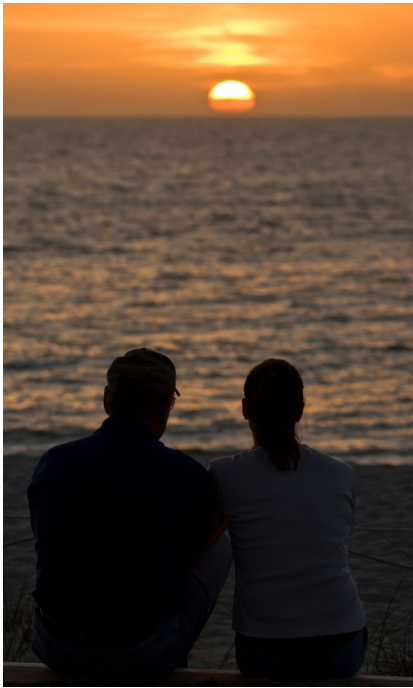


# UF/IFAS Extension *Comings & Goings*

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

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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](mailto:valkyriea@ufl.edu).

**A MESSAGE FROM DR. SCOTT ANGLE**

*Dr. Scott Angle, Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources*



I’ve had a consistent message to our stakeholders during my first weeks on the job, and I asked for this space as an early opportunity to directly tell you the same thing: I work for you.

My job as vice president is to support Extension agents and staff. I don’t teach, do research, or extend knowledge—I support the people who do.

In Extension, I strongly support all areas of programming, from agriculture to family and consumer sciences to natural resources. 4-H is the best thing the University of Florida does for the state, and I was glad to connect with our youth development programming in one of my first virtual public events by addressing 4-H University.

Extension will support all Floridians, and that requires a diversity of programming and people to connect effectively with 22 million residents. I am counting on the people of Extension to let me know how I can help you do your jobs better.

I hope to hear from you in person and will visit every Florida county. Invite me, and I’ll come to see you as soon as practicably possible. I’ve already visited the Extension offices in Okeechobee and Sumter counties—only 65 to go!

You are community leaders. You develop and reinforce important local political relationships. I want you to think like leaders and to assume national leadership roles. Good examples are Gene McAvoy, who is president of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents; Lara Milligan, who is president of the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals; and Alicia Betancourt, who is president-elect.

Speaking of leadership, I have full confidence in Dean Nick Place. I have long known Nick, so I knew even before I got here that he’s among the best in the business. After just a few weeks of observing his calm, steady counsel, his frequent statewide communication and his ability to look ahead, I appreciate more than ever what an outstanding leader he is.

I will encourage and support new ideas from both him and you for delivery of scientific knowledge, especially as we emerge from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. That

means taking some risks. You have already demonstrated that there is no single model for information delivery, and you will need to continue to innovate to serve the changing needs of Floridians.

In fact, in the future I see an increased role for Extension in applied and on-farm research. Without rigorous extension of results, research has little value. It makes sense to me that a closer marriage of research and Extension could improve how we share discovery.

## REBECCA LYNN JORDI

1954 - 2020



Rebecca Jordi, 1954-2020

Rebecca Lynn Jordi passed away July 31, 2020, at the age of 66, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was at home, surrounded by family.

Becky was born March 1954, in Jacksonville, Florida. A daughter of Doyle and Sylvia Haddock, she graduated from Florida State University (BS), and Kutztown University (MS).

A teacher at heart, she taught at Northwestern Junior High, Word of Life

Christian School, First Coast Christian School, and Penn State University Berks College, until she found her calling as an Extension Agent for the University of Florida here in Nassau County.

It was here Becky thrived, starting as the horticulture agent, achieving certification with the International Society of Arborists, and becoming the Nassau County Extension Director.

Rebecca has initiated many projects including the demonstration gardens at the Governmental Complex and the Yulee office; Landscape Matters; Crash Course on Gardening; the Garden Talk column in the News Leader; and many clinics on native plants, birds, rain barrels, herbs, and her beloved citrus. The Master Gardener program has thrived under her leadership, with many volunteers tirelessly serving the community with science-based knowledge gained through UF/IFAS.

She was often a featured speaker during the home and garden shows at EPCOT, and made occasional TV appearances on WTLV 12 First Coast Living.

