



PEOPLE FOCUSED

Cooperative Extension is a partnership between Leon County, University of Florida, and the United States Department of Agriculture. Together the organizations share in the planning, financing and operation of the Cooperative Extension programs. Leon County Extension conducts research-based educational programs in agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development.

In an effort to maximum the experience and knowledge available in our residents, an important component in developing the department's annual programming is to utilize its citizens committees. These committees help shape the educational programs offered to enhance the quality of life in the community. Every year, citizens enjoy the classes, workshops, and sessions offered in family and consumer sciences, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, natural resources, and 4-H youth development.

Currently, the Extension Center is being transformed into a demonstration site for sustainability education. The first phase involved reusing 40,000 gallon petroleum tanks to create a rainwater recycling system which is now operational. The second phase will be completed in 2012 with grant funds and will allow for the Cooperative Extension building to be transformed into a "net-zero" energy building; in essence, the facility will produce as much energy as it uses and serve as an example of sustainable living in Leon County.

Cooperative Extension

606-5200

www.leoncountyfl.gov/CoopExt/

PERFORMANCE DRIVEN

CULTIVATING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Leon County recognizes the importance of continuously providing educational and unique learning opportunities for the youth of our community:
 - » Over 375 youth participated in the Office's 4-H day camps and residential camping experience. Through the popular program, local youth learn about life skills, environmental stewardship and healthy living.
 - » More than 6,000 Leon County students and 250 teachers from 47 schools participated in the Extension Office's 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program. The contest helps thousands of youth annually to gain critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills.
 - » In partnership with Florida A&M University, the Office taught 250 youth the basics of composting during the Agriculture Rally held on FAMU's campus.
- The County understands that as a government, the need to leverage community volunteers is essential to the success of many of its programs:
 - » Master Gardener volunteers established and maintained onsite vegetable demonstration garden at the Extension Center. The garden demonstrates conventional production methods and organic and hydroponic techniques. The first harvest produced 281 pounds of vegetables that was donated to a local food bank.
 - » Master Gardener, Master Wildlife Conservationist, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H youth and adult volunteers contributed 26,552 hours of volunteer service to Cooperative Extension programs. This is the equivalent of thirteen full-time employees.



- As a leader in statewide sustainability efforts, the Extension Office helped to design and launch the "Sustainable Floridian" a statewide education/action program that trains and inspires volunteers to deliver information to residents on the significance of sustainability, the value of lifestyle choices and its impact on the environment.
- In an effort to maximum resources and provide critical skills, the Cooperative Extension office held three in-depth sessions including basic nutrition, food safety and cooking skills to help prepare 57 preschool teachers to educate young children about the important life skills through hands-on learning.

