



Goal Statement

To provide researched-based educational programs and information on horticulture, agriculture, natural resources, forestry, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development, empowering citizens of Leon County to make decisions and behavior changes that contribute to an improved quality of life and a more sustainable community.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Environment

- Leon County's Cooperative Extension Division trained over 170 commercial landscape maintenance and land management professionals resulting in more than 1,100 certifications and/or continuing educational units ensuring compliance with pesticide application laws and other regulations safeguarding our environment.

Quality of Life

- 519 limited resource adults participated in a series of In-depth nutrition education classes through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). Nutrition education programs reached 627 low-income senior citizens with 82% of adults reporting at least one positive change in their diet. More than 1,000 youth learned about nutrition.
- Engaged more than 7,600 youth (in 4-H programs and activities). Youth enhanced their decision making, leadership and communication skills. Nearly 200 youth increased their skills and knowledge in environmental stewardship and other life skills by participating in 4-H day and overnight camping experiences.

Contact Us

(850) 606-5200
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/CoopExt

CULTIVATING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Many people enjoy growing their own fruits and vegetables, while others garden out of necessity. Over 20% of people in Leon County are food insecure.
 - » Leon County Extension provided educational assistance to 17 community gardens and 21 school gardens resulting in over 50,000 pounds of non-perishable food.
 - » A dozen farmers developed food safety plans for their operation in a computer lab workshop. Having a food safety plan helps farmers minimize the potential for contamination. This means a reduced risk for food borne illness from locally grown produce in Leon County.
 - » Nearly 100 county employees learned about growing and cooking with herbs.
- Celebrated the Centennial birthday of the Cooperative Extension System. Nearly 400 people attended the Spring Open House and 100th anniversary celebration event. Citizens learned about Cooperative Extension services through interactive experiences such as tours of the demonstration garden and Sustainable Demonstration Center, cooking demonstrations, wildlife tours and 4-H science activities for youth.
- 200 Leon County School lunchroom employees have been trained in *Smarter Lunchrooms* practices. Four schools have



Spring Open House

implemented strategies to help more than 2,000 children make healthful choices and help fight childhood obesity.

- In partnership with Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, over 400 citizens at 9 different community sites participated in National Nutrition Month events addressing dietary causes of chronic hypertension. 75% of participants planned to use food labels to make better food choices and increase use of sodium-free seasonings including herbs.
- Data proves that the Sustainable Demonstration Center, the 50-year old building that houses Cooperative Extension, with the addition of solar power and an ultra-energy efficient geothermal heating and air system, is a net-zero energy building – meaning the site produces renewable energy at a rate equal to or greater than what the building annually consumes. The building includes 253 solar photovoltaic cells on a ground-mounted structure that also doubles as shaded parking. The solar array is sized to a 60-KW system compared to a 5-KW system used in the average home. This solar array supplies about 40% of the energy needed to power the 13,000 square-foot building.



Sustainable Demonstration Center