



Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

Meet Your Specialist



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I came to the University of Florida from EARTH University in Costa Rica where I was a Weed Science Professor.

My specialties are Weed Biology and Management, and Plant Physiology. I also take special interest in cropping systems, seed biology and genetics.

In 2005, I received my Ph.D. in Crop Production and Physiology with emphasis on Weed Science and Seed Science, and a Ph.D. in Genetics from Iowa State University.

My research focuses on properly describing the importance (positive and negative aspects) of plant diversity in agricultural settings, and developing and improving integrated approaches for weed management. Currently, I am studying aspects of herbicide efficacy in row crops and turfgrass, herbicide resistant weeds, and weed adaptations to agroecosystems. I have worked in California, the Midwestern United States, and Latin America on crops such as citrus, corn, grapevines, pastures, rice, soybeans, sugar cane, and vegetables.

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Table of Contents

Meet Your Specialist	1
NW District Extension Faculty and the 2011 Sunbelt Ag Expo	2
Extension Helps County with Environmental Permit Compliance	2
UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service's 2012 Master Landscape management Program	3
Extension Agent Helps Save Flock	4
Farm to School Program has Regional Economic Impacts	4
UF/IFAS Alachua County Extension Service Home Grown Events are a Hit with County Residents	5
New Faculty/Faculty Transfers	6

NW District Extension Faculty and the 2011 Sunbelt Ag Expo

Each year NW District Extension Faculty participates in the annual Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, GA. This event is the largest agricultural expo in the southeast, typically receiving 100,000 visitors.



Marjorie Moore, Bay County FCS Agent and Shelley Swenson, Wakulla County FCS Agent answer questions at their 2011 Sunbelt Ag Expo Display "Tailgating in the Swamp—Safe and Healthy"

In addition to information provided by 1,200 commercial exhibitors, visitors also learn from many displays on hand from university and research specialists. The University of Florida has its own permanent building for educational displays at the Expo, and the 2011 theme for UF/IFAS was: "Florida it's a Swamp Thing!" During this three-day event, 15 NW District Faculty and 14 NW District Master Gardeners assisted as resource personnel to host displays, answer questions, and promote UF/IFAS Extension.

Four of the eleven displays were staffed and created by NW District Faculty: "Nurseries of the Sea—Swamps and Marshes" by Scott Jackson, Bay County and Florida Sea Grant Extension; "Beekeeping—Swamp Tupelo to Prized Honey" by Judy Ludlow, Calhoun County and Mark Dykes, Entomology and Nematology Department; "Winging it in the Swamp" by Heather Kent and Northwest District 4-H Extension Agents; and "Tailgating in the Swamp—Safe and Healthy" by



Bay County Sea Grant Agent, Scott Jackson discusses salt marsh ecology with youth at his display "Nurseries of the Sea—Swamps and Marshes" at the 2011 Sunbelt Ag Expo.

Heidi Copeland, Leon County and NW District Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agents. About 15,000 visitors came through the UF/IFAS Sunbelt Ag Expo building.

Judy Ludlow, CED, Calhoun Cty

Extension Helps County with Environmental Permit Compliance

Each Florida county is issued a Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) storm-water permit designed to protect area water resources. Cooperative Extension has partnered with Pasco County to play a key role in permit compliance by providing required Florida-Friendly Landscaping education to numerous county department personnel as well as to four cities and the area Dept. of Transportation personnel who were also issued a storm-water permit.

Appropriate employees must be trained in Green Industry Best Management Practices, in establishing standard operating procedures for proper landscape chemical handling, and on integrated pest management practices while performing their daily duties. Pasco Extension is helping establish protocols for proper chemical storage and use, and is promoting integrated pest management strategies

in all county facilities and on all county-maintained roadways and park facilities.

UF/IFAS Extension horticulturists can play a critical role in assisting local communities by connecting IFAS educational resources to help communities remain in compliance with their storm-water permits.