Her many awards include the Florida Association of Natural Resources Professionals-Mid Career Leadership Award; the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents Search for Excellence Team Award, National Finalist; National Finalist in Landscape Horticulture; the Computerized Graphic Presentation Silver Award; and the Extension Professional Association Young Professional of the Year.

In the immediate future, I look forward to visiting with you virtually at EPAF. You, of all people, are accustomed to working together from a distance, so I know the virtual conference will be a great success.

I am proud of how you have continued to work for Florida despite the disruptions of the past few months, and proud to work for you.

One of her greatest achievements is seeing her children's book "Zoe's Mission" published, which was illustrated by local artist and Master Gardener Joanne Roach. She also included her grandchildren in the plot.

Becky's priorities were always her love of the Savior, Jesus Christ, and her family, especially her three sons, Ben, John, and Nathan, and the fine young men they have become. Her faith guided her through every major decision and event; if it didn't line up with the Word of God, it just didn't happen. She was always kind, and thoughtful, putting others before herself.

Rebecca is survived by her husband of 43 years, Doug; father, Doyle Haddock; sons, Ben (Julie), John (Stephanie) and Nathan (Jessica); sister, Marolyn (Randy) Bristowe; brother, Dan (Brenda) Haddock; and grandchildren, Eli, Silas, Noah, Rowen, and Sophia; and nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held this fall to coincide with the dedication of the new Extension building on Miner Road, which will bear her name.

In lieu of flowers, fans of Becky can support the local Extension Master Gardener program by purchasing "Zoe's Mission" from the County Extension Office in Yulee, phone 904-530-6350.

Please share your memories and condolences at [www.oxleyheard.com](http://www.oxleyheard.com)



# Did You Know?

Saqib Mukhtar, Associate Dean for Extension

## FAWN HAS BEEN AROUND FOR 23 YEARS

FAWN (the Florida Automated Weather Network) was created to assist growers in making decisions primarily related to irrigation scheduling and cold protection. As of 2019, FAWN consists of 42 stations located from Jay to Homestead, and assists decision makers with crop and landscape irrigation, freeze protection and chemical application. FAWN's mission is to leverage timely, reliable

and accurate weather data in support of effective agricultural decision making and stewardship of natural, human and fiscal resources.

Find out more at <https://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/> and look for the Extension Agricultural Weather reports in your email. Contact Rick Lusher ([rlusher@ufl.edu](mailto:rlusher@ufl.edu)) for additional information.

## VICTORY GARDENS ARE BACK!

With a pandemic impacting the world, it is important to address the resiliency of our food systems in times of crisis with a cross-programmatic effort. The Victory2020 Garden Community was developed as a multi-generational program with the expertise from multiple UF/IFAS Extension counties and program areas to address this need. Based on the concept of the historical victory gardens of the 1930s and 40s, this modern version of the victory garden originated in Columbia and Marion counties, and quickly spread to Orange and Sumter counties as well. Extension agents from all program areas were called upon to use their specialties in helping to reach participants in all aspects of gardening, and RSAs and SSAs were incorporated to give guidance and share ideas. This team's overall objective was to combine multi-disciplinary program efforts to maximize delivery and impacts through various media formats to reach clientele during the pandemic.

Using Microsoft Teams as a hub, this group of 12 UF faculty and numerous county support staff were able to organize and share information related to weekly planning meetings, gardening resources and program evaluations. Extension agents from all disciplines dedicated time and expertise to create presentations and resources using a wide range of social and digital media platforms. Over the past six months, educational methods for this program have reached over 2,300 local, national and global participants which include the mailing of seed packets, youth record books, educational posters, social media posts, informative emails to participants, Canvas communication creations, educational videos and Zoom sessions.

The combined efforts by this team of faculty accomplished 32 videos totaling 23 hours and 2,000+ views, 10 Canvas modules with 40+ hours of programming for over 1,800 students, 500+ posters and record books mailed, 1,650 seed packets mailed, 22 Zoom classes with over 1,000 live attendees, one Facebook group with over 50,000 reached and 4,000+ engagements monthly, virtual garden tours, and a youth and adult book club. A YouTube playlist was created with assistance from UF's Center for Land Use Efficiency for recorded material and can be viewed at [https://bit.ly/V2020G\\_Videos](https://bit.ly/V2020G_Videos). The team received \$7,000 in

funding from the community, support from administration and program funds, and is using an IRB-approved survey to further evaluate impacts.

