



UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

The Green Machine

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SOLUTIONS
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Tribute to Dr. Norman Borlaug: “Father of the Green Revolution” and a product of the Land Grant University System

‘Saving more than a billion lives’. ‘Averted worldwide famine’. ‘Responsible for the greatest period of food production in human history’. These phrases have been used to describe a man, who started his career studying Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota.

What does a college in Minnesota have to do with Floridians? Plenty. Universities battle on the grid iron on game days but every other day of the week we work together - securing food and fiber for the world. The Land Grant University System, which was signed into law by Abraham Lincoln has been a pillar of our nations economy and security for nearly 150 years.

I heard Dr. Borlaug speak when he guest lectured at the University of Florida in the mid 80’s. He shared the story of his life’s work: breeding disease resistant wheat and corn to provide stable food supplies in the US, Pakistan, India, Mexico and Africa. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 and numerous other awards throughout his long career.

Despite all his accomplishment, he continued working because he understood that challenges are endless. Most people do not know that our wheat supply was threatened just two years ago by emerging threat of disease. Like the flu - new disease strains keep coming!

The next time you give thanks for an evening meal, be sure to add an extra thanks to all the farmers, researchers and high school ag teachers who work to bring you a bountiful harvest. Meat, dairy, fruits, grains and vegetables are all things we take for granted - not forgetting health sciences, 4H / youth programs and mechanical engineering, are all provided by our Land Grant Universities and the information is FREE to the public.

Support your universities, enroll in college, become a part of the team!

We need you - the world needs you.

To find out more about all the programs your local Extension office offers visit our website at: <http://bradford.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Jim DeValerio
Agriculture,
and
Community
Development
Agent

**Bradford County
Extension Service**
2266 N. Temple Ave.
Starke, FL 32091
Email: jtd@ufl.edu
Phone: (904)-966-6299

The Extension office has a busy fall season planned. A series of workshops have been scheduled throughout October/November that are geared to addressing a variety of topics important to Bradford Farmers including water use and restrictions, marketing methods and alternative agricultural enterprise opportunities.

Water issues: In response to water quality & quantity regulations the Florida Department of Agriculture has developed Best Management Practices to assist ag producers with regulatory compliance. Participation in FDACS/BMP programs provides a "Presumption of Compliance with State Water Quality Standards" for producers.

Currently, participation in the BMP program is voluntary however, more stringent regulations are likely for those who choose not to enroll in BMP programs. This is a good opportunity to include your farm in the BMP program with no cumbersome regulations.

Additionally, Bradford County is currently involved in a water supply planning process that will influence how much water will be available to producers and homeowners in the future. We invite you to come learn what is going on in Tallahassee and how that affects us in Bradford County.

Community Supported Agriculture is a marketing tool that works for some producers. Basically, the farmer decides how much he can produce and then markets a weeks supply of an assortment of produce over the course of a growing season. Members pay for their produce up front which gets the farmer his money before the crop is planted. This system works well with producers that have the right marketing skills. A farm tour (October 29th) and two evening workshops (November 16th and 30th) have been scheduled to give an in-depth overview of this marketing method. All of these events are in neighboring counties.

The annual **Alternative Enterprises Workshop** will be held at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Live Oak on November 5th. This event features hands on field demonstrations on Pesticide CEUs, Drip Irrigation, Farm Good Bugs & Bad Bugs, Direct Marketing & Farmers Market Displays, Pasture Pork, Winter Forages, Blueberries and On Farm Energy Alternatives. Attendees can attend four sessions throughout the day.

Bradford County has its first corn maze! The Maze will be open Thursday thru Saturday from 10 am until 7 pm, October 7th to November 30th. A \$2 donation at the gate is requested. Proceeds will benefit the Bradford County 4H Foundation. The maze is located on US 301 three miles north of the Bradford County Fair Grounds. Look for the yellow and black MAZE sign. Call Lawrence Mosley at 904-364-3443 or the Bradford County Extension Service at 904-966-6299 for more information or to schedule a tour.

Flyers advertising the details about these events are included in the newsletter.

