

Dean's Notes & Quotes

UF/IFAS Extension Town Halls

I want to extend thanks and appreciation to everyone who came out for our Extension Town Hall sessions the week of July 20. Through these sessions, we received a great deal of comments and feedback that will be taken into account as we roll out our Strategic Staffing and Enhancing Revenue initiatives.

For those of you who were not able to get to one of the Town Hall sessions, we recorded the one held in Gainesville, and I'd encourage you to view it. This will provide you with a very good overview of both of these initiatives and next steps that we'll be taking. You can access this recording at this link: [Recording](#)

In addition, we are making available a Qualtrics survey tool that you can use to provide any additional questions or comments. You can access this survey tool at: [Survey](#). This site will be available for two weeks (July 25-August 8). I'll be taking all of the input received from the Town Hall sessions and this survey tool into account as we finalize our plans and implementation steps. A major part of my address at EPAF will be devoted to the Strategic Staffing and Revenue Enhancement Initiatives and finalizing next steps that we'll be taking.

EPAF

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming EPAF meeting in Naples! This promises to be an excellent opportunity for our Extension family to learn, grow, reacquaint and network. I hope that you plan to fully take advantage of the professional development offerings that will be conducted on Thursday. There are multiple sessions that are geared to enhance your skills and competencies in technical subject matter areas as well as Extension methodologies. Be sure to get yourself registered for the sessions that you will be attending. This is done by going to this site: [EPAF ISTs](#). Also, on Thursday night, we'll again be hosting the Dean's Dinner and Auction which is always fun and entertaining.

Friday's administrative session will be highlighted by keynote speaker

July/August 2015

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David Horsager. David Horsager, MA, CSP, is a business strategist, keynote speaker and author of the National Bestseller, *The Trust Edge: How Top Leaders Gain Faster Results, Deeper Relationships, and a Stronger Bottom Line*. His work has been featured in prominent publications such as *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *The Huffington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*. David has delivered life-changing presentations on five continents, with audiences ranging everywhere from Wells Fargo and the New York Yankees to Goodyear and the Department of Homeland Security. Get free resources and more at www.DavidHorsager.com and www.TheTrustEdge.com. David is an incredible speaker who focuses on Trust –from both a personal and organizational level. A small group of our UF/IFAS Extension faculty heard him speak at a national conference this past winter, and they were impressed with his highly engaging and vital message. David is one who knows Extension very well as his father worked closely with University of Minnesota Extension and his sibling was an Extension Agent. Surely you don't want to miss him.

Also during Friday's administrative section, we have lots of awards to present and we'll hear key remarks from our IFAS colleagues (SVP Payne, Dean Burns and Dean Turner) and Vonda Richardson of FAMU. I'll be focusing on next steps with our Extension organizational initiatives; i.e. staffing, revenue and urban. This will be woven into a number of highlighting videos and messages of innovative work that is taking place across UF/IFAS Extension.

Extension Connections

Since our last issue of *Comings and Goings*, we've had a couple of Extension Connections. On June 15, Dr. Ricky Telg, Director of the PIE Center, was my guest. Dr. Telg shared a wealth of information about the PIE Center, including its vision, goals and major projects. We also covered numerous ways that the PIE Center can support and collaborate with Extension. You can access this session at: <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/connect.shtml>

For our Extension Connections on July 27 Chris DeCubellis, Associate State Program Leader for 4-H, was my guest. Chris and I talked about ways that we want to grow, build and enhance 4-H across the state. Chris talked about his new role and how he will be assisting in a number of areas to advance 4-H. In addition, we used this opportunity for following up on some of the key points of our recent Town Hall sessions. You can access this session at: <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/connect.shtml>

Regards,

Dr. Nick Place

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." – Henry Ford

Feature Story

In this issue we highlight our [Florida Extension Backyard Poultry Program](#), headed by Dr. Mike Davis from Baker County

Got a Question about Poultry? Welcome to the Florida Extension Backyard Poultry Program
Interest in small flocks and backyard poultry has been on the rise in the past few years. Small farmers are typically raising breeds that are different from commercial production for eggs and meat. As poultry have be-

come popular pets, local ordinances by counties and municipalities are needed to allow these birds in residential areas without adversely affecting neighbors. Finally, youth interest in poultry is also high for 4-H projects, fair projects, and judging teams. With this increased interest has come an increase in poultry-related questions posed to UF/IFAS County Agents in poultry production (breeds, nutrition, husbandry, reproduction, food safety, or marketing), and in regulations affecting the ownership of live animals and the sale of poultry meat and eggs. For example, Florida adopted the Limited Poultry and Egg Farm Operation rule in 2014 (<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?title=FOOD&ID=5K-4.033>), which allows small poultry operators to sell eggs and minimally processed poultry direct to consumers.



Free-range chickens. UF/IFAS Photo by Tom Wright.

