

---

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Memorandum of Understanding between Seminole County Extension Services and the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Services

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services

**DIVISION:** Cooperative Extension

**AUTHORIZED BY:** David Medley

**CONTACT:** Pam Martin

**EXT:** 2302

**MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Seminole County and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences to continue a collaborative working relationship.

County-wide

Barbara Hughes

---

**BACKGROUND:**

The Florida Cooperative Extension Service was established as a part of the University of Florida Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences by Federal and State legislation for the specific purpose of extending the educational programs of the University to the people of the State on subjects relating to agriculture, family and consumer science, 4-H and youth development, energy, community and natural resource development and sea grant and other programs deemed appropriate. The laws creating extension services were specifically designed to ensure that the findings of research in these areas were communicated to the people.

The Seminole County Cooperative Extension Office has been serving and meeting the needs of Seminole County through a continuously operating program since 1920. The original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and Seminole County, dated August 18, 1981 states: "To assure that the educational programs offered by the Cooperative Extension Service meet the needs of local citizens, it is important that both elected and appointed officials of each level of government understand their respective responsibilities and relationships in the conduct of this work." This MOU, which established the responsibilities and relationships between the Extension Service and Seminole County, has been revised on several occasions, most recently in 1995 to establish the position of "Adjunct County Extension Agent."

The attached MOU seeks to reaffirm the collaborative relationship and separate responsibilities of each party. The significant change in this new MOU is that it adds the responsibility of the COUNTY to "coordinate network access with the EXTENSION to ensure that all extension faculty and staff have access to University of Florida computer network resources." The hiring of County Extension Faculty, County Extension Faculty Support by EXTENSION, County Extension Faculty Support by COUNTY, Office Policies, and General and Automobile liability remain the same.

The original MOU is attached for review and comparison. Also attached is a brief summary of

the programs services provided by the Seminole County Extension Office.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Board approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Seminole County and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences to continue a collaborative working relationship.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2007 Memorandum of Understanding
2. 1988 Memorandum of Understanding
3. Extension Service Mission

**Additionally Reviewed By:**

County Attorney Review ( Susan Dietrich )

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
FLORIDA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE,  
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES,  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
AND  
SEMINOLE COUNTY

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is entered into this 29th day of June, 2007, by and between **SEMINOLE COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, whose address is 1101 E. First Street, Sanford, Florida 32771, hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY," and **FLORIDA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 110180, Gainesville, Florida 32611-0180, hereinafter referred to as "EXTENSION".

W I T N E S S E T H:

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish, articulate and enhance the collaborative relationship between the EXTENSION and the COUNTY; and

**WHEREAS**, this MOU states the desire of the EXTENSION and the COUNTY to work cooperatively to enhance the well being of the citizens of Seminole County, each carrying out their agreed upon responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the EXTENSION's mission is to focus on contemporary issues and the needs of the people and employs an interactive educational process involving the people in issue identification, priority setting, program delivery and impact assessment; and

**WHEREAS,** the EXTENSION and the COUNTY will work together at all times to mutually assist the other to the extent possible, to benefit Seminole County residents; and

**WHEREAS,** the EXTENSION was established as a part of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences by Federal and State legislation for the specific purpose of extending educational programs of the University of Florida to the people of the State of Florida in subjects relating to agriculture, horticulture, family and consumer science, 4-H and youth development, community and natural resource development, energy, sea grant and other programs that may be deemed appropriate and the EXTENSION has been serving and meeting the needs of Seminole County through a continuously operating program since 1920; and

**WHEREAS,** this collaborative arrangement between state extension services and county governments exist throughout the United States and the details of the actual agreements are unique to each county to assure that local needs are properly addressed; and

**WHEREAS,** each MOU is a resource that sets forth the aforementioned details for the EXTENSION and the respective county; and

**WHEREAS,** this MOU establishes the responsibilities and relationships that exist between the EXTENSION and the COUNTY,

**NOW, THEREFORE,** The parties agree as follows:

**Section 1.**

(a) Cooperative Extension Agents hired by the COUNTY and the EXTENSION shall hereinafter be referred to as "Extension Faculty".

