

# ***EXTENSION* STRIKES**

Volume 7, Issue 2

QUARTERLY OUTREACH MAGAZINE

Spring 2018

**The “Butterfly Effect” for Florida Gardens**

**Tuskegee University Host the 2018 National  
Goat Conference**

**A Timeline of FAMU’s Ag moments**

**Rattlers Striking Abroad**



This is the FAMU Cooperative Extension Program quarterly update. We remain dedicated to providing research-based information and direct technical assistance for small farmers, rural and urban families, seniors, youth, entrepreneurs, small business owners and underserved communities.

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**Extension Strikes**  
Spring 2018 Edition, Volume 7, Issue 2

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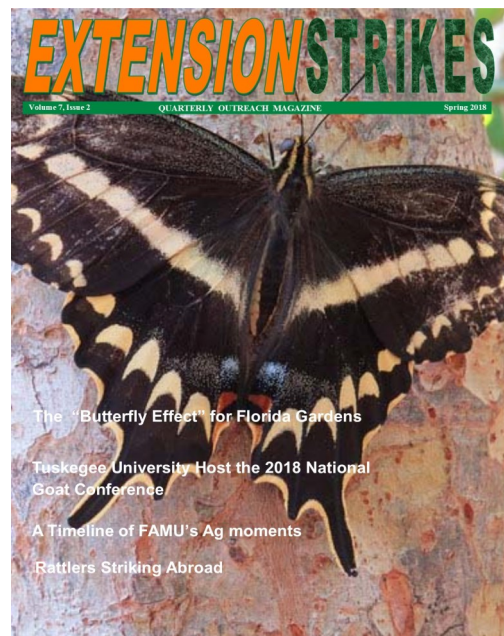
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# Years of Tradition

A timeline of noteworthy moments and snapshots in agriculture at Florida A&M University.

1935



Local farmers and their families, with Florida A&M University's President J.R.E. Lee, in front of what is now, Lee Hall .

1950's



FAMU's Dairy Barn. Tallahassee, Florida

1957



FAMU students visiting USDA representatives.

1963



National Home Demonstration Agents Conference at Perry Paige Building on the campus of FAMU.

1965



FAMU faculty working in the milking room at the FAMU Dairy barn.

1986



A student at the newly created FAMU Community Garden



# The Butterfly Effect

## On Florida Gardens

OPINION | By: Amelia C. Davis

Springtime is here...finally, but with warm weather comes insects, especially here in North Florida. However, one of the most beautiful insects I look forward to seeing are butterflies. Now, I would like to point out that I do not consider myself an avid lover of butterflies nor do I claim to know everything there is to know about them. Simply put...I like pretty things and butterflies are...well, they are 'pretty'. Actually... they are a bit whimsical, if we are being honest. I love to see the beautiful, bold colors and designs on their wings ..yet I wonder, what's exactly their purpose, besides being another one of God's amazing creations. Are they a friend or foe, to our gardens?



Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

We all know butterflies don't start out as 'butterflies' but actually eggs. In order for me to get a better understanding, I reached out to, Sabina Hayes, FAMU Entomology Extension Agent, to enlighten me. Sabrina informed me that butterflies are found on every continent but Antarctica; the United States is home to about 700 different species and about 200 species in Florida. The butterfly has a 4-stage life cycle: egg, caterpillar (larvae), pupa and adult. After mating, females typically deposit their eggs on

the undersides of leaves, especially those that act as a food source for newly emerging caterpillars. It's important to note that tiny caterpillars cannot travel far to find their own food, so the female butterfly locates and lays her eggs on the type of plant that the caterpillar can use as food. Butterflies taste with their feet, which is where their taste sensors are located and by standing on their food, they can taste it to see if their caterpillars are able to eat it.

Interesting. So, I asked her, exactly how much do they eat? Is it a little nibble here and there; or is it enough to make me upset if I see tiny bites in my plants? She stated, caterpillars are voracious eaters, as they can gain about 2700 times their original weight (Ouch!) and their continuous eating can decimate plants in a short period of time. (*Side bar: This is where I would insert the 'angry face' emoji,, if I had one available. Anyway...back to the article.*)



Monarch butterflies migrating along the Florida Panhandle. Photo courtesy of [www.oneoworldtwofeet.com](http://www.oneoworldtwofeet.com)



Most people don't like to see their favorite plants with insect damage, but one way to deter your favorite plant damage is to place the host plants in areas not highly visible, and just a short distance from nectar plants.

