Union County Extension Office

“Helping you Put Knowledge to Work”

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Ricky Jenkins-Vice Chair
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University of Florida-IFAS
US Department of Agriculture
We would like to thank our volunteers and council members for all of their support.

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Karen Cossey—4-H/Youth

Fila Perez—Ag/Natural Resources

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Hugh Hunter—4-H/Youth

Don Hicks—4-H/Youth & Ag/Natural Resources

Rick Richardson—Ag/Natural Resources

Brett Gill—Ag/Natural Resources

Carita Emery—4-H Council Chair

Carlton Faulk—4-H/Youth

Fletcher Myers—4-H/Youth

Ricky Jenkins—4-H/Youth

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Lisa Parrish—Secretary

Robin Clyatt

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Don Hicks

Kay Nettles

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Shirley Kirby

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*Highlights of what Union County Extension Office has done to help Union County residents in 2007*
Union County 4-H Club Leaders

Barbara Zipperer Millertown
Donna Harris Cloverbud/ Outdoor Jr. Sportsmen
Hollie Hodgson Rylender
Penny Hersey Spring Hill
Laura Croft Lulu
Randy Merritt Livestock

Union County 4-H School Enrichment Teachers

4th Grade
Tropicana Public Speaking, Project Learning Tree, Citizenship, Earth Science, and Embryology

Maryanne Davis
Kelly Dukes
Debbie McMillan
Susan Henson
Rebecca Wolfson
Cindy Short
Nadine Faulk
Christy Whitehead

3rd Grade
Project Learning Tree

Allison Waters
Jason Griffis
Crystal Swilley
Rhonda Willingham
Trisha Dukes
Denise Ricks
Mark Harrison
Christy Perez

2nd Grade
Plant projects

Verona DeLoach

1st Grade
Embryology, Butterflies, Dairy projects

Carolyn Parrish
Sue Lagasse

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Highlights of what Union County Extension Office has done to help Union County residents in 2007.
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Union County Extension Office is a cooperatively funded service of the University of Florida / IFAS/ Cooperative Extension Service in a partnership with USDA and the Union County Board of County Commissioners.

Our MISSION is:
"to develop knowledge in agricultural resources, human resources, natural resources and life sciences to make that knowledge accessible to people to sustain the quality of human life." In Union County we do this by conducting educational programs. Education content and emphasis is based on recommendations of the Agriculture and Family, (4-H) Youth, and Community Sciences Program Advisory Committees. Individuals representing Union County residents serve on these working committees to guide, review, and account for Extension Staff and Volunteer educational program efforts.

The following list shows where Extension Staff and Volunteers were putting most of their effort this year:

- 4-H Life Skills Development
- 4-H Youth Environmental Education
- Sustainable/Alternative Agriculture Education
- Community Services

HOW WE RESPONDED TO YOUR NEEDS
AND HOW YOU RESPONDED TO OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

3264 Telephone calls from Union County residents asking for help /information
624 Office visits from residents asking for help/information
338 Home/Farm/Pond visits in Union County to help residents
2456 Contacts with people (attending Extension education programs, etc.)
5020 Additional Contact people (attending Extension displays at programs)
1090 Different materials prepared for programs & inquiries designed to help residents
47 Newspaper articles with helpful information
15,720 Newsletter copies distributed to residents
What It Is and How We Do It

Traditionally 4-H has used Community Clubs with project work and trained volunteers to teach youth new skills. A total of 72 youth were enrolled in 6 Community 4-H Clubs.

This year we reached more youth through Short-term 4-H School Enrichment Projects. These Projects are at least 6 hours of school enrichment type instruction and mastering a certain level of new knowledge or skills. School Enrichment projects are when a teacher as part of their classroom lesson plan uses 4-H curricula. 4-H School Enrichment project enrollment included 1103 youth.

Volunteers Are The Ones Who “Make It Happen” In 4-H!

Extension Office staff and 87 Volunteers worked together to teach 1103 individual youth in Union County new knowledge and skills.

Volunteers were parents, teens, family, friends, and neighbors who helped organize clubs, teach projects, organize activities, provide resources, support club/direct leaders, recruit and train other adults to volunteer, serve on the Extension Agriculture and Family, (4-H) Youth, and Community Sciences Advisory Committee and serve as Union County 4-H Foundation, Inc. officers and members.