(b) Cooperative Extension Agents hired by the COUNTY shall hereinafter be referred to as "County Extension Faculty".

**Section 2. Hiring County Extension Faculty.**

(a) The EXTENSION and the COUNTY will jointly agree on whether to fill vacancies in positions of County Extension Faculty.

(b) The EXTENSION will establish minimum requirements and qualifications for the employment of County Extension Faculty.

(c) The EXTENSION will receive and examine applications for employment for County Extension Faculty.

(d) The EXTENSION will interview and screen applicants to determine their qualifications and availability for employment as County Extension Faculty.

(e) The EXTENSION will recommend to the COUNTY qualified applicants for appointment to vacant or new County Extension Faculty positions in accordance with the provisions of Section 1004.37, Florida Statutes.

**Section 3. Salaries of County Extension Faculty.**

(a) The EXTENSION and the COUNTY will each pay its own respective portion of all salaries for County Extension Faculty but will not be responsible for payment of the other party's portion.

(b) The EXTENSION will determine the total amount of the starting base salary of each County Extension Faculty member.

(c) Before hire, the COUNTY and the EXTENSION will jointly agree on the portion of the base starting salary of each County Extension Faculty member that each party will pay. After initial hire, each party will determine future salary adjustments for its

portion of the total salary, except with respect to promotion increases, which will be determined as set forth in Section 3(d). Each party may, at its sole discretion, pay a bonus at any time to County Extension Faculty member(s), as a non-base salary increase, provided that such party will be solely liable for the payment of such bonus.

(d) The EXTENSION will determine the total dollar amount of rank promotion salary increase for promotion to Agents II, III, and IV and a Special Pay Plan increase following every seven (7) years of Agent IV status. The COUNTY will pay that percentage of the rank promotion salary increase that is equivalent to the percentage of the County Extension Faculty member's salary the COUNTY was paying immediately prior to the effective date of the increase. The EXTENSION will pay the remainder of the rank promotion salary increase.

**Section 4. County Extension Faculty Support by EXTENSION.**

(a) The EXTENSION will provide County Extension Faculty with official envelopes, bulletins (designated for free distribution), leaflets and other publications for educational purposes.

(b) The EXTENSION will provide the leadership for administration and supervision of extension programs and County Extension Faculty.

(c) The EXTENSION will develop and administer a personnel management plan for County Extension Faculty that will provide for:

(1) The annual review of each County Extension Faculty member's performance;

(2) Counseling for job improvement where needed; and

(3) Periodic COUNTY program reviews.

(d) The EXTENSION will provide State Extension Subject Matter Specialists to train County Extension Faculty in current technology and other changes affecting agriculture, family and consumer science, 4-H, community and natural resource development, energy, and sea grant programs and to assist them in the conduct of work in these areas.

(e) The EXTENSION will provide County Extension Faculty with training programs as appropriate to maintain effective program delivery.

(f) The EXTENSION will develop and maintain a County Advisory Committee System to insure that County Extension programs are based on the particular needs of the people in Seminole County.

(g) The EXTENSION will provide funds for official travel expenses and per diem of County Extension Faculty for in-service training and for other out-of-county program development meetings selected by the EXTENSION.

**Section 5. County Extension Faculty Support By COUNTY.**

(a) The COUNTY will provide office space and equipment, secretaries and other clerical personnel, utilities, telephone, office supplies, funding for official COUNTY travel (except as otherwise provided herein with respect to in-service training), demonstration materials and other items needed for efficient operation of County Extension Office and program.

(b) The COUNTY will also confer and advise with the District and County Extension Directors and County Extension Advisory Committee relative to County Extension programs.

**Section 6. Office Policies.**

(a) The policies established by the University of Florida in administering leave, including annual, sick, civil, holiday and military leave, and regarding payment of unused annual and sick leave upon separation, shall apply to County Extension Faculty.

(b) COUNTY policies will apply with respect to office hours and holiday hours for County Extension Faculty.

(c) The EXTENSION and the COUNTY will cooperate in maintaining a safe and comfortable workplace environment consistent with established workplace practices.