Jacksonville adopts residential poultry ordinance.
[Click here for document.](#)

1 Introduced by Council Member Carter and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Member Redman:
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ORDINANCE 2015-337

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 656 (ZONING CODE), ORDINANCE CODE; CREATING A NEW SECTION 656.421, TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PROCESS FOR PERMITTING BACKYARD HENS IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS SUBJECT TO A ONE TIME FEE OF \$25; PROVIDING FOR SUNSETTING OF PILOT PROGRAM; PROVIDING THAT EXISTING PERMITS UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM REMAIN VALID; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR OVERSIGHT BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

While the need exists for an Extension backyard poultry program, knowledge and support on poultry topics are lacking in Florida Extension as UF/IFAS does not currently have a Poultry Science Department or a poultry program. To help answer some of the recurring questions, Michael Davis (the Agriculture and CED Agent in Baker County and former Poultry Specialist) was asked in 2013 to create a Regional Poultry Program. The program objectives are: 1) provide programming and workshops in the area of poultry husbandry (including management, nutrition, breeds, reproduction, and food safety); 2) provide advice to municipalities and other government entities with regard to small scale poultry production practices; and 3) support youth programming in poultry through the 4-H and FFA State Poultry Judging Contests.

Judging quality of carcasses based on USDA standards at the 2015 State FFA Poultry CDE. Photo by Michael A. Davis.



Program resources currently include: 1) an EDIS collection in the process of update (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_poultry) and 2) a monthly newsletter (Feathered Facts, accessible at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/FeatheredFacts.html>) . Program activities include County or regional poultry production workshops, expert advice provided to municipalities in the drafting or modification



of ordinances, and youth judging events. Future activities include a poultry working group, a dedicated poultry webpage accessible from the UF/IFAS Animal Science Department, and in-service trainings for County Extension Agents and 4-H volunteers. If you would like further information about poultry, to schedule a workshop in your county, or join the working group, please contact Michael Davis at mi-chael.davis@ufl.edu or 904-259-3520.

From Seed to Plate” 4-H School Gardens

Melanie Taylor, 4-H/FCS EA II, Gulf Cty

Fifth-graders at Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka Elementary Schools enjoyed a feast of healthy portions during luncheons to celebrate the end of the “From Seed to Plate” 4-H program that taught them how to grow and maintain a vegetable garden. The food served at the luncheon, which was prepared by the school cafeteria staff, was the fruits of the students’ labor.

Everything the students munched on came from the garden they spent 8 months maintaining and cultivating. Though summer will soon arrive for

the students, they end the school year with these specialized skills thanks to Gulf County Extension Director Roy Lee Carter. The garden program is also supplemented with nutritional and food safety programs taught by Gulf County 4-H/Family and Consumer Science Agent Melanie Taylor, and Family Nutrition Program Assistant Kay Freeman. A portion of what grows in the gardens was donated by Bonnie Plants in Alabama and the Florida Farm to School program, while other donations came from UF/IFAS.

Carter said that the fifth grade is the ideal age level to learn gardening because the students are able to retain what they learn. The program is part of the science classes taught by the fifth-grade teachers each year.

Before the 130 students (55 from Wewahitchka and 75 from Port St. Joe) ever stepped foot in the garden they spent class time discussing the act of planting, the role that bees play in pollination and took a field trip to the North Florida Research and Education Center for 4-H Ag Adventures Day. David and Sally Beyl have been volunteers with the program for the last 7 years. Both are Master Gardeners who trained at UF for 12 weeks and must perform 50 hours of horticulture-related volunteer work each year.

“The students love it,” said David Beyl. “You can tell that they enjoy the experience.”

Cabbage, lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, carrots, onions, eggplant, watermelon, beans, peppers, squash, sugarcane and various herbs made up this year’s garden with produce grown both in-ground and in pots.



Port St. Joe Elementary students planting seeds in the school garden.

“We use pots to show the students that even if you don’t have room for a garden, you can still have a garden,” Beyl said. While in the garden,



Wewahitchka Elementary School teacher, Mrs. Bidwell, helping the students harvest.

students were divided into groups of four to five; they learned how to plant seeds, rake, fertilize, cultivate, and harvest. Students are made aware of the dishes

that can be made from the contents of a garden and students took home cabbages, carrots and potatoes to share with their families. Those who had an interest in starting their own gardens were given seeds to plant.

During the luncheons the students, teachers and principal enjoyed sweet potatoes, collards, turnips, broccoli, cornbread and strawberries all cooked and/or prepared by the cafeteria staff, which we greatly appreciate for supporting this program.

Both school principals are supportive and find this hands-on opportunity a great addition to the 5th grade science program. This 4-H and public school collaboration is a very successful, educational and fun-filled learning experience.