**VOLUNTEERS:**

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Highlights of what Union County Extension Office has done to help Union County residents in 2007
Providing our youth with the opportunity to try their ideas and make decisions, helps keep our 4-H program strong.

- Thirty four youth had projects that were entered in the Bradford County. Nineteen swine projects, ten steer projects, one rabbit project, one painting project, two food projects, and one quilt project were entered in the fair.

- The 4-H Awards Banquet was held on April 12. Sixty five people attended. Outstanding 4-H youth in each club were recognized. The 4-H Tropicana Speech Contest winners for 2007 were featured guests. The Union County 4-H Foundation recognized youth with projects at Bradford County Fair, and the Outstanding 4-H’er of the Year. The entire program was conducted by 4-H youth members, in order to develop leadership skills.

- Fifty eight 4-Hers and quest attended 4-H County Events on March 3. 4-H County Events is a formal competitive event that is designed to develop youth speaking, organizing, and presentation skills. 4-H youth present illustrated talks, called demonstrations, about a project theme, presented them to parents, friends, and three judges. First place winners at 4-H County Events can proceed to 4-H District Events.

- One hundred twenty six people attended 4-H District Events, which was hosted in Alachua County, on May 5. We had 4 Union County 4-Hers competing at 4-H District Events and came home with two Blue ribbons and two Red Ribbons.

- The 4-H Tropicana Public Speech program involves 535 students in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades at the Union County Elementary and Middle schools. The Tropicana Speaking program provides students the opportunities to public speak about the subject of their choice. Each classroom has a contest, each grade level have a contest and the County wide 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking contest in held at the 4-H Awards banquet to select a county winner in the 4th/5th grade and the 6th grade divisions. Tropicana sponsors the county winners with a scholarship to 4-H Camp Cherry Lake.
4-H School Enrichment encompasses a wide range of environmental topics:

- **4th Grade Earth Science** project enabled youth to understand how not only plants grow, but how we depend on plant, and the soil to grow these plant for our needs. Making sure we reduce the impact on the earth while grow our food, housing, and recreation will effect everyone not only today but years to come.

- The **4-H Project Learning Tree, (PLT)** School Enrichment education program is a partnership with the University of Florida, IFAS Extension Service, School of Forestry, and Lake Butler Elementary School. Teachers are trained and certified to teach PLT curriculum. The PLT curriculum is designed to help students in the FCAT exam as well as learn about trees. Our youth learn science, math, reading, and writing skills in the PLT project.

- As a result of the Union County Extension Office PLT Partnership, Union County youth benefited in many ways. One hundred sixty-seven youths and 126 parents benefited from PLT in 2007 at **The Third Grade Campout**. Additionally 60 teachers were trained in the PLT curriculum. As a result of that training 770 students benefited from the environmental and science education of the PLT program.

- The 4-H Program Assistant facilitated the construction of an outdoor **PLT teaching center** at Lake Butler Elementary School. Mrs. Allison Waters and Mrs. Kimberly Shaw were key coordinators of the $3500.00 grant from Plum Creek. Mrs. Bishop LBES Principal and Mr. Carlton Faulk, Union County Superintendent, assisted with the process. Construction was completed in time for the 2007-2008 school year. This outdoor teaching center will provide the needed “hands on” opportunity to expand the PLT experience for the entire student body.

**Our Union County 4-H Day/Overnight camping programs are based on environmental education:**

- Twenty-two youth attended the University of Florida **4-H Camp Cherry Lake**, in Madison County, for the first week of June. Youth were taught swimming and archery skills. Educational sessions throughout the day were presented though class rotations. An optional early morning fishing session was offered. Life skills in group dynamics, collaboration, and cooperation were learned by youth in a structured environment. Mr. Colan Coody, our 4-H Program Assistant, guided parents and youth through this week activities.

