

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

February 2013

Dean's Notes and Quotes

Organizational Update

In the brief time that I have served as Dean and Director for UF/IFAS Extension, I have learned a great deal. This has been through numerous meetings and conversations that I've had with many of you. There are a great number of strengths that we have as an organization, particularly in relation to the strong programming efforts across the state. People highly value the positive impact we bring upon families, business, individuals and communities.

On the other side of the coin, there are several items that we will be giving attention to as we move forward. Those things needing our attention range from smaller immediate needs to those that are complex and will take a longer time to implement across our organization. I am in the process of pulling these ideas together and will be sharing these thoughts and ideas with you in the near future.

One organizational item that I will be addressing soon is our Associate Dean for Extension position. As you are aware, Dr. Tom Obreza has served faithfully over the past four years as an Interim in this position. I am very grateful for the work and leadership that he has brought to this position. He has worked to keep our organization moving forward during this transitional time, and he has brought steady and thoughtful leadership to this interim position.

Based upon the high level of organizational responsibility aligned with this position, I will be adjusting this position to be a Senior Associate

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Dean position for UF/IFAS Extension. As we work on moving our organization forward and address the major opportunities that are in front of us, it will be critical that we have this position brought into line with the major leadership and administrative duties that will be undertaken.

Because this is newly revised position, we will be conducting a national search for this position. The position description is being finalized, and this will be made available once the search is launched. In addition, I will be appointing a Search and Screen Committee in the very near future. If you are interested in serving on this Committee let me know. I'll keep you posted as this process moves forward.

Smith Lever 100th Anniversary Task Force

I am happy to announce that we have finalized a task force and they are in the process of setting up their initial planning meeting. This task force will be leading our UF/IFAS Extension efforts to recognize and promote our 100 year anniversary of our Extension organization.

The Smith-Lever Act was signed on May 8, 1914; and this Act formalized our federal, state and local partnership which created our national Extension System as we now know it. This landmark anniversary presents a great opportunity to celebrate our beginnings, our century of successes, and how we are positioning our organization for the next 100 years. I have asked that the task force consider multiple ways that we can recognize and capitalize on this major milestone in ways that will lead our organization into a memorable celebration of the historic signing of the Smith–Lever Act of 1914. David Holmes and Karla Shelnuttt have enthusiastically agreed to be Task Force Co-Chairs, and I am very appreciative of the leadership that they will bring to this effort. Other members of the task force are: Heather Kent, Elena Toro, Samantha Kennedy, Dan Culbert, Bryan Unruh, Hayk Khachatryan, Lyn Gettys, Chuck Cichra and Danielle Treadwell. The task

force is made up of faculty who broadly represent UF/IFAS Extension, programmatically and geographically, as well as across Campus, RECs and Counties.

In addition, Drs. Ruth Borger and Pete Vergot will also serve on the Task Force as liaisons from UF/IFAS Information and Communications Services and Extension Administration, respectively. Moreover, there is a national effort underway that will provide materials that will complement our statewide efforts.

I am very appreciative of those who stepped up to be part of this task force. This is a great opportunity for us, and I am looking forward to working with the task force and each of you to ensure that we fully capitalize on this once-in-a-lifetime effort.

2013 EPAF / Professional Development Conference

This will be a reminder to all of our state and county faculty to mark off the dates for the 2013 EPAF/Professional Development Conference. The full event will take place August 26-30, 2013 at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra. The tentative agenda includes:

Monday, 8/26: EPAF Tours

Tuesday, 8/27: EPAF Association Meetings

Wednesday, 8/28: EPAF Paper and Poster Presentations

Thursday, 8/29: UF/IFAS Extension In-Services and Professional Development

Friday, 8/30: Meeting time for Extension Initiative Teams, Keynote Speaker and UF/IFAS Extension Organizational Charge

You should have received an email that was sent out under my signature by Dr. Tom Obreza on February 19. This was a Request for Proposals for In-Service Training to be held on Thursday (8/29) of this statewide conference. I'd highly encourage you to consider submitting proposals that would fit into one of two categories: 1) Academic subject-matter that directly relates to one of the seven high-priority initiatives in our UF/IFAS Extension Roadmap (<http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/>)

[roadmap.shtml](#)), and 2) core competency training (for examples, see <http://www.joe.org/joe/2001february/rb3.php>).