(d) The parties to this MOU will be jointly responsible for, and cooperate with each other in, accommodating all special needs participants during educational programs conducted through the Cooperative Extension Service. Except as provided in the foregoing sentence, the EXTENSION and the COUNTY will remain separately responsible for compliance with the American Disabilities Act at their facilities and each remains responsible for providing access to any facility or building owned by such party in compliance with the American Disabilities Act.

(e) County Extension Faculty will not be classified under a COUNTY classification system.

**Section 7. Miscellaneous.**

(a) This MOU shall be amended only by written amendment, which must be signed by both parties.

(b) Either party may terminate this MOU without penalty or cause by giving the other party at least six (6) months written notice of its intent to do so.

(c) The EXTENSION is self-insured for workers' compensation, general liability and automobile liability through the State of Florida's Risk Management Trust Fund. Throughout the term of this MOU, the EXTENSION will carry insurance that meets the requirements of Florida law applicable to State entities. As of the date of this MOU, such insurance covers University employees and volunteers, as defined in Section 110.502, Florida Statutes.

(d) The COUNTY will coordinate computer network access with the EXTENSION to ensure that all extension faculty and staff have access to University of Florida computer network resources. In an effort to mitigate the risks associated with such access from the COUNTY's computer system, the EXTENSION provides security management of such computer network resources for all those accessing such resources.

(e) This MOU shall be effective on the 2nd day of July, 2007.

Jimmy G. Cheek 6/29/07  
Jimmy G. Cheek, Sr. Vice President Date  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
University of Florida

Larry R. Arrington 6/29/07  
Larry R. Arrington, Dean and Director Date  
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carlton Henley, Chairman Date  
Board of County Commissioners  
Seminole County

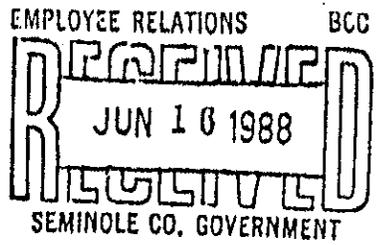
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maryanne Morse, Clerk to the Date  
Board of County Commissioners  
Seminole County

For the use and reliance of Seminole County.

As authorized for execution by the Board of County Commissioners at  
its \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, regular meeting.

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Attorney Date



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS,  
A PUBLIC CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF  
THE FLORIDA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE,  
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES,  
AND  
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

The Florida Cooperative Extension service was established as a part of the Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences of the University of Florida by Federal and State legislation for the specific purpose of "extending" the educational service of the University to the people of the State on subjects relating to Agriculture, Home Economics, 4-H and Youth, Community and Natural Resource Development, and Sea Grant programs. The laws creating extension were specifically designed to ensure that the findings of research in these areas were communicated to the people.

To assure that the educational programs offered by the Cooperative Extension Service meet the needs of local citizens, it is important that both elected and appointed officials of each level of government understand their respective responsibilities and relationships in the conduct of this work.

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes the responsibilities and relationships that exist between the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (hereinafter called "Extension") and the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County (hereinafter called "The Board").

I. RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS

A. With respect to County Extension Faculty, Extension will:

1. Established minimum requirements and qualifications for employment in Extension work.
2. Receive and examine applications for employment.
3. Interview and screen applicants to determine their qualifications and availability.
- ✓ 4. Recommend to The Board qualified applicants for appointment to vacant or new Extension positions.
5. Recommend the salaries of County Extension Faculty.
6. Determine jointly with The Board the share of salaries to be paid by each and provide the State and Federal share of these salaries (see item D. 2. for specific agreement.)
7. Prepare and submit an annual budget request to The Board for the county's share of funds for salaries.
8. Provide funds for official travel and per diem for in-service training and other out-of-county program development meetings.
9. Provide County Extension Faculty with official envelopes, bulletins (designated for free distribution), leaflets, and other publications for educational purposes.
- ✓ 10. Accept responsibility and provide the leadership for administration and supervision for Extension programs and personnel, including compliance with requirements of Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines.

