Dear Friends,

UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County is proud to present our 2015 Annual Report highlighting some of our most successful educational programs. We are a partnership between the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), the City of Jacksonville, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Our mission is to empower the Jacksonville community by enhancing quality of life through the delivery of research-based information.

In 2015 we reached over 75,000 Jacksonville residents through a variety of educational activities, including classes, workshops, field days, telephone consultations, and emails. In addition, 39,000 residents utilized our social media sites and another 114,000 visited our web page for educational information and advice.

In November 2015, Duval County Extension and the Jacksonville-Duval County Agricultural Council hosted the 50th Annual Farm-City Week Celebration with over 300 individuals in attendance.

We are proud of our accomplishments and are always ready to serve the Jacksonville community. If you would like additional information related to the educational programming offered through UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County, feel free to stop by, call or visit us on the web.

Sincerely,

Mike Sweat
Duval County Extension Director

2015 STATISTICS

Clientele Contacts

Field and Office Consultations: 4,902
Participants at Group Learning Events: 46,017
Group Learning Events: 5,348
Phone and email consultations: 23,805
Educational materials created: 319
Web site visits: 113,834

Volunteers

Number of volunteers: 688
Volunteer hours donated: 26,175
Dollar value of volunteer hours: $579,514

Message from the Director

Our mission is to empower the Jacksonville community by enhancing quality of life through delivery of research-based information.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

UF/IFAS EXTENSION DUVAL COUNTY

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Program Assistants

LaTinae Drake – FNP
Nicole DelGado – FCS
Staci Griffith – FNP
Vicki Grinter – Urban Gardening
Ashley Kells – FNP
Don McCloud – EFNEP
Amber Merchán – FNP
Rebecca Simonds
Eve Perlick – Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
Kacy Sink – IDA Gamekeeping
Annie Sheldon – FNP
D’Andra Strickland – EFNEP
Joel Weaver – 4-H
Becky Welk – 4-H Junior Master Gardener Program

Support Staff

Karen Andrade – FCS Secretary
Valeria Aversa – Admin Assistant
Alex Clement – Office Assistant
Andrea McGee – Office Assistant
Sarah Freeman – Ag Secretary
Heather Hambright – Admin Secretary
Mike Mackhauer – Office Assistant
Cara Schmidt – 4-H Secretary
Tom Weaver – 4-H Foundation
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Noel Del Castillo – ECF
Susan Grifith – 4-HN
Vic Gorny – Urban Gardening
Ashley Kelly – 4-HN
Ben McGuckin – ECFNP
Amber Mercchan – 4-HN
Bonita Meek – FCS
Eve Petrlik – Florida Vets & Neighborhoods
Mary Puckett – Urban Gardening
Annie Sheldon – 4-HN
D’Ale Shugart – ECFNP
Jen Weimer – 4-HN
Becky Weinh – 4-H Junior Master Gardener Program

Support Staff
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Valeria Arroyo – Admin Assistant
Abbe Clement – Office Assistant
Amber Copeland – Office Assistant
Sarah Freeman – Ag Secretary
Heather Hensel – Urban Worker
Mike Mchauour – FAS Secretary
Cape Strickland – FAS Secretary
Torn Weamer – 4-H Foundation

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2015 STATISTICS
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization, providing non-formal, extracurricular educational opportunities for youth. In Duval County, youth ages 5-18 cultivate life skills such as problem-solving, communication, leadership, and teamwork through project-oriented programs in community clubs, schools, and summer camps. 4-H grows here.

MY CHILD HAS GAINED KNOWLEDGE IN SCIENCE INQUIRY AND WORKING AS A TEAM MEMBER.

Backyard Hen Permits: More Than a Poultry Success

In 2015, the Jacksonville Planning Commission passed the Backyard Poultry Ordinance. Following years of grass-roots efforts by residents and a successful 10-month pilot program. Certain residential zoning districts now allow for a limited number of hens if the homeowner completes the Backyard Poultry Seminar offered by UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County before they apply for their permit. The seminar includes education on embryology, chick management, and care. Since the initiation of the program, more than two hundred workshops have been issued. The resulting economic impact in the county, including the permits and the cost of raising chickens, is over two thousand dollars. Backyard Poultry Seminars have been issued.

Last year, 4-H youth attended the seminars and as a result, 388 Backyard Hen Permits have been issued. The resulting 388 Backyard Hen Permits have been issued.

4-H Engineers Build Underwater Robots to Explore the Deep

In 2015, UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County partnered with the Seven Team Project and Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) to help Jacksonville residents learn how to build and operate their own underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). A grant from the SeaTech program provided kits and tools for youth to participate in this hands-on STEM program. During a four-day summer camp, youth worked in groups to construct all aspects of the SeaTech ROV: the frame, the motor system and the control box. Youth tested the ROVs in a community pool and were challenged to redesign their constructions to accomplish specific tasks under water. Tasks included traveling quickly at the surface, retrieving rings from the bottom of the pool and navigating through suspended underwater hoops. At the Discover Florida day camp, youth were given the challenge of modifying their ROVs as plankton-collecting devices to test water quality in a community pond. Youth who participated in this program developed their skills in team work, communication, critical thinking, problem solving and decision making. They also experienced and reflected upon the engineering process and learned fundamental science skills such as measurement, data collection and observation.