FNP Helps Overweight Child Shed Pounds

Brenda Marty-Jimenez, Health, Nutrition & Food Safety CED III, Broward Cty

A 5th-grade male participant attended and has enjoyed the 2014-15 Broward Family Nutrition Program at Broward County's Hallandale After School @ Your Library. Rose Morales, Program Assistant, stated that this youth had been attentive and engaged during the Show Me Nutrition lessons and activities. He indicated that he had learned a lot about Choose MyPlate and recognized that he was making unhealthy food choices, which led to him being overweight. He realized that he was not paying attention to what

went into his body, did not eat many fruits and vegetables, and was not physically active. This male youth gradually began to make wise food and activity choices as a result of attending Broward FNP programs. He learned basic label-reading and he is now taking a closer look at the nutrition facts label on snack boxes and food containers, which has resulted in a dramatic decrease in the amount of sugary desserts, cakes, ice cream, and candy eaten. He reported an increase in fruit and vegetable intake, along with incorporating daily physical activity that does not tire him as quickly as before. He goes to the park to exercise for 30 minutes a day and rides his bike as well. He acknowledged how impressed he was to see some weight slowly come off, too. He reported an 8-lb weight loss and stated he really likes the way he looks. He indicates that he feels healthier and has more energy.

Information learned was shared with his parents, who are helping him achieve his goal weight. His mother is cooking light on fat and is introducing more dark-green vegetables into their meals. She packs healthy snacks for him, including fruits and whole grains, and keeps fresh fruits and vegetables on the kitchen counter for him to snack on.

He is very thankful to the Family Nutrition Program for helping him achieve this, and he looks forward to more fun monthly lessons on how to continue to make healthy choices for a healthy lifestyle. Small changes can have a big impact when maintained with time and into adulthood. Broward FNP is making a difference in the quality of life for Broward youth.

Small Steps to Health and Wealth is Making a Big Difference in Osceola County

Gabriela Murza, FCS EA I, Osceola Cty

Many of us have experienced a moment where a choice had to be made between health and finances. An unexpected injury requires medical attention or medication that wasn't in the budget;

bills may have gone unpaid; convenience foods were chosen over more expensive healthy food options, etc.



Gabi Murza and Deisha Rodriguez teach Small Steps to Health and Wealth (SSHW) in the community.

This is a reality many Osceola County residents face due to chronic illness, job layoffs, home foreclosures,

and more. To address this need, a partnership was formed with the Osceola Council on Aging, Community Vision, and UF/IFAS Extension in Osceola County. Through a United Way grant, adults are given the chance to receive medical services, enroll in social service programs, receive job coaching, become employed, meet with a financial coach, and receive financial and wellness education. All of these services are free and are part of the Small Steps to Health and Wealth (SSHW) program.

To be eligible, Osceola County residents have to be uninsured, unemployed or underemployed, and live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. They must complete the following: 1) Complete any combination of five visits that include seeing a primary care physician and/or a registered dietitian, getting bloodwork completed, and participating in exercises either by attending classes or using the gym facility; 2) Attend a SSHW class and complete three one-on-one financial coaching sessions; 3) Attend a 2-day job boot camp and complete five sessions with a job coach. In the financial coaching sessions, participants develop a realistic budget for themselves and/or their families. With the job coach, participants learn the skills needed to become employable. In the SSHW class, participants discuss wellness and financial myths and barriers that may impede their ability to become financially stable and healthy. They set goals and learn ways to implement strategies to help them plan, track,

and maintain their goals. All of the strategies discussed are from the SSHW book that was developed by Rutgers University Extension, which participants receive as well.

From June 2013 to March 2015, 370 clients have totaled 424 doctor visits, RD appointments, and exercise sessions; 166 completed the SSHW class; 3,943 received financial education; 423 received financial coaching; and 31 were connected to employment. Participants are at varying levels of completeness, but through March, 30 participants have completed all three major components. Several participants were also enrolled in a Diabetes Self-Management Education class called LifeDM, offered through the Osceola Council on Aging. The average A1c for participants decreased from 9.5 to 6.5.

The program continues to be a success, with more participants learning how to create and maintain a budget, track their healthy behaviors and expenses, receive needed health and social services, and gain employment to help them become financially independent and increase their quality of life.

Sweet Potato Production and Wireworm Pests in North Florida

Robert Hochmuth, Commercial Veg Crops EA IV, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center

The sweet potato industry in the Suwannee Valley of Florida has increased dramatically in the past three years. Acreage of sweet potato in North Florida was traditionally limited to small acreages on several smaller farms, mostly for local sales. There are still smaller growers with fields of 5 acres or less for local sales, but now there are also a few much larger operations growing and selling to wholesale chains and processors. North Florida sweet potato production reported in 2011 was 480 acres and in 2012 was 756 acres, but the estimated acreage for 2015 is well above 2,000. One of the most serious threats to successfully producing sweet potatoes in North Florida is controlling the soil inhabiting insect pest complex



Andrew Horvath, SCAEC Program Assistant, surveying adult click beetles on a yellow sticky trap in sweet potato farms.

