

The Year In Review



2013 UF/IFAS/Union County Extension

Note From the Director

Welcome to Union County Extension. The service offered to the citizens of Union County is a partnership between Union County Board of County Commissioners and the University of Florida/IFAS. The mission of our Office is to provide scientifically based agricultural, human and natural resource knowledge that citizens use in making decisions which contribute to an improved life. Please feel free to contact us by telephone, e-mail or drop in at the Extension Office. You may wish to learn more about the services we provide by visiting us at our website: <http://union.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Basil Bactawar, Director
Union County Cooperative Extension

Program Impact

- ◆ **Cattle and Forages:** Hay and cattle account for a major part of agriculture production. The County Extension program focuses on improving producers productivity through training and advisory outreach. Last year our Extension office was involved in training of cattle producers. This involved training in forage production and nutrition. The impact of this initiative is estimated at approximately \$10,000 in savings for cattle producers. The Bermuda Stem Maggot is now a challenge to producers. Our extension effort with UF and other counties will continue to look for

innovative ways to control this pest.

- ◆ **Small Ruminants:** Small ruminants present business opportunities because of the current demand for their meat especially by the ethnic community. To this effect Union County Extension has provided training on the calculation of cost of production, feeding and parasite control in goats. Woolen sheep breeds do not grow well in Florida because of the humid conditions and their thick coat. The Extension office developed information on breeds of sheep recommended for the hot and humid climate of Florida. Thirty-four small ruminant and other livestock producers participated in three training events and saved about \$19,400 by attending these events.
- ◆ **The Union County Soil and Water Conservation Board** provided 240 copies of teaching materials entitled "Learning about our Springs and Farms" to teachers of Lake Butler Elementary School. The Board believed that the message of caring for the environment should be introduced

Meet our Faculty and Staff

Basil Bactawar	<i>Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent</i>
Samara Deary	<i>Family and Consumer Sciences Agent</i>
Colan Coody	<i>4-H Youth Development Assistant</i>
Pamela Toney	<i>Executive Secretary</i>

Program Impact

to children when they are young. The impact of this initiative is students are likely to become more knowledgeable about farming and the environment.

- ◆ **Pesticide Education:** Pesticide education continues to be a Tri-County initiative through Bradford, Baker and Union County. This program trained 32 participants and the impact represents \$38,400 of economic impact on the local economy.
- ◆ **4-H Youth Development:** The Union County 4-H Program is designed to engage youth in positive pursuits that build their leadership and life skills and prepare them to fulfill their civic duties. Research has shown that 4-H youth tend to have higher grades and go to college, more likely to be physically active and exercise. They are less likely to use drugs and alcohol and end up in trouble with the law. Union County 4-H program continues to increase in enrollment and make improvement in the skills of youth in the county. Approximately 115 youth were involved with traditional 4-H in 2013 with the help of about 4872 hours in volunteer time. As a direct result of marketing and community involvement Union County 4-H, 44 youth went to Camp Cherry Lake and 16 youth were involved in 4-H Day Camps. Twenty-eight youth and eight adult volunteers assisted in the Union County Farm City Week celebration. Eighty-four 4th graders and 23 second graders learned the Science of ice cream. One-hundred and seventy-two 4th graders through the school enrichment program learned about Entomology. One-hundred-thirty youth participants attended the Annual 4-H Awards Banquet.

- ◆ **Master Gardeners' Program:** In 2013, Union County began to collaborate with Bradford County to train Master Gardeners' from Union County. The Extension Agent was part of the teaching team and will continue to provide this service to Master Gardeners.
- ◆ **Pond Management:** Union County has approximately 70 ponds. Fish kill during warm months is a major problem. Water samples from approximately 50% of the ponds were analyzed by the Agent to determine the causes of the problem. Over feeding was the main cause of fish kill. Owners were advised accordingly to prevent this problem. Pond visits and telephone conversations confirmed that none of the producers had any fish kill after receiving the advice.

Union County Cooperative Extension 2013 Status Report

Number of Educational Materials Developed	61
Number of Clientele Contacts	12,899
Field Consultations	267
Office Consultations	164
Telephone Consultations	918
Group teaching participants	426
Website visits http://union.ifas.ufl.edu	33,770
Number of volunteer hours 4-H Program	4872
TOTAL	53,377

