

# Comings & Goings

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION**

## February 2015

## Dean's Notes and Quotes

**Dr. Joan A. Dusky**

Our own Dr. Joan A. Dusky recently retired from the University of Florida after serving for almost 36 years. More than 200 friends and colleagues from across the state poured into Austin Cary Forest to celebrate Joan's legacy. It was a special day for her and she was quite overwhelmed. We congratulate Joan Dusky on her well-deserved retirement. It is with sincere gratitude for the guidance, leadership and commitment that she has given us that we wish her well on her new adventure. She has set an example to be followed in the future and she is cherished by those of us that were fortunate enough to have experienced it for ourselves.



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## Extension Connections

For our January session, Dr. Marty Main joined me to focus on the vision, goals and plans for our UF/IFAS Extension Natural Resources and Sea Grant program. During this session, we also had a very good dialogue going about program evaluation and how to get at higher level impacts. If you were unable to attend, you can view the recording as well as dates for future sessions here: <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/connect.shtml>

For our February session, Dr. Amy Harder was my guest. We covered a number of topics including PDEC (Program Development and Evaluation Center) vision and goals, professional development, program evaluation, and the importance of JOE (Journal of Extension) to our Scholarship of Extension. In addition, I provided a number of updates on our ongoing Extension Initiatives, the upcoming USDA Civil Rights Audit, and other organizational updates. To view this recording go to: <http://ufifas.adobeconnect.com/p2hd80a12a4/>

Regards,

*Dr. Nick Place*

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi*

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## In Memoriam

*From Bob Dunn, retired UF/IFAS Nematologist*  
I am sad to have to tell you that Gary Simone (retired UF/IFAS plant pathologist) died unexpectedly on January 12, apparently of heart disease. Debby, his wife, has asked me to spread the word to friends and colleagues who I might recall having been close to Gary that she might not think of. Please pass this news on to any who knew and respected Gary. However, Debby has asked that the news not be spread by "social media" of any kind (Facebook, etc.) as Gary deeply disliked all such media because of the distortions and misuse of information that often

arise from social media messaging. If you wish to make an honorary gift in Gary's memory in lieu of flowers, Debby suggests two:

The Oregon Humane Society in Portland at:  
<http://www.oregonhumane.org/>

The Leach Botanical Garden: <http://www.leachgarden.org/>

If you wish to contact Debby:  
600 S.E. Pounder Rd.  
P. O. Box 347  
Corbett, OR 97019-0347  
503/695-2658  
Debby Simone - [dlsimone@comcast.net](mailto:dlsimone@comcast.net)

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## Florida 4-H to Host 11 Japanese Delegates Summer '15

*Georgene Bender, 4-H RSA III, South Central District*

Florida 4-H signed an agreement with States' 4-H International in 2014 to participate in the Global Education program offered. A total of ten youth ages 12 to 16 and a chaperone will arrive in Orlando July 25<sup>th</sup> and stay with families of 4-H or extension people until August 21. Delegates will live with families and experience life in their community. The Japanese delegates are from a youth language program; they learn English through music and art.

All adult family members living in the house are screened and fingerprinted. County agents will cover the cost and also interview the family in their home. The only requirement is that the delegate must have their own bed and not an air mattress or cot. Sharing rooms are possible. Members will be assigned by "best match" and not on a first-come, first-served basis.

Andy Toelle, 4-H Extension Agent IV from Duval County will serve as this year's coordinator. Shane Michael, 4-H Extension Agent II from Seminole County, will coordinate in 2016. This article's

author serves as the program advisor. Applications are online at <http://states4hinternational.org> (select "Florida"). Host families must be selected and matched by April 1. If interested, feel free to e-mail Andy at [atoelle@coj.net](mailto:atoelle@coj.net) / [aeto1@ufl.edu](mailto:aeto1@ufl.edu) or Georgene at [gmbender@ufl.edu](mailto:gmbender@ufl.edu)



Andy Toelle, Extension 4-H Agent, Duval County serves as 2015 Florida Coordinator for States' 4-H International explains the program to two colleagues at the recent Youth Development Institute in Ocala, FL.

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## Extension's Chipper Safety Training Targets Accident Prevention

*Brenda Marty-Jimenez, FCS/FNP EA III, Broward Cty*

This past summer saw several local tragic accidents involving wood chippers used during tree trimming operations. One such accident resulted in a fatality and another in the loss of an arm. These machines are very powerful, grinding large tree limbs and trunks into wood chips during use with many rotating parts and sharp knives that process the wood. Those working around wood chippers are at risk of an accident if they do not observe safe operating procedures and/or are using equipment that has not been properly maintained. Following these unfortunate incidents, the local tree care industry asked the UF/IFAS Extension office to develop a training

curriculum and to teach safe chipper operation and maintenance procedures. Working in conjunction with the Brickman Group and Broward County Parks and Recreation Division safety specialists, a 2-hr hands-on class was developed featuring a 20-minute chipper safety video followed a battery of outdoor operation and maintenance exercises featuring two different models of wood chippers. A total of 139 individuals attended the classes that were held at select Broward County parks. Pre- and post-tests revealed that the attendees learned important safety concepts regarding personal protective equipment, start-up procedures, proper methods for loading brush into the chipper, what to do in the event of a jam, shut-down procedures, how to perform periodic safety checks, and importance of following recommended maintenance protocols. Knowledge gains derived from these pre- and post-tests revealed an average gain of 31% for these core concepts. At the conclusion of the classes, the vast majority (82 to 91%) of attendees indicated they would plan to implement all of the new key concepts they learned in their daily business operations. Follow-up studies are currently underway to determine if that intention has been fulfilled. If so, the local tree trimming industry will be operating at a much higher level of safety with lower accidents rates which is good for all of us.

