



# EXTENSION

## STRIKES

Quarterly Newsletter

January-March 2025 / Winter Edition

*4-H Youth Development | Agricultural & Natural Resources | Community Resource  
Development | Youth, Family & Community*



# *Message from the Director*



The role of taking the University to the People is the foundation of FAMU Cooperative Extension as the outreach arm of the University's land-grant mission. A thriving Florida economy will require empowered and well-informed citizens and workers. FAMU Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic profitability and sustainability as well as social well-being. We bring experience and research-based solutions to help individuals, families and communities thrive in Florida's ever-changing economy.

An expanded knowledge base, innovations for families, farmers, and business leaders, positive leadership and development for youth, and community and economic development opportunities are just part of FAMU Cooperative Extension's approach to meet challenges and make contributions to the state of Florida and the world that are bold and exceed all expectations. As a unit of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, FAMU is also a cooperative partner with USDA National Institute of Agriculture, University of Florida Institute of Food & Agriculture (1862), and state and local entities.

-Vonda Richardson, Extension Director/Administrator



Stay updated with our quarterly report and explore the latest developments in FAMU Cooperative Extension. We continue to be committed to serving farmers, producers, ranchers, rural and urban families, seniors, youth, entrepreneurs, small business owners, and underserved communities.

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## **Extension Strikes Quarterly Newsletter**

### **January-March 2025/Winter Edition**

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# Congratulations!

## *Celebrating Excellence in Agriculture*



Congratulations to FAMU Extension’s Family and Consumer Sciences Program Leader, Dreamal Worthen, Ph.D., honored with the prestigious George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame Award. This recognition was presented during the 82nd Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC), November 17-18, 2024, held at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel in Montgomery, Alabama.

The PAWC serves as a vital forum dedicated to fostering a world that values and promotes equal opportunity and equitable access to information and technology, all aimed at advancing the sustainable development of communities and natural resources.

We are incredibly proud for her remarkable contributions and unwavering commitment to agriculture. Her achievements continue to inspire and uplift the field. Congratulations, Dr. Worthen!

*Photos courtesy of Dreamal Worthen, Ph.D.*

January 2025, Dr. Dreamal Worthen, was honored with the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Franklin County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Advisory Board.

A proud native of Apalachicola, Florida, Dr. Worthen has consistently utilized her platforms to uplift and enhance her hometown community. Her unwavering dedication and impactful contributions have left a lasting legacy that continues to inspire others.

A green-themed banner with the word "CONGRATULATIONS" in large black letters at the top. Below the text is a portrait of Dr. Dreamal Worthen. To the right of the portrait is the FAMU Cooperative Extension logo. The background features a decorative wavy pattern on the right side.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Dreamal Worthen, Ph.D., will be awarded the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award, which is presented by the Franklin County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Advisory Board.

**Dreamal Worthen, Ph.D.**

**FAMU** COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

# YOUNG SCIENTISTS CELEBRATE SUCCESS IN JUNIOR ENTOMOLOGY ACADEMY PROGRAM



Contributor: Crystalgale Hunter

In a heartwarming display of curiosity and learning, kindergarten students from Gadsden Elementary Magnet School (GEMS) graduated from a six-week Junior Entomology Program held at the Gadsden County Extension office on December 17, 2024. A collaborative effort with FAMU Cooperative Extension Program (FAMU CEP), this program introduced the young learners to the captivating world of insects, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to proudly call themselves Junior Entomologists. Through hands-on activities, live demonstrations, and creative projects, these students gained an unforgettable educational experience that left them declaring themselves “Doctors of Bugs.”

The Junior Entomology Academy was designed to ignite a passion for science among young minds. The partnership between FAMU CEP and GEMS aimed to create an engaging and enriching curriculum. FAMU’s Dr. Sabrina Hayes (4-H Extension Agent) developed the curriculum, simplifying complex scientific concepts for kindergarteners. Over six weeks, 4-H Program Assistant, Mrs. Crystalgale Hunter guided the students on a journey exploring the fundamentals of entomology, including insect habitats, lifecycles, and anatomy.

