

# Agriculture and Extension Services

## *Adapting to the Changing Environment*

July 28, 2020



# What is Extension?

- **UF/IFAS Extension, one of Florida's two Land Grant Universities**
- **We provide research based education to create social, economic and environmental impacts for Florida citizens.**
- **Each Florida County has an Extension office**
- **Extension Office interactive map:**  
<https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/organization/districts-offices--recs/>







# EYES ON AGRICULTURE

WITH OUR MANATEE COUNTY  
UF/IFAS EXTENSION OFFICE

# Division Manager Crystal Snodgrass

Extension  
Administration

Faculty and  
Staff  
Development

Division Budget

Produce Food  
Safety

Nutrient and  
water research

Community  
Resource  
Development



# SOILS UNIT, Gail Somodi, Soil Conservation Supervisor

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation District, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Fish and Wildlife.

Partnerships include providing assistance to county departments as requested-e.g. with Web Soil Survey.



# Soils Unit

## Major Impacts 2019-2020

- Coordinate Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation District educational events-speech contest, Envirothon, Land Judging, and Farm Tour
- Involved with Farm City Week and other Extension activities
- Reached 1,433 people at above events
- Annual letter to ag operations in Lake Manatee watershed sharing resources-NRCS, FDACS, SWFWMD
- Assisted NRCS with conservation planning
  - Certification of conservation practices on 10 contracts— Fence, Prescribed Burning, High Tunnel System, Watering Facility, Livestock Shelter etc.
  - Payments made to producers \$38,751 for practices implemented on 2,144 ac. Current obligated funds \$102,902 which will impact 896 ac.



# Soils Unit

## *meeting clientele needs during pandemic*



Assisting clientele by email or phone from office or teleworking



Served as judge at virtual State Envirothon-50 students including 2 local teams



Providing information through blogs and social media, including soils educational resources



NRCS -Created conservation planning maps, completed environmental evaluation forms, assisted 6 new pending pre-approved applicants. Assisted current participants with receiving payments for completed conservation practices.



# Residential Horticulture, Alyssa Vinson, Extension Agent

## Program Areas:

- Sustainable Landscapes
- Master Gardener Volunteer Program
- Master Naturalist Program

## Areas of Expertise:

- Mangrove Trimming
- Ecological Landscapes
- Urban/Wildland Interface

## Partnerships:

- Manatee County; Libraries, Preserve Management, Parks, Neighborhood Services
- Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
- Keep Manatee Beautiful



# Residential Horticulture Major Impacts 2019-2020



## Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Over 1 million of gallons of water saved  
due to behavior changed



## Master Gardener Volunteer Program

109 Active Volunteers  
Donated over 10,500 hours in 2019



## Sustainable Landscapes and Urban Ecology

Surveys indicate that ~80% of attendees  
plan to implement one new behavior  
based on information received.



## Group Learning Participants:

1,679 (2019)  
2,800 (2020 so far)



# Residential Horticulture

## *meeting clientele needs during pandemic*

### Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

- Landscape Assistance Program via teleconferencing
- Socially distanced yard evaluations
- Recertification of municipal landscapes

### Master Gardener Volunteer Program

- Plant Diagnostic Clinic via email and phone
- Volunteer led webinars
- Monthly email update to ~5,000 residents
- Online Volunteer Engagement

### Master Naturalist Program

- First in the state to offer an online-only core module



# Commercial Horticulture

## Wael Elwakil, Extension Agent

Wael Elwakil, DPM

- **Plant Nursery & Greenhouse Production**
  - Pest & Disease
  - Integrated Pest management
  - Fertility
  - Irrigation & Water Conservation
  - Alternative Crops and Cropping Systems
- **Pesticide Training**
- **Youth & Public Horticulture Education**
- **Research Projects**
  - Ornamental Plant Disease Management
  - Horticultural Economic Prediction Model



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# Commercial Horticulture Major Impacts 2019-2020

## For Growers:

- Pesticide Licenses value \$17,930
- Continued Education Units value \$33,960
- 7 Extension Programs (4 unique)
- Major influx of information and new rules
- Advise growers on a variety of issues
- Several programs under development

## Youth & Public Horticulture Education

- Plant Project - 115 Youth (4-H clubs & FFA chapters)
- FCW Ag Tour - 185 Participants Fall 2019

### COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE/ORNAMENTAL PRODUCTION

Nurseries in Manatee County grow woody ornamentals, foliage, floral crops and sod with a value of 60 million dollars per year.