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## 4-H Youth Expo Shines

*Geralyn Sachs, 4-H EA II, St. Johns Cty*  
County fairs traditionally provide many learning and application of mastery opportunities for 4-H youth. Since 2009, St. Johns County has been without a county fair. Therefore for the past 3 years the local 4-H Agent, Program Assistant and youth and adult volunteers from 38 families planned and conducted a 4-H Youth Expo. The 2014 4-H Expo consisted of a variety of 4-H animal shows, demonstrations, plant/consumer contests, visual arts contests, exhibits, 4-H lead interactive





**4-H Dairy Goat Club members cares for her 'kids' at the St. Johns County 4-H Expo.**

educational booths, local vendors, and a number of community organizations. In addition to the objective of providing a learning opportunity for 4-H youth, the youth expo also serves as means of marketing 4-H to the community. The following excerpt is from an email from one of our 1st-year parents, sent to one of our 4-H club leaders:

*...so I thought I'd send you a few pics of Emma at the fair. She won the Best Other Breed ribbon and the Reserve In Show trophy which were both the top honors for non-pure-bred rabbit people (sounds like a frightening horror film). Anyway, she was not only shocked to have won but delighted to have been a part of the Happy Hoppers 4-H Club. It was really well run and very professional and she (we) learned a great deal about rabbits as well as how to present them as she elected to do the "showmanship" aspect which means you have to present your rabbit and explain why the rabbit is a quality rabbit showing off all the best attributes. Emma never shies away from a challenge. She met lots of new people in 4-H outside of the World Travelers(4-H Club) which was a great experience for her. I would encourage all of the club members to branch out and try some of these general clubs. They are all outside the normal club meetings but have something specific to offer. I was amazed at all the different groups there, from the rabbit, poultry, and goat milkers (yes, goat milkers) clubs to the rocketry and flying clubs. It really is amazingly diverse, which I'm sure you were aware of but maybe some of the other parents are not. I certainly was not aware of the diversity. And, it's headed by the University of Florida. That's always a bonus!!!*



**4-H families enjoy learning what commodities are used in making bread at the Bread Station at the St. Johns County 4-H Expo.**



**4-H Rabbit Club member shows her prized rabbit at the St. Johns County 4-H Expo.**

## Pasture Management

*Lindsey Wiggins, Regional Livestock EA II, Hendry Cty*

Forages in the form of pasture, hay, and silage supply more than 80% of the nutrients required to produce a beef animal. Since most of the concentrate feed is provided during the finishing phase, forages provide an even higher percentage of nutrients consumed during the cow-calf phase. Good forage management practices like proper stocking rates more efficiently utilize resources

and will positively affect forage quality and yield, thus improving nutrient availability to the cow herd. Due to the warm and humid environment in south Florida, weeds (including noxious ones) grow the year around in pastures. Consumption of noxious weeds can cause death but it also causes less visible symptoms like pregnancy abortion. To address this issue I conducted 22 pasture management seminars and field consultations. Some of these were in conjunction with South Florida Beef Forage agents and specialists. Topics included weed identification, pasture establishment, forage selection, and weed control.

In total, 224 ranchers, ranch managers and allied trade company employees attended 1 or more of the seminars. I made an additional 325 ranchers aware of pasture management solutions through a bi-monthly newsletter.

As a result of my teaching efforts, two ranch managers (representing 50,000 acres and 6,500 head of beef cattle) removed noxious weeds after learning that 10% of their herd was poisoned from consumption of the noxious weeds. My teaching efforts saved these ranchers at least \$1,300,000 (10% of 6,500 = 650 head) (650 X \$2000/head = \$1,300,000). In addition, the remainder of the herd could have been negatively impacted by these weeds.

By implementing grazing management practices that best match their operations, these participants will more efficiently utilize their resources and will experience an increase in forage yield and quality. These improvements will decrease production cost, lower supplemental feed expense, and possibly increase pasture stocking capacity.

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## Vertigro Towers Used for School Gardens

*Joanne Cooper, FCS EA II, St. Johns Cty*

St. Johns County schools were facing many issues with growing gardens such as lack of physical

space plus limited volunteer and school personnel time. Other issues included water conservation, extreme temperature locations, and maintenance requirements. The FCS agent, agricultural agent and program assistant provided alternative gardening as a solution. Requests from

administration



Initial setup for the Vertigro System at the Webster School.

and faculty from

three St. Johns County schools were resolved and implemented with the construction of 'Vertigro Towers'. The vertical growing system is a high density growing system for many crops including strawberry, lettuce, herbs, and foliage. Thirty towers with five insulated pots per tower were constructed at the schools. A raised bed garden was also incorporated at three of the schools. This system uses low maintenance drip irrigation, conserving both space and time.