The Junior Entomology Academy Program is more than just a short-term educational initiative; it’s an investment that FAMU 4-H intentionally uses to get youth “Beyond Ready.” By introducing young students to the wonders of science at an early age, the program has sown the seeds of curiosity and discovery. Many students expressed aspirations to become scientists, entomologists, or environmentalists, inspired by their experiences in the program.



Ms. Donna Arnold (FAMU CEP ) and Ethan Starks check out a few insects.







For FAMU Extension and GEMS, this program represents the beginning of a fruitful partnership to empower the youth of Gadsden County. Building on this solid foundation, plans are underway to extend the program across all Gadsden County schools, ensuring an inclusive reach from kindergarten through 8th grade. This expansion is designed to provide students with meaningful learning experiences that promote academic growth, personal development, and career readiness. The program intends to inspire curiosity, develop critical skills, and nurture a lifelong passion for learning by targeting diverse age groups. Ultimately, this collaborative effort seeks to create a lasting impact on the community by equipping students with tools and knowledge that prepare them for future success.

The Junior Entomology Academy Program has left an indelible mark on its participants. Armed with their diplomas, white lab coats, and new knowledge, the proud graduates are eager to share their passion for insects with the world. Whether peering through a microscope or marveling at a butterfly, these Junior Entomologists will carry the lessons they've learned for years to come.

As many students proudly declared during graduation, "I'm a Doctor of Bugs now!" And indeed, these young entomologists have proven that even the smallest creatures can inspire the biggest dreams.



Mrs. Carter and her class, along with School Superintendent Mr. Elijah Key, School Principal, Ms. Davis.



Morgan Prince, along with her classmates, check out a few insects in the raise bed.



Mrs. Carter and her Kindergarten Class and Mrs. Crystalgale Hunter (FAMU CEP)

*Photos courtesy of Ms. Crystalgale Hunter.*



# The Ag Corner

## Hydroponic NFT System at Frenchtown Heritage Hub Gardens

Contributor: Alex Bolques, Ph.D.



Rose Karabush 12' x 20' NFT hydroponic unit depicting leafy lettuce at various growth stages at the Frenchtown Neighborhood Improvement Association.

In early March 2024, I had the pleasure of meeting Rose Karabush at the Frenchtown Heritage Hub. Rose, a small-scale organic farmer with experience growing vegetables in the Northeast and Midwest, had recently relocated to Tallahassee. She now serves as the Farmer Training Coordinator for the THRIVE Network, a coalition of five neighborhood nonprofits addressing food apartheid in Bond, Frenchtown, Griffin Heights, Providence, and South City.

An Extension Agent colleague connected Rose with me because of my expertise in vegetable and hydroponic production at the FAMU Research and Extension Center in Quincy, FL. Rose was tasked with assembling a nutrient film technique (NFT) hydroponic system, which had been partially installed but later abandoned. During my site visit, we reviewed the NFT installation manual and assessed what was needed to remodel the unit. Rose had already done much of the groundwork, making it easier to identify the required components, such as a water pump to recirculate nutrient water, feed line tubing for headwater drippers, and a water filter.

By late October, I received another call from Rose with an update: the NFT system was operational, but the filter wasn't functioning properly. After troubleshooting, we decided to remove the inline filter temporarily, as the source of the problem remained unclear. Despite this adjustment, the system has been running smoothly without the filter. Rose continues to monitor and troubleshoot the NFT unit, ensuring its long-term functionality.



Components of an NFT hydroponic system at the Frenchtown Heritage Hub gardens. From left to right, NFT channels, galvanized steel top rail pipes for the NFT channel support, and other related items.

*Photos courtesy of Alex Bolques, Ph.D. and Rose Karabush.*



# UJIMA Community Farm Day: Cultivating Partnerships for a Sustainable Future

Contributor: Gilbert Queeley, Ph.D.

