

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

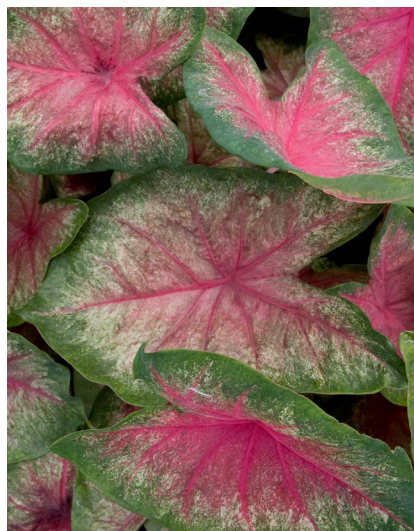
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In Alachua County, UF/IFAS Extension and Dairy Farmer Drive Side-by-Side

J. Scott Angle, Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources



Cindy Sanders



Kevin and Shelby Lussier

It was a big day in August 2021 at the [Hawthorne Creek Creamery](#). For the first time, [Kevin Lussier](#) loaded a truck with Gouda and shipped it off to a major supermarket chain.

The people who mattered most were there. They included his wife and business partner, Shelby. There was his dad Matt, who had Kevin working cows from the time he

was 9. And there was the friend, mentor, scientist and problem solver to whom he's so often turned to help keep Alachua County's last private commercial dairy afloat: UF/IFAS Extension agent [Cindy Sanders](#).

Lussier has asked Sanders for help navigating the complex food safety rules he needs to follow to be a cheese maker. He asked her to help him demonstrate for county regulators that he was taking proper steps to protect the creek from which his business draws its name. He asked her about how to kill weeds and how long after spraying he should wait to harvest hay.

Usually, he just called her. Other times, she'd ride shotgun in Lussier's 22-year-old Chevy Silverado, cruising a pasture and answering his questions about what forages to plant and when, where and how to seed the fields.

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UF/IFAS Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter distributed by the Office of the Dean for Extension via e-mail and on the UF/IFAS Extension web site at <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu>.

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit your own recognition or short article of interest, please send them to Valkyrie Aldnari.

Please feel free to also forward any questions or comments about this periodical to Valkyrie Aldnari at valkyriea@ufl.edu.

So it was meaningful to both of them that Sanders could be there for such an important moment. But it was a moment. As soon as the truck pulled away, Sanders returned to the primary purpose of her visit—to help Lussier become a better farmer and better leader.

This time she asked the questions: How do you market the cheeses? Will you expand into ice cream? How has your involvement in Farm Bureau helped you get started as dairy farmer?

The questions were designed not only to elicit his competency as a farmer, but to hone his ability as a leader to articulate what he does, and what Florida agriculture is all about, to a visitor. Sanders was there as a mock judge for the Florida Farm Bureau's Achievement in Agriculture competition, which recognizes the state's top young farmer for excelling as producer and leader.

Sanders and Lussier also have a record of working together as agriculture ambassadors. Lussier is the state and the Alachua County Young Farmers & Ranchers president. Sanders chairs the

Alachua County Farm Bureau [Women's Committee](#).

They serve together on the county Farm Bureau board. Three years ago, dissatisfied with Farm-City Week programming, they helped organize an [agriculture day at the Cade Museum](#) in downtown Gainesville. Their plan was to show off local food to 200 non-farmers. More than 1,500 people showed up.

Lussier credits his father with helping him get started by sharing his land, barn and herd.

Lussier inherited from his dad another key element of the operation—the expertise of Sanders. From the time she became a county agent 21 years ago—when Lussier was 6 years old—Lussier's father was calling her about forages and asking her to drive the pastures with him.

When it came time for Lussier to go into business, he had so much more information, thanks to the Internet, than his father ever did. That was a curse as much as a blessing, though. He needed information he could trust. Sanders had already established that

trust through what at the time was 15 years of calls, emails, referrals and farm visits.