Additional funding for construction came from the USDA Farm to School grant, the Jacksonville Jaguars football organization, and school resources. A total of 290 students participated in the planting and maintaining of vegetable plants including a variety of lettuce, eggplant, cucumber, radish, cabbage, winter pea, broccoli and carrot. Harvesting for the system and raised bed gardens will be tried in the spring of 2015. By learning about alternative growing systems and food production, students were educated about food sustainability and production through this once-in-a-lifetime event. Southwoods Elementary and The Webster School are both identified as USDA food deserts in the Florida's Roadmap to Healthy Living. Faculty and administration commented on the success of the gardening alternative and applauded UF/IFAS Extension at the Jacksonville Jaguars program event with their assistance. This education fosters children a chance to learn an

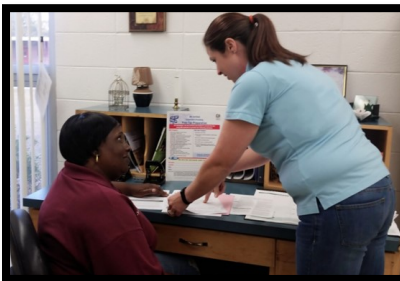
important life skill, one that is overlooked in standard schools.

## Hamilton County Residents Save Thousands of Dollars on Their Federal Tax Return

*Heather (Futch) Janney, 4-H FCS EA II, Hamilton Cty*

Every January people start dreaming of the “free” money they will be receiving soon by having their taxes prepared. All over the country, individuals pay someone to prepare their taxes and spend an average of \$160 to \$180 per return. Those people wanting “rapid” returns are also charged additional fees for those advances.

The UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County Family and Consumer Science program recognized this expense as a need to provide county residents with a way of saving money and to receive education on financial management. UF/IFAS Extension became a part of the Big Bend United Way’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Network. VITA works in cooperation with the IRS to train volunteers to prepare taxes and then allows skipping to offsite clients like the extension county offices for return preparation.



**FCS Agent shows a client how to determine the status of her federal tax return.**

Between February and April 2014, 71 Hamilton County residents scheduled appointments and connected with trained VITA representatives who e-filed their tax returns usually within 1 hour. Before leaving, participants were shown how to create a budget and control expenses. They were also provided with money management calendars and informed of the numerous services offered by UF/IFAS Extension in Hamilton County.

As a result, 50 of the 54 Hamilton County tax returns were accepted by the IRS and participants saved an estimated total of \$8,500 by not having to pay for their returns to be prepared. One participant shared, “I’ve never received this large of a return before.” While another said, “I will definitely be keeping track of my receipts so I can get a bigger return next year.” Learning money management techniques can help families and individuals better cope with the current tough economic times by lowering stress. Plans to expand the program with additional volunteers and more advertisement in the community are currently underway in 2015.

## Progress on the Landscape Renovation at Volusia County Extension

*Joe Sowards, Urban Hort EA II, Volusia Cty*

The Volusia County Extension office embarked on a major landscape renovation last June. The office was awarded a \$55,415 grant from the Volusia County “ECHO” grant program. ECHO is the acronym for environmental, cultural, historical and outdoor. The 2-yr grant was awarded based on the strength of the application that was written, in large part, by a Master Gardener volunteer. The Urban Horticulture and Master Gardener program each contributed \$8000 in-kind and an anonymous donor provided the funds needed to build a water feature. The entire

project is valued at more than \$100,000.



**Water feature with Koi.**

The plan for the landscape was created by Dr. Gail Hansen of the UF/IFAS Center for Landscape



Conservation and Ecology (CLCE) and two of her students. The project is a true collaborative effort involving Master Gardeners, private businesses, and extension staff. The project manager is this article's author, the Urban Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator for UF/IFAS Extension at Volusia County. So far, the project is about 50% complete; it will include all nine

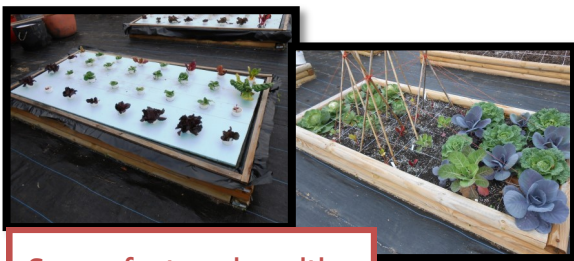


**Floating hydroponic vegetables.**

principles of Florida Friendly Landscaping™.

Some of the notable features of the new landscape include two examples of permeable pavement and a fantastic water feature including koi. Two

cistern systems will provide irrigation water to the edible landscape. The edible landscape showcases several growing methods that will inspire anyone interested in growing edible plants at home regardless of their situation. Straw bales, containers, raised beds, floating hydroponics, and vertical hydroponic towers will inspire even apartment dwellers to grow edible crops. A children's sensory garden is the next major part of the project to be completed. This garden will include segments that will appeal to all five senses.