BJ Jarvis, CED, Pasco Cty

UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service's 2012 Master Landscape Management Program

On March 8, 2012, the 8-week UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service's 2012 Master Landscape Management course concluded successfully. Thirty-eight horticultural professionals completed the entire program and earned a striking certificate of accomplishment. An additional 21 persons completed individual classes "a la carte." Participants represented tree care, landscape design, installation, and maintenance firms, as well as municipal and county parks and recreation, landscape, and public works departments.



Twenty-two university specialists, industry subject experts, and local extension faculty conducted presentations and hands-on learning activities over the course of this program. Topics covered included Pruning Young Trees for Structure, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Legislation, What License Do I Need?, Fertilization and Palm Nutrition, and Extension Services Available to You, to name a few. Hands-on learning activities included a Landscape Design Elements Tour, an Insect Scouting Workshop, and a Proper Planting Demonstration.

This program was developed by Laura Sanagorski, Environmental Horticulture Extension Faculty, to encourage the use of UF/IFAS research-based best management practices in the landscape, with a focus on the nine components of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping program. Participants were highly satisfied with the quality of education they received, and they enthusiastically shared their feedback on the program:

"I am so grateful that this level of professionalism exists in our county."

"I learned so much in this course. [My employer] also sees the value in it and will increase my salary for earning this certificate".

"It was my privilege to have learned so much from so many passionate and resourceful people in the horticulture industry. I am also very impressed with the professionalism of the Palm Beach County Extension service. This has been my first time dealing with anyone from the Extension office and I am delighted".

"As a new landscape designer, I found this information to be superbly informative".

Many horticultural professionals are required to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to maintain the licenses they need to do their jobs. In today's economy, many have expressed that they must now pay for these classes to earn the required CEUs.

A goal of this program was to provide professionals with a reasonably-priced source of quality CEUs in a number of licensing areas. A total of 494.75 Continuing Education Units were earned by this hard-working group! The CEUs earned included: 8 Landscape Inspectors' Association of Florida (LIAF), 60 Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA), 345 pesticide applicators, and 81.75 International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Based on a value of \$3,200 per CEU (Steed, 2011; Hodges et. al 2011), the 2012 Master Landscape Management Program resulted in a \$ 1,583,200 return value to Palm Beach County.



Those interested in becoming involved with this program can look for more information in late 2012.

Laura Sanagorski, EA | Environmental Hort, Palm Beach Cty

Extension Agent Helps Save Flock

A producer purchased 12,000 pheasant chicks and noticed that every day more and more chicks were developing deformities, causing them to walk in tight circles, which prevented the chicks from getting water and causing approximately 200 chicks to die. Lindsey Wiggins, SW Florida regional livestock agent, was contacted for help. Due to her efforts of analyzing the feed tag and determining that there was a nutritional deficiency, the producer was able to save the flock (estimated value: \$11,800).

The agent's teaching efforts influenced the producer to provide the correct feed that would meet the nutritional requirements of the growing chicks, allowing the birds to reach maturity and be sold for \$25 per bird (estimated value: \$295,000). Furthermore, the producer has successfully raised 24,000 more pheasants without nutritional deficiencies during the last 2 years.

Lindsey Wiggins, Regional Livestock EAI, Hendry Cty

Farm to School Program has Regional Economic Impacts

Implementation of local foodsheds is challenging due to the lack of economic benefit data to justify such a development strategy. Sarasota County Agriculture Extension collaborated with the UF Department of Food and Resource Economics to analyze the Sarasota County Farm-to-School Program that provides locally-sourced foods for the school lunch program of the Sarasota County School District.

Using IMPLAN software, the total economic benefit to the multi-county region of nine participating farms was evaluated. For the 2010-11 school year, the direct effects of purchases from these farms were \$107,000 for produce and \$1,079,450 for dairy foods, which supported 22 jobs. Calculation

of the indirect and induced effects of these purchases increased total economic effect for the region to \$2,306,745, including nine additional jobs. This result was due to the typically higher multiplier effects from agricultural activity, e.g., 2.4 for vegetable produce and 1.84 for dairy. Providing this information to local decision makers will justify expansion of resources for Farm-to-School Programs statewide as one important economic strategy for the state.