However...all is not lost. The best-known pollinators may be honeybees and bumblebees, but there are countless of other insects that contribute to pollination. Some of the most beautiful and graceful insect pollinators are butterflies. Adult butterflies feed on the nectar of flowers, and act as pollinators. As the butterflies travel from one flower to another, they pollinate the plants, resulting in further development of plant species. Numerous plants rely on pollinators, such as butterflies, for reproduction. Ok,

now we are getting into the friend zone!



**Butterfly milkweed (*A. tuberosa*)**

After Goggling and reading so much on the internet about butterflies, I wondered are there certain plants here in North Florida, that specific butterflies feed off for survival? Well, to my surprise, I found information on the Monarch butterfly, which is one of the most easily recognized butterflies and well known for its long migration across North America.

Monarchs feed primarily on milkweed plants (*Asclepias species*). However, many butterfly experts believe that the spread of the non-native tropical milkweed may be causing monarch populations to persist longer than they naturally would, making them more vulnerable to OE and thus presenting a risk to other monarch populations. Encouraging monarchs to persist in areas where they would not normally overwinter also subjects them to devastating freezes. Thus, planting the non-native milkweed can have a

negative impact on the population of monarch butterflies. By planting native milkweed, particularly the correct native milkweed species for our area, we can help maintain a safe, healthy natural food source that monarchs have relied upon for thousands of years.

Wow! So basically it breaks down like this:

Butterflies indeed have a purpose. They not only serve as nature's "eye candy", but they are pollinators, just like bees, moths and others. However, as caterpillars, they will eat your plants (so take precaution). Just as they provide the natural beauty, they also need protecting. If you are in the North Florida region and want to make sure the butterflies are helping pollenate your plants, plant native milkweeds only, such as Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Butterfly Milkweed (*A. tuberosa*) and White /Aquatic Milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*); but stay away from Tropical Milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), as they provide negative side effects that can harm the butterfly population. Now that is what I call the '**butterfly effect**', to our gardens.

#### References:

Sabrina Hayes, FAMU Cooperative Extension Program, Entomology Extension Agent; ***Save Our monarch: Plant Native Milkweed***, <http://www.floridanativenurseies.org>. **Photo credit:** Photos courtesy of <http://www.homeguides.sfgate.com> and <http://www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats>

*Amelia Davis serves a Coordinator of Information and Publication Services, as well as creator/editor of Extension Strikes Quarterly Magazine for FAMU Cooperative Extension Program. If you have an idea or a subject you would like addressed in the magazine from FAMU Cooperative Extension Program, feel free to email her at [amelia.davis@famu.edu](mailto:amelia.davis@famu.edu).*



# Florida's Nature:

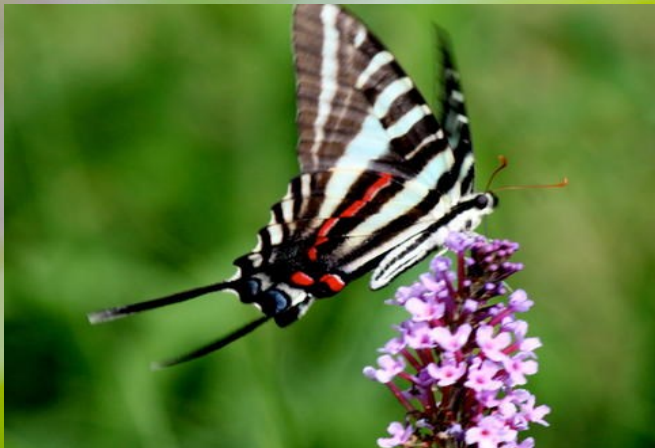
## Common butterflies found throughout the state



Zebra Longwing Butterfly - *Heliconius charitoni*



Gulf Fritillary - *Agraulis vanillae*



Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly - *Eurytides marcellus*



Julia Heliconian - *Dryas iulia*



White Peacock - *Anartia jatrophae*





**America Painted Lady**



**Barred Sulphur, wet season form**



**Banded Hairstreak**



**Buckeye, Common**



**Southern Dogface**



**Ceraunus Blue**



# FAMU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REACHES YOUTH THROUGH COMMUNITY GARDENING

By: Amelia C. Davis



**Wakulla County, Florida**, home of the Ochlocknee River State Park, San Marcos de Apache Historic State Park and the nationally known Wakulla Springs State Park, is a small county located south of the state capital of Tallahassee, Florida.