More details can be found in the on-line EPAF IST application form available at the following link:

https://ufl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0e57jXtPeNo38QI.

Be sure to get these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. Further details on registration, costs, lodging, etc. will be available soon, so stay tuned.

Quote to live by:

“It’s not what you gather in life, but what you scatter in life that tells the kind of life you’ve lived and the kind of person you are.” *Helen Robson Walton*

Best regards,

Dr. Nick Place

Deadlines & Events

May 1, 2013 - Citizen of the Year nominations (<http://www.bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/2013-bob-graham-center-citizen-year>)

May 6-9, 2013 - FCS Summit (<http://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/>)

August 26-30, 2013 - Extension Professional Associates of Florida (EPAF) Conference at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL (<http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu>)

Managing Irrigation Controllers

The New Residents Workshop is a 2-hour session on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ and irrigation maintenance. Florida-Friendly methods include turf management, fertilization, Florida-Friendly plants, and pest control, but irrigation maintenance is the main topic. Irrigation maintenance includes setting and operating the Hunter ProC® and Hunter SRC® irrigation controller, calibrating the irrigation system to apply ½" to ¾" of water per irrigation event, adjusting irrigation heads, cleaning irrigation filters, and methods for monthly irrigation inspections. Step-by-step instruction on setting and managing each irrigation controller is emphasized in each workshop.

According a University of Florida study, when landscape irrigation such as irrigation controllers are managed and set correctly, a 30% water savings can be achieved by each homeowner, which can potentially save around 13,000 gallons per month. The simple act of setting irrigation clocks to manual and watering on an as-needed basis can prevent unnecessary application of irrigation water, thus protecting Florida’s water supply while also reducing utility bills.

The 96% (n=90) of residents who now manage and set their clock and irrigation system correctly after attending the New Residents workshop will potentially save about 1.1 million gallons of water per month. This savings equates to more than 13.4 million gallons of water potentially saved per year just by properly setting and managing the irrigation controller.

(<http://www.reeis.usda.gov/web/areera/reports/2011/2011-University-of-Florida-Research-and-Extension-and-Florida-A-and-M-University-Extension-Combined-Annual-Report-of-Accomplishments-and-Results.pdf>).

Jim Davis, FYN EA I, Sumter Cty

Non-Chemical Control of Invasive Smutgrass

Problem: Smutgrass (*Sporobolus indicus* var. *pyramidalis*) invades most pasture grasses in Central Florida. If left uncontrolled it reduces the grazing capacity of infested acreage, resulting in reduced beef production.

Partner Organizations: Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Credit, Deseret Ranch.

Program (Methods and Activities): One chemical treatment exists, but it requires significant capital, labor, and equipment, and the product also kills oak trees rendering incorporation impractical in many pasture management systems.

Alternative non-chemical combinations of grazing management (mob grazing) and cultural practices can be used for effective control of smutgrass. A cooperative, multi-agency field study was implemented on 56 acres of a commercial ranch in central Florida where four replicates of three treatments (burn and graze, mow and graze, and graze only) in a randomized block experimental design were imposed in November 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Plant size and number were significantly reduced on burn/graze treatments while vegetative smutgrass provided forage for the cattle during the winter months. Infill with desirable grass was notable in areas previously covered with smutgrass.

People: In March 2011, cattlemen attended a field day with partnering organizations to observe treatment effects, which were significantly

noticeable.



So What: Velpar (approved for use in bahiagrass and bermudagrass fields) is the only herbicide approved for smutgrass control. Velpar kills oak trees. Although rotational grazing and burning utilizes intensified management, smutgrass was significantly reduced.

