



ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

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 1,200 commercial landscape maintenance professionals. Participants received certification and/or continuing educational units ensuring compliance with pesticide application laws and other regulations safeguarding our environment.
- In-depth nutrition education classes were completed by 1,041 low-income adults with children, 432 senior citizens and 171 youth. As a result, 94% of adults made at least one positive change in their food consumption habits and 75% of youth increased their nutrition knowledge.
- Engaged more than 7,100 youth in 4-H programs and activities. Youth enhanced their decision making, leadership, and communication skills. Over 180 youth increased their skills and knowledge in environmental stewardship by participating in 4-H day and overnight camping experiences.

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CULTIVATING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Many people enjoy growing their own fruits and vegetables, while others garden out of necessity. Nearly 20% of people in Leon County are food insecure.
 - » The division reached 1,075 people through its low-impact sustainable gardening educational programs. Through the work of faculty, staff and Master Gardener volunteers, the demonstration garden and community gardens produced donations of over 1,000 pounds of food and more than 100 vegetable seedlings to Second Harvest food bank for distribution to low-income individuals and families. Additionally, faculty partnered with 25 Leon County schools in garden projects.
 - » Master Gardener, Master Wildlife Conservationist, Family & Consumer Sciences, and 4-H youth and adult volunteers contributed 22,880 hours of volunteer service to Cooperative Extension programs. This is the equivalent of 11 full-time employees.
- » More than 600 residents attended the demonstration gardens at the Extension Spring Open House, conducted by 70 Master Gardener volunteers and staff. The gardens demonstrate the Florida Friendly Landscapes principles.
- Cooperative Extension partnered with 49 Leon County schools in the 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest; 6,691 youth gained skills in preparing, writing, and presenting a speech.
- Over 500 community citizens learned about sustainable practices, including watershed management, wildlife management, and energy conservation through Cooperative Extension educational workshops and in-depth courses.
- Produced in cooperation with WFSU, Cooperative Extension promoted Florida-friendly landscaping practices and community gardens in 11 television and 23 radio shows. In addition, Extension faculty and volunteers published 56 garden columns, 24 nutrition columns, 18 magazine articles and eight electronic newsletters.
- Leon County Cooperative Extension is a partnership between Leon County, the University of Florida, and the United States Department of Agriculture, which share in its planning, financing, and operation.



Annual Demonstration Garden Open House



Did You Know

Cooperative Extension features a Sustainable Demonstration Center. Citizens can see how rainwater cisterns, a geothermal system, and a solar photovoltaic system work to power the Extension office, and get inspired to implement sustainable technologies and practices in their own lives.