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 209-0430



Kevin Korus
 UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
 Agent II
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 106 SW 140th Terrace, Suite 3
 Jonesville, FL 32669-2658
kkorus@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 955-2402



Ethan Carter
 UF/IFAS Extension Jackson County
 Agent I
 Regional Specialized Agent - Agriculture/
 Pest Management
 2741 Penn Ave, Ste. #3
 Marianna, FL 32448
ethancarter@ufl.edu
 Tel: (850) 482-9620



Luke Harlow
 UF/IFAS Extension Union County Agent I
 County Extension Director - Agricultural/
 Natural Resources/4-H Youth
 Development
 15120 SW 84th St
 Lake Butler, FL 32054-0278
harlow1231@ufl.edu
 Tel: (386) 496-2321

Tyler Pittman
 UF/IFAS Extension Gilchrist County Agent II
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 125 E Wade St
 Trenton, FL 32693
pittmanh1@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 463-3174



Alicia N. Halbritter
 UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Agent I
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 1025 W Macclenny Ave
 Macclenny, FL 32063-9640
aliciah1221@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 259-3520

Luke D. Miller
 UF/IFAS Extension Bradford County Agent I
 Horticultural/Small Farm
 2266 N Temple Ave
 Starke, FL 32091-1612
lukemiller1@ufl.edu
 Tel: (904) 966-6224



Mark Warren
 UF/IFAS Extension Levy County Agent III
 Agriculture
 625 N Hathaway Ave
 Bronson, FL 32621
mwwarren@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 486-5131

Joel Love
 Education-Training Specialist II
 North Florida REC - Suwannee Valley
 BMP Coordinator
 7580 CR 136
 Live Oak, FL 32060-7434
jclove@ufl.edu
 Tel: (386) 219-4269



Clay Cooper
 UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County Agent I
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 3650 W Sovereign Path, Ste 1
 Lecanto, FL 34461-8070
coop1632@ufl.edu
 Tel: (352) 527-5700

NE District County Support Staff Champion Team

This committee provides county support staff with opportunities for peer to peer connection, professional development, and mentoring, therefore increasing personal confidence and respect. We are hoping to move in a direction where our team is driven by a county support staff member that will serve as a “Champion” for this effort. We are happy to add this person to our team if you have any nominations or would like to add anyone that has a passion in this area.



Annie Wallau (co-chair)
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Agent II
County Extension Director - Family & Consumer Sciences
2463 SR 16 West, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
aasheldon@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 284-6355



Kelsey Irvine (co-chair)
UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County Agent I
4-H Youth Development
543350 US Hwy 1
Callahan, FL 32011
kelseymirvine@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 530-6354



Andy Toelle
UF/IFAS Extension Regional Specialized Agent IV
4-H Youth Development
595 E St Johns Ave
PO Box 728
Hastings, FL 32145-0727
aetol@ufl.edu
Tel: (904) 692-4944



Ivonne Black
Northeast District Office Assistant
ilblack@ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Faculty Assembly Northeast District Representative



D'Alicia Straughter (2019)
This individual serves as the UF/IFAS Faculty Assembly NED Representative.

Their role is to participate in the shared governance forum between UF/IFAS faculty and administration. The assembly's goal is to recognize, consult, recommend, and determine matters concerning major units within UF/IFAS.

UF Faculty Senator



Stephanie Toelle (until 2022)
It is an honor to serve as one of your Faculty Senators. My term began in Fall 2019 and extends through 2022. The Faculty Senate meets monthly, starting with reports from the chair, president's report, and provost's report. Committees study and present topics including de-

partmental name and programmatic changes to align with current trends, tuition updates, adjustments to the academic calendar, facility and transportation improvements, paid parental leave, paid time off, and improving access to high quality childcare on campus. Most recent discussions have centered on layoff and furlough, integration of Artificial Intelligence, HyFlex classrooms (hybrid learning in a flexible course structure), COVID-19 vaccination distribution, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. We vote on these topics and develop resolutions. It can be quite interesting. As a Senator, I have an opportunity to ask a question on the topic presented, on behalf of Extension. Most of the Senators represent campus, so the vision is most often limited to those perspectives. Although there are over 150 senators, only three of us represent Extension.

COMING TOGETHER is a **beginning**,
STAYING TOGETHER is **progress**, and
WORKING TOGETHER is **success!**

– Henry Ford

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

Graphic DESIGN

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