



# UF/IFAS Extension Office



**Public & Administrative Services**  
**Dr. Cindy Sanders**



# UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County- Mission

- To provide scientifically based agricultural, human, and natural resource knowledge that citizens use in making informed decisions, which contribute to an improved quality of life in Alachua County.





# UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County

- Unique cooperative partnership between land grant college (UF/IFAS), USDA and county governments
- Areas of expertise
  - Agriculture
  - Family & Consumer & Sciences
  - 4-H Youth Development
- 6 Extension Agents/Faculty







# Extension Program Areas

- **Agriculture**
  - **Livestock/Director**
  - **Ag & Natural Resources**
  - **Commercial Horticulture**
  - **Environmental Horticulture**



# Agriculture in Alachua County

- **\$255.4 million Value added Impact**
- **The extension office is the only research-based programming source for agriculture in Alachua County**
- **Extension agents served of 25,000 agricultural producers last year**
- **We provide: Site Visits for plant disease diagnosis, weed ID, fertilization recommendations, soil and forage testing, animal health, family nutrition, and financial management**
- **The Extension Office is mandated to provide Pesticide Trainings & Certifications**





# Livestock

## Dr. Cindy Sanders

- **48,000 head of Cattle in Alachua County**
  - **13<sup>th</sup> in the state in cow/calf production**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> in Meat Goats**
  - **5<sup>th</sup> in Horses**
- **240,000 Acres in production agriculture in Alachua County**
- **Average farm size 113 acres**





# Ag & Natural Resource Program

**Area of specialty: agriculture row crops, pesticide training, small farms, ponds, weed management, natural resources management**

- Field days, pesticide trainings, pesticide exams, workshops, seminars, publications
- Florida Master Naturalist Program
- The Extension Office is mandated to provide Pesticide Trainings & Testing through FI Dept of Ag.





# Agronomic Crops

- **Peanuts**  
8,000 acres
- **Corn for Silage**  
3,500 acres
- **Tobacco**  
400 acres
- **Soybeans**  
2,000
- **Cotton**  
2,000
- **Hay/Forages**  
25,000 acres (4<sup>th</sup> in State)







# Commercial Horticulture Program

Areas of specialty

- Best Management Practices
- Irrigation and nutrient management

Target audience vegetable farmers, fruit growers, nurserymen, and landscape maintenance professionals





# Commercial Horticulture

**Crop Value, including Nursery**  
**\$65,039,000**

- **Vegetables (16<sup>th</sup> in State)**  
10,000 acres  
Watermelon, green beans, cantaloupe, greens  
5th in State in Snap Beans
- **Fruit crops (16<sup>th</sup> in State)**  
2500 acres  
\$10 million annual sales  
Blueberries, strawberries, grapes, persimmon, pecans
- **Nursery and Landscape (19<sup>th</sup> in State) \$2mil in Sales**





# Environmental Horticulture, Dr. Denise DeBusk

- **Master Gardener Coordinator**
- **Florida Yards and Neighborhoods**
- **Florida Friendly Landscaping**
- **Environmentally friendly landscaping**
- **Irrigation & Water Conservation**

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# Environmental Horticulture Program

- Residential horticulture
- FYN Classes on Environmentally friendly landscaping
  - Public
  - Builders and developers
  - Homeowner associations
- Master Gardeners  
2015- 130 volunteers  
donated over 15,000 hours





# Family & Consumer Science, Dr. Brenda Williams

- Financial planning, food safety (ServSafe), nutrition, family work through budgeting, home buying and retirement planning, bankruptcy classes
- Master Money Mentoring
- Before You Tie the Knot
- Food & Nutrition Program
- Financial Fitness





# 4-H Youth Development, Amanda Morgan

- Area of specialty: Youth Development and Ag. Education
- Focus areas: Volunteer systems management, Youth leadership
- 20 4-H clubs --some after school programs
- 5000 youth participating







# 4-H Youth Development, Amanda Morgan



- 20 Community Clubs
- School Enrichment with Embryology Project (2500 students annually)
- 60 broad based project categories
  - Public speaking, science, engineering technology, environmental education, family and consumer sciences
- 160 volunteers- 9,000 volunteers hours in 2105





# Alachua County Extension Impacts 2015



- **123,116 Educational Contacts**
- **185 Educational Materials Prepared**
- **1525 Field Consultations**
- **500 Educational Programs Offered**
- **22,000 Volunteer Hours \$467,280**
- **For every \$1 invested in Ag Research/Extension there is a \$10 return to the community**