11. Develop and administer a personnel management plan that will provide for:
    - a. The annual review of each County Extension Faculty member's performance.
    - b. Counseling for job improvement where needed.
    - c. Periodic county program reviews.
  12. Provide a staff of state Extension subject matter specialists to continuously train County Extension Faculty in current technology and other changes affecting Agriculture, Home Economics, 4-H and Youth, Community and Natural Resource Development, Sea Grant programs and to assist them in the conduct of work in these areas.
  13. Provide County Extension Faculty with training programs as needed to maintain effective program delivery.
  - ✓ 14. Develop and maintain a county advisory committee system to insure that county Extension programs are based on the particular needs of people in Seminole County.
- B. With respect to County Extension Faculty, The Board will:
1. Provide the County's share of salaries for County Extension Faculty.
  2. Provide office space and equipment, secretaries and other, clerical personnel, utilities, telephone, office supplies, funding for official county travel, demonstration materials and other items needed for efficient operation of County Extension Office and program.
  3. Review and consider the annual budget request from Extension and take appropriate action.

4. Confer and advise with the District and County Extension Directors and County Extension Advisory Committee relative to county Extension programs.

C. Extension and The Board mutually agree:

1. That all county Extension appointments are to be worked out jointly between Extension and The Board in keeping with Florida Statute 240.505.
2. That the policies established by the University of Florida, Board of Regents and followed by the University be used as a guide in granting annual, sick, civil and military leave for Extension personnel.
3. To cooperate in applying Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity plans of Extension.
4. That County Extension Faculty will not be classified under a county classification system.
5. That County Extension Faculty will follow County policies relative to office hours and holidays.

D. Additional Agreements:

In the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, certain portions require additional comment in order to assure complete understanding by both parties. The following paragraphs set forth these specific agreements.

- ✓ 1. Three Extension positions presently located in Seminole County, and funded by State and County resources, will be designated as County Extension Faculty employed by the University of Florida. Two other Extension positions located in Seminole County, totally funded from the County,

will be County employees. These two positions will be given adjunct faculty status with the University of Florida and the conditions of the status will be explained in a separate memorandum for this position.

2. The ratio of County to State funding for the three positions jointly funded will remain at approximately 80% State and 20% County. Annual salary increases will be determined by Extension on the State's portion of the salary and by the Department of Health and Human Services of the Board of County Commissioners, for the County's portion. When these positions are vacated and a new starting salary is established by Extension, the ratio of State to County will be 80%/20%.

3. The three jointly funded positions and two county funded positions will receive direct supervision from Extension. This oversight will be the responsibility of the district director. He/she will make annual performance evaluations, handle all disciplinary matters and will see to it that all personnel matters are handled in keeping with established University and County policies. The district director will maintain close liaison with the department head of the Department of Health and Human Services and involve him/her in annual performance evaluations.

✓ ✓ ✓ (4.) County Extension Faculty are part of the County's Agricultural Extension Service Division of the Department of Health and Human Services; therefore, County faculty are responsible for operating the Division in accordance with management practices and administrative policies of the County.

E. Fringe Benefits:

1. The three County Extension Faculty will abide by County policy in the matter of "paid holidays."
2. The three County Extension Faculty will abide by State policy in the matter of "annual and sick leave."
3. Insurance coverage: The three County Extension Faculty will be eligible to participate in all University of Florida insurance policies including life and health and accident policies. By virtue of the fact that each faculty member holds a federal appointment, he/she will also be eligible to participate in federal life and health insurance policies. Participation is at the discretion of the individual. No county funds will be required in any of these insurance policies.
4. Additional insurance coverage: The three County Extension Faculty will be eligible to participate in other county insurance programs if this meets with the approval of the county administrator and/or Board. Nothing in this agreement will preclude this dual insurance coverage. However, county participation in payment of insurance premiums will be a matter for county officials to decide and administer.
5. Retirement: Each of the three County Extension Faculty members will participate in the Federal Retirement Program. Extension pays for the entire cost of the Federal Retirement Program.
6. Workers compensation will be paid for each county Extension Faculty member from Federal funds.

7. Unemployment compensation will be paid for each of the three County Extension Faculty members from Federal funds.
8. The three County Extension Faculty members will be eligible to participate in the credit union available to County employees.