The successful cross-programmatic efforts from the Victory2020 Garden Community Program has reached gardeners worldwide in five countries, two districts/territories and 40 states. Positive feedback from participants support the effectiveness of the program with creating a sense of community for family and individuals and to provide educational experiences related to gardening, personal well-being, food safety, history and plant-science-related careers.

Participants utilized the Victory2020 Garden community to find a sense of belonging during the isolation of the pandemic. Extension agents plan to continue programming for clientele currently involved with specific focus on plant growing seasons and building a sense of community.

### The Victory2020 Garden Community Team

#### Columbia County

E. Harlow, H. Janney,  
H. Corbitt

#### Marion County

C. Mulvaney, E.  
Cannon, M. Bailey, A.  
Marek, M. Hunter

#### Orange County

T. Silvasy

#### Central District

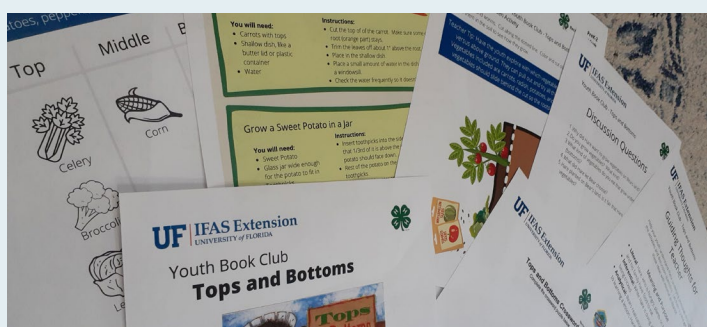
G. Sachs

#### Sumter County

L. Duncan

#### Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program

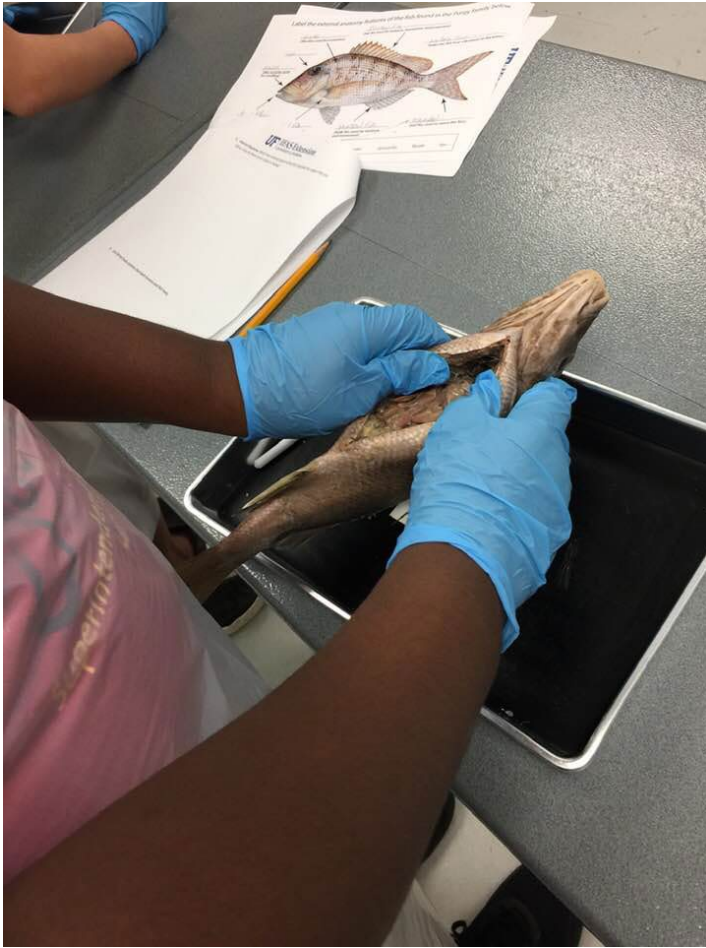
W. Wilber



Sample of materials for the Victory2020 Garden Community Program.