of wireworms. A wireworm is the larval stage of one of several species of click beetles. The wireworm feeding damage appears as small holes drilled into the potato. Usually the holes are not very

deep. Future increases in acreage will depend on a successful Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program targeted at wireworm larvae. A team of UF/IFAS state and county faculty was developed to assist growers by implementing a season long scouting program. Four fields (one in Madison and three in Suwannee County) were instrumented with yellow sticky traps, grain bait stations in the soil, and black light traps to detect and characterize the populations. Assessments of damage were made in each field at harvest. Damage in fields can be very severe with wireworm-damaged sweet potatoes well over half of all harvested potatoes. The 2014 project identified the two main wireworm species affecting the acreage in North Florida. The two species identified, *Conoderus rudis* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/in/in90900.pdf>) and *Conoderus scissus* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in911>), are not the same primary species as those found in other production areas of South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and North Carolina. The project was successful in properly identifying the primary wireworm species, determining the best crop rotations, determining the best pre-plant cultural practices, and confirming early season insecticide control measures were critical. Future sweet potato wireworm IPM programs will be based on 2014 survey data and will be targeted to reduce overall insecticide use, reduce wireworm

damage, and improve income as a result of a better grade of sweet potato at harvest. The intensive integrated pest management survey was conducted by local county and regional extension agents. This pest survey project included several UF/IFAS Extension faculty (Dr. Dak Seal, Dr. Susan Webb, Dr. Russ Mizell, and Dr. Norm Leppa) and County Extension Agents Robert Hochmuth, Dan Fenneman, Elena Toro, staff from the Suwannee Valley Ag Extension Center, and program assistant Andrew Horvath.

Tropical Fruit Fiesta

Kim Gabel, Env Hort EA III, Monroe Cty



Fruit picked from UF/IFAS TREC research orchard.

On June 27, more than 800 Florida Keys tropical fruit lovers converged at the Grimal Grove on Big Pine Key. For 10 years (1998-2008) the Monroe County Extension Service held this popular summer event "Florida Keys Tropical Fruit Fiesta." In 2015, the Florida Keys Tropical Fruit Fiesta returns to its new permanent home, the Grimal Grove, the southernmost tropical fruit grove. With the change of venue the Florida Keys Tropical Fruit Fiesta is produced by a non-

profit Growing Hope Initiative and sponsored by the University of Florida/IFAS/Monroe County Extension.

Grimal Grove has a unique story. It was designed by Adolf Grimal beginning in the 1950s. Created in the Florida Keys subtropical climate, it had gravity-fed irrigation systems and cisterns as well as micro climate garden beds. Grimal was the only person on record in United States to grow some of the rarest tropical fruit trees. Adolf Grimal



Grimal Grove entrance.



Lecture by Adrian Hunsberger, UF/IFAS Miami-Dade Urban Horticulture Agent.

transformed pine-covered caprock into a tropical fruit oasis. Soon after his death in 1997, the property fell into disrepair. During the next 15 plus years, it became infested with Brazilian Pepper and other invasive plants. It became a real problem

property for the county as it became an illegal dump site and a crack house, amassing more than \$850,000 in code enforcement fines. In 2011, Growing Hope Initiative founded by Patrick Garvey started cleaning up the property and purchased it in November 2013. The purpose was to transform the Grimal property into a horticulture educational park. Grimal Grove is becoming a real community treasure and it will continue to host the Tropical Fruit Fiesta.



Grimal Grove Botanical Tour.

Naturally Occurring Herbicide Tough on Invasive Weeds, Gentle on Environment

Ed Jennings, Livestock EA IV, Pasco Cty

The Extension Livestock Agent in Pasco County has worked with area ranchers for more than 20 years on controlling the noxious invasive weed Tropical Soda Apple (TSA). Recent local work with a naturally occurring viral herbicide developed by Dr. Raghavan Charudattan, Plant Pathology, UF/IFAS caught the attention of land managers with



Cristina Esposito, Pasco County Environmental Lands Manager observing viral herbicide treated and untreated areas of TSA.

Pasco County's Environmental Land Management Division. An on-site demonstration was initiated on a 600-acre parcel of property owned by Pasco County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program (ELAMP) that has a large population of TSA plaguing it. The viral herbicide worked similar to chemical herbicide applications currently being used on the county property. While there is nothing wrong with using approved chemical herbicides to control invasive plants, the potential to utilize natural controls on a property that is being managed for preservation is very attractive to land managers. This is especially true when the site is a primary recharge area for Crews Lake, Pasco County's largest fresh water body and centerpiece of a large regional park.

I Hear and I Forget, I See and I Remember, I Do and I Understand

Abbey Tharpe, 4-H EA I, Taylor Cty

Teachers who embrace hands-on learning in science seem to recognize certain desirable outcomes and endorse student-centered instructional approaches. Research has confirmed many of the seemingly intuitive benefits of hands-on learning and has also documented a variety of unanticipated benefits. Students in a hands-on science program will remember the material better, feel a sense of accomplishment when the task is completed, and be able to transfer that experience easier to other learning situations. When more than one method of learning is accessed as in hands-on learning, the information has a better



Abbey Tharpe candleling eggs with students.

chance of being stored in the memory for useful retrieval. Students who have difficulty in the learning arena for reasons of ESL barriers, auditory deficiencies, or

behavioral interference can be found to be on task more often because they are part of the learning process and not just spectators.