**Square foot garden with beets and cabbage.**

The hope is that the entire project will be completed by the spring of 2015, 1 year ahead of schedule. When complete, the demonstration and teaching landscape will be a destination for all Volusia County residents and one where they can learn as well as enjoy.

## Elementary Aged Youth Requesting to Eat More Vegetables & Grow Them at Home Thanks to Broward County Extension

*Brenda Marty-Jimenez, FCS/FNP EA III, Broward Cty*

A Welleby Elementary School 2nd grade student stated he enjoyed attending the UF/IFAS FNP nutrition lessons. After each lesson he would take the time to tell his grandmother after school about what he had learned and tasted. She was so happy to hear him enthusiastically report what knowledge he had learned about these different fruits and vegetables. She was very surprised when he began to ask her to purchase specific vegetables such as green bell peppers when he had always been picky about eating vegetables in the past. After attending the FNP nutrition classes he has changed his behavior and now tastes the vegetables, enjoys them and even asks for more! Additionally, after learning that he could plant and grow his own vegetables, he asked his grandmother if they could purchase seeds and plant a garden. This student was disappointed to find out that there was no outside space for the garden around the apartment building. He remembered learning in the FNP class that all he needed was a small outdoor space, a pot, soil and some seeds. He located the perfect spot on their balcony and convinced his grandmother to move forward with his gardening project. Grandmother and grandson planted a small container garden on their balcony that included tomato plants and lettuce. They were thrilled to see the tomato plants and lettuce begin to thrive and looked forward to eating their homegrown salad together.

These small changes in awareness and behavior all contribute to helping youth eat more fresh vegetables and fruits. If we can get youth to make these small changes now, ultimately we hope they continue these healthy eating patterns in the future.

## The Eleven Million Dollar Impact

*Stephen Brown, Hort EA IV, Lee Cty*

The Lee County Extension Horticulture program provides the County's Natural Resource Department with educational components required to receive credit from the Federal and State governments as mandated by the Federal Clean Water Act through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). It is estimated these educational programs offered to landscapers and homeowners on the correct use of fertilizer prevented as much as 22,185 pounds of nitrogen from entering Lee County waterways. Without UF/IFAS Extension efforts, the county and its municipalities would otherwise be required to provide infrastructure mitigation such as the construction of marshes that could otherwise cost taxpayers up to \$11,092,650. Figures for nitrogen pollutant prevention and mitigation defrayment are from Lee County's Natural Resource Department and FDEP. Since 2006, a total of 3,352 landscapers have been taught ways to avert fertilizers and pesticides from entering water bodies such as gutters, creeks, ponds, canals, rivers, and the Gulf of Mexico.

## St. Johns County Marine Ecology 4-H Club in Action

*Geralyn Sachs, 4-H EA II, St. Johns Cty*

Brendtro, Brokenleg, and Van Bockern (1990) stated that, "The evolution of North American culture has placed young people in a powerless situation, in which they have no meaningful role in society. Persons without a sense of autonomy come to see themselves as pawns in a world where others control their destiny" (p. 41). Contrary to the above quote, St. Johns County 4-H works with youth to develop meaningful experiences that allow youth to be in control of their educational opportunities. During the past several years, the Marine Ecology 4-H Club has demonstrated the use of youth and adult partnerships extremely well. This past year the



Club members showing off presentations.

adult club volunteer leader worked with one of the club members to complete an Ocean Conservation grant. Once the grant was awarded the youth and adult pulled together other club members who took part in the mission of carrying out the grant which focused on conserving water quality in the ocean. A slide show presentation, several educational boards, and an assortment of interactive learning activities were compiled. The adult and youth team were able to conduct three learning activities for 455 participants. It was evident that the youth who took part in this project were empowered by their ability to capably educate others while feeling the support of a caring adult. In addition, the lead youth on this project was recently accepted as a member of the Sea World & Busch Gardens Youth Advisory Council. Research quotes taken from *An evaluation of youth-adult partnerships in Florida 4-H Youth programs*, Jessica L. Kochert, 2010.

## Extension's Green Industry Training Protects Local Water Resources

*Brenda Marty-Jimenez, FCS/FNP EA III, Broward Cty*

In June of 2009, the State of Florida enacted legislation requiring landscape maintenance workers for hire who apply fertilizer to urban landscapes to be certified to do so. This action was taken to reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus that impair Florida waters from nearby fertilized landscapes. Working in conjunction with the Florida Department of



Environmental Protection, UF/IFAS developed six Best Management Practices instructional modules for use in training green industry workers in English, Spanish and Creole. These modules teach research-based recommendations for handling fertilizers and pesticides to protect the environment. They also presented the latest Information for designing and managing irrigation systems to prevent wasteful water use practices. In Broward County, these programs were delivered through UF/IFAS Broward County Extension education and its cooperators. Since the program's inception in July of 2009, Broward county extension has conducted 40 GI-BMP programs that have drawn 1,547 attendees with 80% of these individuals (1,260) successfully completing the class and the competency exam that enabled them to obtain their State of Florida-mandated GI-BMP certification.

From surveys conducted, we learned that 99% of our attendees plan to use recommended rates and application procedures when they apply fertilizer in the future. That represents a 79% improvement over the meager 21% who told us that they were already using recommended rates and application methods before they took the class. Furthermore, 99% of attendees reported that they intend to inform their clientele about their commitment to follow labeled rates and recommended application procedures. Prior to taking the class, only 17% indicated that they were already doing so.

