

University of Florida/IFAS The Extension Service in Florida

- The Florida Extension Service provides real life-long learning to the people of Florida from Key West to the Pensacola. Through education in agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and youth and community development, extension helps Floridians improve their lives, their communities and our environment.
- Established in 1914 under a federal act, extension was formed to provide educational programs for local communities beyond college campuses. The educational programming offered in each county responds to the local needs of that county's residents.
- Extension is a three-tier partnership between county, state & federal governments (all three tiers provide both program and financial support)
- Extension's Solutions for Your Life website is focused on providing timely and relevant solutions. The url is <http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu>.
- Today, UF/IFAS includes 74 extension offices statewide with at least one in every Florida county.
- In 2006 extension faculty delivered research-based information to more than **8.6 million** Florida residents.
- Last year over 66,000 extension volunteers expended more than 1.3 million volunteer hours. They made nearly 6 million customer contacts providing services to communities who ordinarily could not afford these services.
- Florida's extension receives the majority of its funding through state and county governments. In 2005-2006, 89% of the \$72 million budget for extension in Florida was received from state and local governments.
- The counties contributed 43.47% and the state 43.41% of these dollars. This support does not include their facilities, as those are paid for by the counties. Other funding comes from the federal government 10.63% and fees & grants 2.22%.
- County funding and program allocations are determined by the funding received, directives from the county commissioners, volunteers and local advisory committees. This formula varies from county to county.
- Extension's life-long learning programs were delivered in this way during 2006:
 - 149 million**-Mass media used (television, newspaper, radio contacts and web site hits)
 - Over 8 million**-Materials prepared, materials distributed and direct mail
 - 7.8 million**-Group events and group participants
 - Almost 2.6 million**-Letters, emails, office visits, telephone calls, visits to clientele
- Some examples of extension programs:
 1. Agriculture & Natural Resources
 2. DDIS--Distance Diagnostic & Identification System (invasive plants)
 3. Florida Master Gardener Program
 4. Florida Master Naturalist Program
 5. Florida Wildlife Extension
 6. Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program (BMPs for lawns and gardens)
 7. Florida 4-H
 8. Green Communities
 9. Program for Resource Efficient Communities School
 10. IPM--National School Integrated Pest Management Information Source
 11. Debt Management
 12. Disaster Preparation, including four Hurricane Houses statewide
 13. Family Time Management
 14. Food Safety
 15. Saving Water, Energy & Money
 16. Sun Safety
 17. Landscaping for Storms & Hurricanes
 18. Solving Lawn Problems