All youth in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade at Point of Grace Christian School were taught about embryology with the help of 4-H. Through the 4-H Embryology project, students hatched chicks in the center and witnessed the exciting and wonderful miracle of life. Students also took on responsibilities of caring for the fertilized eggs during the 21-day incubation period and the baby chicks after they hatched. Students began the 21-day journey by getting their incubators ready to house the fertilized eggs. Temperature and humidity are two important variables the students have to monitor throughout the process in order to have a successful hatch. Each day students keep records while carefully monitoring the eggs. At the end of the 21-day cycle the hope was to have the eggs hatch. Students then cared for the chicks.

The 4-H Embryology project teaches students about science and respect for life. Children have a natural sense of curiosity about living things in the world around them. Building on this curiosity, students can develop an understanding of biology concepts through direct experience with living things, their life cycles and their habitats.

Many educators believe that students learn best through experiences and interactions with the world. They learn by listening, observing, experimenting, and applying their knowledge to real-world situations. Through the 4-H Embryology project students develop life skills that help them

learn to plan and organize, keep records and teamwork.

Resources: Perspectives of Hands-On Science Teaching; David L. Haury and Peter Rillero, 1994; <http://www.ncrel.org>

IPM Scouting Workshops Improve Skills and Provide Economic Growth for Employees and Increases Low Impact Growing Practices

Liz Felter, Env Hort EA III, Orange Cty

Matt Lollar, Comm/Res Hort EA I, Jackson Cty

Juanita Popenoe, Comm Hort CED III, Lake Cty

Central Florida is the second largest production area of ornamental plants in the state with the total sales for Orange, Lake and Seminole counties at nearly \$3.2 billion. Growers face changes in regulations and must remain vigilant about maintaining water quality. Another challenge for industry is training for their workers to help them continue to be good stewards of the environment. In 1997 the first IPM Nursery Scout Training class was established to teach workers about the early detection of plant problems. The three day mini-series took a hiatus during the down turn of the economy and made a successful come back in 2013.

A team of three commercial horticulture agents



Two growers practice IPM scouting on succulent plants.

and five Extension research specialists including Dr. Lance Osborne, Dr. David Norman, Dr. J. Chen, Dr. Shad Ali and Dr. Chris Marble taught various topics.

Participants were taught how to identify insect pests, beneficial insects,

weeds, diseases, nematodes and abiotic symptoms. They also learned how to monitor soil pH and fertility and the importance of water

quality and record keeping. In recognition of the participants' various learning styles a variety of educational activities were used. These activities included instructional multi-media presentations, lab demonstrations and class discussion, scheduled for the morning. A field trip to a local nursery or greenhouse provides hands-on scouting practice and occurs in the afternoon of each class. The participants practiced using a hand lens and entering information on sample record-keeping sheets. Due to the amount of hands-on interaction involved with the class the registrations are capped at 25 attendees per workshop. The class runs on three consecutive Wednesdays usually in October, from 9 AM to 4 PM. It has two large sponsorships from BASF and Syngenta chemical companies plus a \$99 registration fee. Class members receive a binder of all presentations, many resources and identification card decks, a hand lens and lunch.



Two students inspect nursery plants for insects and disease.

promotions. The skills also reduce water used and increase monitoring of fertilizer practices. It also increased the accurate identification of plant problems that allowed for timely and least toxic means of control.

FNP Elementary School Teacher Reinforces Nutrition Messages

Brenda Marty-Jimenez, Health, Nutrition & Food Safety CED III, Broward Cty

The Broward Family Nutrition Program has partnered with Colbert Elementary School to teach nutrition to 2nd-grade students. A series of six Show Me Nutrition lessons were taught by program assistant Mindy Proano in Ms. C's, second-grade classroom. Ms. C. followed up on the Show Me Nutrition lessons and encouraged students to consume healthy snacks and plenty of fruits and vegetables. She established "Healthy Thursdays" in her classroom, an initiative for which the students bring in only healthy snacks and physical activity is incorporated into teaching time. Students are encouraged by Broward FNP and by their teacher to share the information taught in the Family Nutrition Program with their families.

The Family Nutrition Program and "Healthy Thursdays" have had a positive impact on student food and snack choices. Ms. C. reported that many parents conveyed satisfaction with Broward FNP. Many students are choosing more fruits and vegetable snacks versus sugary snacks, both at home and at school.

In addition, one parent stated to Ms. C. that she is now more aware of the impact food choices make on her child's behavior as well as her health and the well-being of the entire family. She stated that she has seen a behavioral improvement as well as an improvement in her daughter's grades. She thanked the Broward Extension Family Nutrition Program for teaching nutrition education at her daughter's school.

When students are encouraged by Broward FNP



Hand lenses are provided to the students to help observe small insects on plant materials.

from the 2013 and the 2014 workshops. Here are the results: Participants indicated 74% increased their pest identification skills, 93% stated their job performance would increase, and 29% reported the training helped them get a higher paying job or a pay raise at their current position. The amount of money received was \$1 more per hour, or a gain of \$2,100 more per year. Finally, 100% agreed

or strongly agreed that what they learned in the class was useful in their job. In conclusion, the class teaches employable skills to industry workers resulting in pay raises and

and by their teacher to make wise food choices and share the information taught in the Family Nutrition Program with their families, positive changes are made. In the long run, when these changes are maintained into adulthood, the result should be a decrease in health-care costs and an improved quality of life.