Sanders and Lussier got to visit with each other at the Florida Farm Bureau annual meeting in Orlando last October. She was in Orlando to see Lussier honored for [winning the Achievement in Agriculture](#) competition she had prepped him for.

Just like that day at the dairy when they celebrated the cheese shipment, Sanders had another reason to be there. On the strength of a nomination from the Alachua County Farm Bureau board, Sanders was honored as the [Florida Farm Bureau Extension Professional of the Year](#).

They sat together at their respective ceremonies. Lussier's parents were there, as was Shelby, who shared the honor with him. As the state winners, Kevin and Shelby got \$500 and the keys to a new Ford F150.

Sanders hasn't been a passenger in the new truck yet. It's Lussier's going-into-town-vehicle, and Sanders always comes to him. She's just fine with riding shotgun in the Silverado.

UF/IFAS Extension in the News

JULY

- 7/1: ['Flip My Florida Yard' Season 2 Airing Now](#)
- 7/5: [New Model for Horticulture Extension Training Launches](#)
- 7/7: [Commercial Drone Training in Crestview Teaches Students to Fly Legally](#)
- 7/11: [Agricultural 'Quarantine' Explained](#)
- 7/22: [UF to Hold its First Small Ruminant Short Course](#)

AUGUST

- 8/3: [Get the Newest UF/IFAS Info at the Citrus & Specialty Crop Expo](#)
- 8/9: [All Florida Pesticide Exams Now Available Online](#)
- 8/10: [New Study Underscores Importance of Ensuring Farmworker Safety](#)
- 8/12: [BMPs for Florida Golf Courses: Now the Law](#)
- 8/15: [UF/IFAS Extension to Commemorate World Honey Bee Day](#)

NACAA/AMPIC 2022

The National Association of County Agricultural Agents held its Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in West Palm Beach this July 17-22. We wish to thank all the UF/IFAS Extension faculty and staff who worked so hard to plan, coordinate and participate in this huge event. Congratulations to the many faculty who received national awards this year—you deserve nationwide recognition.

[Matthew VanWeelden](#)

Achievement Award

[Yvette Goodiel](#)

Achievement Award

[Bonnie Wells](#)

Achievement Award

[Keith Wynn](#)

Distinguished Service Award

[Norma Samuel](#)

Distinguished Service Award

[Karen Stauderman](#)

Distinguished Service Award

[Cassidy Dossin](#)

Event Promotional Package

[Evelyn Fletcher](#)

Feature Story

[Eugene McAvoy](#)

Hall of Fame

[Kalyn Waters](#)

JCEP Creative Excellence Award

[Danielle Sprague](#)

Newsletter

[Wael Elwakil](#)

Published Photo



Questions about Carbon?

Shirley Baker, Professor and Associate ANR Program Leader, UF/IFAS Extension

Climate change may be one of the biggest issues facing Florida agriculture. Most countries are trying to slow global warming by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including through climate-smart agriculture (CSA). Climate-smart agriculture is an integrated approach to managing landscapes, including cropland, livestock, and forests, which addresses the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change. For example, certain management practices can increase the amount of carbon stored, or sequestered, in the soil. Carbon credits, which can be traded, are a way to reward these management activities. But how can Florida agriculture contribute to carbon sequestration? How can a producer generate carbon credits? And how can they participate in carbon markets? To help answer these very questions, Associate Dean Saqib Mukhtar, along with Associate Program Leaders Shirley Baker and Maia McGuire, formed a team of seven State Specialists, including Michael Andreu (SFFGS), Jehangir Bhadha (EREC), Mark Clark

(SWES), Michael Dukes (CLUE), Young Gu Her (TREC), Rao Mylavarapu (SWES), and Tara Wade (SWFREC).