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND SERVICE TO MANATEE COUNTY

- Commercial Horticulture Production
- Nursery and Greenhouse Production
- Plant Disease and Insect Pest ID
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Irrigation and Water Conservation
- Salinity and pH
- Pesticide Training & Licensing
- Federal & State Regulations
- Industrial Hemp Questions
- 4H/FFA FNGLA Plant Project (Manatee County Fair Plant Show & Sale)

#### PESTICIDE TRAINING & EXAMS

- Florida Pesticide Certification Exams
- Florida Pesticide Applicator Certification Continuing Education Units (CEU) Database
- 2020 South Central Florida Pesticide Training Schedule (PDF)
- Pesticide Training and WPS Classes (Manatee only)



#### CONTACT:

WAEEL ELWAKIL

Commercial Horticulture

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# Commercial Horticulture *meeting clientele needs during pandemic*

## For Growers:

- Emergency Visits to Growers
- Navigate (Governor's Order & Essential worker)
- FDACS compliance (Nursery inspection, pesticide licenses, WPS)
- Updates via Email blasts, Phone calls

## Education and Training Workshops

- Switch to 100% Online format
- Offered 7 virtual classes
- Pending online classes – self paced

## Internal - Changing Work Environment

- More collaborations local and regional
- Professional trainings



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# Sustainable Ag & Food Systems

## Lisa Hickey, Extension Agent



- Areas of Expertise:
  - Best Agricultural Practices
  - Soil Moisture Sensors Research
  - Beginning Farmers Resources
- Program Areas— From the seed to the table
  - Small & Large Farm – Fruit and Vegetable Production
  - Community & School Gardens
  - Pesticide & Worker Protection Safety
- Community Partners:
  - Sustainability team, IT & GIS, School board, Soil & Water, & more



# Sustainable Ag & Food Systems Major Impacts 2019-2020

- Pesticide Licenses value = \$96,822
- Continued Education Units value = \$320,922
- Beginning Farmer & Gardener Education Training Series
- Keep Manatee Beautiful Award for MC DOH garden
- Grant awards for garden supplies = \$3,000
- Connecting wholesale farms to online farmers market
- Total Audience Outreach
  - Community Total = 7,231
  - Youth impacted = 3,252



# Sustainable Ag & Food Systems

*meeting clientele needs during pandemic*



- Online Classes
- Social media posts: Blogs and educational posts
- Facebook Live videos
  - Greater than 6,000 views in 3 months
- Worked with farm connections to online farmer's market



# Marine Extension and Florida Sea Grant

## Angela Collins, Extension Agent



Angela Collins, Ph.D.

### Areas of Expertise

- Cooperative fisheries research
- Working waterfronts
- Marine biology and ecology

### Program Areas

- Marine Fisheries
- Shellfish Aquaculture
- Coastal Literacy



# Marine Extension Major Impacts 2019-2020



Commercial and  
Recreational  
Fisheries

- Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival
- Seafood HACCP training for industry
- Hogfish Aquaculture research program
- 10th Annual Great Goliath Grouper Count
- Florida Friendly Fishing Guide Certification



Bivalve Shellfish  
Aquaculture

- Gulf Shellfish Institute Partnership
- Research dollars secured for industry (\$21K)
  - Genetic differentiation of local clams
  - Bay scallop biofouling
  - Red tide depuration



Coastal Literacy

- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Microplastics
- Marine Science Youth Camp
- Barotrauma Video Series



# Marine Extension

## *meeting clientele needs during pandemic*

- Compiling resources and opportunities for industry
  - CARES Act, PPP, National Sea Grant Law Center, SBA, FDACS
- Webinars and Online Learning (>2000 participants)
  - Florida Sea Grant Bite-Sized Science
  - Florida Seafood at your Fingertips
- Keep moving forward!
  - External Grant Applications (4)
  - Research publications submitted (3)
- Partnerships
  - Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Technical Advisory Committee
  - Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage
  - Gulf Shellfish Institute
  - Southeast Marine Resource Education Program
  - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
  - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



# Family and Consumer Science

## Nelly Nelson, Extension Agent

- Nelly Nelson, MBA
- Health and Wellness
  - Relationship classes
  - Parenting skill classes
  - Nutrition and Food Systems
  - Home after care
  - Human development and Drug Addiction
  - Financial Management
- Programs offered in English and Spanish Languages
- Research Projects
  - Smart Couples Project
  - Home Flow Project
- Partnerships
  - MCG Neighborhood Services, Probation, Drug Court and Libraries
  - Over 90 partners in the County  
DOH, School Board, Manatee County Sheriff Office-  
Recovery Pod Program, etc.