**Union County 4-H Foundation, Inc. supports our 4-H Youth Education:**

- One hundred fifty people attended the annual **dinner and auction** on August 17. Union County 4-H Foundation is chartered with the State of Florida and registered with the Internal Revenue Service on a not-for-profit corporation (501-c) organized for the sole purpose of the County Extension Office and 4-H Youth Education Program. A total of $6,440.00 was raised at the August 17 auction to support Union County 4-H youth and 4-H club. This is the 26th Annual Auction/ Supper to benefit the youth of Union County. The Auction provides not only support for our programs, but leadership opportunities for our 4-Hers, positive interaction with our youth and adults, and strengthens our overall relationship with the entire county.
The purpose of Agriculture Education programs is to sustain traditional farming and provide information to small farmers on alternative crops.

**Pesticide Education taught to Baker, Bradford and Union county farmers:** (Because the 2007 program summary is compiled in August of each year, a program that occurred in November, 2006 was included).

- Two sessions of the Pesticide Applicator Training were taught by the agent at the Ag. Enterprise Workshops for North Florida Field Day held at the NFREC – Suwannee Valley, November 8, information included: Pesticide formulations, pesticide compatibility, personal protective equipment, applying the correct amount, sprayer calibration, pesticide transportation and disposal. Thirty four farmers attended the session taught by the agent.

- The 17th Tri-county Pesticide Update was held in Raiford, Union County, on February 20. Farmers from 5 different counties attended to earn Continuing Education Units (C.E.U.’s) towards renewal of their Private Pesticide Applicator License. Fifty three farmers attended. Evaluations showed that: 52% found the pesticide law and rule updates very helpful, 61% found mole cricket control information very helpful, 71% found fire ant and Africanized bee biology and management very helpful, 73% planned to do thing differently on their farm as a result of pasture and hayfield weed management information, 58% now knew where to get information needed to control vegetable pests as a result of the information, 58% planned to make or buy a spill kit to have on hand while mixing and loading pesticides, and 55% already properly disposed of pesticide waste and containers with an additional 32% planning to do things differently on their farms.

- A regional Right-of-Way class for pesticide applicators was held March 2, at the Bradford County Fairgrounds. A total of 67 people representing public utility companies, private company employees, and farmers attended. The agent taught units in: Pesticides in the environment, special environmental concerns, protection of ground water, and endangered species.

- The Tri-county Pesticide School is rotated among Baker, Bradford and Union counties to be convenient to farmers who need to be licensed. The school was held in Baker County on April, 12. This is an all-day preparation for two exams required to obtain a Private Pesticide Applicator License. The agent taught the Pesticide Application Calibration & Pesticide Math portion of the school. Twenty four people attended.

**Fish Pond Management:** (Because the 2007 program summary is compiled in August of each year, workshops that were held in September, 2006 are also included).

- A Tri-county Wildlife Management workshop was hosted by Baker County, September, 7, 2006. Food plot establishment methods, forage varieties for food plots, deer forage preference by month (presented by your agent), improving wildlife habitat, USDA cost-share opportunities, and a land owner’s perspective were featured sessions. Fifty eight people attended.
• **Part 1- Fish Pond Establishment** workshop was hosted by Baker County, as part of a Tri-county series of Extension workshops, September 21. Information was presented on: Pond design (presented by your agent), stocking, and getting started. Seventeen people attended.

• **Part 2- Managing Your Fish Pond** workshop was hosted by Bradford County, September 26. Information was presented on: Weed identification and control options (presented by your agent), and water quality parameters and how they affect your fish. Eighteen people attended.

• **Part 3- Fish Disease I.D. & Control** workshop was hosted by Union County, September 28. Information was presented on: major fish disease identification. Dr. Petty, Extension fish veterinarian and two graduate students conducted the session. The meal was cooked by Doyal Godwin, chair of the Union County Ag. & Natural Resources Advisory Council. Twenty nine people attended. Evaluation results from all of the fish pond workshops showed they were very helpful to those who attended.

A **Union County Farmers’ Market** is one way to provide consumers with fresh produce and a higher return to the farmers:

• **A Farmers’ Market Meeting and Certification Workshop** for accepting FMNP and Elder Care coupons at the Union County Farmers Market was held on February 13. Twenty four people attended. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service Marketing Division staff conducted training and certification of farmers. Linda Landrum, University of Florida-IFAS-Extension Marketing Agent, presented a session on how to expand what you grow by planting alternative crops such as flowers, herbs, and other vegetables as well as marketing tips.