The first task of the **Climate and Carbon Extension Educators (C2E2)** was to sift through a mountain of information and educate ourselves. Subsequently, members of the C2E2 published an FAQ EDIS article titled “[Florida’s Agricultural Carbon Economy as Climate Action: The Potential Role of Farmers and Ranchers](#)” to help producers and Extension faculty better understand how Florida agriculture can contribute to mitigating climate change. An infographic covering associated topics is in review. Understanding the science, mechanisms, and policy behind the carbon cycle and trading will help Florida’s agriculture better prepare for the carbon economy.

If you are interested in participating in C2E2 or have questions you would like the group address, please let us know! (sbaker25@ufl.edu)

Charlotte County Arbor Day 2022 – Go Florida Native!

Ralph E. Mitchell, Horticulture CED IV, Charlotte County



CED and Horticulture Agent Ralph Mitchell gives each native plant starter kit adopter instructions on proper plant care.



Local High School students provided energy and customer service to our plant kits.

UF/IFAS Extension in Charlotte County celebrated Arbor Day a little differently this year. Our office, under the leadership of Holly Bates, Extension Program Manager, and Sara Weber, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Specialist, worked in partnership with the [Peace River Audubon Society](#) and Mosaic, Inc. to feature a free native plant starter kit at “**Go Florida Native on Arbor Day**” on April 29th at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte. Participants who signed up received six native plants and committed to planting and caring for this collection in their own yard. The kit consisted of 1 Florida native

tree, 2 shrubs, 1 vine and 2 grasses. With a retail value of \$80-\$100, this was a significant start to native plant landscaping! The purpose of this event was to promote the planting of native plants that are beneficial to wildlife and pollinators. Registered participants attended a short educational class on planting and caring for these plants via a video developed by Graphic Specialist Paul Schumaker. As a result of this program, 180 households benefited from the event and increased their understanding of proper planting techniques.

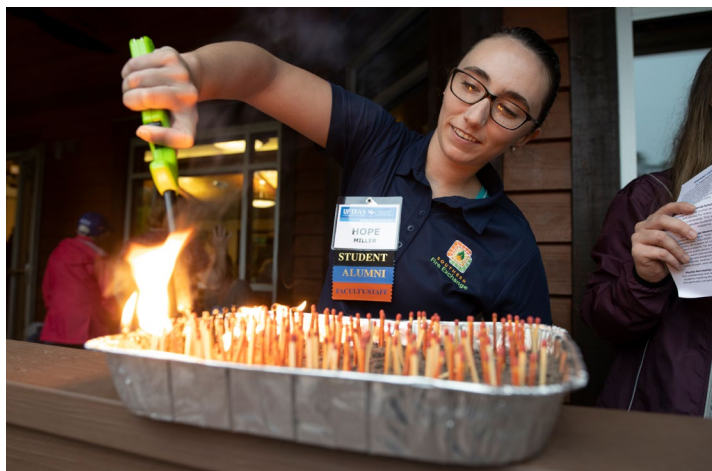
Volunteers were key to the success of this program, and Master Gardener Volunteers, Peace River Audubon Volunteers and even local high school students worked hard to set up, move plants and assist our native plant starter kit adopters. Plant vendors, educational booths and related displays were also on site during “Go Florida Native on Arbor Day”. For more information on both Florida native and non-native plants suitable for our area, please contact our office at 941-764-4340 or e-mail ralph.mitchell@charlottecountyfl.gov.

UF/IFAS Strives to Meet Your Fire Science Needs

Raelene Crandall, Fire Ecology Assistant Professor, School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences
David Godwin, Project Coordinator Edu/Training Spec III, School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences



SOUTHERN
Fire Exchange



Hope Miller, a graduate student in UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences and intern with SFE, lighting matchsticks arranged to mimic a forest.

Prescribed fires are essential for managing Florida's natural ecosystems. They can improve wildlife habitat, increase plant diversity, support agricultural operations, and reduce the likelihood of destructive wildfires. Florida leads the nation in the use of prescribed fire, with over 2 million acres burned annually on public and private lands. Safe and effective prescribed fires depend on the development and dissemination of science-based tools and information.