# Family and Consumer Science Major Impacts 2019-2020

- Relations and Parenting Skills  
Group Learning 673 Participants in 2019
- Nutrition and well-being  
Group Learning 12,562 Participants in 2019
- Financial education  
Group Learning 482 Participants in 2019
- FCS Volunteers  
Donated over 8,990 hours in 2019 Equivalent to \$216,119
- Marketing Package Second Place National Award 2020
- Innovation in Programing Second Place Award 2019
- Presentation at International Conference Barcelona  
Family and the Pursuit of Happiness



# Family and Consumer Science

## *meeting clientele needs during pandemic*

- EDIS Publications: Cleaning and use of Disinfectants and frequently asked health questions in grocery stores, farmworkers safety and health, cleaning and disinfectants. (4 publications) Spanish Language
- Wind mitigation during hurricane season (6 publications) Spanish language
- "Leading Your Company in Difficult Times Article Series" Pesticide Industry (4 publications) Spanish language
- Food safety and sustainability webinars
- Social Media outreach 5,147 individuals in a month
- Partnerships
  - Parenting Dual Roles District Representative
  - The Cancer Society



# Environmental Horticulture

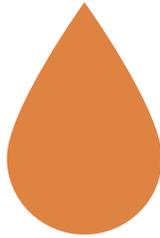
## Michelle Atkinson, Extension Agent



- Areas of Expertise:
  - Sustainable landscape management
  - Stormwater pond management
  - Outdoor water conservation
- Program Areas:
  - Pesticide & fertilizer applicator training
  - Stormwater pond BMPs
  - Mobile irrigation lab (MIL) & water conservation education



# Environmental Horticulture Major Impacts 2019-2020



## **Water Savings from MIL recommendations**

6.65 million gallons saved  
341 resident site visits



## **Economic value of pesticide and fertilizer training**

\$1,957,000 (15,264 continuing education units)  
1941 landscape professional educated



# Environmental Horticulture

## *meeting clientele needs during pandemic*

- Educational workshops for landscape professionals
  - Offered 24 virtual pesticide & fertilizer classes
  - Launched two, 6-hour+ online license prep classes
  - Developing state-wide stormwater pond management online, 22-hour training, self-paced
- Educational outreach for water conservation
  - Conducted 5 virtual trainings, recorded for future use
  - Social media postings and videos to cue conservation
  - Hosted monthly sustainability webinar series, joint collaboration
- Partnerships:
  - Manatee County Utilities Department
  - Florida Turf Growers Association (FTGA)
  - Florida Nursery Growers Landscape Association (FNGLA)
  - UF/IFAS Center for Landscape Urban Ecology & Sarasota Extension



# Livestock

## Christa Kirby, Extension Agent

- Areas of Expertise

- Animal Science
- Best Management Practices
- Pasture and Weed Management

- Program Areas

- Enhancing Livestock Production
- Agriculture Literacy
- Youth Livestock Programming

- Collaborations

- South Florida Beef Forage Program
- UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center



# Livestock

## Major Impacts 2019-2020

- Enhancing Livestock Production
  - Beef Cattle, Pasture and Weed Management
  - Beef Quality Assurance
  - Cattle and Wildlife Co-Habitation and Control
- Agriculture Awareness
  - Agricultural Tours
  - Webinars
  - School Enrichment
- Youth Livestock Programming
  - Farm City Week Beef Workshop and Prospect Show
  - Livestock Judging Events
  - Workshops and Clinics



# Livestock *meeting clientele needs during pandemic*



- Virtual Programming
  - Webinars
  - YouTube Videos
  - Facebook Live Events
- Social media
  - Facebook
  - Blogs
- Connect Producers and Consumers



# 4-H Youth Development

## Christa Kirby, Interim Extension Agent



- Area of Expertise
  - Youth Development
  - Volunteer Development
- 4-H Motto
  - "To Make the Best Better"



# 4-H Youth Development Major Impacts 2019-2020

20 Traditional 4-H Clubs

40 Organizational Volunteer  
Leaders

33 Project Volunteer  
Leaders

28,719 Youth Enriched

4-H Clubs

Special Interest Activities

Camps

School Enrichment

4,692 Volunteer Hours Donated  
to Youth Programming



# 4-H Youth Development *meeting clientele needs during pandemic*

- 4-H Programming has Never Stopped
- Moved to a Virtual Platform
  - Club Meetings
  - Volunteer Meetings
  - County Events
  - State Events
  - Summer Enrichment
- 300 End of Year Record Books Submitted



# Thank You

## Help us spread the word!

- **Facebook**

- <https://www.facebook.com/ManateeCoExtension/>

- **Calendar of Events**

- **UF/IFAS Website**

- <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/manatee/>

- **County website**

- [https://www.mymanatee.org/departments/parks\\_natural\\_resources/agriculture\\_extension\\_service](https://www.mymanatee.org/departments/parks_natural_resources/agriculture_extension_service)

- **EDIS**

- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