In September 2024, the FAMU Community Garden in Tallahassee, Florida, hosted the UJIMA Community Farm Day, an engaging event organized by the Lola Hampton-Frank Pinder Center for Agroecology (LHFPCA) and the FAMU Cooperative Extension Program (FAMU CEP).

This annual fall gathering stems from a pivotal meeting in the summer of 2024, when Gilbert Queeley, Ph.D., of FAMU CEP joined forces with LHFPCA staff to establish a dynamic partnership. Reflecting on the collaboration, Dr. Queeley shared, *“This was a crucial meeting, as we recognized our shared goals and target audience. Together, we committed to leveraging our resources to offer practical solutions to agricultural challenges.”*

The Lola Hampton-Frank Pinder Center for Agroecology is dedicated to empowering underserved farmers with tools to address issues arising from climate change and social inequality. Meanwhile, FAMU CEP remains steadfast in its mission to deliver research-driven knowledge that fosters economic sustainability, profitability, and social well-being.

By uniting expertise and resources, the LHFPCA and FAMU CEP continue to support individuals, families, and communities in thriving amid Florida's evolving agricultural landscape.



*Photos courtesy of Gilbert Queeley, Ph.D.*

Photos: (Top to bottom) Attendees at the event; attendees reviewing and gathering materials on the event collaborators; vendor displays her work, making color from sorrel plants; sorrel plant at the garden.





# Establishing an Effective Calving Season

Contributor: David Jones



Photos: Amelia Davis, MBA

Calving seasons play a pivotal role in the success of your cattle operation. Thoughtful planning enables farmers to optimize their success rates.

## 1. Evaluate Your Forages

Selecting the appropriate calving season begins with assessing forage availability. Spring calving is often preferred due to higher forage quality, particularly in crude protein, during spring and summer. However, if your farm's forages are better in the fall and winter, then a fall/winter calving season would be more suitable. (Silcox, 2022)

## 2. Consider Stocking Rates and Land Availability

The amount of land available and its forage capacity directly impact stocking rates, which should align with your calving season goals. To ensure heavier calves at weaning, you'll want to prioritize planting warm-season perennials. These can be overseeded with cool-season ryegrass, clover varieties of your choice, and other legumes to maintain year-round forage availability. (Rouquette, 2020)

## 3. Monitor Body Condition Scores (BCS)

A cow's Body Condition Score (BCS) is crucial when choosing a calving season. Farmers should aim to maintain a BCS of 5 or higher for pregnant cows. This involves balancing forage nutrition, stocking rates, and dry matter intake. Dry matter—the nutrient content remaining after water is removed from forage—is essential to supporting cows' nutritional needs throughout the year. Maintaining good forage quality, strategic stocking rates, and careful planning will ensure cows maintain optimal BCS levels. (Heinrichs, 2024; Rouquette, 2020)

## References

Heinrichs, J. J. (2024). *Determining Forage Dry Matter*. Retrieved from Penn State Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/determining-forage-dry-matter>

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Silcox, R. E. (2022). *Beef Management Calendar*. Retrieved from University of Georgia Extension: <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1161&title=beef-management-calendar>



# FAMU Extension's Sugarcane Field Day Celebrates Tradition and Education, Drawing Participants from Florida, Georgia, and Alabama

Contributors: Alex Bolques, Ph.D. and Donna Arnold.



Participants attending the workshop



Participants harvesting the sugarcane

Photos courtesy of Alex Bolques, Ph.D. and Donna Arnold

The 2024 Sugarcane Field Day took place on November 7, 2024 at the FAMU Research and Extension Center in Quincy, Florida. Drawing 45 attendees, including small farm producers and backyard enthusiasts from North Florida, South Georgia, and South Alabama, the event celebrated the rich tradition of sugarcane production while providing valuable education on crop management.

