

UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County 2022 Report



MAKING A DIFFERENCE, FINDING SOLUTIONS

Florida Sun Hops in

Brooksville

Photo Credit:

Matt Smith

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends

It is my pleasure to provide to you, accomplishments from our UF/IFAS Extension faculty. We have had faculty and their program areas recognized on a state and national level, presenting at numerous professional conferences. We continue to serve the entire county, as well as educating those beyond county boundaries. In-person teaching events have resumed normal operations and capacity, while also continuing our virtual presence. Webinars have reached residents in just about all 67 counties and are being viewed live from other states and sometimes other countries.

2021 Summary

Field and office consultations	541	International Presentations	0
Participants at group learning events	10,559	National presentations made by faculty	8
Number of group learning events	536	State presentations made by faculty	10
Phone and email consultations	3,040	International Awards	0
Grants and in-kind contributions	\$1,529,357	National awards	0
Number of educational materials	95	State and Regional awards	8



Jim E. Davis
UF/IFAS Extension Sumter
County Director

2022 Professional Accomplishments Representing Hernando County

Dr. Nancy Moores completed her graduate work and received her Doctorate of Education from the National Louis University

Dr. Bill Lester successfully completed and passed the qualifying exam under the International Society of Arboriculture to become a Certified Arborist.

Dr. Bill Lester, Dr. Nancy Moores, Scott Taylor, and Brittany Scharf presented on a National Level representing their work in Hernando County to peers from various states in their respective professional conferences.

Brittany Scharf, Dr. Bill Lester, and Dr. Nancy Moores, Scott Taylor presented to their Extension peers on a state and local level to their respective professional conferences, Central District Symposium, and Extension Professional Association of Florida Conference.

Brittany Scharf won 2nd place in the Search for Excellence: Applied Research category at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents conference and Best Poster at the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Extension Roots



What is Extension?



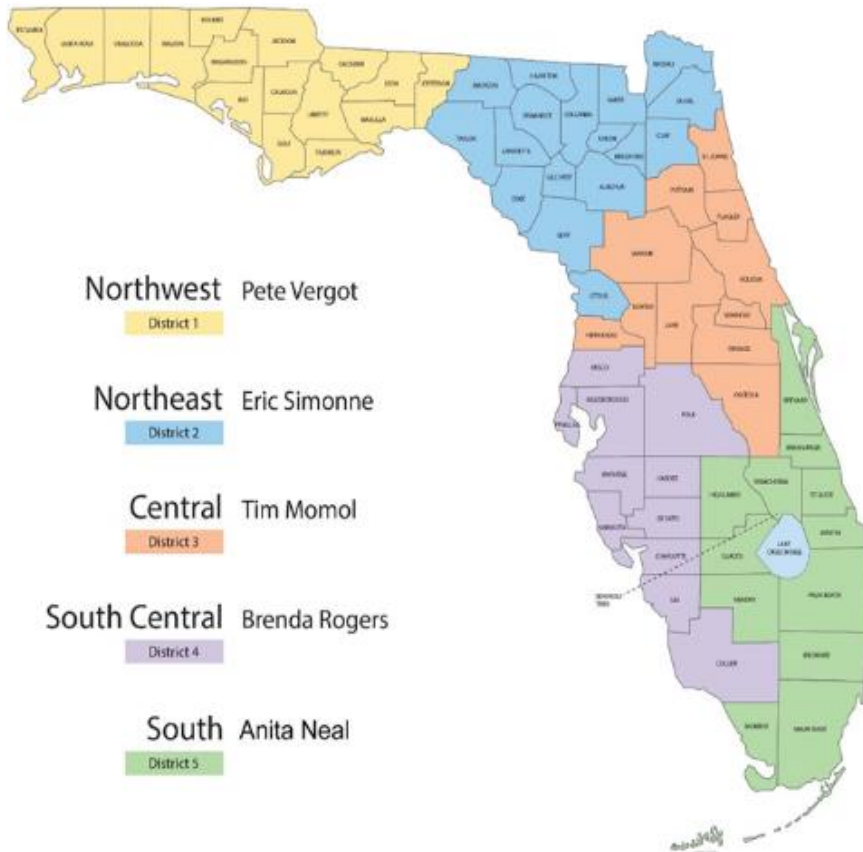
- The Education Revolution
- In 1862, the Morrill Act passed and is signed by President Abraham Lincoln, donating public lands to support colleges and providing citizens greater access to higher education
- In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act is passed, providing federal support for land-grant institutions to offer educational programs through cooperative Extension efforts.