Robert Kluson, Ag EA III, Sarasota Cty

UF/IFAS Alachua County Extension Service Home Grown Events are a Hit with County Residents



In an effort to increase agriculture awareness and meet the need for information on growing your own food by the citizens of Alachua County, UF/IFAS Alachua County Extension Service Office held its first annual Alachua Home Grown Farm Tours and Alachua Home Grown Open House last April. The farm tours were attended by 42 people, and the open house was attended by 150 people.

The farm tour stops featured an ornamental plant nursery, a commercial blueberry farm, a commercial diversified farming operation that featured tilapia fish production, bird feed production, tomato and watermelon production, and an organic Community Supported Agricultural farm. An end-of-tour survey was used to determine if program objectives were met. Ninety-seven percent of survey respondents (n=35) were satisfied or very satisfied with the farm tours, and 89% of the sur-

vey respondents said that as a result of the farm tours they were moderately aware or extremely aware of agriculture in the county.



The Open House featured six different presentations on topics such as organic gardening, heirloom tomatoes, canning, backyard egg production, cut flower production, and 4-H youth programs. Also, there were twelve different demonstrations on topics ranging from composting to tasting herbed butters prepared from herbs in the garden.

An end-of-program survey was used to determine if program objectives were met. Eighty-eight percent of survey respondents (n=32) said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the information presented in the organic gardening class, 100% learned new techniques by attending the workshop, and 100% of the survey respondents said they would apply these new techniques at home.

One hundred percent of survey respondents (n=28) said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the information presented in the canning class, 100% learned new techniques by attending the workshop, and 100% of the survey respondents said they would apply these new techniques.

Eighty-four percent of survey respondents (n=38) said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the information presented in the heirloom tomato class, 97% learned new techniques by attending the workshop, and 97% of the survey respondents said they would apply these new techniques.

Aparna Gazula, Commercial Hort EA II, Alachua Cty

Certificate in Teaching & Learning in Extension

The University of Florida's Department of Agricultural Education and Communication (AEC) is among the country's best in developing leaders, educators, and communicators to meet society's challenges in agricultural and life sciences.

The department provides students with the tools and resources needed for success. In addition, AEC supports UF's Florida Cooperative Extension's efforts and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' varied academic and research programs, including the Teaching Resource Center, the Wedgworth Leadership Institute, Scientific Thinking and Educational Partnership, and the Program Development and Evaluation Center. Please click [here](#) to see the current list of syllabi which correspond to AEC courses being offered during the upcoming semester.

Through its land-grant mission of teaching, research, and extension, the department enhances leadership in communities and organizations, educates individuals, and communicates ideas and issues to various audiences.

For more information please visit <http://aec.ifas.ufl.edu>

New Faculty

Please welcome the following new faculty:

Rick O'Connor, Sea Grant/Marine Science EA II, Escambia Cty

Sherrie Jackson, Housing/Financial Mngmnt, Osceola Cty

Jonael Bosques-Mendez, Small Farms EA I, Marion Cty

Kendra Zamojski FCS/Comm Devel. CED EA II, Leon Cty

Brittany Bethel, Cts EA I, Brevard Cty

Amanda Squitieri, 4-H Youth Devel. EA I, Polk Cty.

Gabrielle Milch, FFL EA I, Seminole Cty

Camille Esmel, Comm. Hort EA II, Sumter Cty

Faculty Transfers

Jim Fletcher, CED and Ag EA IV, Osceola Cty

Jennifer Bearden, Ag EA II, Okaloosa Cty

Lori Wiggins, FCS EA III, Taylor Cty

Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter distributed by the Office of the Dean for Extension via e-mail and on the 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 Shah.

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