A 3 to 6 month post-class follow-up survey returned by nearly 23% of program participants revealed some degree of adoption of all 12 BMPs. Most notable was a 52% increase in the number of individuals using a deflector shield and/or cleaning up spills on impervious surfaces. The number of individuals calibrating their fertilizer applicators and incorporating fertilizers into the soil shortly after application increased by 44%. The number using turf fertilizers with 50% or more slow release nitrogen increased by 39%. Results of statewide surveys conducted recently revealed similar changes with the percentage of survey respondents who told us that they were

always using the following best practices:

- Use weather forecasting information to plan a fertilization schedule: 39% before the class, 72% after.
- Use soil test results to determine fertilization needs: 22% before the class, 40% after.
- Establish fertilizer-free buffer zones around water bodies: 50% before the class, 77% after.
- Use a fertilizer broadcast spreader deflector shield: 46% before the class, 67% after.
- Read the fertilizer label to determine slow- and quick-release nitrogen sources: 69% before the class, 83% after.
- Inspect plants for insect and disease pressures before applying nutrients: 47% before the class, 82% after.
- Calibrate their fertilizer application equipment: 49% before the class, 71% after.

The GI-BMP certification program is an example of how Broward County Extension is working for win-win solutions. Through its educational programs, the county's large and diverse green industry receives training and certifications enabling it to provide quality landscape services at competitive prices while protecting our environment.

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## Food Desert School Garden Donates 2 1/2 Tons of Produce to Local Soup Kitchen

*Roy Beckford, Ag/Nat Res EA III, Lee Cty*

Trafalgar Middle School is located in Cape Coral in an area that has for decades been a food desert area more than a mile removed from the nearest farm, vegetable garden, or grocery store offering freshly harvested produce. A math teacher on staff came up with the idea of developing a school garden and invited the Lee County Agriculture Agent to assist with its establishment. With collaborations from county departments that provided compost and mulch plus an active team of Master Gardeners who assisted teachers and students with the implementation and daily management of the project, the garden emerged



**HOA pond  
targeted by the GI  
-BMP Program.**

as a major school farm in 2014. By the summer of 2014 the Trafalgar School Garden had hosted two farmers markets targeted to neighborhood residents who began to take notice of the impact of the project, prompting the City of Cape Coral to officially recognize the garden as an asset to which it began making contributions of seedling plants. While there was a significant amount of sales from the garden to the general public, the school coordinators made a conscious decision to donate produce to Community Cooperative Ministries (CCMI), a local soup kitchen that provides more than 20,000 meals at their Cape Coral community café and community meals-on-wheels events every month. By early 2015, the Trafalgar Middle School Garden had donated in excess of 5,100 lbs of fresh vegetables to CCMI, fully transforming what once had been a barren football field into a flourishing food oasis.



**Trafalgar  
Middle  
School  
Garden.**

horticulture-related subjects. Besides teaching the campers photography skills, a photo taken by each participant was intended to be entered in the National Junior Horticulture Association Photography Contest. This entry would provide the youth with participation in a horticulture event at the national level. All the photos were taken on the grounds of the St. Johns County Agriculture Center during the morning workshop. From the photos submitted, one was judged to be the Grand National Award winner. The photos of five other campers were rated as outstanding, while two were good and one was worthy. Several of the campers indicated they would like to

repeat this activity next summer.



**Linda Avery (St. Johns County  
Volunteer) and Serra Conger (4-H  
member in the St. Johns County  
Arboretum) focus on black-eyed  
Susans.**

## Strengthened Families Through Incarcerated Parenting Education

*Stephanie Toelle, FCS EA IV, Duval Cty*

Children of incarcerated parents are at greater risk for abuse and neglect, both while their parents are in jail and when the parents return home. Just over 5 million people across the United States are in community correctional facilities. About two-thirds of female and one-half of male inmates leave at least one child behind when they are incarcerated. These children struggle with feelings of betrayal and loss of trust for their parents; displacement from homes, schools, and their community; and feelings of

## Summer 4-H Camp Photography

*Keith Fuller, Hort EA I, St. Johns Cty*

At the 'Flora and Fauna' day camp a photography workshop was conducted by St. Augustine Camera Club members and St. Johns County Master Gardeners. This workshop taught youth how to comprise and take quality photos, which is a skill they will use throughout their lives. Prior to the workshop only one of the nine participants indicated they had any formal instruction in photography. Using borrowed cameras, the youth were instructed on how to take pictures of

intense anger, low self-esteem, and uncertainty. When the Shisa program for incarcerated women expanded into Jacksonville from Tallahassee, the now-retired CED, Betty Miller, referred them to the parenting program at UF/IFAS Extension - Duval County. Shisa House is a private, non-profit organization contracted with the Department of Corrections. In Jacksonville, Shisa houses non-violent female offenders with good behavior. After years of working with an incarcerated audience, the Turning Points curriculum (developed by Texas Cooperative Extension, the Hogg Foundation, and No More Victims, Inc.) was chosen to work with the Jacksonville Shisa inmates. This unique curriculum of 12 lessons includes issues such as communicating from a distance, rebuilding trust, new beginnings, reuniting a family, and transitioning back into family life, as well as more traditional parenting topics. In 2014, the 12-part series has been offered twice to the House's capacity of 15 parents, as inmates typically have a 6 to 9 month stay at Shisa before moving to a work release program. On a multiple choice post-test, the average score was 86%, with 93% reporting that they learned something new. Because the curriculum is tailored to their unique parenting needs, they are now ready to begin their transition home and ease into parenting responsibilities. Most have weekly visitation and/or contact with their children and caregivers and have started to mend relationships and regain trust and respect within their families.