Hernando Faculty and Staff

- Dr. Nancy Moores – Agent III. 4-H Youth Development. Interim Agent. Multi-County. (Hernando and Sumter)
- Dr. Bill Lester – Agent III. Residential Horticulture/Master Gardener Coordinator
- Scott Taylor – Agent III. Family and Consumer Sciences- Specializing in Financial Management
- Brittany Scharf – Agent III. Sea Grant/Marine Science
- Matt Smith – Agent I. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. Multi-County (Sumter, Hernando and Pasco)
- Laura Bennett – Agent I. Livestock. Multi-County (Sumter, Hernando and Pasco)
- Mary GaNun - Administrative Support Assistant
- Theresa Weglarz – Natural Resources Extension Program Assistant
- Deanna Brock – 4-H Extension Program Assistant OPS

UF/IFAS Extension in all 67 Counties of Florida and the Seminole Tribe

UF/IFAS Extension Administrative Districts



International Activities



- Visit of Dr. Mahesh Chander, Head of Extension Division, at ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, India; and Dr. A.K. Verma, Head and Director, Centre of Advanced Faculty Training in Animal Nutrition, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute



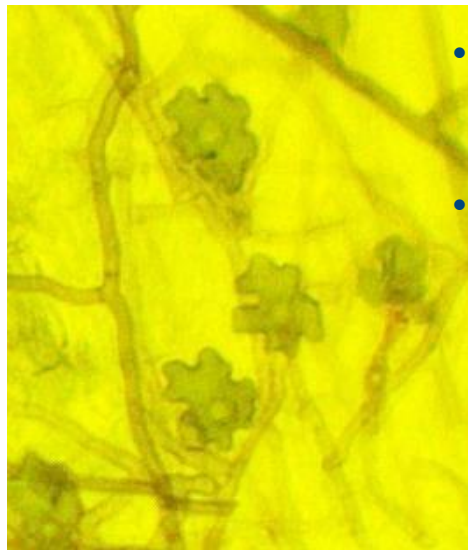
- Jim Davis and Dr. Norma Samuel teaching professors and Extension agents at the Caribbean Food Crops Society in the Dominican Republic

Did you Know...

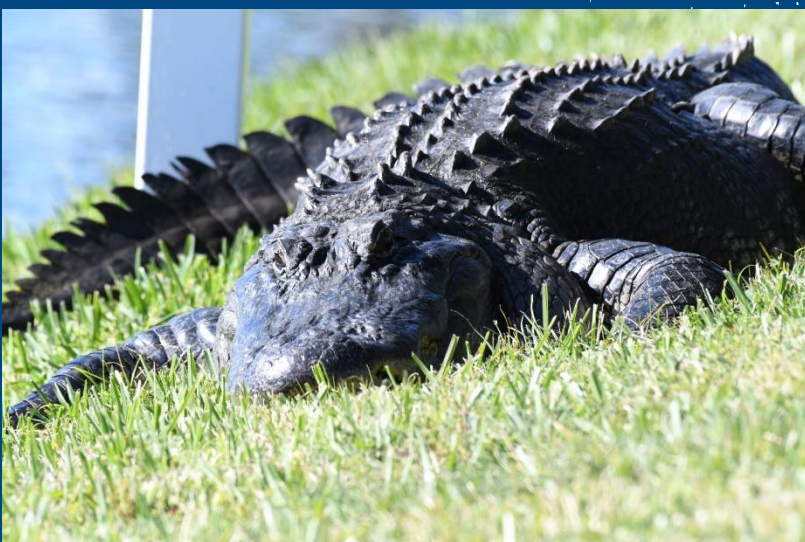
The Parson Brown orange originated in the town of Webster in 1856..



- Lethal Bronzing is an incurable palm disease that is spread by an insect.
- This disease affects sabal palms, Sylvester palms, queen palms, and more.
- Toli is a Native American game resembling LaCrosse. The stems or petioles of sabal palms were used as the bats.



- Take-all root rot is incurable turf disease.
- We can diagnose take-all in 10 minutes, saving the homeowner \$75.00 in diagnostic fees.



- The American Alligator is Florida's state reptile.
- Alligators, Crocodiles, and Caimans are the only reptiles with a maternal instinct.
- The temperature of a nest determines the sex of the offspring.
- You are more likely to be killed or injured by a farm animal or a dog than an alligator.