Nestle in the small city of Crawfordville, is the Wakulla One Stop Community Center, a place that proudly serves as the “*Extension of the Wakulla County Coalition for Youth, Inc.*” Over the past months, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) employees, Linda Sapp, Lester Gaskins, Freddie Harris and Trevor Hylton, along with the Community Center Coordinator, Herb Donaldson and Project Manager Supervisor, Pam Pilkinton, have created a vegetable and herb oasis that consist of hydroponics and raise bed gardens, producing a bountiful harvest of cherry tomatoes, eggplants, squash, purple kale, carrots and much more.



*Photos (Top to bottom): Community Garden sign, Fresh herbs growing in the raise bed ; Linda Sapp showing the cherry tomatoes that are growing, strawberries grown in the garden. (Photo credit: Amelia Davis, FAMU CEP)*





The crew installing a net covering for the second hydroponics system at the Wakulla One-stop “*Neighborhood Garden Patch*” Community Garden. The cover was added, to allow the vegetables that are growing in the hydroponics system, mostly green leafy vegetables, to have a chance to actually grow, without getting wilted or burned by the sun, due to the direct heat from the sun.

The garden was created to encourage youth involvement with gardening and sustainability, while promoting effective physical outdoor activities. The community garden consist of two hydroponics systems set up, which are surrounded by 10 raise bed gardens. The garden is flanked by two sitting benches, constructed and painted by the students at Wakulla High School.

If you are ever in the area, feel free to stop by and take in the beauty of the garden; Wakulla One Stop Community Center is located at 318 Shadeville Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 and Mr. Donaldson and Mrs. Pilkinton can be reached at (850)745-6042 or check out the website at <http://www.wakullaonestopcommunitycenter.com/>



The crew: Lester Gaskins, Pam Pilkinton, Linda Sapp, Herb Donaldson, Freddie Harris and Trevor Hylton, after completion of installing the netting cover for the second hydroponics system in the garden. (Photo credit: Amelia Davis)

The One Stop Community Center is an extension of the Wakulla County Coalition for Youth, Inc. (WCCY) and is funded by the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida. They're partners with the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on behalf of Wakulla County citizens. The in house partners are NAMI, DISC Village, Department of Health, Wakulla County Public Library and Wakulla County Sheriff's Office. The WCCY takes a holistic view of the community, family, school, youth and peer groups. Of importance to the WCCY is the assurance that opportunities are being provided to youth, life skills are being strengthened, and youth are given support and recognition at home, in the community, and in school. The Coalition works across agency and provider networks serving youth to minimize risks and maximize the strength and resilience of Wakulla youth. The WCCY lays a strong foundation for what they to achieve.





## Forestry and Conservation Education (FACE) Summer Program

**June 18 - 29, 2018**

Perry Paige Building, Florida A&M University

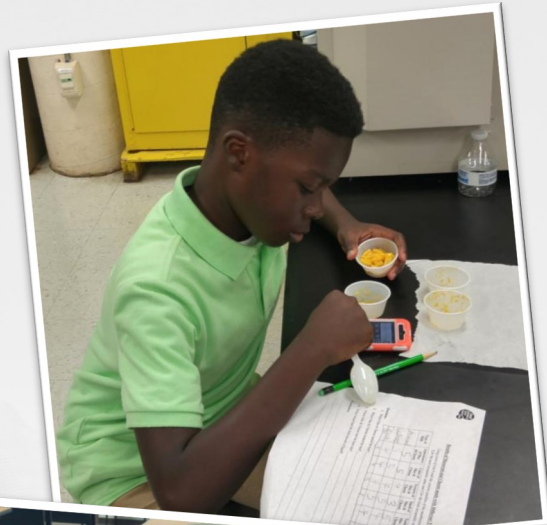
**Ages: 13-17 /Grades: 8-11th**

**Free program**

The Forestry and Conservation Education (FACE) Summer Program provides students an opportunity to explore careers related to forestry and natural resources. FACE participants will learn about a wide range of topics related to agriculture and natural resources including forestry, plants, water, soil, fish and wildlife.