The Southern Fire Exchange (SFE)

works with a network of partners to develop programs, opportunities, and events that bridge the divide between the fire science and natural resource management communities in Florida and across the southeastern U.S. Fire and land managers are eager for science-based information to help them make informed decisions and improve the outcomes of their prescribed fire programs. In turn, fire scientists can do better and more relevant research when they are connected with the needs of land managers.

SFE develops a variety of products to address the diverse needs of our audiences. Visit our [website](#) for fire science research fact sheets, videos, presentations, workshops and field tours that address topics relevant to Florida land managers. We coordinate an award-winning fire science webinar series that has reached over 13,000 attendees worldwide. Nearly 100 webinar recordings are available on our [YouTube channel](#). In 2020, we launched the '[Friends of Fire](#)' podcast, which now has six episodes with over 1,700 listens. Whether you are seeking some quick facts or want to interact with others in the field, we have products for all levels of involvement.

Do you have a fire management question? Would you like to connect with others in the fire community? Visit our [website](#) or contact us at <https://southernfireexchange.org/contact/>.

Making the Connection: Farm-to-Table

Lori Johnson, Family and Consumer Science EA I, Lake County



Lake County FCS Agent Lori Johnson uses a hands-on approach to teach nutrition concepts to program participants.

Educating people on the importance of balanced meals and selecting healthier ingredients is an important step in improving the overall health of a community, but it's not the first step. Many people lack basic cooking skills, food preparation ideas or lack a willingness to try new things based on prior bad experiences. Implementing farm-to-table style cooking classes set on the farm allows participants to immerse fully in the experience of learning, trying and buying all in one location.

In the fall of 2021 Lake County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent Lori Johnson began a partnership with [Long & Scott Farms](#) located in Mount Dora. This family farm has been in business for nearly 60 years and is well known for their Kirby Pickling

Cucumbers and Zellwood Sweet Corn, among other fresh crops grown in their spring and fall seasons. Their country market and café are a perfect location for classes as the farm is already a popular destination for many people in Central Florida. The agent delivered one-hour weekly cooking classes for 8 weeks during the fall season, followed by 5 weeks in the 2022 spring season. Each week featured a different commodity or theme and focused on the health benefits of the featured vegetable, preparation techniques and healthy cooking methods. The weekly topics included corn, okra, black-eyed peas, conch peas, cucumbers, collards, onions and fresh herbs. Participants enjoyed a cooking demonstration during each session, complete with an opportunity to sample the

demonstrated recipe. After class, participants had the opportunity to shop for fresh produce in the market and enjoy lunch in the café.

The first two seasons at the farm were a huge success with the program reaching 193 participants. Many participants learned about Extension for the first time through this experience but have gone on to become repeat program participants. Classes in the second season sold out quickly and the demand grew for

more classes in the upcoming season. Paper surveys were obtained from 87 percent of the participants. They showed a 70 percent knowledge gain in preparing fresh produce, 64 percent knowledge gain in cooking methods to prepare fresh produce and 69 percent knowledge gain relating to the health benefits of fresh produce.

Family and Consumer Sciences agents pairing up with local farms can create the perfect setting to connect the consumer to a farm-

to-table experience. The winning combination of location, educator experience, nutrition education, and the visual art of culinary creativity allows the community to immerse in an educational experience that is engaging, fun and effective for learning. This increases cooking confidence and skills needed to successfully prepare and cook fresh vegetables, leading to an overall improvement in the health of the community.

Conservation for Generations

Kalyn Waters, Agriculture CED III, Holmes County



Kalyn Waters and Brenda Adams with the 2022 Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Licenses recipients Kaden Hodge, Brently Barnhill and Payton McAdams.