Hike Hernando

Hike Sumter

Hike Chinsegut Hill





Wildlife & Invasive Species Education™ (WISE) Conference





FY 22/23 APPROVED BUDGET

Sumter

\$499,162.19 FY22/23

(\$12,000 travel)

\$475,789.63 FY21/22

%increase = 5%

\$2,000+ in operations- total \$7,000

Hernando

\$418,731.81 FY22/23

(1,300+ in travel- total of \$10,300)

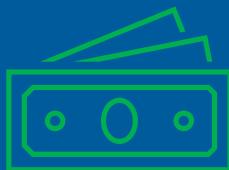
\$27,779.00 Operations

\$377,863.55 FY21/22

\$ 27,771.00 Operations

%increase = 11%

- 4-H Extension Program Assistant Teams
- MOU approved for the next 5 years



5-YEAR SUMMARY

Hernando

\$281,624.50

Travel= \$9,000

22/23

\$418,731.81 (49% increase or \$137,107.31)

Travel= \$10,300 (14% increase or \$1,300)

Natural Resources Extension Program

Assistant added

4-H Extension Program Assistant added

MOU approved in 2022

All positions filled

- Dr. Bill Lester received permanent status and promotion to Agent III
- Brittany Scharf Lester received permanent status and promotion to Agent III
- Scott Taylor promoted to Agent III

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



“ Showing cattle has taught me resiliency, character, and self-esteem. ”

16110 Aviation Loop Drive
Brooksville, FL 34604
nmoores@ufl.edu

14 yr old C.E.



Left: Every club participates in Hands to Larger Service activities, such as stocking food pantries, to promote responsible citizenship.

Right: 4-H promotes inclusion and belonging for all. Access to projects and activities is critical.

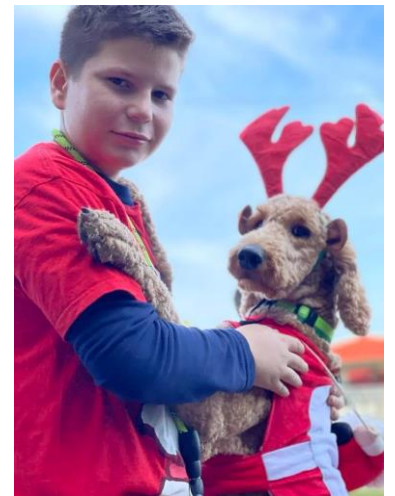


Center: Teaching firearm handling promotes critical thinking, self-responsibility, and personal safety.



Left: All projects have components related to public speaking, record keeping, and goal setting.

Right: The dog project promotes active, healthy living, cooperation, and nurturing relationships.



18,889 Volunteer Hours

Valued at \$497,158

\$ 93,395

In-kind donations

\$50,850

Income Jan-Aug 2022

374

Educational Events

8,538

Participants

4-H Agent Nancy Moores earned her doctorate degree in Higher Education Leadership February 2022

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

16110 Aviation Loop Drive
Brooksville, FL 34604
nmoores@ufl.edu



I also learned the life skills of self-motivation, personal safety, goal setting, and problem solving.

12 yr old M.E.



Left: Youth have opportunities to participate at state level events, learning and practicing new skills, and earning awards and recognition.



Left: District level events give youth opportunities to try to new things.

Right: Regional and state accomplishments lead you out of state and to higher level participation.



Projects Recorded:

Money Management – **492**
Personal Development – **492**
Personal Well Being - **473**
Workplace Preparation - **472**
Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) – **115**

Club Membership:

2020/21 end of year: 199
2021/22 end of year: 400
1st month of 2022/23: 358

Florida Sea Grant

Science Serving Florida's Coast

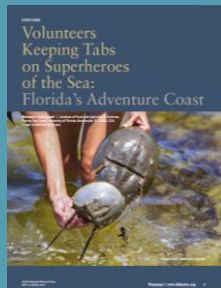
Brittany Hall-Scharf is the Florida Sea Grant Agent with the UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County Office. Her program aims to conserve coastal and marine resources and enhance economic opportunities for the people of Florida. Focus areas include Healthy Coastal Environments, Sustainable Fisheries, Resilient Communities, Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development.

“ Glad to be a small part of what you do!
-Jerry Napp
Owner/Operator SUP Weeki



Agent won 2nd place in the Search for Excellence: Applied Research category at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents conference and Best Poster at the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Agent pictured above with University of Florida's Associate Dean for Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Saquib Mukhtar.

Agent partnering with UF specialists, agents, and graduate student on biocontrol for Brazilian peppertrees in Hernando Beach.



Published 2 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 1 book chapter.