The workshop and mini-field day emphasized practical topics like insect pest management and machete safety, catering to both small-acreage producers and hobbyists. A unique feature of the program was the sharing session, where participants exchanged stories about their sugarcane production experiences and syrup-making techniques. Many shared heartfelt memories of family members and neighbors growing sugarcane for syrup—a tradition spanning centuries.

The event concluded with a sugarcane harvest and giveaway, reinforcing the importance of preserving this agricultural heritage. By hosting this annual workshop and cane giveaway, the FAMU Research and Extension Center continues to support and sustain the cherished tradition of cane syrup-making for future generations.



# It's Classic Time Again! FAMU Extension Showcases Impact at the Florida Blue Florida Classic

Contributor: Amelia Davis



**Orlando, FL-** The Florida Blue Florida Classic, an iconic rivalry spanning over a century between Florida A&M University (FAMU) and Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU), took center stage in Orlando, Florida, from November 22-24, 2024. This celebrated weekend of competition and camaraderie included more than just football—it highlighted the academic excellence and outreach efforts of both institutions.

At the Football Luncheon, students from FAMU and B-CU showcased their research through impressive poster presentations, while FAMU Cooperative Extension proudly displayed an overview of its diverse programs. As the outreach arm of FAMU's College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS), Cooperative Extension plays a vital role in serving communities across Florida through education, research, and community-driven initiatives.

The Florida Classic is more than a game—it's a spirited annual celebration between two of Florida's most prominent historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). FAMU, a public university located in Tallahassee, FL, and B-CU, a private institution located in Daytona Beach, FL, bring fans together to honor tradition and rivalry. With a current series record of 52-24-1, FAMU leads the overall tally, but the teams have been evenly matched during the 26 games played in Orlando, each securing 13 victories.

This year's Classic reaffirmed its significance as a platform for showcasing not only athletic talent but also academic achievements and impactful community engagement.



*Vonda Richardson, Director- FAMU Extension*





**Photos:**

(Top row) Event participant and vendor, *Disney on the Yard*, presented attendees with goodies; Attendees at the FAMU Extension table, gathering program information and the trophy of the Florida Classic Champion. The title returned to Tallahassee, as the Florida A&M Rattlers were victorious over the Bethune Cookman Wildcats, 41-38.

(Bottom Row) Kimberly Davis, Dr. Dreamal Worthen, Vonda Richardson and Conchita Newman answer question from attendees that gathered around the informational booth, highlighting the university's programs in 4-H Youth Development, Agricultural and Natural Resources, Community Resource Development and Youth, Family and Community.

*Photo credit: Amelia Davis*



# Florida Cooperative Extension Collaboration Trip to the Bahamas

Contributor: Linda Sapp and Amelia Davis

In Fall 2024, the Florida Cooperative Extension, represented by the FAMU Cooperative Extension Program (FAMU CEP) and UF/IFAS Extension, embarked on a collaborative trip to the Bahamas to strengthen ties and explore new opportunities for agricultural and educational partnerships.

The trip began with a pivotal meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Jomo Campbell, to discuss shared goals and strategies for advancing sustainable agriculture and community development.

On Friday morning, the team traveled to North Andros Island to visit the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) headquarters. The visit kicked off with breakfast and introductory presentations at the Bartad Building, followed by an extensive tour of the campus. The group explored BAMSI's facilities, including those dedicated to livestock, crops, aquaponics, and the packinghouse. BAMSI is renowned for offering programs in agriculture, marine science, natural resources, technology, and business management, with a mission to provide top-tier education, innovative technology, and technical training to inspire entrepreneurship and prepare students for successful careers.

On Saturday morning, the delegation visited the Lend A Hand Bahamas 4-H Community Center to engage with the local community. The visit included an introduction to the Bahamas 4-H Program and its initiatives. The team conducted a youth training session led by Marcus Boston, Director, Leon Country Extension, followed by adult training and orientation sessions. Discussions focused on exploring potential partnerships and collaboration opportunities to support youth development and community engagement in the Bahamas.