This program promotes environmental stewardship and conservation.

For more information, contact Kimberly Davis at 850-412-6515 or at [kimberly.davis@famu.edu](mailto:kimberly.davis@famu.edu).



## SAVE THE DATE

July 15-20, 2018

AgTech Century 21

Summer Enrichment Program

For Teens: Ages 13-17

**Application Deadline: June 18, 2018**

Application available at:

[www.famu.edu/herds](http://www.famu.edu/herds)

[www.famu.edu/cafs](http://www.famu.edu/cafs)

College of Agriculture and Food Sciences  
Cooperative Extension Program

Contact:

Dr. Carmen Lyttle-N'guessan -(850) 412-5363

Cooperative Extension's Main Office- (850) 599-3546



# TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY HOSTS THE 3RD NATIONAL GOAT CONFERENCE THIS FALL

By: Samuel Barnes

On September 16 -18, 2018, the National Goat Consortium, along with various 1890 land grant institutions and state/federal agencies will host the 3rd National Goat Conference at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel & Spa and on the campus of Tuskegee University.

The conference is a result of a grant written by, Angela McKenzie-Jakes, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program (FAMU CEP) Small Ruminant Specialist whom submitted the proposal to the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) organization in 2009, which was later funded in 2010. The conference is held every three years, beginning in 2010 at Florida A & M University, located in Tallahassee, Florida; followed by the second in 2013 at North Carolina A&T State University, located in Greensboro, North Carolina. Sponsors of the event include The Association of Extension Administrator and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"With the increase of diversity in the United States, farmers are now providing meat for many different cultural traditions , religious practices and other purposes", said Angela McKenzie-Jakes. "The conference allow discussions of critical issues facing the goat industry, profitability and various methods for raising goats", she added.

"I really benefited from the speakers covering topics such as goat management, marketing and nutrition. If you do not know this stuff, goats can eat anything in the fields and as result, they become sick. So, in my opinion, these teachings are very important", stated Dr. Lawrence Carter, a Georgia goat farmer and Director of Outreach Programs at FAMU CEP.

Speakers will also cover topics; such as pasture management, herd health and reproduction management. There's also hands-on training workshops, flying demonstrations with remote control drones, and steps on how to train guard dogs for livestock.

If you would like to get more information on this upcoming event or have questions regarding registration, feel free to contact Mrs Jakes at (850) 875-8552 or Nar Gurung at (334) 727-8457.



## National Goat Conference

**September 16-18, 2018**

**Hosted by Tuskegee University (TU), Tuskegee, Alabama**

**Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa and the TU Caprine Research and Education Center**

**Keynote speaker: Dr. Mahendra Lohani , Heifer International**

**Presentations:** Topics covering Herb Health, Nutrition and Pasture Management, Marketing, Reproduction, Hands-on training and much more. Over 20 partnering organizations, including 15 1890 land-grant institutions.

**Early registration is available at <http://www.famu.edu/goats>. Click on *National Goat Conference*.**

For more information, contact Nar Gurung [ngurung@tuskegee.edu](mailto:ngurung@tuskegee.edu) / (334) 727-8457 or Angela McKenzie-Jakes at [angela.mckenzie@famu.edu](mailto:angela.mckenzie@famu.edu)/ (850) 875-8552.



*Volunteers:*

## The heartbeat of the community

[illegible]

*“Alone we can do so little:  
together we can do so  
much”*

-Helen Keller

Volunteers are considered the essential resource for most organizations, ranging from nonprofits to membership organizations; but did you know that volunteering is also healthy for you? Finding the right match, can help you to reduce stress, find friends, reach out to the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career. Giving to others can also help protect your mental and physical health, as for some people, it keeps them mentally stimulated, and provides a sense of purpose.

At the FAMU Research and Extension Center (REC), also known as the FAMU Farm, our volunteers are more than “volunteers”, they are integral parts of the progression made in various research projects conducted on the farm. Whether its planting, harvesting or assisting our researchers, each person plays a vital part.