\$46,944

Value of 1,885 volunteer hours

\$399,582

External grants and in-kind donations for marine programming.

2022
By the Numbers

Coastal Cleanup

9,837

Pieces of trash removed.



266

Adult and youth volunteers participated.

1,040

Pounds of trash and recycling collected.



434

Boaters received a free scallop sorter tool during the 2022 recreational scalloping season.



Agents partnered with Erik Walasek at PED-Stuart Corporation to invent the Scallop Sorter. This tool would help scallopers to easily select for larger scallops and leave the smaller ones behind to replenish next year's season. Funding provided by Florida Sea Grant.

Photo Credits: Theresa Weglarz

159

Horseshoe crabs surveyed and tagged by volunteers during the spring spawning season.



176

Educational public interactions about the importance of horseshoe crabs along Pine Island.

Photo Credit: Taylor Masnjak

UF | IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County
16110 Aviation Loop Drive
Brooksville, Florida 34604
352-754-4433 FSG2022-1

FCS Highlights 2022

“ Thanks to the financial strategies I learned in the Financial Literacy program, I qualified for my first mortgage and am gaining financial independence.”



“With the techniques I learned in the Financial programs here at Project Look Ahead, along with the Money Management (budget) calendar provided, I have started saving for the future and feel better prepared for when I become independent. I always thought basic finances were so confusing, but the strategies discussed have given me the confidence I need.”



\$27,000 (+) value of Accredited Financial Counselor (AFC) coaching provided in 2022 in Hernando County.

Economic Stability = Return on Investment

Eight families provided budget counseling through partnership with United Way. United Way selected as the FCS Friend of Extension for 2022 in recognition of the success of FMMM/United way partnership.

Economic Impact of Programming (2022)

FMMM Results

Provided residents with free financial coaching

Research Partnership with UF-Shands to determine Financial Toxicity in Cancer Patients

Part of three-arm Clinical randomized trial providing one-on-one and group financial counseling.

Housing/Credit Management

Provided credit coaching to help families qualify for mortgage

Strategic Partnerships within Hernando County

78 Group teaching events held for residents linked to 27 agencies

Volunteer \$ Impacts

Over \$12,000 of volunteer and in-kind support



2022-2023 Upcoming Projects

Virtual financial counseling (UF/UF Health)

National 4-H Congress (Nov 2022)

AFC Exam Writing Committee

Residential Horticulture

Providing information and guidance to clients through workshops, plant clinics, displays and events.

I have been watching the videos that you and Lilly have on the Hernando County Government YouTube channel and was motivated to try gardening for the first time.

Brooksville resident Leslie Suarez



Master Gardener
Volunteers receiving advanced training on invasive arthropods

Earned Certified Arborist credentials from International Society of Arboriculture

The International Society of Arboriculture
Hereby Announces That
William Lester
Has Earned the Credential
ISA Certified Arborist®
By successfully meeting ISA Certified Arborist certification requirements through demonstrated attainment of relevant competencies as supported by the ISA Credentialing Council

19 August 2022 19 December 2025 19-00013
Issue Date Expiration Date Credential Number

ANAB
ACCREDITED
CERTIFICATION BODY
10010
10010

Youth STEM Education



Homeschool youth learning hands-on insect dissection at Chinsegut Conservation Center

46 Number of arborist related questions answered by agent

\$2,300 Approximate Dollar Savings to Hernando County Residents for Tree Diagnostics

1,145 Class Participants Taught by Agent

597 Live participants on weekly Virtual Plant Clinic, broadcast on Facebook Live and YouTube Live

107 Teaching Videos currently on YouTube

62 Master Gardener Volunteers

Now being taught with the first in Florida on-line Master Gardener training.

2022
BY THE NUMBERS

Master Gardener Volunteers

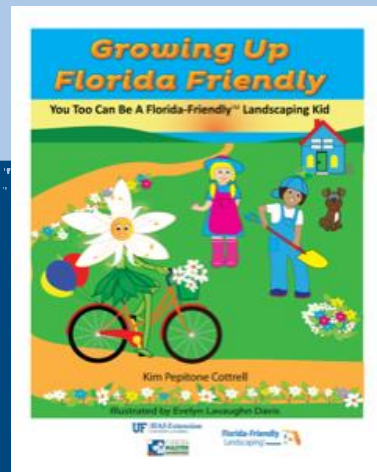
UF/IFAS Master Gardeners have continued to assist with our educational garden at ARC of the Nature Coast during the first half of 2022.