Sharon Fox Gamble, Livestock EA IV, Volusia Cty

Joe Walter, Ag EA II, Brevard Cty

Ashley Fluke, Livestock/Forage EA I, Osceola Cty

Yoanna Newman, Agronomy Department

Community Gardens Increase Exercise and Food Equity

Two communities involved in developing new vegetable gardens have limited access to fresh food. These communities are not the typical extension clients that would come to learn how to raise vegetables. This agent along with a Master Gardener who is very interested in creating a community garden formed partnerships with the Community of Royal Inc., Wildwood Community Development Center, Loaves of Love, and the City of Wildwood to develop plans that meet the needs of the two communities. A grant was written and awarded to the groups from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that will pay for the development of two community gardens.

Per capita household incomes in the targeted

communities range from \$12,186 to \$19,495. According to the USDA Economic Research Service, lack of access to affordable and nutritious foods increases obesity, diet-related diseases, and major public health problems. A recent study by the University of Colorado found that community gardeners consume more servings of fruits and vegetables per day than home gardeners, and they engage in an average of 720 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous exercise. According to a study by the Florida Department of Health, 75% of the adults in Sumter County are obese or overweight, which is much higher than the Florida average of 65%. The gardens in these communities will provide increased food equity and exercise incentive through fresh produce that will be grown and consumed by community members working and learning in the gardens.

Susan Kelly, CED EA III, Sumter Cty

Florida Forest Service County Foresters Train to Become Certified Arborists

In the summer of 2012, Greg Dunn, a forester with the Florida Forest Service in St. Johns County, enrolled in the Arborist Certification and Education (ACE) training given by Larry Figart, the Urban Forestry Extension Agent in Duval County.



Newly Certified Arborist David Holley



Florida Forest Service Nassau County Forester and newly Certified Arborist David Holley inspects the foliage of a water oak tree while assessing the tree for hazards. He was able to take and pass the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist exam by participating in the Arborist Certification Education program given by Duval County Urban Forestry Extension Agent Larry Figart

Greg requested permission from the Florida Forest Service State Office to use a state vehicle in order to travel to the training. This situation set in motion the idea that perhaps it was time to facilitate this certification for more County Foresters. Through consultation with the Florida Forest Service, two intensive training sessions were scheduled. One was held in Gainesville for foresters in the northern part of the state led by Larry Figart, and one was held in Tampa led by Hillsborough Urban Forestry Extension Agent Rob Northrop for foresters in the southern part of the state. The International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist exams were scheduled shortly after each training session. As a result of the training, all 18 Florida Forest Service foresters passed the exam to become Certified Arborists. The average test score was 90.3% for the Gainesville group and 85.8% for the Tampa group. The benefit to the Florida Forest Service can be summed up by the following quote attributed to Charlie Marcus, Urban Forestry Coordinator, Florida Forest Service: *"This knowledge and skill set goes beyond what the participants would have learned in Forestry*

College. The expertise associated with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) arborist certification title is recognized by local officials, private tree service vendors, and the general public, and lends credibility to the professional decisions made by those who have the certification.”

Larry Figart, Forestry EA II, Duval Cty

Preparing for the Future

In 1999 there were 41 potato growers in St. Johns County. Now, there are now only 21 left in St. Johns and a total of only 31 in the Tri-County Agricultural Area (TCAA; Putnam, Flagler and St. Johns Counties). The average age of the current potato farm owner is 57. For vegetable production to remain viable in this area, agriculture will depend on the next generation of young farmers to lead the

way.

UF/IFAS St. Johns County Extension, PWACS and The Reagan Insurance Agency hosted a group of local young farmers in a 6-week educational series related to agri-business in



Adam Jones of Picolata Farms
planting potatoes in St. Johns
County

the TCAA. Twenty-one local growers were educated on a variety of topics during a 7-week period that the next generation will have to use and understand in order to sustain their farm in the future. The classes focused on operation and management principles of farming and new technologies available in agriculture. Those who attended were able to make and use contacts related to specific areas in management and operation of a farm enterprise. Growers learned what today's retailers will expect from them, where and how to look for financing for the farm, integrated pest management strategies, irrigation and nutrient management, and how to comply and communi-



Austin Lands of Lands Farms unloads
seed potato for preparation of cutting
and planting

cate with regulatory agencies.

Of the 21 attendees, 100% said they had increased management and operational skills in all

aspects of their business and

said they were

more comfortable dealing with retailers and regulators.