This collaborative trip showcased the commitment of Florida Cooperative Extension to building international partnerships, sharing expertise, and empowering communities through education, research, and sustainable practices.

Below are just a few snapshots of scenes from the Florida Cooperative Extension trip, showcasing collaboration in action.



**Minister of Agriculture, Jomo Campbell**



**The FAMU CEP and UF/IFAS 4-H team prepare for a tour at Lend A Hand Bahamas 4-H Community Center.**







**Dr. Andra Johnson (Dean, UF/IFAS) and Dr. Norma Samuel (UF/IFAS) at Lend A Hand Bahamas 4-H Community Center.**



**Lend A Hand Bahamas 4-H Community Center**



Florida Cooperative Extension team members engaging with local Lend A Hand Bahamas 4-H



BAMSI representative, presents at the workshop.



*Photo credit: Linda Sapp*

Ready to embark on a collaborative journey of learning and partnership.

# Empowering Youth Through Grant Writing: My Farmer-to-Farmer Volunteer Experience in Jamaica

Contributor: Carmen Lyttle-N'Guessan, Ph.D.



Dr. N'Guessan with student trainees, young farmers, 4-H Coordinators and representative from the Farmer To-Farmer program.

Last fall, Dr. Carmen Lyttle-N'Guessan from FAMU Cooperative Extension traveled to Jamaica through the Partners of the Americas Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program. During her visit, she trained young farmers in grant proposal writing. Here's a recap of her experience:

I had the distinct honor and privilege of volunteering with the Partners of the Americas, Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) program in Jamaica from October 20 to November 3, 2024. My assignment as a Grant Fund Proposal Specialist involved training youth on how to write successful grant proposals. The goal was to build capacity and create opportunities to expand the value chain, particularly for at-risk youth.

It was inspiring to witness the collaboration and partnerships across various departments that came together to host this workshop. This kind of cooperation is crucial for conducting a needs assessment and launching an effective program. I'm thrilled to share that the training was a resounding success!

The program began with a presentation on conducting a needs assessment, a critical step I strongly recommend before launching any initiative. Identifying the most pressing needs allows for the efficient allocation of limited resources and ensures the greatest impact.



Dr. N'Guessan with student young farmers.





To measure the training's effectiveness, I administered knowledge tests before and after each session. The results were encouraging—post-training scores showed a more than 10% increase in the mean score, with the median score improving from 70% to 90%, and the mode score jumping from 70% to 100%.

This experience was both teachable and learnable. The participants, especially the young farmers, were eager to absorb knowledge and apply it to grow their businesses. Their enthusiasm and creativity were remarkable, and their project ideas were truly inspiring.

This assignment drew on my expertise in grant writing, data science, agribusiness, education, workshop facilitation, communication, and project management. I encourage future volunteers to approach their assignments with an open mind, flexibility, adaptability, and creativity. In settings with limited internet access, leveraging the participants' real-life experiences can provide valuable insights and enhance workshop outcomes.

The youth farmers I worked with were incredibly bright, full of innovative ideas for expanding their businesses. With the support and resources they've gained, I'm confident they will achieve great things.

This was my second time volunteering with the Farmer-to-Farmer program, and both experiences have been extraordinary. I deeply appreciate the remarkable hospitality and support I received from Ms. Marsha Johnson, Jamaica's F2F Director; Mr. Howard Williams, F2F Field Officer; and all the training hosts, including the 4H Foundation, 4H Clubs, Education Development Center, RADA Westmoreland, and many other collaborators.

If you're considering volunteering with youth and farmers, I highly encourage you to connect with the USAID Partners of the Americas, Farmer-to-Farmer program. It's a rewarding experience that makes a meaningful impact.

For more information, visit: [Partners of the Americas Farmer-to-Farmer Program](#)



Photos: (Top to bottom): Dr. N'Guessan conducts her presentation to the class of trainees; Dr. N'Guessan with one of the youth farmers in the program and Dr. N'Guessan with 4-H students in the program.