Kalyn Waters with NACAA President Bill Burdine receiving the Joint Council of Extension Professionals national award for Creative Excellence.

At the 2022 NACAA/AMPIC meetings UF/IFAS Extension Holmes County Director Kalyn Waters' signature program **"Conservation for Generations"** was a National Finalist in the Search for Excellence in Natural Resource programming and received the National Award from the Joint Council of Extension Professionals for Creative Excellence.

Conservation for Generations is a program developed to encourage the next generation of hunters and fishermen/women to become involved in recreational conservation.

This innovative and multifaceted program includes the following platforms:

- Panhandle Outdoor Connection: A social media page manages as an intensive marketing program for UF/IFAS

Extension Holmes County natural resource programming and provides science-based educational material.

- Holmes County Outdoor Expo: An interactive educational Expo that focuses on hunting, fishing and conservation that was started in 2016.
- Hunt Holmes: A program that develops relationships between youth and mentors who hunt and fish while teaching hunters safety certification for the state of Florida.
- Bad Cat Classic: A bream and catfishing tournament hosted on the Choctawhatchee River. Teams in the tournament are required to have a youth 16 years of age or younger on their team to facilitate youth participation.
- Randy Adams Memorial Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License Scholarship: This program is the combined effort of all programs and uses the revenue enhancement funds generated from the creative and progressive Extension programs to offer scholarships that award a lifetime hunting and/or fishing license to Florida youth. This program incentivizes youth who participate in natural resource programming. To date we have been able to purchase 15 lifetime hunting/fishing licenses for kids in the Florida Panhandle.

National recognition of this program comes from years of dedication from many volunteers, including the late Randy Adams and Jerry Dunn. Both men were influential advisory committee members who helped shape this program and worked hard to make it successful. In addition, we are grateful for the continued hard work and dedication of Kayla Welch, UF/IFAS Extension Holmes County program assistant and office manager.

Professional Development Mini-Grants 2021

Professional growth and development are essential components of an effective Extension career. Such growth requires a personal commitment by Extension faculty and access to resources. UF/IFAS Extension Administration provides an opportunity for state and county Extension faculty to compete for a Professional Development Mini-Grant. We have funding to support local, state, national, and international initiatives. In 2020 we were pleased to offer 87 Professional Development Mini-Grants worth approximately \$140,000 to UF/IFAS Extension faculty. Here are some highlights from those experiences.

Judy Corbus

Family and Consumer Sciences EA IV, Washington and Holmes Counties

I received a Professional Development Mini-Grant to attend the 2021 **National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) Annual Session**, which transitioned to a virtual format. In addition to attending numerous concurrent sessions, I made three team presentations on the homebuyer education program and one team presentation on applying for NEAFCS awards. I also received three Southern Region team program awards. As the incoming Chair-Elect for the NEAFCS Awards Training Committee, I was able to meet with the committee to develop our 2022 plan of work. Since registration costs were reduced for the virtual format and there were no travel expenses for the NEAFCS Annual Session, I also was able to use the mini-grant funds to attend the 2021 **Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education Virtual Symposium**, which enabled me to earn 15 CEUs toward renewal of my Accredited Financial Counselor certification. Participation in both conferences provided networking and CEU opportunities as I learned about new programs and available resources to enhance my current programs.

Niki Crawson

4-H Youth Development EA II, Walton County

As a participant in the **6 Seconds Emotional Intelligence Certification Training**, I earned three total certifications: Unlocking EQ, Brain Profiler, and EQ+ Motivation Profiler. By completing the three EQ courses and receiving certifications, I am now better able to understand the value of emotions as a 4-H Extension agent that works with volunteers. This is allowing me to strengthen relationships with volunteers and youth clientele to help build better programming and leveraging emotional intelligence “brain styles” to ensure effective learning and build strong rapport. I believe volunteers under my direction that provide positive youth development through 4-H programming will increase their capacity of emotional intelligence as a result of trainings from my participation in these courses.