This document is signed with the understanding that either Extension or The Board may request clarification or renegotiation of any or all of the agreement at any time, and that either party may withdraw from the agreement after giving six (6) months written notice of its intent to do so.

This agreement update shall be effective on or about October 1, 1987 and shall remain in effect until the BOARD or EXTENSION requests a change.

University of Florida for and on behalf of the Board of Regents:

*Murch D. Jones*  
 President  
 University of Florida

5-12-88  
 Date

For Seminole County:

*Bill A. [unclear]*  
 Chairman  
 Board of County Commissioners

Concur:

*G. H. Zachariah*  
 Vice President, Institute  
 of Food & Agricultural  
 Sciences

*Kenneth L. Hays*  
 County Administrator

*Genevieve Schupp*  
 Office of Administrative  
 Affairs

*Wayadav*  
 County Extension Directors

*[Signature]*  
 Dean, Cooperative Extension  
 Service

6-14-88  
 Date

Attest:

Witnesses:

*Emma R. Hill*  
*Patricia A. Anderson*

Clerk

By: *Sandy Wall, D.C.*

## Extension's Mission

To provide unbiased, scientifically based knowledge to youth, families, businesses and government to sustain and enhance the quality of life in Seminole County.

### Strategic Priorities:

1. Youth development, land stewardship and health and wellness.
2. Utilize the resources of the University of Florida/IFAS through consultation with the researchers and professors to partner with Seminole County.
3. Utilize a cadre of trained volunteers who exhibit leadership skills to extend additional resources to the public.

### Services Provided:

**Urban Horticulture:** Best management practices for lawn, landscape and gardening through utilizing less water, pesticides, and fertilizers; identification of insects, diseases, weeds, and nutritional disorders of plants and suggest methods for their control.

**Florida Yards and Neighborhoods:** Teaches residents and businesses about the impact of their landscape practices. In Seminole County, this program is closely associated with watersheds and water quality.

**Family and Consumer Science:** Provides Food Manager training, administers certification for safe food handling practices, nutrition and chronic disease prevention classes for the public, and "Train the Trainer" classes to teach not for profit, and faith based organizations on basic money management, well informed shopping techniques and stretching economic resources.

**Expanded Food and Nutrition Programs:** Education programs to targeted low-income families and youth on nutrition and food resource management to save money on health care costs and on food expenditures.

**4-H Youth Program:** A non-school education for youth to develop skills necessary for productive and independent adult living with a focus on life skills, leadership and civic engagement, and animal science.

**Commercial Agriculture/Horticulture:** Programs focus on commercial turf grass producers, athletic field and landscape managers, production management and water quality, alternative agriculture including organics and Pesticide License Certification Workshops/examinations.

### Multi-County Positions Serving Seminole County:

**Commercial Horticulture/Greenhouses:** Work with greenhouse growers that produce interior foliage, bedding plants and floriculture crops. Address issues of best management practices.

**Commercial Horticulture/Landscapes:** Work with the landscape plant producers in the areas of best management practices.

**Livestock/Pasture Grass:** Work with horse and cattle owners in our county. Improve livestock production; teach best management practices for water use, address agricultural issues and related policy education.

**Commercial Citrus:** Work with citrus and other fruit production on cold protection and dissemination of weather information. Water/nutrient management including the use of reclaimed water. Pest management covering insects, mites, canker and greening.



## **Major Program Focus Commercial Agriculture/Horticulture Multicounty Extension Agent**

### **Service:**

The Multi-county Extension Agent is responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating Extension education programs for **COMMERCIAL TURFGRASS** producers, athletic field and landscape managers, and their employees in Seminole, Orange, and Lake Counties, and for **COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE CROP** producers in Seminole, Orange, Lake and Volusia counties.

### **Impacts:**

The primary focus of the commercial agriculture/horticulture program is to teach best management practices that will maintain the long term sustainability of these industries. Practices are emphasized that minimize environmental impact and encourage continued green space in rapidly urbanizing counties.