This series was the first of its kind in the county. Growers have requested additional classes to help enrich skills and enhance their businesses. A future series will be based on survey responses of topics that growers would like to see addressed.

Clientele Take Charge of their Lives by Reducing Sodium in their Diets

The MyPlate and 2010 Dietary Guidelines reducing the daily amount of sodium in the diet opened the eyes to the large amount of sodium individuals were consuming. “Spice it up the healthy way with herbs” was designed to teach the options available to reduce sodium in people's diets for a healthier lifestyle. Ten workshops were conducted for 622 participants. Of these, 365 completed the evaluation materials. As a result of increased knowledge and behavior changes, 82% of the participants reported they cut sodium intake in half and reduced their blood pressure during a 2-month period. In addition, 90% of the participants reported learning how to use the food label to make healthier choices and reduce sodium and also reported decreasing their sodium by using salt substitutes.

Participants also reported several behavior changes made as a result of lifestyle changes learned

and put into practice during a 6-month period.



As a result of changing eating habits and starting an exercise program, they lost weight (total 3,050 pounds) and lowered their blood pressure. In fact, 52 of the participants were taken off blood pressure medications by their doctor. These individuals reported that they have more energy, feel a lot better, and have an improved self-esteem.

Martha Maddox, FCS EA III, Sumter Cty

Challenger School Garden

Martin County Master Gardener volunteer Kay Furman was recently honored with an achievement award by the Florida Master Gardener program for her educational programming at the Challenger School in Stuart. The Challenger School provides special programs for the severely mentally/physically disabled and severely emotionally disturbed children ages 3 to 22, with the majority of students being severely emotionally disturbed. Through Kay's work with the students and local businesses, the Challenger School garden is growing. Expansion has been funded with contributions from local donated materials and monetary donations (more than \$600 donated this year, with \$1,000 more pending). The 2011/2012 school year involved the most active participation in the garden project since its inception.

Students have learned comprehensive gardening skills, plant ID, garden construction, how to lay patio stones, and building stone planters and mobile planting beds. The students have been learning horticultural science in the classroom provided by Ms. Furman and then applying lessons learned

in the garden. Students have learned how to give a tour of the garden and can explain uses of plants, their history, and how to care for them. Interested students have also been known to give up part of their recess and lunch to help in the garden. The garden has kept a few of the students from running away by diverting their attention and offering them an educational, healthy activity they enjoy. The principal has given the students an opportunity to work in the garden rather than serve detention. Being outdoors and working with plants has had a positive effect on student behavior, and teachers are now bringing more classes into the garden. This December the school is having its first school picnic with the entire school participating. The transformation of the garden is as amazing as the transformation of the students.

Yvette Goodiel, Sustainability/Comm Hort EA II, Martin Cty

Exploring the *Journal of Extension*

Do you have a great idea that you want to share with your colleagues across the country? Or have you ever wondered if anyone else has experimented with which teaching methods work best for your type of clientele? If so, then look no further than the *Journal of Extension* (www.joe.org), known more commonly as *JOE*. *JOE* is the official refereed journal of the U.S. Cooperative Extension System and your "go-to" source for articles focused on Extension topics.

According to the *JOE* Web site, *JOE* "expands and updates the research and knowledge base for Extension professionals and other adult educators to improve their effectiveness. In addition, *JOE* serves as a forum for emerging and contemporary issues affecting Extension education" (*JOE*, n.d. para.1). *JOE* articles are organized into five submission types:

Feature Articles: Focus on concepts and research relevant to a broad Extension audience; in other words, many Extension professionals would likely be interested in reading Feature Articles. Exam-

ple: Extension's Evolving Alignment of Programs Serving Families and Youth: Organizational Change and Its Implications (<http://www.joe.org/joe/2012december/a1.php>)

Research in Brief: Focus on data collected and methods used; typically RIB articles are localized (county or multi-county) needs assessment or evaluation studies with a more narrowly defined audience who will likely be interested. Example: Electronic Commerce Adoption in the Hardwood Industry (<http://www.joe.org/joe/2012december/rb4.php>)

