

Cooperative Extension

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- More than 800 residents toured the demonstration gardens at the Leon County – UF/IFAS Extension Center during the fall and spring open houses conducted by 70 Master Gardener volunteers. The gardens, open to the public year-round, demonstrate Florida-friendly landscaping principles.
- Master Gardener, Master Wildlife Conservationist, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H youth and adult volunteers contributed more than 34,400 hours of volunteer service to Cooperative Extension programs. This is the equivalent of approximately 17 full-time employees valued at nearly \$700,000.
- More than 80 county government officials and staff from Leon and four other North Florida counties shared practitioner successes in Going Green with their county operations at a video conference sponsored by county and regional Extension faculty.
- 1,059 limited-resource Leon County families completed an average of 10 nutrition classes each, resulting in more than 10,000 educational contacts. Participants improved their food and nutrition habits and graduated from the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.
- 671 youth from low-income families completed a series of five or more Family Nutrition Program (FNP) classes, and 833 FNP educational contacts were made with older Leon County residents on topics including nutrition, food safety and the importance of physical activity.
- Established two public-school vegetable gardens and one community vegetable garden.
- 7,579 youth enhanced their leadership, communication and decision-making skills through participation in 4-H programs and activities.
- 6,379 youth gained skills in preparing, writing and presenting a speech by participating in the 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking county and district contests.
- 1,728 residents received technical assistance concerning sustainable agriculture and equine care through workshops, group consultations and farm visits.
- Trained 137 residents in vegetable production classes. Trained 151 landscape maintenance and arborist employees in Best Management Practices for protection of water resources. Post-training BMP Evaluations showed that participants reduced their application rate of nitrogen and phosphorus significantly.
- Conducted two Low Impact Development workshops in partnership with UF/IFAS Program for Resource-Efficient Communities.
- Taught 440 students about the pollution-sensitive hydrogeology of the Florida Aquifer and drinking water by conducting field experiments.
- Produced 12 television shows in cooperation with WFSU-TV and wrote 52 columns in the *Tallahassee Democrat*.
- 336 people participated in Walking Through Florida and recorded more than 6,800 miles walked.
- Division director received Administrative Leadership Award at the Extension Professional Associations of Florida annual meeting.



Did You Know

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, celebrates its 40th anniversary of helping families with limited resources eat better on a budget.



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Cooperative Extension is a partnership between state land grant universities, the United States Department of Agriculture and county governments. These groups share in the planning, financing and operation of Extension programs. The University of Florida administers Extension services in Florida. Leon County government provides support for local faculty, staff and facilities. Leon County Cooperative Extension conducts research-based educational programs in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development. Locally-based advisory committees assure that programs are designed to meet community needs. Cooperative Extension programs emphasize volunteer training to extend services to even more Leon County citizens.