Robbed by those Dirty Little Germs!

Betsy Crisp, FCS EA IV, Pasco Cty

Food safety is a top priority in Pasco County and across the US. The Center for Disease Control estimated roughly 1 in 6 Americans get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases each year. Bacteria, viruses, and microbes ("pathogens") cause the most illnesses. Hand-washing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. The effectiveness varies from study to study but estimates from 24% in 2005 to 76% in 2008 no doubt result in reduced illness and absenteeism at school or work, which saves time and money. A Food and Drug Administration study from 2011 said the nation-wide



Oh my, look
at all those
nasty germs!

average cost of preventing just one case of foodborne illness saves \$27,750 and the cost of one hospitalization saves \$166,080! As a direct result of articles and educational programs to restaurateurs (20) in schools (932), summer day camps (10), elderly nutrition sites (48) and the community (news articles and website), citizens of all ages are learning about nutrition

and food safety. They have adopted practices that will improve their lives as well as reduce illnesses and medical costs!

The Customer is Not Always Right

Jeff Wasielewski, Commercial Tropical Fruit EA I, Miami-Dade Cty

In May of 2015, a mother and daughter team of guava growers visited the UF/IFAS, Miami-Dade Extension office and asked for help. Snails, thousands upon thousands of them, were killing their newly planted guavas. The damage was so severe that the guava growers estimated that they had lost more than 60% of their new plantings and they desperately wanted to know "How can we kill the snails?"

As an Extension Agent, my first response to problems presented to me by growers is not to give the quick and easy answer they may want to hear, but to question the growers, and examine the situation, to make sure I find the actual cause of the problem and not just answer the grower's initial question of "What can I spray?" or "How can I kill this?" Those are all-too-often the first questions a grower asks me when they bring in a damaged fruit or tell tales of tree loss like the snail scenario presented above.

A slow and silent killer?

Snails rarely do major damage to fruit trees in South Florida, especially the size (2-3') and the quantity of trees that my guava growers reported (80-100). This fact led me to question the growers looking for another cause that could have wiped out the new trees: "Did you spray something on them you hadn't before?" "How are you controlling the weeds near the trees? Herbicide? String-trimmers?" "Are the trees that are dead all in one location or dispersed throughout the grove?" The answers to my questions did not point to another source of the trees' cause of death, but I still wasn't ready to concede the point that the snails were killing the trees. I asked the growers if it would be okay if I visited their grove to see if I could gather more information.

I visited their grove the following day, and confirmed my suspicion that snails were not the cause of the young guava trees' decline and eventual death. I did find snails, thousands of them,

and many were attached to the dead trees' trunks (Fig. 1). It made sense to put the blame on the snails, but when I looked at the bases of the trees for girdling or bark damage, I saw none. The snails found in large numbers at this guava grove were beneficial tree snails that clean tree trunks and do not consume live plants. The snails were feeding on the lichen found on the trunks of the dead and declining trees and were not the reason the trees died.

What killed the guava trees?

The new guava trees were planted on a small berm of crushed limestone rock and were being irrigated with a drip-irrigation system (Fig. 2). The young trees that were still alive had the drip emitters in the correct location (near the root ball). The dead trees had the drip emitters too far away from the root ball to irrigate it, and because the trees were on a slight berm, the water simply rolled down the berm and away from the thirsty root ball (Fig. 3). The guava trees did not die at the hands (feet?) of the snails; the trees died because they were planted in the dry season and were never properly irrigated.

I pointed out the irrigation layout mistakes and explained to the mother and daughter team that the snails they saw were harmless and not the reason their trees declined.

If I would have simply answered the guava growers' first question, "How do I kill these snails?" I would have sent them down a costly, time consuming, environmentally damaging, and completely ineffective path. The mother and daughter guava growers were saved hundreds of dollars in time, labor, and pesticide costs.

The old adage "the customer is always right" does not always apply when it comes to horticulture, and as an Extension Agent it is my job to use my knowledge and experience to guide commercial tropical fruit growers towards solutions to their problems.

The lessons learned by this grower are echoed in each of the commercial tropical fruit workshops designed to teach sound horticultural practices for tropical fruit production. The growers were able to replant their guava grove and move the drip



Fig 3. The drip emitters were not aligned with the new plants' rootballs.

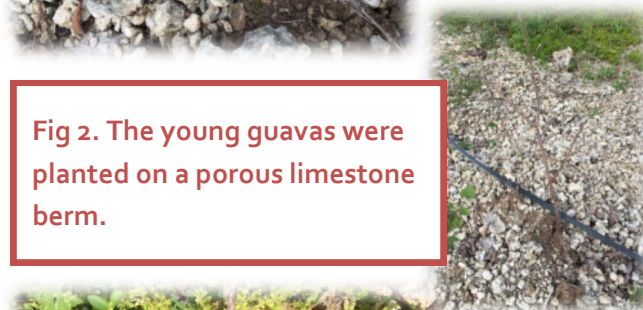


Fig 2. The young guavas were planted on a porous limestone berm.