*Photo credit: Carmen Lyttle-N'guessan. Ph.D.*





# Community Garden Day Schedule

## Coleman Park

1116 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

**Tuesdays, 9 am– 11 am**

January 14, 28  
February 4, 18  
March 4, 18

## Pleasant City

2147 Spruce Ave  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

**Thursday, 2 pm– 4 pm**

January 9, 16  
February 13, 27  
March 13, 27

# Saturday Garden Schedule

### Coleman Park

January 25-*“National Seed Swap Day”*: 9 am—Noon  
February 22 : 9 am– Noon

### Pleasant City

March 22: 9 am– Noon

For more information, contact organizer, Tavia Gordon at [tavia.gordon@famu.edu](mailto:tavia.gordon@famu.edu).





1890



2025



*135 Years of Providing Access and Enhancing Opportunities*



*In 1890, the Land-grant University System was expanded to include institutions for Black citizens. Today, these institutions continue to provide access to higher education for underserved communities, and their research and Extension programs impact people worldwide through advancements in agricultural productivity and sustainability, food security, human health, and community and youth development.*

# FAMU Cooperative Extension Honors 36 Outstanding Students for Academic Excellence

Contributor: Conchita Newman



The pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. R.B. Holmes, Jr. recognizes the students for their academic excellence.

On Sunday, January 26, 2025, the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) recognized the achievements of 36 exceptional honor roll students during a special ceremony at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida.

Led by Reverend Dr. R.B. Holmes, Jr., Pastor, and Reverend Dr. Michael Fegins, Associate Pastor, the event highlighted the students' dedication to academic excellence. CEP Director Ms. Vonda Richardson, 4-H Program Leader Mrs. Conchita Newman, Family and Youth Program Leader Dr. Dreamal Worthen, and FAMU Professor Dr. Keith Parker applauded the honorees, emphasizing the vital role of family, community, and the Cooperative Extension Program in their success.

To inspire continued learning, each student received special gifts, including 4-H and CAFS-related materials, along with age-appropriate STEM experiments to take home.

**Congratulations to the honorees of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church!**



Bethel's 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Scholars

# CONGRATULATIONS

## HONOR ROLL

### Elementary

- † Heiress Clark
- † Aria Crittenden
- † Grace Desir
- † Joy Desir
- † Sahar Fletcher
- † Victoria Fletcher
- † Noah Holmes
- † Lauryn Jackson
- † Shan'ya Jackson
- † Imani Mango
- † Caleb Charlie Nichols
- † Alyssa Pollard
- † London Pompey
- † Chance Waters
- † De'ja Wimbley\*

### Middle

- † Chairein Gilyard
- † Karis Golden
- † London Holmes
- † Serenity Jackson
- † Donovan Parrish
- † Destinee\* Pompey
- † Brysen Slocumb

### High School

- † Tianna Battle
- † Wynton Bowers
- † Cason Golden
- † Madison Hodge
- † Kalela Jackson
- † Sydney Jackson
- † Mariah Kelly
- † Christian Menchion
- † Kellen Menchion
- † Solomon Osborne
- † Kadira Talte
- † Mekhi Thehwell
- † Brooklyn Townsend\*

\*Edited: 12/01/2024



Photos courtesy of Conchita Newman and Vonda Richardson

# South Florida Fair: Florida Ag-Exploration

FAMU Extension Booth – Good Bugs, Bad Bugs

Contributor: Linda Sapp and Tavia Gordon



Ag Exploration Experience attendees at the FAMU Extension display table; Tavia Gordon and Linda Sapp, explaining the insects and other display items, to the students.

**West Palm Beach, FL-** Tuesday, January 21, 2025, marked an exciting kickoff to the Ag-Exploration experiences for students at the South Florida Fair. The day was filled with smiles, curiosity, and plenty of learning opportunities, leaving students with memories to cherish.