Ideas at Work: Focus on innovative concepts, methods, and programs; typically, Ideas at Work do *not* feature data evaluating the innovation but are more informative and promotional. Example: "Apps" – An Innovative Way to Share Extension Knowledge (<http://www.joe.org/joe/2012december/iw2.php>)

Tools of the Trade: Focus on something practical and applied that can be used for the job, rather than ideas. Example: Increasing Response Rates to Web-Based Surveys (<http://www.joe.org/joe/2012december/tt7.php>)

Commentary: Much like Feature Articles, Commentaries focus on topics that are of broad interest to Extension professionals and are written to challenge current philosophies and/or encourage discussion on contemporary Extension issues. A particularly relevant Commentary related to our renewed emphasis on scholarship within UF/IFAS Extension is: JOE's Niche in the Extension Scholarship Movement (<http://www.joe.org/joe/2012october/comm2.php>)

Each type of article undergoes various levels of review, with the Feature articles and Research in Brief articles subjected to the most rigorous scrutiny by three reviewers. For this reason, Extension professionals just beginning to venture into the world of publishing may find it less intimidating to begin by submitting an Ideas at Work or Tools of the Trade article, which are evaluated by one reviewer or the editor, respectively. Similarly, Commentary articles are reviewed only by the editor. If you have an idea for an article but are unsure which category it fits into, please don't hesitate to

contact me (amharder@ufl.edu) or the JOE Editor, Laura Hoelscher (joe-ed@joe.org). More specific guidelines for each type of article can be found at: <http://www.joe.org/for-authors-submission-guidelines.php>

There are abundant opportunities to share information in JOE. So, I challenge you to start thinking about potential ideas for publication. Write them down in a prominent place that you'll see often – this will help establish them as goals for your work in the upcoming months. It might even spark interest in your colleagues to collaborate on the same idea ... which is a nice segue for next month's article focused on using teams to divide and conquer the world of research and publishing. A well-constructed team really does make true the axiom "none of us is as smart as all of us." Stay tuned to see how we can put that to work in the world of Extension scholarship!

Amy Harder

Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Education & Communication

Easy as PIE Webinar Series

"Buying Local Food: Public Beliefs and Impacts"
Wednesday, March, 20, 2013 2:00pm-3:00pm

What does 'local food' mean to consumers? Join this session to learn about one of the first research efforts aimed at better understanding consumers' food purchasing behaviors and patterns, the economic impacts of the local food system, and consumer perceptions of local food. Learn what local foods Floridians buy, where and why they buy them and how much they annually spend on them. In addition, researchers will discuss the branding potential to increase the market value and other opportunities for businesses of all sizes and commodities. This moderated panel session will give researchers and practitioners an opportunity to explain the study's implications for Florida communicators, large and small-scale growers, and policy makers. Webinar participants will have time to pose their own questions to pan-

elists as well.



Alan Hodges,
Extension
Scientist, FRED



Rachel Divine De
Jesus, Research
Coordinator, PIE
Center



Sonia Tighe,
Executive
Director, Florida
Specialty Crop
Foundation,
Florida Fruit and
Vegetable Assoc

To register for this webinar and for in-service training visit: <http://www.piecenter.com/easy-as-pie/>

Nicole Dodds, ndodds@ufl.edu or (352) 273-3139

Special Mention

The following agents have recently completed advanced degrees. We would like to congratulate them on this great accomplishment:

Brooke (Burn) Moffis, Res Hort EA II, Lake Cty, received her M.S. in Entomology and Nematology from the Univ. of Florida.

New Hires

Please welcome the following new faculty:

Matthew Lenhardt, Comm Hort EA I, Brevard Cty

New Positions

We would like to Congratulate the following faculty members on their new position:

Joseph Sowards, from Res Hort in Putnam Cty to Res Hort EA I, Volusia Cty

Gabrielle Milch, from FFL/MG in Seminole Cty to Res Hort EA I, Seminole Cty

Retirement

We would like to give our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement after many years of service and dedication:



Kathie Roberts, 4-H/Youth Dev EA III, Miami-Dade 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.