Fig 1. Harmless tree snails feeding on

emitters to the proper locations, re-

sulting in healthy, vigorous young trees that would soon bear a crop and provide needed income for their business.

This is one of several educational services offered by UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension that enhances the profitability of agriculture businesses. Others include best practices for pesticide applicators, pruning workshops, irrigation seminars, and best practices for nutrient applications in the home landscape. For information and a schedule of upcoming trainings, contact the UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension office, <http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/>, 305-248-3311.

If you wish to be added to Jeff Wasielewski's email list to receive his quarterly tropical fruit newsletter and information on upcoming workshops, please contact him at jwasielewski@ufl.edu.

Creating Excitement with New Ideas

Katherine Allen, FCS CED IV, Suwannee Cty

As the assigned leader of a county extension office, sometimes feedback on your efforts isn't obvious. It is easier when a youth reports about their influential 4-H Agent in achieving success or when a farmer has higher yields/better products after utilizing recommendations the Ag Agent suggested. The success of the Agents and the programs, however, are a form of feedback on the efforts made to connect, engage, and encourage.



Carolyn Saft and Brian Estevez, Extension Agents with UF/IFAS Extension In Suwannee County discuss the rules of the game to the new 4-H SPIN club participants.

In Suwannee County, we are lucky to have a fabulous team. We work well together to create a variety of interdisciplinary programs. Probably the most visible is the support of 4-H from ALL program areas. In addition to a multitude of summer day camps (quilt, cloverbud, dairy, energy, seafood are examples for 2015), a "SPIN" or special interest club started this year.

This SPIN class incorporates a new feature of our community, a free disc golf course, with how to incorporate fun physical activity into your life! Suwannee County Agents also assist with early release days. Opportunities such as the SPIN club or early release activities are open not only to current 4-H members, but also serve as recruiting methods as well. We have seen our club numbers grow in the tenure of the Agents. Lack of turnover has assisted with the reputation of the Agents, as evidenced through success of the outstanding programs like the Growing Mushrooms for Fun or Profit and the Take Charge of Your Diabetes classes. The instructors have gained the trust of the community and are well-



Carolyn Saft, Horticultural Extension Agent in Suwannee County, advising proper throwing techniques to a budding disc golfer.

known and respected in their expertise. To highlight the difference, in 1998, a County Commissioner, upon initially meeting Agents and before even saying hello asked, "Well, how long are YOU going to stay?" The current team of Agents has been in Suwannee County a minimum of 7 years!! This has provided our community with stability. Note, I didn't say boring...this group of Agents have been outside the box thinkers, from having a hamburger day camp and a doggie day camp to introducing sesame as a potential crop.



4-H Youth walk throughout the 18-hole, free disc golf course at the newly opened Heritage Park and Gardens in Live Oak on a beautiful day.

Being Overweight Is No Fun!

Brenda Marty-Jimenez, Health, Nutrition & Food Safety CED III, Broward Cty

A volunteer at Collier City After School @ Your Library program was present for the 2014-15 monthly Broward Family Nutrition Program, Show Me Nutrition, nutrition lessons for youth. She stated that her doctor told her she needed to lose weight to improve her health. She observed youth participating in the Show Me Nutrition exercises, nutrition games, and the curriculum being taught to the children. She commented that she did not participate with her own children the way she would like to because she is overweight and tires

easily. In her frustration and disappointment, she said she resorts to eating high-calorie, high-sugar snacks, although she understands this is sabotaging her weight-loss efforts. She reported that she has a sweet tooth, does not like fruits and vegetables, and has never tasted yogurt. She stated she only eats fruit when it's in a fruit pie. At the conclusion of one of the Show Me Nutrition lessons and the scheduled food sampling, this volunteer very reluctantly tasted a small portion of nonfat vanilla yogurt (for the first time), which was combined with a tangerine to make a tasty yogurt and tangerine parfait sample. The volunteer was amazed that she really enjoyed the taste of the parfait. She asked for the name of the yogurt served and the name of the fruit so she could begin to serve it to her five children at home. She stated to the FNP program assistant that it had been years since she had consumed a healthy snack; she did not purchase fruits and vegetables in the past because she did not know how to prepare them.

At the March 10, 2015, class, the woman indicated that she had lost 20 lbs, was exercising several times a week by walking with her children, and is feeling much better. She now cooks vegetables for her children and serves yogurt and fruit parfaits weekly. She uses dinner as a "try time" event for her family. The children get to taste healthy vegetables and each child takes a turn selecting vegetables to try.

After observing the monthly Broward FNP nutrition lessons, this volunteer reported that she has learned valuable nutrition knowledge and has become motivated to make changes for herself and for her family members. This program is needed to impact the behaviors of individuals and families, leading to better overall health and increased quality of life. Another outcome of the program occurs when program knowledge gain and benefit expand beyond the participants themselves when nutrition information is shared with at least one other person.