Melvin Payne, Jr, a retired engineer from South Florida, is also a volunteer at the center and a FAMU alumnus, Class of 1975 of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. “After retiring as a Engineer Manager with the Miami International Airport, my family moved back to Leon county and we were able to attend the 2017 FAMU Farm Fest”, stated Mr. Payne. “I asked if any volunteers were needed on the farm and was told there were opportunities. They welcomed me with open arms”, he added. I asked Mr. Payne what does he like about volunteering at the farm? “Its serene”, he added. “The farm is very relaxing and I get to enjoy it, but also get the chance to learn more about farming”. Mr. Payne informed me that he recently purchased 18 ½ acres of land and volunteering here will definitely help him with his farming activities.



Melvin Payne Jr, FAMU Alumnus '75 and volunteer at the FAMU REC, working on the hydroponic system's organic strawberries.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, especially if you are new to an area, or if you are just returning to an old stomping ground. It strengthens your ties to the community and broadens your support network, exposing you to people with common interests, neighborhood resources, and fun and fulfilling activities.

Along with Mr. Payne, the center is very grateful to have other volunteers ranging from current students in the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) to retirees...that tireless give their time and work hours with the staff, under the direction of Dr. Alex Bolques, Assistant Director of the FAMU REC and Ms. Fanny Ospina, Research Assistant. On behalf of FAMU Cooperative Extension Program, we would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to our volunteers! Each and every one of you are greatly appreciated.

If volunteering is something that you may have interest in and you live in the surrounding area, feel free to reach out to Dr Bolques or Ms. Ospina at 850-875-8555.



FAMU REC's volunteers take a break for a photo op, with FAMU CEP Research Assistant, Fanny Ospina.

Pictured: Preston, Fanny, Sadie Jones and Menia Chester.

#### References

*Volunteer and its Surprising Benefits*, <http://www.helpguide.org>

Photos courtesy of Fanny Ospina/FAMU REC. All photos taken at the FAMU REC



# Franklin Family Rejuvenates the Dying Art of *Syrup-Making*



Mr. Amos Franklin (middle, with hat) is surrounded by his sons, Craig, Tony and Jeffery Franklin.

Sugarcane is a sub-tropical and tropical crop that prefers a lot of sun and water, thus making it ideal to grow in Florida and other southern states. Converting this crop into delicious sugar cane syrup takes patience, skill, and a deep appreciation of farmers that take the time to plant and harvest this crop. One local family, the Franklin Family, takes pride in this art and have been doing it for years. The head of the family, Mr. Amos Franklin, 83, has been making sugar cane syrup for over 60 years. He was taught as a child by his grandparents, John and Emmeline Franklin and has passed on this tradition to his children and grandchildren. This is a family affair that includes: Mrs. Ranzie Mae, wife of Amos Franklin of 60 years; sons Jeffrey, Tony, Craig and (son-in-law) Bobby T., and daughters Sandra, Jackie, Valerie, Aquila and May. Located in

southern Leon County, Mr. Franklin sons, have been making syrup for over 25 years on the Franklin's Farm.

*This is a  
generational  
movement  
that must be  
passed down.*

The Franklin Family's delicious sugar cane syrup was highlighted and sampled at the FAMU Cooperative Extension Program's Farm Field Day in October 2017. Lawrence Carter, PhD, FAMU CEP Director of Outreach Programs and long time friend of the Franklins, introduced Gadsden County Extension Agent, Mr. DJ Wiggins to the Franklins. Mr. Wiggins recruited the Franklins to make sugar-cane syrup for the annual farm field day, using sugarcane that was grown and harvested at the FAMU Research and Extension Center, in Quincy, FL. The syrup was a huge hit with attendees and sparked interest in how local farmers can get into making sugar cane syrup and the process. When asked about the process, Tony, son of Amos, broke it down:

*"The entire process takes about five to seven hours; it takes about two hours to grind the sugarcane stalks, three hours to cook the juice in the kettle, and a couple of hours to cool. The skimming of the cane juice is required throughout the cooking process to help cleaned the syrup. It is best to let the syrup cool for a few hours before jarring."*

Tony Franklin, has passed on the craft of syrup making to his grandchildren: Kabreona, Matthew, and Delscena. This is a family tradition, that can be passed on to future generations and contribute to the community.