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## The 2015 Artificial Reef Summit: Navigating Expectations and Charting Objectives

*Joy Hazell, Sea Grant EA III, Lee Cty*

With more than 2,900 planned public artificial reefs placed off its 1,357 miles of coastline, Florida manages one of the most diverse and most active artificial reef programs in the United States. The 2015 Artificial Reef Summit marked



the 9th time the program had been convened since 1976 and by all accounts it was a success. A record number of participants totaled 180 and included representations from county artificial reef coordinators, volunteer groups, anglers, divers, and state and federal agencies. These stakeholders gathered in Clearwater Beach from January 14 to 16 to learn about the state of artificial reef science, interact with 15 artificial reef-related vendors, and to network and share successes and lessons learned. The Summit was co-chaired, organized, and run by Florida Sea Grant Agents and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Artificial Reef Program. It provided a key opportunity to disperse high-quality scientific information and experience, as well as broaden participants' views of a comprehensive artificial reef program in Florida. To do this presenters and participants were asked to think about connectivity of their program with the multi-dimensional elements associated with artificial reef planning including reef program objectives and evaluation, use and management, reef design to accomplish particular aims, and how the artificial reef fits in with the existing environment. According to Summit evaluations (n=64) 96% agreed or strongly agreed that the summit improved their understanding of current Florida artificial reef issues and increased their knowledge of and access to artificial reef-related resources. According to one participant and sponsor, the summit was "maybe the best organized effort I've been involved with". Organizers will conduct a follow up survey in 6 months to determine impacts of the Summit to state artificial reef programs.

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## Coleman Federal Prison

*Lloyd Singleton, FFL/Urban Hort EA I, Sumter Cty*  
"Demetrius" completed the vocational horticulture training program offered by UF/IFAS





Extension - Sumter County at the Federal Correctional Center in Coleman. He was one of more than 250 inmate graduates. He was recently released to a halfway house, and he

immediately secured a landscaping job. He credits his FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional designation for getting the job paying \$10/hr, \$2/hr more than the normal laborer wage. When he has finished his time in Ocala, he has a permanent position arranged with a production nursery near his home in south Florida. The Coleman training has equipped him with the knowledge and job skills for successful re-entry to the workforce, a step proven to reduce recidivism.

## Sometimes Weeds Can Make You Money

*Tim Wilson, Livestock/Forage EA II, Bradford Cty* Livestock/forage managers in Bradford County rely on their ability to grow forages as hay for themselves or as a product they can market to others. This hay improves revenue potential for their operation. Forage management requires knowledge, experience and sometimes even a little luck. Combining these three factors, managers evaluate their fields throughout the year to determine when to apply herbicides, fertilizers, and soil amendments such as lime. They become familiar with weeds that invade their pastures to know when and what to spray to prevent their occurrence in the fields. After developing one-on-one relationships with many of these managers, the Bradford County Livestock and Forages Agent has become a go-to point of knowledge as related to forage management. In early spring of 2014, a livestock/forage manager of 125 cattle and 180 acres of bermudagrass contacted the agent. He indicated that he had a weed to be identified so he could eliminate it from his fields (65 acres) prior to the spring green-



**Six Weeks Fescue (*Vulpia octoflora*)** Photo Credit: Tim Wilson

up.

Spring green-up is when pastures transition from dormancy to productive growth. Eliminating weeds prior to this transition can reduce overall weed populations prior to the first cutting of hay, which usually occurs around May 30.

After visiting the fields of concern, it was determined that the weed may be a winter forage plant that could be advantageous to the operation rather than harmful. Rather than eliminate it from the fields with an herbicide, it was suggested that he identify the plant (Univ. of Florida Herbarium), have it analyzed for forage quality (Univ. of Georgia Feed and Environmental Lab) and confirm our findings with Univ. of Florida Forage (Dr. Blount) and Beef (Dr. Hersom) specialists. These results and findings indicated that the plant was "six weeks fescue (*Vulpia octoflora*)"; it has excellent forage quality, crude protein (CP) of 13.7% and total digestible nutrients (TDN) of 50.7 on a dry matter basis; and would be an excellent forage crop to feed cattle.

Management options for this field were to graze it or to harvest the forage crop for hay to be used later or sold to others. The manager decided to harvest the six weeks fescue that resulted in six round bales per acre for each of the 65 acres resulting in 390 large round bales of hay. The manager markets his hay for \$50 per round bale, which would return \$19,500 to his farm. Since he didn't have any planting costs associated with this crop, his cost to utilize it was for baling at \$20/roll. By working with the Bradford County

Extension Livestock and Forages Agent in his county, this manager was able to return \$11,700 in profits to his farm on which he initially planned to kill six weeks fescue with an herbicide.