Building Community and Economic Development with the New Pasco Food Advisory Policy Council

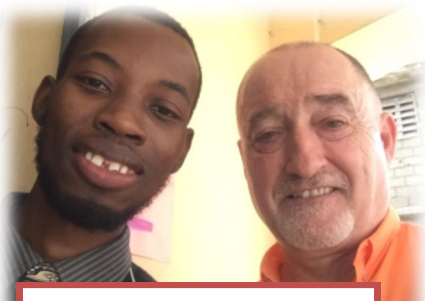
Whitney Elmore, Residential Hort/Comm Res Dev CED III, Pasco Cty

Food policy councils help shape community and economic development and from the latest statistics on diabetes, childhood obesity, food deserts and calls for more locally grown produce in schools, the time has come to employ advisory councils to help guide and affect policy change. In May, 2015, the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution to create the first Pasco Food Policy Advisory Council. One of only four in the state of Florida, the resolution, developed by partners in private Agribusiness, concerned citizens, the UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County Office, Pasco's Office of Long Range Planning, Pasco County Health Department and Pasco District Schools will help guide the use of county-owned land for the development of community gardens and food hubs and the preservation of agricultural lands and addition of small farms while enhancing economic development in the form of new jobs. The PFPAC will more importantly pave the way for a more sustainable local food system in Pasco County, ultimately helping the elderly and poor who simply cannot afford enough nutritious food. The PFPAC will empower collective decisions at all levels from business to non-profits, government, HOAs, schools and the general public on how food gets from the farm to the table.

Haiti Education Professional Development Conference

Michael Spranger, Professor, FYCS

In June, I spent a week in Cap Haitien, Haiti as an instructor and conducting research at the 2015 Haitian Education Professional Development Conference. This conference was sponsored by



Dr. Spranger and his translator, Emiles, who is finishing a law degree at Haitian University.

the Project for Haiti (P4H), a non for profit organization dedicated toward community capacity building and sustainable development in Haiti and the

Haitian Education Association. (<http://projectsforhaiti.org>)

P4H was founded by

Berthude Albert and Priscilia Zelaya, two current Ph.D. students in the Department of Agriculture Education and Communication. A record crowd of 400+ educators attended this workshop. We were told this was the largest gathering of educators for a professional development training in Haiti. This was just one of 5 weeks of workshops that P4H sponsors targeting capacity-building for women, small businesses, educators, and youth in Haiti.

We crammed 100 per room in each of the sessions during the week. There was no electricity or air conditioning in these rooms that reached near 100-degrees in the afternoon, but these educators had quest for new skills and knowledge and came back every day full of enthusiasm. I should note that the Haitian government has not paid them for 9 months and the conference was during their vacation

time....yet they came to learn and share with one another. It was a



Haitian educators engaged in classroom activities.

very moving experience for the instructors as well.

My topic was Building Community Capacity through Education. We talked about needs and assets and the important role they played in working with their youth as well as being productive members of their community. We talked about the importance of education in the rebuilding of their country and the issues and opportunities in their local communities. Despite the hard times that these Haitians have, they were always smiling

and appreciative of the new skills and knowledge we provided. I have many pictures, short video clips (they love to sing), and stories to share in the future.

As part of the training, I used the 4H pledge as an example to remind them that they had an important responsibility in working with their youth to develop HEADs for clearer thinking, HEARTs for greater loyalty, HANDs for larger

service, and HEALTH for better living. I concluded by telling them they provided a very important fifth "H" to their youth. This fifth "H" was pointed out to me by an Indonesian educator at a previous conference number of years ago. Educators provide their youth HOPE for the future... something we often forget we do....and the power of education with all we work with.

At the end of each of my class sessions I had the class shout out the following to help them build on their self-esteem and the important role that they play in their communities.

"...Edukasyon bay timoun yo espwa" (Education provides hope to our children)



Haitian educators engaged in classroom activities.



Haitian children at Sunday School Class in their finest clothes.

Arrivals

We would like to welcome the following new faculty:

Bradley Burbaugh, CED II, Clay Cty – CED & Agriculture
Angela Collins, Program EA II, Manatee Cty – Sea Grant
Johanna Ramirez, EA I, Osceola Cty – FCS
Kevin Athearn, RSA II, Suwannee Cty – Rural Agribusiness Development
Jean Arick, EA I, Jackson Cty – FCS
Luke Harlow, EA I, Nassau Cty – Agriculture & Natural Resources
Eva Pabon, EA I, Osceola Cty – Residential Horticulture

New Positions

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

Ron Rice, CED IV, Palm Beach Cty – Formerly Ag Crops EA IV

Departures

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

Kristin Jackson, FCS EA I, Jefferson Cty
Sue Bartolomeo, FCS Program EA I, Palm Beach Cty
Sydney Hayter, Livestock EA I, Duval Cty
Courtney Davis, Agricultural Production EA I, Okeechobee Cty

Retirement

We would like to give our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement after many years of dedicated service to David Shibles, Residential Horticulture EA III, Polk County.

Henry Grant, Agriculture and Community Development EA IV and CED, Gadsden Co.

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.