62
Members

1326
Volunteer Hours
Donated in 2022

\$34,900 Economic Benefit
in 2022



7
Educational
Classes Taught

Residents Taught
in 2022

337

Multi-County Livestock Agent

Laura Bennett



Florida State Fair Steer Committee Workday 2022
A new producer from Sumter County provided steers this year- Graham Farms, Webster



Soil probes in hay field -Ag BMP grant



Soil School program on soil properties, proper fertilization, soil testing and other BMPs.



Environmental Lands Management Program Education for managers of publicly owned land on Ecosystem Services provided by cattle grazing

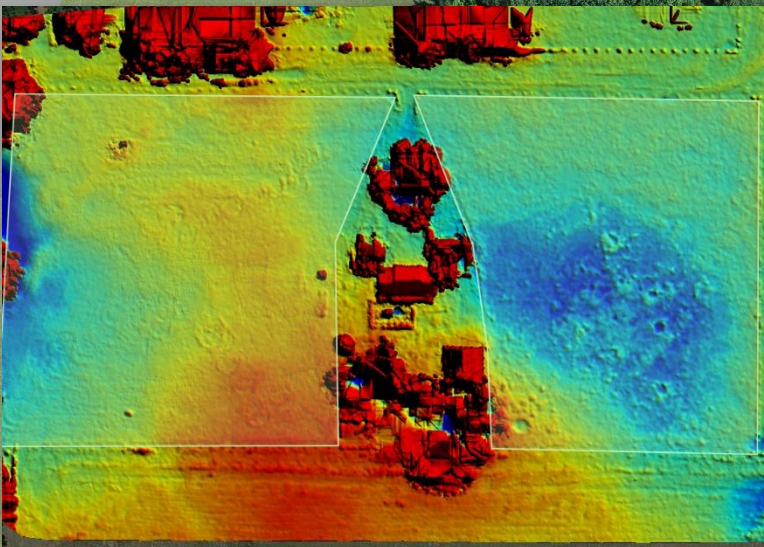


4-H Show Cattle Program Youth in Sumter, Hernando, and Pasco participated

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

This program provides education to Sumter County agricultural producers and pesticide applicators that facilitates economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable improvements in agricultural management practices.

“It's good to know that in the event of a disaster on our farm you would be able to help us out. Thanks for what you do!”



As an FAA-licensed drone pilot, I use this cutting-edge technology to assist growers with farm planning and big-picture diagnostics.

\$182,650

Free Pest Diagnostics & Saved Sales

48

In-Person and Virtual Field Visits

309

Pesticide Applicators Trained

So You Have Five Acres...
Essentials For Starting Your Own Farm



Matt Smith, UF/IFAS Extension Pasco, Sumter, Hernando County



UF IFAS Extension
FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Economic training services give new growers a jump start into the world of agribusiness.

2022

BY THE NUMBERS



Through field visits and work at the UF Commercial Plant Clinic, growers saved over \$5,600 in lab fees and over \$177,000 in prevented lost plant sales.



The Florida Nursery Industry is the largest agricultural sector by sales in the state. At the Integrated Pest Management Nursery Scouting class, nursery growers from around Central Florida learned important skills like diagnostics, scouting techniques, and even drone scouting. Next class in October!

Industrial Hemp Legal and Regulatory Structure

Matt Smith, UF/IFAS
Extension Sumter County
&
D'Alicia Straughter, UF/IFAS
Extension Bradford County



So far in 2022, I have taught ag-related classes on topics such as agribusiness, sustainable pest management, the legal hurdles of industrial hemp, and new and upcoming crops.



Field days are an excellent way to introduce growers to alternative crops. Here, growers learn about sorrel thanks to a collaborative grant between Sumter and Lake County Extension and the University of the Virgin Islands.



What do I do when I get stumped? Call in the specialists. Here, Dr. Ali Sarkhosh assists a Sumter County pomegranate grower (left) weeks after teaching Extension agents how to prune peach trees (right)

Multi-County Livestock Agent

Laura Bennett



Florida State Fair Steer Committee Workday 2022
A new producer from Sumter County provided steers this year- Graham Farms, Webster



Soil probes in hay field -Ag BMP grant



Soil School program on soil properties, proper fertilization, soil testing and other BMPs.



Environmental Lands Management Program Education for managers of publicly owned land on Ecosystem Services provided by cattle grazing



4-H Show Cattle Program Youth in Sumter, Hernando, and Pasco participated

HERNANDO COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF

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Assistant OPS
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Visit our New Blog Site!

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/hernandoco/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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