

Program Highlights

What Extension Does

Lee County provides residents with access to science-based information and education in natural and social resources through the work of UF/IFAS Extension. UF/IFAS Lee County Extension is a partnership program between the county, state and federal government. Our mission is to respond to Lee County issues and needs through research, customized education and training. We use a variety of educational techniques including classes, workshops, webinars, one-on-one consultations and hands-on demonstrations.

In 2011 our seven UF faculty, three staff and scores of volunteers taught Lee County residents how to ;

- maintain a landscape to protect our natural resources
- manage money in tough times
- eat for better health
- directly market their products to buyers
- protect mangroves
- develop self confidence through public speaking

A Snapshot of Programs Offered:

Invasive Species Management

Food Preservation

Life Skills Workshops

Bed Bug ID and Control

Color Me Healthy

Money Management

Introduction to Beekeeping

Pesticide Applicator Certification

Marine Fisheries Regulations

Youth Fishing Camp

Master Gardener

Master Naturalist

Sustainable Floridians

Arborist Certification

Rain Barrel Workshops

Meet your Educators



Stephen Brown
Director/Horticulture



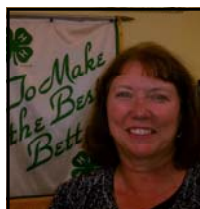
Celia Hill
Family & Consumer Sciences



Roy Beckford
Agriculture & Natural Resources



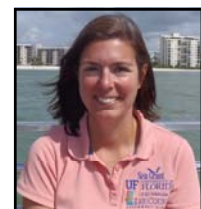
Karen Headlee
Family & Consumer Sciences



Cathy Suggs
4-H Youth Development



Tom Becker
Florida Yards
& Neighborhoods



Joy Hazell
Florida Sea Grant

Lee County UF/IFAS Extension reached tens of thousands of residents providing them with "Solutions for Their Lives".

Getting Results

Working to Make Healthy Food Affordable & Accessible

Food deserts are areas where healthy affordable food is difficult to obtain. Roy Beckford works with many communities to address the issue of food deserts in Lee County through urban gardening classes, site consultations and the establishment of community gardens and farmers markets. Roy has worked with local partners to start and sustain community gardens in the following locations:



Farmers Markets

- Sanibel Island
- Pine Island
- Cape Coral
- Lakes Park
- Green Market at the Alliance for the Arts
- Downtown Fort Myers
- State Farmers Market
- Coconut Point
- Bonita Springs

Community Gardens

- Word of Life Project
- Roots Heritage Garden and Community farm
- Lakes Park Community Garden
- Heartland Gardens
- Veteran's Park Academy of the Arts Garden
- Shell Point Community Garden
- Suncoast Community Garden
- Seventh Day Adventist Community Garden
- Tice Elementary, Science-club/Parents School Community Garden

Citizen Scientists Maximize Resources to Increase Knowledge and Conservation



Using volunteer citizen scientists to collect data is a winning formula for resource managers. They are able to increase their data collection at no expense while educating stakeholders and getting buy-in to increase resource protection. On Saturday, August 13th, 2011 Lee County volunteers participated in the Pine Island Sound Scallop Search organized by Florida Sea Grant and the results are in.

- 33 vessels
- 126 volunteers
- 630 hours of volunteer time
- 5600 feet of transect line snorkeled
- 1,026 bay scallops counted!

Environmental Stewardship in Home Landscapes

The Florida Yards and Neighborhood program provides homeowners with the knowledge and tools to install home landscapes that provide a home for wildlife, protect our environment and conserve precious water. Through Tom Becker's work:

- 1,882 rain barrels installed in Lee County homes collect rainwater to use for irrigation saving an estimated annual \$33,904 in potable water
- Yards which have been certified Florida Friendly™ saved 811,759 gallons of water by resolving irrigation issues and improving operations



...Changing Lives.

4-H Leverages Volunteers to Increase Program Impact

4-H works to help youth gain the knowledge and skills they need to become productive responsible citizens. 4-H in Lee County taught over 15,000 youth skills in leadership, public speaking, healthy living and many other subjects. At the core of this program is a cadre of trained volunteers who guide the youth, teach classes and raise funds for the 4-H program. In 2011:

- 234 Volunteers provided 4-H 14,000 hours of service at a value of \$330,000
- The volunteer led 4-H Foundation raised over \$15,000 for youth scholarships
- 6 youth received scholarships totalling \$6,000
- 40 youth received scholarships to attend a week long overnight camp, 4-H congress, legislature and other events



Changing Landscaping Practices to Reduce Pollution and Protect Water

Teaching professional landscapers the Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMPs) helps protect water through proper use of pesticide and fertilizer, resulting in fewer nutrients and toxins entering our water bodies. Passing the GI-BMP class certifies the landscaper and is also a requirement to stay in business in Lee County. Three agents, two staff and two volunteers co-teach the class and as a result:

- Lee County has certified over 2000 landscapers allowing approximately 550 companies to stay in business
- There was a 27% increase in fertilizer free buffer zones around waterbodies
- There was a 21% increase determination of water amounts and times to prevent nutrients moving into waterbodies



Saving Money and Caring for Elders

Through a partnership with Senior Friendship Centers Celia Hill and Karen Headlee trained Center staff focusing on food safety, fruits and vegetables and proper nutrition. The results of this program are impressive.

- Trained center staff taught 850 clients each month at the centers or through Meals on Wheels
- \$30,000 in training funds were able to be redirected to programs providing healthy food for the elderly
- 50% of elders or 323 individuals who received the training planned to make at least one healthy change to their diet

Did you know?

The mission of the University of Florida/IFAS (Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences) is to develop knowledge through research in human and natural resources, agriculture, and the life sciences, and to make that knowledge accessible to the public to sustain and enhance the quality of life in Florida.



UF/IFAS Lee County Extension By The Numbers 2009 - 2011

Classes, Workshops & Seminars Offered*	3,430
Participants in Classes, Workshops & Seminars**	123,314
Field Visits	1,933
Web Hits	1,999,133
Telephone Calls	39,775
Office Visits	9,063
Volunteer Hours Provided	147,914
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$2,692,034
In-Kind Donations (excluding volunteer hours)	\$534,056

We partner with organizations across the county to leverage resources and ensure wide delivery of programs. Partners include:

Parks and Recreation	Public Libraries	Habitat for Humanity
Caloosa Rare Fruit Club	Fort Myers Housing Authority	Natural Resources
Local Municipalities	Human Services Department	Schools
CCMI Food Bank	Florida Gulf Coast University	Solid Waste Management
Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation	Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism	FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Office of Sustainability	Hyacinth Control	Edison State College
Edison Ford Winter Estates	Fit Friendly Florida	FL Nursery Grower & Landscape Association
Division of Forestry	Beekeepers Association	Visitor and Convention Bureau

*Classes, Workshops & Seminars were taught by agents, program assistants and trained volunteers.

**Participants may have attended one or more program.

Contact us

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