## STEM INVESTIGATORS

Nancy A. Moores, 4-H Youth Development EA III, Hernando and Sumter Counties



Fish dissection during STEM InvestiGATORS.

In early 2019, a homeschool group leader approached the UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County office personnel with a question about what they could offer homeschool youth in the county. Armed with the knowledge that nearly 1,600 youth are registered as homeschooled in Hernando, the agents took up this challenge. We wanted to not only introduce more people to Extension and, specifically, 4-H programming, but also to provide hands-on STEM events on a variety of topics. Collaboration allows for multiple skill sets, experiences and teaching styles to come together and provide great experiences for youth. It also helps agents minimize their time commitment while offering a quality, diverse program that appeals to a wider audience. The result was the **STEM InvestiGATORS** series of events.

### STEM

**InvestiGATORS** was a monthly program running September 2019 through May 2020. Each month, at least two agents (one being 4-H Agent Nancy Moores) hosted a two-hour class related to a wide variety of topics. In addition to Moores, the educators were: Sea Grant Agent Brittany Scharf, Horticulture Agent Dr. William Lester, and FCS Agent Scott Taylor. Class subject matter included computer coding, finance management, dissection, fish tagging, invasive plants and insects, entomology, water science, and communication. In addition, 4-H

and other Extension programs were introduced before each class and materials were made available at check in and at check out. As an incentive, and because portfolios are a critical piece of the homeschooler's advancement, special certifications were offered to those attending at least five classes and recognition pins to those attending all nine.

Agents chose Eventbrite as the registration resource and made personal invites using homeschool circle resources to identify leaders in the community. Social media was also used, reaching out to new audiences not affiliated with organized groups. Current 4-H members registered as homeschooled were asked to share with others. As a result, each of the first five classes reached capacity (20-40 depending on activity capacity) prior to the deadline. Minimal fees were

charged to cover supplies. Parents were invited to remain on site but were asked to socialize in a different room and to find out more about Extension by visiting the front office. Participants would attend an interactive discussion on subject matter first, then have a safety briefing specific to the activity, followed by hands-on learning. Each class concluded with reflection and debriefing. Agents used pre- and post- questioning on site to determine knowledge gain and after-event followup questions to determine behavior change.

As a direct result of **STEM InvestiGATORS**, five families registered in 4-H clubs and began project work. Other family members participated in horticulture programs and at least five families reported adopting new finance management practices in their homes. Other families expressed interest in upcoming Sea Grant events—unfortunately, those were canceled or postponed due to the pandemic. April and May classes were moved to an online platform and hands-on activities did not occur during the events, but were demonstrated and encouraged by agents and guest speaker Lilly Browning, FFL Coordinator.

Class participation totaled 170 youth, with a 93% knowledge gain and 8% of families reporting behavior change. Feedback was very positive, with youth and adults asking us to offer STEM InvestiGATORS annually and requesting follow-up classes on family finance management and advanced public speaking. Collaboration between William Lester, Lilly Browning, and Nancy Moores occurred to offer additional classes for this audience. The two on-site events were over capacity. The third one was online due to the pandemic and was well attended but the audience was not homeschool only.

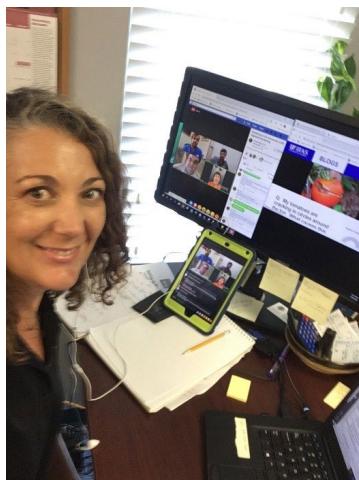
**STEM InvestiGATORS** is actively engaging Hernando's homeschooled youth and providing sound content for portfolios.

## GARDENING IN THE PANHANDLE LIVE!

Matthew Lollar, EA II Commercial Horticulture, Santa Rosa County



Extension Agents Larry Williams, Daniel Leonard, Beth Bolles, and Mark Tancig fielding questions during a "Gardening in the Panhandle LIVE!" webinar.