• **Two agencies partnered with the Union County Farmers Market:** Union County Health Department and Suwannee River Economic Council. Coupon release dates were coordinated so that a pre-market with farmers ready to accept coupons at the Union County Health Department happened April 2 and 19. As a result of this effort, 123 clientele signed up for coupons worth $4,920, which could be redeemed from produce by certified farmers on April 2 and 19 as well as during the regular Union County Farmers’ Market season.

• The **Union County Farmers’ Market was opened on Saturday, April 28.** The season continued till July 29. Average number of farmers per Saturday was 6. Income to farmers from the coupon programs ranged from 75% to 80% of total income per Saturday. Consumer attendance was highest in the beginning of the season (up to 150 per Saturday) and tapered off at the end of the season (less than 75 per Saturday).

• An 11 year old boy and his mother were one of the success stories of the Union County Farmers Market. They harvested produce from their home garden and sold it faithfully at the farmers market. They averaged $150.00 in sales per Saturday morning. This represents the dream and goal of the Union County Farmers Market, anyone in Union County can increase their family income by selling extra garden produce at the market.

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Highlights of what Union County Extension Office has done to help Union County residents in 2007.
Pasture, Hay and Forage Management practices were taught on a multi-county basis:

- The 10th Annual Hay Field Day presented by the North Florida Beef & Forage Group of Agents was held on Thursday, August 9 at the Shaw & Shaw Farms south of Alachua on SR241. One hundred and four people attended. This attendance did not include the tradeshow dealers and their staff, Extension agents, and Extension specialists, which made the total, approach 130 people. Hay production is a large part of the Union County agriculture economy. The agent supported this all-day meeting by presenting a workshop on: Post-drought related options to hay & hayfield management. Four other workshops were presented on topics ranging from hay quality to pesticide applicator training. Handouts were bound in a booklet for farmers who could not attend and wanted a copy of the information that was presented. The agent helped explain hay problems in the afternoon session of equipment demonstrations.

Extension Office Community Service

- Farm-City Week Celebration was a major event co-sponsored by the Union County Extension Office with the Union County Farm Bureau and the Union County Ministerial Association. The keynote speaker was Dr. John Baldwin, our District Extension Director. Dr. Baldwin's theme was: From the farm to the moon. Essentially, the way we farm and live has changed dramatically, yet the University of Florida IFAS Extension Service is here to help homeowners and farmers with research-based solutions for their lives. The Union County Extension Office and staff provided the pumpkins, the cut holly for the table decorations, the iced tea, a dessert, the dressing, mashed potatoes, and made the smoked chicken cooking arrangements. One hundred twenty seven people attended the November 20, 2006 event.

- The agent and 4-H Program Assistant supported both 4-H and FFA youth from both Bradford and Union counties during the Bradford County Fair. Serving on committees in preparation for the Bradford County Fair, the fair itself, and the follow-through service helps make things go smoothly for parents and youth from both counties.

- The agent judged the Lake Butler Middle School Science Fair.

- Step-Up Union County was supported by the Union County Extension Office, from its planning stages all the way through the February 20 event at the Lake Side Community Center in Lake Butler. The Union County Extension Office Executive Secretary, the 4-H Program Assistant, the agent, and 11 4-H youth helped man the display booths of information. Two of the display booths included information about the Union County Farmers Market. It is estimated that 600 people attended this event.

- The Union County Extension Office entered and manned a booth of hurricane preparedness information and a demonstration of fall vegetable garden in containers, at the Emergency Preparedness Fair, held August 11, at the Lakeside Community Center in Lake Butler. It is estimated that 900 people attended this event.
Meet the Extension Office staff & find how they can help you:

**Diana Smith - Secretary**
496-2321
- For general UF-IFAS-Extension Service information & services available.
- Sample or identification services: soil, water, insect, weed, plant disease, etc.

**Colan Coody – 4-H Program Assistant**
496-4263
- For general information about the Extension 4-H Youth Program & enrollment.
- For 4-H Adult Volunteer, Leader information & 4-H Clubs to join nearest you.
- For joining the Union County 4-H Foundation, Inc.

**Jacque Breman – County Extension Director**
496-4264
- For agriculture, natural resources, gardening and horticulture information.
- For help managing your fishpond, water quality analyses and identifying fish diseases.
- For wildlife food plot management information.

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