

QUARTERLY

LEVY BULLETIN



UF/IFAS LEVY COUNTY
EXTENSION

625 NORTH HATHAWAY
AVE
BRONSON, FL 32621
352-486-5131

Peanut Harvest Tour



On September 16, Levy County Extension staff and the Florida Peanut Federation hosted a Peanut Harvest Field Day for 8th grade students from Williston, Bronson, Chiefland, and Cedar Key.

The day began with a visit to the Williston Peanuts Inc buying point, where students observed peanuts being weighed, graded, and dried.

Next, they visited a nearby field where employees of Freddy Bell were digging peanuts. Students learned how peanuts grow and how to determine when they are ready for harvest. Following that stop, everyone enjoyed a lunch provided by the Florida Peanut Federation at the watermelon barn of Murray Tillis. There, students explored technological advancements in agriculture, including grid soil sampling, variable fertilizer application, and drone use in herbicide spraying to reduce chemical usage.

The final stop was the field of BJ Wilkerson, where students saw peanuts being picked and loaded into wagons.

The event was an enjoyable and educational experience for both students and adults. The students were actively engaged and asked thoughtful questions throughout the day.



Meet The Agent

MY NAME IS PAMELA, AND I AM HONORED TO SERVE AS YOUR NEW FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT WITH THE UF/IFAS EXTENSION IN LEVY COUNTY. MY FOCUS WILL BE ON EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO FINANCIAL WELL-BEING, HOUSING, AND ESSENTIAL BUDGETING SKILLS.

I HOLD A MASTER'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND PLAN TO FURTHER MY EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA. AS AN ENTHUSIASTIC COUPON SHOPPER, I TAKE PLEASURE IN PREPARING DELICIOUS, SIMPLE, AND COST-EFFECTIVE MEALS.

IN MY LEISURE TIME, I ENJOY READING, BOATING, AND SPENDING QUALITY MOMENTS WITH MY FAMILY. I AM EAGER TO LEVERAGE MY EXPERTISE IN EDUCATION, FINANCE, AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS TO ACHIEVE GREATER FINANCIAL RESILIENCE.



Pamela Hughes

Levy County 4-H Ag Adventures Camp

by Micah Gallagher



Mark Warren and I organized a 4-H summer camp that highlighted agriculture in Levy County. Over the course of three days we toured Quincey Farms, Derby Gold, and Etheridge Cattle Company. The three days were filled with activities including irrigation water contests, construction of bird feeders, FWC meet and greet, a demonstration on cuts of beef, construct a hamburger, and a food dye fruit injection exercise.



Students who attended were from various backgrounds and learned about farming practices for watermelons, peanuts, corn, timber, and cattle production. Our group was interactive, asked great questions, and had fun. The producers enjoyed showing us around their production facilities, engaging with the next generation. We plan to host an agriculture related summer camp every summer so more students are introduced to the importance of agriculture, specifically highlighting Levy County.





From the Agent's Desk

The 2025-2026 4-H Year has officially kicked off!

Many of our members received recognition for their hard work during the 2024-2025 4-H Year at our Recognition Reception.

We had members recognized for their completion of Suwannee River Fair record books, record books from other project areas, participating on judging/knowledge based teams and for their roles as officers at the County level.



We had a wonderful turnout at our annual Levy County 4-H Open House in August. Families learned about clubs and other project areas that Levy County 4-H offers.



We had over 20 new families join us for the evening. It was a great success!

National 4-H Week will take place from October 5th to the 11th this year. We will be hosting a hay bale decorating contest amongst our 4-H clubs during this time.

Join us in wearing GREEN on Monday, October 6th!



**LET'S PAINT THE NATION GREEN
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 6!**





submitted by Barbara L. Edmonds, extension program assistant, master gardener coordinator and ISA arborist

"This image was generated with the assistance of AI."



OUR MISSION:

The mission of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is to develop knowledge in **agricultural, human, and natural resources**, and to make that **knowledge accessible** to sustain and enhance the **quality of human life**.

WHAT WE DO:

We initiate, collaborate, design, deliver, facilitate, and evaluate programs that serve residents of all ages and abilities. Each reflects thoughtful planning, expert knowledge, and real community impact.

HOW WE DO IT:

We reach large audiences through workshops, meetings, and classes. We provide personalized support via phone, email, plant clinics, office visits, and site visits. These programs demonstrate our commitment to accessible, community-focused education and problem-solving.

WHO BENEFITS:



- M. Stancliff plans to build a propagation table modeled after ours (top left) and noted the importance of crop rotation to prevent nematode damage after visiting Levy Extension center.
- Emily C. of Otter Creek was surprised by the variety of pollinators on blue basil during the Great Southeast Pollinator Census and plans to continue the activity in her home garden in 2026.
- While touring the garden, S. Elder learned that sun-tolerant caladiums grow well in Levy County without needing to dig up bulbs every winter — challenging her previous assumptions.
- Deb B., a 2024 Master Gardener participant, built a raised bed with an adaptive watering system for her elderly physically frail mother. Deb reported her mother is thrilled to be able to enjoy watering her flowers and herbs and growing plants to beautify her porch.
- Andy P. of Chiefland and his young daughters harvested muscadine grapes (bottom left) after learning about chill units and fruit-producing vines.

Peanut Butter *Challenge*

**SPREAD
THE WORD...
PEANUT BUTTER**

Sept 29 - Nov 24

Fights Hunger!

Donate unopened jars of peanut butter at the UF/IFAS Extension office in your county. All peanut butter donations go to local food pantries to help feed families in need. We thank the Florida Peanut Producers Association and Florida Peanut Federation for their continued support and contributions.

During the month of October, support Florida's peanut producers and people in need in your community by generously donating to the Peanut Butter Challenge.

**Find the Peanut Butter Challenge
drop-off location closest to you:**



**LEVY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
625 N HATHAWAY AVENUE
BRONSON, FL 32621**

go.ufl.edu/PBC | #PBChallenge

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

WHAT'S COMING UP

4-H

October

- Trunk or Treat - Monday 20th @ 5:30pm (Levy Co. Extension Office)
- Shotgun - Every Thursday @ 4:30PM

November

- Shotgun – Every Thursday @ 4:30PM

December

- Shotgun – Every Thursday @ 4:30PM

Livestock

- **October 7th - Fall Pasture Series - Marion County Extension Office**
- **October 10th - 11th - Small Ruminant Short Course Gainesville, FL**
- **October 14th - Ocala Bull Sale Ocala, FL**
- **October 14th - 16th - Ag Expo Moultrie, GA**
- **October 16th - Levy County Cattlemen's Meeting 7:00PM Whitehurst Lodge**
- **October 21st - Livestock Forage and Field Day Alachua, FL**
- **October 28th - Fall Pasture Series - Levy County Extension Office**
- **October 30th - Levy County Farm Bureau Annual Dinner Williston, FL**
- **December 4th - FCA Quarterly Meeting Ocala, FL**

Master Gardener-Plant Clinic

- **October 11th - Cedar Lakes Woods & Garden , Williston**
- **October 18th - 19th Cedar Key Seafood Festival**
- **November 15th 9:30am-12:00pm or**
- **November 19th 12:00pm-3:30pm -Dig Deep: Cultivating Community Through Service Two Hawk Hammock pavilion and garden 17990 NE 53rd Lane Williston, FL 32696**

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