Extension Agent Julie McConnell monitoring Facebook Live during a "Gardening in the Panhandle LIVE" webinar.

The UF/IFAS Northwest District Horticulture Program Implementation Team (Hort PIT) is comprised of 16 Extension agents across 16 counties spanning from Escambia County to Jefferson County. In order to follow COVID-19 protocols that took effect in March, the Hort PIT Team had to get inventive to continue to reach their clientele. The team has a weekly "Gardening in the Panhandle" e-newsletter that is distributed to over 4,000 readers, but they wanted to offer something

to fill in the void created by the elimination of in-person experiences. The "Gardening in the Panhandle LIVE!" bi-monthly series was created to do just that.

Gardening in the Panhandle LIVE! is produced via Zoom webinar and streamed to [Facebook Live](#), then archived on [YouTube](#). Zoom participants are required to have an authenticated account and pre-register. During registration they have the option of submitting a question for the panel, which has proven to be an integral part of organization and preparation for the team. The questions submitted are

shared in a spreadsheet on Microsoft Teams and panelists are assigned or volunteer for questions prior to the webinar. This allows them to prepare and provide supporting publication links for the moderators to push out during the live broadcast.

The series focuses on a variety of timely gardening/landscaping "hot topics". Each webinar runs for about an hour and really takes a team to create. On air are one moderator/emcee and 3-4 agents with subject matter expertise. Behind the scenes are 3 more moderators supporting technology and monitoring and adding content to the Zoom and Facebook chats so that the panelists can concentrate on audience engagement. An immediate follow-up Qualtrics survey link is shared with viewers during the broadcast and emailed to registered Zoom participants a day later. To date, 118 surveys have been completed and 67 have indicated we can contact them for a follow-up survey.

The Hort PIT Team has hosted 4 webinars so far, with an average of more than 80 participants watching live via Zoom and Facebook. Social media metrics show nearly 14,000 minutes have been watched on Facebook. The Northwest District Hort PIT Team is looking forward to the additional 9 webinars scheduled through the November 2020, which can be found via the [Gardening in the Panhandle Blog](#).

### The Northwest District Hort PIT Team

Beth Bolles – Escambia County	Carrie Stevenson – Escambia County
Matt Lollar – Santa Rosa County	Mary Salinas – Santa Rosa County
Stephen Greer – Santa Rosa County	Sheila Dunning – Okaloosa County
Larry Williams – Okaloosa County	Evan Anderson – Walton County
Matt Orwat – Washington County	Julie McConnell – Bay County
Daniel Leonard – Calhoun County	Molly Jameson – Leon County
Mark Tancig – Leon County	Ray Bodrey – Gulf County
Pat Williams – Wakulla County	Danielle Sprague – Jefferson County

## BEEKEEPING IN THE PANHANDLE

Matthew Orwat, Horticulture EA II, Washington County

For nearly a decade, the UF/IFAS Northwest District Beekeeping Team has delivered the National Search for Excellence award-winning, in-person conference and trade show "Beekeeping in the Panhandle." However, this year COVID-19 and social distancing protocols forced a

last-minute move to an all-online event utilizing Zoom webinar technology.

The new webinar was designed with the same goal as past conferences: providing researched-based beekeeping information to hobby and commercial beekeepers.

The six-hour webinar was hosted through Zoom virtual meeting technology, broadcast on Facebook Live and [YouTube](#) on April 17, and moderated by four NW District Agents. Program advertisement utilized social media outlets and UF Subscription Management Service





(SMS) newsletters. The Florida State Beekeepers Association helped promote the webinar and gave us reach statewide and beyond. Speakers included an internationally recognized bee virologist, UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab employees, and FDACS apiary inspectors. Each speaker was given 50 minutes with 10 additional minutes for questions. Speaker and participant interaction was facilitated by an Extension agent dedicated to relaying questions. Another agent was charged with monitoring the Facebook live chat

and relaying any pertinent information. At the webinar's conclusion, a formal panel Q&A session was held.

