



## Goal Statement

To provide researched-based educational programs and information on horticulture, agriculture, natural resources, forestry, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development, empowering citizens of Leon County to make decisions and behavior changes that contribute to an improved quality of life and a more sustainable community.

## Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

### Environment

- Leon County's Cooperative Extension Division trained and certified over 1,000 commercial landscape maintenance and land management professionals. Participants received certification and/or continuing educational units ensuring compliance with pesticide application laws and other regulations safeguarding our environment.

### Quality of Life

- In-depth nutrition education classes were completed by 152 Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and/or limited resource adults with children, 315 senior citizens and 811 limited resource youth. As a result, 86% of participating adults made at least one positive change in their food consumption habits and 81% of participating youth increased their nutrition knowledge.
- Engaged more than 7,800 youth in 4-H programs and activities. Youth enhanced their decision making, leadership and communication skills. Over 200 youth increased their skills and knowledge in environmental stewardship by participating in 4-H day and overnight camping experiences.

## Contact Us

(850) 606-5200  
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/CoopExt

## CULTIVATING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Many people enjoy growing their own fruits and vegetables, while others garden out of necessity. Over 20% of people in Leon County are food insecure.
  - » The division reached 3,888 people through its low-impact sustainable gardening educational programs – a 262% increase over last year. Through the work of faculty, staff and Master Gardener volunteers, the demonstration garden and community gardens produced donations of 854 pounds of produce, 173 pounds of non-perishable food and more than 1,000 vegetable seedlings to Second Harvest food bank for distribution to low-income individuals and families. Additionally, faculty partnered with 17 Leon County schools in garden projects.
  - » Master Gardener, Master Wildlife Conservationists, Family & Consumer Sciences, and 4-H youth and adult volunteers contributed 18,415 hours of volunteer service to Cooperative Extension programs. This is the equivalent of 9 full-time employees.
- Master Gardener volunteers and staff conducted the center's annual Fall and Spring Open Houses. Over 1,000 community members attended to learn more about the services offered. Local gardeners were educated on how to make their landscapes more



4-H Horticulture Club

Florida-friendly, how to select the right plant for the right place, and how to bring birds and butterflies into their gardens.

- Leon County Cooperative Extension is a partnership between Leon County, the University of Florida, and the United States Department of Agriculture, who share in its planning, financing, and operation.
- Data proves that the Sustainable Demonstration Center, the 50-year old building that houses Cooperative Extension, with the addition of solar power and an ultra-energy efficient geothermal heating and air system, is a net-zero energy building – meaning the site produces renewable energy at a rate equal to or greater than what the building annually consumes. The building includes 253 solar photovoltaic cells on a ground-mounted structure that doubles as shaded parking. The solar array is sized to a 60-KW system compared to a 5-KW system used in the average home. This solar array supplies about 40% of the energy needed to power the 13,000 square-foot building.



### Did You Know

Cooperative Extension established one public school vegetable garden and two community vegetable gardens.

454 residents received technical assistance concerning sustainable agriculture and equine care through workshops, group consultations and farm visits.