### **Specific duties:**

- Production management & water quality
- Alternative agriculture & small farms
- Additional programmatic effort and activity

### **Educational Programs:**

Pesticide License Training & Certification Workshops

Pesticide License Examinations Administered

Mid-Florida Turf Conferences

Small Farm Conferences

Best Management Practices Workshops

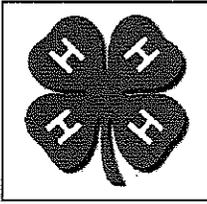
Master Gardener Training

Aquaponics Presentations

Seminole County Farm Tours

---

During the past year, approximately 2,200 individuals have received service through this program.



## Major Program Focus 4-H Programming Multi-county Extension Agents (2)

### Service:

The Multi-county Extension Agent is responsible for non-school education for youth to develop skills necessary for productive and independent adult living.

- **Life skills Programming** – 96 subject specific trainings/programs were conducted with 1,965 youth attending.
- **Leadership & Civic Engagement** – youth contributed over 4,920 hours of volunteer community service and leadership to build skills in civic engagement.
- **Animal Science Programs** –170 Youth enrolled in Horse & Livestock programs; 50 % of these youth gained skills in recordkeeping, care of animals and were responsible for their animals.

### Impacts:

4-H events and activities build confidence & leadership, test skills, and build independence & responsibility for youth. These activities include: Summer camping programs, horse shows, leadership & citizenship conferences for teens, County & District Council Leadership Programs, Competitive Contests, Awards & Recognition, and Community Service Projects.

### Specific duties:

To support delivery methods of 4-H programming, including Special Interest, Community Clubs, School Enrichment, & Camping Programs.

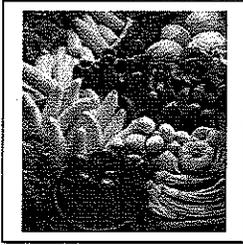
- Volunteer Development: Recruitment, screening and training of 73 community club volunteers who worked with 24 4-H clubs in Seminole County. Teen and adult volunteers contribute over 11,504 hours at a value of \$105,742.00 to Seminole County. 4,715 youth participated in various 4-H programs during 2006.
- Resource Development: Fundraising and donations to the Seminole County 4-H Program: \$32,617 to support 4-H youth & volunteer programs.

### Awards:

- Youth received \$11,500 in College Scholarships from their 4-H participation.
- County was the "high point" County for the State 4-H Horse Show
- 16 youth selected/qualified to participate in Regional/National 4-H activities.
- Search for Program Excellence Award winning program

### Educational Programs:

- **Equine Lecture Series (5 part)**: Educational Programs with University of Florida specialist reached over 420 youth & adult participants.
- **School Enrichment**: 4-H Tropicana Program reached over 4,300 middle school students in Public speaking education.
- **Camping Program**: 123 youth participated in weekend and week long camping experiences.



## Major Program Focus Nutrition, Food Safety & Health Multicounty Extension Agent

### Service:

Extension nutrition, food safety, and health education programs give people the knowledge, motivation, and skills they need to adopt behavior changes that promote positive nutritional status and reduce health risks throughout the life cycle.

### Impacts:

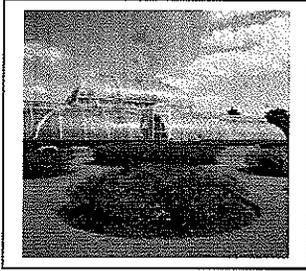
- **Reduced health care costs.** Extension programs educate and motivate individuals to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors that can significantly impact health care costs in Florida while improving quality of life.
- **Reduced risk of chronic diseases and health complications.** Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are related to lifestyle choices, and risk for these conditions can be reduced through behavior change. Florida is one of the most expensive states of the chronic diseases, with nationwide costs of \$92 billion for direct medical expenditures in 2002.
- **Reduced risk of food borne illness.** Florida ranks as one of the top 10 states in the incidence of foodborne disease. National CDC surveillance data show that more than 50% of reported foodborne illness cases are attributed to foodservice operations. Florida has the second highest incidence of AIDS in the US, an illness that predisposes people to the most severe consequences of foodborne illness.
- **Reduced food insecurity and hunger.** In 1999-2001, an estimated 12.2% of households in Florida were food insecure, with or without hunger and 4% were food insecure with hunger. These persons with limited resources are at increased risk for malnutrition and associated health consequences that contribute to skyrocketing health care costs.