By using Zoom, the Beekeeping Team expanded conference attendance and attracted an international audience. 247 beekeeping clientele attended the Zoom webinar and an additional 3,950 were reached through Facebook and YouTube streaming. 211 questions were answered with research-based information by field experts. 91 attendees completed a post-conference Qualtrics survey. 69% of respondents reported

greater confidence using beekeeping equipment to optimize their operation, 92% identifying healthy hives through visual observation, and 71% properly operating smokers. Additionally, 82% gained knowledge on virus impact on bee health, 66% on apiary inspection procedures, and 72% on FDACS regulations.

The Beekeeping Webinar reached a larger, more diverse audience than the traditional in-person program and successfully educated clientele on key beekeeping topics. Though the conference's social aspect and physical trade show were missed, the webinar proved that modifying traditional programs using technology works and should be further integrated in future programmatic efforts.

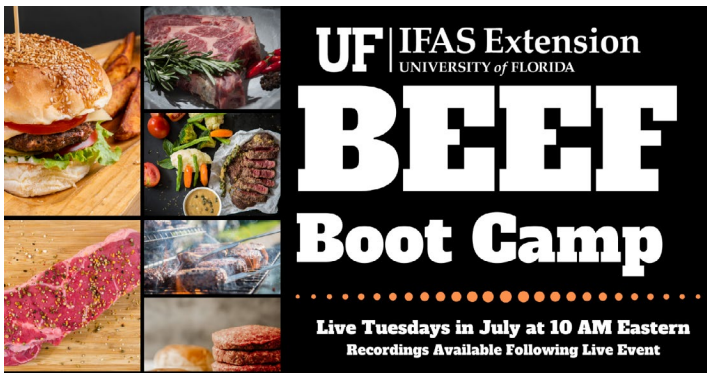
If you would like to view the entire beekeeping in the panhandle webinar, please follow this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1Uc8mdwKNw>

## BEEF BOOT CAMP

Kalyn Waters, Agriculture EA II, Holmes County

Dr. Chad Carr, Meat Science Assoc. Professor, Animal Sciences



Over the past six months, cattle producers across the nation have become interested in making the transition from market cattle to marketing beef. Freeze beef and other local beef marketing avenues are increasing in popularity. However, the transition from raising live cattle for sale to producing a custom beef product is sizable and complicated. Thus, the UF/IFAS Extension Holmes County director Kalyn Waters teamed up with Dr. Chad Carr, UF/IFAS Extension State Meat Specialist to host a four-part series of webinars that focus on beef production. In addition, Dr. Nicolas DiLorenzo and Dr.

Todd Thrift, State Extension Specialists, contributed to the webinars by teaching.

Webinars were hosted live on Tuesdays in July. They were also broadcast to [Facebook LIVE](#) using ZOOM Webinar to a pre-established page. A total of 98 clients registered for the webinars from 24 different states. Topics included:

- Logistics of Direct-to-Consumer Beef Merchandising
- Transitioning from Cattle Producer to Beef Marketer
- Selection & Management of Cattle
- Marketing and Brand Development Discussion Panel

The webinars were viewed live by 269 clients on Zoom and Facebook LIVE. In addition, the webinars were viewed 11,800 times on social media, with a total social media reach of 36,518 with 2,113 engagements.

Increasing producer's knowledge of alternative markets for their beef products and expanding their ability to successfully navigate the process of transitioning from a cattle producer to a beef marketer can add value to their cattle enterprises. This program was able to do that and reach those clients during the challenges of COVID-19.

## COMINGS AND 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

Lynnette Jean, associate director, Family Nutrition Program

Kevin Camm, Agriculture/CRD CED & Prg EA III, Orange County

### TRANSFERS

Stephanie Toelle to FCS CED IV, Duval County

Maia McGuire to Associate Program Leader & Sea Grant EA IV

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

### DEPARTURES

Victoria Hunter Gibney, interim associate director, Family Nutrition Program

Elver Pardo, 4-H YD EA II, Orange County

Christian Miller, Ag/ Commercial Hort EA II, Palm Beach County

Travis Chapin, Food Safety SSA II, SW District

Laurie Hurner, Agriculture CED IV, Highlands County

Arthur Kirstein, Agriculture EA I, Palm Beach County

### RETIRED

Nancy Gal, FCS EA IV, Marion County

Julie England, FCS EA III, Seminole County

Doug Caldwell, Environmental Hort EA IV, Collier County