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## Lee County 4-H Old Fashioned FunDay

*Cathy Suggs, 4-H YD EA II, Lee Cty*

The Lee County 4-H Association, 4-H Clubs, Master Gardeners, and Parks and Recreation hosted an old-fashioned 4-H FunDay at Veterans Park on January 24, 2015. The event was attended by more than 600 youth and parents. The focus of the event was strengthening families, physical activity, the environment, and alternative energy. Twenty-three clubs planned an educational booth where families had to work together to accomplish a physical task. Games included sack races, ring tosses, cowboy hat toss, hula hoop contest, egg/spoon race, football toss, fishing, 4-H petting zoos, and more. Families were encouraged to “unplug” and spend the time together. Lee County Master Gardeners helped teach workshops on butterflies, growing tomatoes, bees, and why water really matters.



The Lee County 4-H program provides youth with opportunities to share, learn, and grow through a variety of hands-on educational projects helping to build self-confidence and other critical life skills. The goal of the 4-H program is to build strong, productive citizens through programs designed to develop leadership, citizenship, and

teamwork skills.

The Lee County 4-H youth, volunteers, and parents had so much fun serving our community at this event that plans are underway for next year. We hope this was the first of many 4-H FunDays to come.

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## Organizational and Volunteer Management

*Kalan Taylor, 4-H YD EA I, Sumter Cty*

In recent years there has not been any form of volunteering training other than the initial volunteer interviews and orientation. It is very important to make sure our volunteers are all trained on what is expected from them and what resources we can provide them in order to make their lives easier while they volunteer for Sumter County 4-H. This year we held an Open Enrollment Night and Volunteer Meeting. Each participant received a new Volunteer Leader Notebook with useful forms and documents. One of the new forms in the folder is a Summary Sheet. This sheet is used to record attendance during club meetings. With these sheets leaders were advised to pass on the responsibility to a club officer to fill out and to either take a photo of the sheet with their smart phones and email it, fax it, or scan and email it to the 4-H office. Since the start of these documents we have had a significant increase in the amount of attendance turned in on time. One of the 4-H clubs who is notorious for turning in their attendance in late has even turned in their attendance on time.

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## Hamilton County Peanut Farmers Adopt Fungicide Spray Programs

*Keith Wynn, Ag & Nat Res EA I, Hamilton Cty*

Peanut producers in north Florida are faced with the difficult task of determining the best fungicide

spray program for plant disease management. Late and early leaf spot, *Rhizoctonia* limb rot, and white mold are the most common threats to peanut production in this area. These diseases are more prominent and harder to control where crop rotation is not practiced. In north Florida, peanut producers generate approximately \$22,950,000 from the 27,000 acres of peanuts harvested. In Hamilton County during the 2014 growing season 45 peanut producers generated approximately \$4,760,000 from the 5600 acres of peanuts produced.

In the last 3 years, the efficacy of four fungicide programs for the control of foliar and soil borne diseases in peanut was compared in on-farm trials jointly organized by UF/IFAS Extension - Hamilton County Agriculture Agent Keith Wynn and UF/IFAS Extension Plant Pathologist Dr. Nicholas Dufault in a commercial peanut field in Hamilton County. Each year, yield and quality were measured on peanuts harvested from plots consisting of 24 rows each and replicated four times. This year the agrichemical companies participating in the trial were Bayer, Syngenta, Nichino, and BASF. Each of the agrichemical companies products were applied every 14 days starting 45 days after planting. These spray programs are discussed during one-on-one field consultations and at in-season and winter peanut production meetings. Producers are also encouraged to visit the on-farm trial throughout the growing season to form their own assessments about the products.

Three years of testing indicated that each of the company's peanut prescription fungicide spray programs were successful at reducing disease and saving yield. Producers who do not have enough land to provide an adequate rotation program benefit from incorporating any of these spray programs. Each of these programs recommends applying at least six applications every 14 days for peanut produced in a production area with a high risk for soil and forage diseases. Producers using traditional spray programs were experiencing higher disease rates on non-rotated fields when using three or four spray applications.

Consultations discussing the importance of integrating a preventative fungicide spray program in order to prevent peanut disease has proven beneficial. In Hamilton County, 85% of peanut producers now use a fungicide spray program consisting of biweekly sprays adopted from the Hamilton County peanut on-farm trial.



On-farm trials are beneficial to the producer as well as UF/IFAS Extension. The producer supplies his equipment and labor to plant the trial, apply the different fungicides, and harvest the peanuts. The extension agent provides assistance at planting, and harvest. With the assistance of UF specialist Dr. Nicholas Dufault the extension agent also supplied the fungicides needed and observed the application of each fungicide used in the trial. Cooperating with local producers who have a good rapport with other producers helps build that trust needed to encourage producers to try new production techniques practiced in on-farm trails backed by university research.