Marie Arick

FCS/4-H Youth Development CED II, Liberty County

Does milk taste the same everywhere? Why do cheese curds squeak? I applied my Professional Development Mini-grant to solving these mysteries and more at the **World of Cheese** course offered through the Center for Dairy Research at the University of Wisconsin.

As I originally intended to participate in a less in-depth course when I wrote for this opportunity, fate placed me in a more advanced course. Not only did this provide a greater opportunity for knowledge gained, but I also learned a vast variety of hands-on activities that have enabled me to enhance my 4-H and FCS programming, presentations, and demonstrations. I have ordered new supplies, am working on new fact sheets and am excited to see the reaction at 4-H University this summer! I also look forward to sharing knowledge and skills with fellow agents.

This course, which I attended with Jill Breslawski (EA II, Okaloosa County), is one that major manufacturers utilize for employee professional development. Major brands were represented with employees in a variety of roles including quality control, understudies to master cheese makers, marketing, and sales. We two Extension agents provided a whole different spin on discussions. Out of the gate, we were able to change the direction of many topics and it was expressed to us by the lead instructors that we brought a different element to the table.

So, to answer the questions... No, milk does not taste the same everywhere...the bacteria in the ground where cows graze heavily impacts the taste. Cheese curds squeak because the protein/calcium bond breaks causing the squeaking sound.

I greatly appreciate the support provided by this grant. It has provided me with a learning experience I can share in a variety of ways.

Tyce Prevatt

4-H Youth Development CED II, Glades County

A Professional Development Mini-grant allowed me to attend the 2022 **Joint Council of Extension Professionals Extension Leadership Conference**. While at the conference I had a chance to present a session titled “All In and All Together: Creating a Sense of Belonging in the Workplace.” I also was selected to present a poster on going back to the basics of building community relationships. While at the conference I attended workshops to strengthen my leadership skills and met with Extension leaders and peers from across the country. This was an experience I would not have had the opportunity to do without the mini-grant.

Comings & Goings

We would like to welcome the following newly hired and transferring faculty. These individuals were hired following a highly competitive search, screening and selection process. In some cases, candidates interviewed both on the UF campus in Gainesville and in a county Extension office. Selection was often difficult because we typically have two or three suitable candidates. These faculty are truly the best of the best!

New Hires

Madelyn Godwin, Agriculture/Natural Resources EA I, Escambia County

De'Anthony Price, Agriculture/Natural Resources EA I, Jefferson County

Khadejah Scott, Horticulture EA I, Wakulla County

Ian Stone, Forestry EA II, Walton County

Erin Jones, Agriculture EA I, Suwannee County

Alexander Tays, Agriculture/Natural Resources EA I, Flagler County

Stephanie Clamer McMinds, Family and Consumer Sciences EA I, Citrus County

Christine Jackson, Commercial Horticulture EA I, Osceola County

Melanie Southerland, EA I, Jefferson County

Anitra Mayhann, EA I, Gulf County

Giovanna Benitez, Family and Consumer Sciences EA I, Marion County

Michael D'Imperio, EA I, Sarasota County

Transfers

Andrea Lazzari Estevez, 4-H EA II in Brevard County to ANR CED II in Indian River County

We would like to wish the following agents the best of luck in their retirement.

Retirements

Stewart Swanson, Crops EA II, Multi County

Sharon Treen, Family and Consumer Sciences CED IV, Putnam County

Christine Kelly-Begazo, Agriculture CED III, Indian River County

We would like to wish the following agents the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Departures

D'Alicia Straughter, FCS EA I, Bradford County

Allison Leo, 4-H Youth Development EA I, Leon County

Natalie Parkell, 4-H Youth Development EA I, Martin County

Crystal Snodgrass, Agriculture CED III, Manatee County

Theodore Karsch, 4-H Youth Development EA I, Nassau County