Participants discovered the fascinating world of beneficial insects, including pollinators like honeybees and butterflies, as well as predators like ladybird beetles. They also explored the concept of *Entomophagy*—the practice of eating insects—learning that insects can serve as a sustainable and protein-rich alternative to traditional animal protein sources.

The FAMU Extension/FAMU Extension West Palm Beach team continued to engage fairgoers on January 24–25 at the Livestock Show Arena, located next to the Agri-Plex Pavilion.

A special THANK YOU , to all those that came by and enjoyed the fun!



BBQ Flavored Mopani Worms





**Photos**

First Row: Poster displaying edible bugs; Linda Sapp giving students a chance to touch Madagascar hissing cockroach; Teacher sampling an edible insect (cricket).

Second Row: (left to right) Nyota, Linda & Tavia at the South Florida Fair: Ag Exploration Experience, Good Bugs, Bad Bugs Station; Student eager to answer question and Tavia and Linda quizzing students about good and bad bugs.

Third Row: Handful of edible bugs (bar-b-que Mopani worms, cooked and dehydrated mix bugs seasoned with salt- grasshoppers, crickets, mole crickets, silkworm larvae).

Photo Credit: Linda Sapp, Nyota King-Sangyang and Tavia Gordon.



# FAMU Extension Shines at the Florida State Fair in Tampa, Florida

Contributor: Conchita Newman



Dr. Neil James (FAMU), Dr. Dreamal Worthen (FAMU), Dr. Andra Johnson (UF/IFAS), Conchita Newman (FAMU) and Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, (UF/IFAS) take some time to connect at the Ag Hall of Fame building at the Florida State Fair.

Florida A&M University (FAMU) Cooperative Extension was proudly present and fully engaged at the Florida State Fair from February 6–17, 2025. The event kicked off with the Fresh from Florida breakfast on February 6, hosted by the agriculture community and the Florida State Fair Authority. Representing FAMU Extension, 4-H, and FCS, Program Leaders Conchita Newman and Dr. Dreamal Worthen, along with Dr. Neil James, Associate Dean of Academic Programs for the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences, showcased the university's wealth of resources. Their display included 4-H highlights, extension magazines, FAMU 4-H and Extension swag, and informative booklets detailing the impact and reach of FAMU Extension programs.

Throughout the event, FAMU representatives had the privilege of meeting and engaging with Florida 4-H youth representatives and fellow extension professionals. Among them were Dr. Andra Johnson, Dean of UF/IFAS Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, and Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, Associate Dean and Assistant Director for Extension and State Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources. FAMU was also honored to meet Mr. Wilton Simpson, Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture.



The excitement continued as the fair officially opened, bringing hands-on experiences to the community. 4-H Program Assistant Terrance Cole, EFNEP Program Assistant Taylor Newman, and volunteer Mochieyeveon Hobbs, a fourth-year FAMU political science major, welcomed youth and local residents at the TECO Arena. They provided engaging, hands-on STEM activities, creating an interactive and educational environment for all visitors.

The days that followed were filled with impactful programs highlighting STEM education, nutrition education, emergency management, and other essential extension initiatives. CRD and 4-H Extension Faculty members Linda Sapp and Sabrina Hayes, along with Program Assistants Thailer Jones and Crystalgale Hunter, extended warm welcomes to youth as they visited the FAMU booth, ensuring an enriching experience for all attendees.

FAMU Extension and 4-H remain committed to fostering knowledge, innovation, and community engagement. This year's Florida State Fair was yet another reminder of the vital role extension programs play in shaping the future of agriculture, education, and youth development. We look forward to continuing this tradition and inspiring the next generation of leaders



Taylor Newman (EFNEP Program Assistant), Mochieyeveon Hobbs (FAMU student and volunteer) and Terrance Cole (4-H Program Assistant).



Terrance Cole (4-H Program Assistant) and Linda Sapp (Extension Agent).