Northeast Florida Small Farms Working Group Presents: Providing Local Food through Community Supported Agriculture: A Tour of KYV Farms, Switzerland, Florida. Thursday, October 29th, 2009 @ 5:00 p.m. KYV Farms is a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) located in a heavier developed area of Northwest St. Johns County. Farmers Francisco Arroyo and Vivian Bayona, have been producing crops in Florida for three years. Their mission is to provide a fresh and healthy alternative for the local community. KYV Farms uses only sustainable and organic farming methods with no chemical pesticides or fertilizers. Farming practices include crop rotation, cover crop as green manure, compost and mulches, using proven organic seeds and irrigation systems, and cold frames to start/extent the season.

Directions to KYV Farms, 1670 Borrow Pit Rd. Switzerland, FL: From Green Cove Springs area, Travel east on SR 16 then north on SR 13 for 9.4 mi., then right on Scott Rd. then turn at first left onto Borrow Pit Rd. farm is at end of road on the left.

From I295, Take exit 5 San Jose Blvd, turn right on San Jose Blvd (SR13 S) 3.9 mi., continue on SR13 S for 3.5 mi., turn left on Scott Rd. then first left on to Borrow Pit Rd., farm is at end on the left.

For Additional information or directions: David Dinkins, St. Johns County Extension @ 904-209-0430.

After 5 pm, day of tour - call David Nistler, Clay County Extension @ 904-716- 7266 (cell).

Successfully Managing Your Community Supported Agriculture Enterprise For those who wish to either start or are currently running a CSA enterprise. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is when a community of individuals pledges support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or philosophically, the community's farm. The growers and consumers provide mutual support and share the risks and benefits of food production.

November 16th & 30th 2009 6-9 p.m.

Clay County Extension Office, 2463 SR 16 W, Green Cove Springs, FL

Nov. 16th Topics: CSA Structure & Organization: types of CSA's, potential management roles and responsibilities, variations and innovations on the CSA model, and potential CSA challenges. (Jim DeValerio, Bradford County Extension). **CSA Outreach: recruitment, communications (web resources, newsletters, surveys etc.) and farm message.** (David Nistler, Clay County Extension) **CSA Administration: share types, billing, pricing, distribution, data management, and advertising.** (Linda Landrum, Regional Specialized Agent)

Nov. 30th Topics: CSA Crop Planning: crop planning, harvest schedules, weekly/ seasonal harvest goals. (Bob Hochmuth, Multi county Extension Agent) **CSA Business Planning & Budgeting: sample business plans & sample budgets** (Linda Landrum, Regional Specialized Agent) **CSA Producer Profile and Q&A** (David Nistler, Clay County Extension and local producer)

Registration for each session is \$10.00, Please RSVP by Nov 13th to insure space. For additional information or to RSVP contact David Nistler @ 904-284-6355

Dist. IV of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and St. Johns County Extension Service present:

Garden Fest 2009 -“Florida Friendly”

Sat., October 24 -9:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m.

St. Johns County Extension Office 3125 Agriculture Center Drive, (I-95 & SR 16), St. Augustine, Florida

Renowned Speakers and Live Demonstrations to boost your gardening skills featuring:

- Florida Friendly Landscaping with Keith Fuller, County Extension Agent, St. Johns Co.
- Children and Gardening -Butterflies and Birds with Eileen Zebroski
- Growing & Cooking with Herbs with Maggie Ouellette
- Fountain Magic Water gardens with Anna Boone
- Florida Backyard Design Class (using what you have) with Barbara Conrad

Local Garden Clubs will sell plants and crafts just in time for your Holiday giving.

To register please call Rachel at 904-272-4252

Public Invited: General Admission \$10. Box Lunch \$5, or bring your own

Bradford County
Master Gardeners
Along With
Bradford Middle School FFA
Bradford High School FFA
Alligator Creek Garden Club
Present a
FFA Plant Sale
Fall Plant Clinic
and Bake Sale
At **Ace Hardware-Starke**
October 31
10am-12pm

Hydroponic Lettuce Demonstrations!

Container Gardening!

Free lettuce plants!
(One per family, please!)

The Alligator Creek Garden Club meets at the Bradford County Extension Office on the third Thursday of every month at 7 PM.

Garden Clubs offer members the opportunity to practice their gardening skills. From an extension agent standpoint, the greatest compliment to educational efforts is to have citizens practice lessons taught. Real education happens beyond the classroom as we put the concepts we learn into practice.

Whether your passion is growing flowers and landscape plants or growing vegetables, there is a place for you in the garden club.

The Alligator Creek Garden Club has recently volunteered to teach gardening to Bradford Middle School students.

New members are always welcome. Come visit our next meeting and see if you like our club.

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