### Specific duties:

- *Food Manager Certification Training* – 6 classes (67 participants).
- *Consumer food handler, hand washing trainings* – 6 classes (382 participants)

### Education:

- Nutrition & Chronic Disease Prevention consumer classes - 7 classes (67 participants).
- Seminole County Firefighters Wellness Initiative Nutrition classes - 10 classes (50 participants).
- Health Fairs, Health Days, Step Up Florida, Central Florida Fair Healthy Snacks Contest - 5 events (1199 participants)
- Professional Presentations – (3) one district, one state, one national (73 participants)



## **Major Program Focus Urban Horticulturist Multicounty Extension Agent**

### **Service:**

Provide information and give recommendations to clients over the phone and at the office on horticultural questions; identification of weeds, plants, insects, diseases, and nutritional problems of plants.

### **Impacts:**

The Urban Horticulture program promotes environmentally sound horticulture practices to manage plants in the landscape, gardens, or home. Individual homeowners, homeowner associations/managers and garden centers personnel receive information about sound horticultural practices from our Extension office to give a uniform criterion for dealing with plants in the landscape, garden or home. The adoption of environmentally sound landscape management practices will reduce fertilizer, water, and pesticide use, consequently reducing costs, and labor, while protecting the environment.

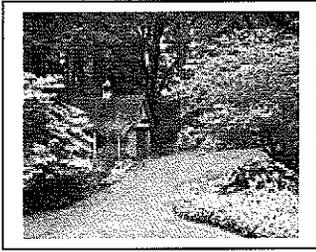
### **Specific duties:**

- Supervise, train and manage the volunteer (Master Gardener) program. Supervise and edit the quarterly newsletter *Seminole Green thumb* containing home horticultural information, (over 600 subscribers). Publish weekly newspaper articles on horticultural subjects in English and Spanish, (circulation 104,000). Supervise and establish procedures for soil analysis (pH) readings and recommendations. Supervise and coordinate the Demonstration Gardens at the Student Museum and around office.
- Agent: 848 Phone calls; 675 Office visits; 261 emails & letters; 13 client visits

### **Educational Programs:**

Educational programs to public, schools, homeowners associations, and garden clubs on horticultural subjects, insect pests, landscape management, pesticides, and cultural practices. Supervise, train and manage the volunteer (Master Gardener) program.

- Educational programs: 21 (637 people attending)
- Demonstration Gardens at the Student Museum: About 5,000 elementary school students visit the garden every year as part of their curriculum activities to learn about plants and their use, (3,849 volunteer hours (Help Desk, and Demonstration Garden activities).



## **Major Program Focus Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Multicounty Extension Agent**

### **Service:**

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) program is a University of Florida/IFAS environmental education program that teaches residents and businesses about the impact of their landscape practices. In Seminole County, this program is closely associated with watersheds and water quality. FYN has nine principles.

- Landscape with the Right Plant in the Right Place
- Water Efficiently
- Fertilize Appropriately
- Mulch Properly
- Attract Wildlife
- Control Yard Pests Responsibly
- Recycle Yard Waste
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff
- Protect the Watershed

Using these nine principles not only reduces excess water use and prevents unnecessary pollution, but promotes a healthy environment, and saves time and money.

### **Impacts:**

Education has long term impacts; sometimes, immeasurable in the short term on our environment. However, clients will appreciate cost savings in monthly water and/or landscape bills immediately, as well as time savings in overall landscape maintenance. In order to ensure that our living environment remains healthy, it is vital that we protect our resources quantity and quality.

### **Specific duties:**

There are approximately 650 Homeowners Associations in 16 watersheds in Seminole county. Our ambitious goal is to present a Florida Yards and Neighborhoods half hour program to half of those Homeowners Associations within 5 years, and educate residents and businesses through FYN 2 hour workshops and consultations.

### **Educational Programs:**

Homeowners Associations Meetings – approximately 20 people attended  
South Central Florida Hospital – approximately 30 people attended  
Rotary Clubs – approximately 150 people attended