One workshop participant revealed that she and her children constantly battle regarding the length of showers. After attending the program, she decided to check out one of the backyards from her library. When completing the evaluations for the workshops, she confirmed that her entire family worked with the kit and learned how much energy and water they were consuming. While she confirmed her suspicions that their children were wasting a large amount of water with the long showers, she also confirmed that she was wasting water by hand- washing dishes rather than using the dishwasher. She affirmed that all dishes now go in the dishwasher. As for the long showers, her response was, “We have to pick our battles, but a low-flow shower head helps.”

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

The Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) program provides education to meet the critical needs of families currently eligible for food assistance. This program provides food literacy, financial management, housing, and energy conservation education. UF/IFAS Extension’s Got Your Back(pack) Team Project and Jacksonville County partnered with the Green Schools Coalition to hold workshops for schools and adult volunteers. The workshops, which can be checked out free-of-charge at any Duval County library, can be used at home. The backpack kits, which are available at any Duval County library, include a Water Evaluation Backpack Kit and a Kill A Watt™ meter, water drip gauges, and other useful tools and resources. Workshops conducted by UF/IFAS Extension teach participants, including children, how to perform their own home energy and water audits.

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Backyard Hen Permits: More Than a Poultry Success

In 2015, the Jacksonville Planning Commission passed the Backyard Poultry Ordinance, following years of grassroots efforts by residents and a successful 2016 pilot program. Certain residential zoning districts now allow for a limited number of hens if the homeowner applies for their permit. The extension in Duval County before they apply for their permit. The seminar includes education on animal husbandry and management, and general management of backyard poultry, nutrition, and feeding, as well as City of Jacksonville permit requirements and procedures. Since the initiation of the program, more than 2,300 backyard hen permits have been issued. The resulting economic impact in the county, including the permits and the cost of raising chickens, is over $2.5 million. UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County offers the seminar on an ongoing basis to meet the demands of the community.

4-H Engineers Build Underwater Robots to Explore the Deep

Last year, 4-H youth at summer day-camps in Duval County got the chance to be the engineers and pilots of their own underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). A grant from the SeaHerc program provided kits and tools for youth to participate in this hands-on STEM program. During a four-day summer camp, youth worked in groups to construct all three aspects of the SeaHerc ROV: the frame, the motor system and the control box. Youth tested the ROVs in a community pool and were challenged to redesign their constructions to accomplish specific tasks underwater. Tasks included traveling quickly at the surface, retrieving rings from the bottom of the pool and navigating through suspended underwater hoops. At the Discover Florida day camp, youth were given the challenge of modifying their ROVs as plankton-collecting devices to test water quality in a community pond. Youth who participated in the program developed their skills in team work, communication, critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making. They also experimented and reflected upon the engineering process and learned fundamental science skills such as measurement, data collection and observation.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) program provides education in areas that are important to the quality of life for children and adult individuals and families. These areas include: Food Preparation, Food Safety, Nutrition, Personal and Family Management, Housekeeping, Financial Management, Housing, Energy Conservation, Child Care, Relationships, Parenting, and Personal Wellness.

In 2015, UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County partnered with the 4-H Team Project and Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) to help Jacksonville residents learn how to save on energy and water use at home through an innovative program called the Change Your Carry-on campaign on your shoulders. The Home Energy and Water Conservation on Kids Program focuses on monitoring and reducing energy and water use in the home. The backpack kits, K.I.A. Water™ meters, water drip gauges, and other useful tools and resources. Workshops conducted by UF/IFAS Extension teach participants, including children, how to perform their own home water and energy audits.

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Agriculture Family and Consumer Sciences

Backyard Hen Permits: More Than a Poultry Success

4-H Youth Development

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In 2015, the Jacksonville Planning Commission passed the Backyard Poultry Ordinance, following years of grassroots efforts by residents and a successful 10-month pilot program. Certain residential zoning districts now allow for a limited number of hens if the homeowner completes the Backyard Poultry Seminar offered by UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County before they apply for their permit. The seminar includes education on entomology, chick management, care, general management of backyard poultry, nutrition and feeding, as well as City of Jacksonville permit requirements and procedures. Since the initiation of the program, more than 560 Backyard Poultry Seminars have been held. The resulting economic impact in the county, including the permits and the cost of raising chickens, is over $2.3 million. UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County offers this seminar on an ongoing basis to meet the demands of the community.

The Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) program provides education in areas that are important to the quality of life for children and adults, individuals and families. These areas include: Food Preparation, Food Safety, Nutrition, Foodservice Management, Money Management, Family Economics & Financial Management, Housing, Energy Conservation, Child Care, Relationships, Parenting, and Personal Wellness.

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In 2015, UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County partnered with the Green Team Project and Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) to help Jacksonville residents learn how to save money and energy at home through an innovative program called Carry Your Back Pack. The Home Energy and Water Evaluation Backpack Kit Program focuses on monitoring and reducing energy and water use in the home. The backpack kits, including the permits and the cost of raising chickens, are over $2.3 million. UF/IFAS Extension in Duval County offers this seminar on an ongoing basis to meet the demands of the community.

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