Photos:: Conchita Newman



# Event CALENDAR








# January 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Cold Weather Preparedness Month			1  New Year's Day	2	3	4
			Winter Break-University Closed			
5	6 University Opens	7	8	9 FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day	10	11
12	13	14 FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day	15	16 FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day	17	18 Stress Free Saturday Event Havana Public Library 10 am - 12 pm
19	20 Dr. MLK Jr. Day- Observed	21	22	23	24	25 Tropicana Public Speaking Contest  Ready, Set Go 4-H Workshop (BAERS) FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day
AG-Exploration- @South Florida Fair- West Palm Beach, FL						
26	27	28 FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day	29	30	31	





# February 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<p><b>American Heart Health Month</b></p> <p><b>National Children's Dental Health Month</b></p> <p><b>National Cancer Prevention Month</b></p> <p><b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b></p>					1
2	3	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 5px;">FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day</div> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">World Cancer Day</div>	5	6	7 <b>National Black HIV/AIDS</b> 	8
Florida State Fair-Tampa, Florida						
9	10	11	12	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day</div>	14 <b>Happy Valentine's Day</b> 	15
Florida State Fair- Tampa, Florida						
Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week						
16	17	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day</div>	19	20	21	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">FAMU Harambee Festival</div> Ready, Set Go 4-H Workshop (BAERS) 
Florida State Fair-Tampa, FL						
23	24	25	26	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day</div>	28	



# March 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
<p><b>National Nutrition Month</b></p> <p><b>Women History Month</b></p>						
2	3	4 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">                     FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day                 </div>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">                     FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day                 </div>	14	15
16	17	18 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">                     FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day                 </div> National Ag Day	19	20 World Oral Health Day	21	22 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">                     FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day                 </div>
<b>Severe Weather Awareness Week</b>						
23	24 National Women in Ag Day	25  4-H Day at the Capitol	26	27 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">                     FAMUExt/WPB Community Garden Day                 </div>	28	29  Ready, Set Go 4-H Workshop (BAERS)
<b>Small Farms Week</b>						
30	31					





FOURTH ANNUAL

# FLORIDA EMANCIPATION

**DAY** a family reunion & FAMU Farm Fest  
**SAT., MAY 17 • 10 AM – 5 PM**

Fun for the Whole Family • History • Tours • Demonstrations  
Agri-Showcase • Health Expo • Entertainment • Food • Music

On May 20, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was announced in Tallahassee, Florida. Join the Tampa Bay History Center and the Florida A&M University Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station for a day of healthy family fun celebrating history and agriculture!

## Chinsegut Hill Historic Site

22495 Chinsegut Hill Rd., Brooksville, FL

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT  
Fred Hearn, Curator of Black History at  
(813)545-3183 or [fhearns@tampabayhistorycenter.org](mailto:fhearns@tampabayhistorycenter.org)

EXHIBITORS/VENDORS: CONTACT  
Cheryl Danley, FAMU Extension Agent at  
(313)492-3496 or [cheryl.danley@famuedu](mailto:cheryl.danley@famuedu)

CHINSEGUT  
HILL  
HISTORIC SITE

A TAMPA BAY HISTORY CENTER  
PARTNERSHIP

**FAMU** | FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

## **2025 HIGH TUNNEL WORKSHOP**

**APRIL  
15  
2025**

**9:00 AM—2:00 PM**

**FAMU Research and  
Extension Center  
4259 Bainbridge Highway  
Quincy, FL 32352**

**Admission: \$10 per person**

**RSVP required**

**Call (850) 875-8555 to reserve your  
spot.**

This workshop is designed for small and urban farmers, including sustainable and organic specialty crop producers, as well as individuals interested in growing fruits and vegetables in high tunnels.

If you require a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act (ADAA), please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs at (850) 599-3076 at least 10 working days prior to the start of the event.





FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

1740 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
Suite 215 Perry -Paige South  
Tallahassee, Florida 32307



**REACHING. TEACHING. SERVING.**