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## Youth Development

*Kalan Taylor, 4-H YD EA I, Sumter Cty*

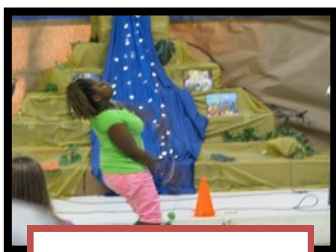
During the 2014 summer day camping season a young girl decided to join us during our Manners, Etiquette and Financial Management Camp. Until this point she had never heard about 4-H nor had she ever participated in a 4-H event. When she





This is Charity with another 4-H member during our Bike Summer Day Camp. Their task was to think and create a paper airplane design that would fly the furthest using the homemade rocket launcher.

first came to this summer day camp she was extremely quiet and shy. She would rarely participate in group activities and wanted to play on her electronic game most of the time. With the encouragement of some of our older 4-H members she started showing interest by the end of the 4-day camp. On the last day her grandmother came to pick her up and asked if she could sign her up for our next day camp, a bike camp. On the first day of camp it was clear to see that she had not ridden a bike in some time and was not very active. With the help and encouragement of the program assistant and the other campers she was riding again in no time. She began participating in all of the activities and you could see she was becoming more sociable. On the last day of bike camp her grandmother came to pick her up and asked if she could sign her up for Camp Ocala, our 5 day overnight residential camp. It was during this camp that the transformation of this youth could easily be seen. It was as if the social butterfly was released from her cocoon. She even participated in the talent show dancing to her favorite musician Michael Jackson. Over the course of attending two summer day camps and Camp Ocala this extremely shy and introverted youth who did not want to participate in group activities or physical activities blossomed into a very outgoing and group oriented youth. She was even chosen by all of the counselors and campers



This is Charity Dancing to Michael Jackson during the Camp Ocala Talent Show.

to receive the "Best Female Camper" award.

## Rolling Out the Evaluation

*Sebastian Galindo, Research Assistant Professor, AEC*

UF/IFAS Extension programs will soon start using the new Evaluation Toolbox. The data collection instruments included in this toolkit have been developed or revised with input from numerous county and state faculty. Implementation of the Evaluation Toolbox will start by the end of March 2015 in different programs from the Priority Work Groups of: Water Conservation (Initiative 2), Environmental Stewardship (Initiative 3), Family Financial Management (Initiative 5), Nutrition, Food Safety & Health (Initiative 5), and Youth Development (Initiative 7).

The development process has been long but the potential impact of the Evaluation Toolbox is well worth the wait. The adoption of better evaluation tools and practices will allow the Florida Cooperative Extension Service to assess in more precise ways the impacts of its multiple programs.

Starting in the summer of 2015, development and implementation of the Evaluation Toolbox will be further expanded to Priority Work Groups within Initiatives 1, 4, and 6.

An entire set of training materials will be available to accompany the Evaluation Toolbox. These materials will include short videos and factsheets containing instructions, tips, and additional information required to effectively utilize the toolbox. Key resources and more information on the Evaluation Toolbox will be soon available through the website of the Program Development and Evaluation Center (PDEC; <http://pdec.ifas.ufl.edu/>).

## Save the Dates! Easy as PIE Webinar Series

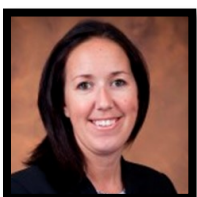
Date: March 19

Time: 2-3 pm

Topic: Public opinion of water and implications for agriculture



Kati Migliaccio  
Associate Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center  
University of Florida



Alexa Lamm  
Assistant Professor Department of Agricultural Education and Communication Associate Director, PIE Center  
University of Florida

Water has recurrently been identified as one of the most critical issues facing the agricultural industry. What do Floridians think about supplying water for agricultural use? Do Floridians know much about water policy and the implications for agriculture? Join this session to learn the answers to these questions and more about public perceptions, attitudes and knowledge related to water use as Alexa Lamm discusses the latest PIE Center public opinion survey results. Kati Migliaccio will provide insights into the results based on her extensive experience working in water resource engineering and pose a few questions to generate discussion on how the results of this survey may be put to use.

Registration is required for each session, visit our website to register and to learn more about the Easy as PIE Webinar Series: <http://www.piecenter.com/easy-as-pie/>

Contact Nicole Dodds for more information: [ndodds@ufl.edu](mailto:ndodds@ufl.edu) or 352-273-3139.

## PIE Center ISTs Coming Spring 2015!

Do you want to learn how to help stakeholders get decision-makers' attention on important issues in your county? Do you want to educate about policies related to critical issues in your community?

Does your county face critical agriculture and natural resources issues? Do you want to help your community address these contentious issues?

Take a look at more info here: [PIE Center IST PDF](#)

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### Arrivals

We would like to welcome the following new faculty:

Jessica Sprain, 4-H EA I, Osceola Cty  
Jill Breslawski, FCS EA I, Okaloosa/Walton Cty  
Jamila Adams, FCS EA I, Orange Cty

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### Departures

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

Josh Thompson, Ag/Pest Mng RSA I, Jackson Cty  
Henry Grant, Ag Prod CED IV, Gadsden Cty

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Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter distributed by the Office of the Dean for Extension via e-mail and on the Extension website 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](mailto:valkyrieshah@ufl.edu).