*-Amelia Davis and ZaDarreya 'DJ' Wiggins*



FAMU Gadsden County Extension Agent, DJ Wiggins, explains the parts of a sugar cane stalk, at the 2017 FAMU CEP Farm Field Day



# Making Sugarcane Syrup



Grinding the sugarcane through the grinding machine, powered by a lawnmower.



Up-close look at the sugarcane going through the grinder and filter, making the sugarcane juice



Skimming (debris) removed from the kettle to the bucket. The syrup is being removed from the kettle to the barrel for cooling.



Dipping cane syrup from the kettle into the cooling barrel is needed.



Finished Product: Sugar Cane Syrup

*Photos courtesy of Tony and Valerie Franklin*

**Land-Grant Today**, an agricultural based television show, sponsored by the FAMU College of Agriculture and Food Sciences, hosted by Dr. Jaime Davis, will feature the Franklin Family Farm and will show the process of sugarcane syrup making in Fall 2018.



# FAMU Students Engage in International Agriculture Research for Hands-on Service Learning in the Dominican Republic, Mexico

By Harriett Paul and Cynthia M. Portalatín

Five Florida A&M University (FAMU) students will travel to the Dominican Republic (DR) this summer to gain hands-on experience in international, agricultural careers as part of their Service Learning in International Agriculture course, offered through the university's Global Agriculture minor.

"We are excited to partner with USDA to increase the participation of our agriculture graduates from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) into Foreign Service career tracks with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)," says Harriett Paul, Director of FAMU's OIAP and Center for International Agricultural Trade Development Research and Training.

Paul leads the 1890 USDA Center of Excellence in International Engagement and Development (Center), Global Agriculture Program (GAP) through which highly motivated students in good academic standing are exposed to opportunities to prepare for Foreign Service careers with the USDA through the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service – International Services (APHIS-IS) and the Foreign Agriculture Services (FAS).

The Center recently engaged four FAMU College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) students in the inaugural 1890 Universities Foundation Washington, D. C. Study Tour for Agricultural Diplomats:

- Rachel Fernandez, junior Animal Science major
- Johnesha Jackson, junior Animal Science major
- Greg McNealy, graduate studies Agribusiness major
- Halimah Wynn junior Agronomy major

They travelled to Washington D.C., to learn first-hand about the work of the APHIS-IS, FAS and the State Department.

These students, along with Jorge Del'Angel, a junior Biological Engineering Systems major, will also participate in a two-week international service learning experience to the DR May 28 - June 10, where they will work with APHIS-IS, FAS and local public and private sector organizations on improving the quality and safety of horticultural products exported to Europe and the US. This activity is the experiential component of their summer AGG 4952 "Service Learning in International Agriculture" team-taught course and is part of the GAP student and faculty engagement.

A third opportunity has been offered this summer to four FAMU students who will engage in online courses and webinar workshops, through Virginia State University, that will focus on MexFly and Screw worm sterile fly release techniques. As part of this activity, students will visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to experience the Pest Quarantine and Trade and Export Centers in Sacramento, California. They will also travel to Mexico to learn about the biological factors, such as food and livestock pests, that affect the quality and safety of crops and livestock products of interest to FAS, thereby evaluating their effect on Global Food Security and Biosecurity.

For more information on the 1890-USDA Center of Excellence Program and the Global Agriculture Minor at FAMU, contact Ms. Harriett A. Paul at (850) 599-8867 or [harriett.paul@famu.edu](mailto:harriett.paul@famu.edu).

*Harriet Paul ( [harriet.paul@famu.edu](mailto:harriet.paul@famu.edu)) serves as Director and Cynthia Portalatin ( [cynthia.portalatin@famu.edu](mailto:cynthia.portalatin@famu.edu)) serves as Program Coordinator of International Agriculture Programs in the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences at Florida A&M University.*



Florida A&M University students (from left) Rachel Fernandez, junior Animal Science major; Halimah Wynn, junior Agronomy major; Johnesha Jackson, junior Animal Science major; Greg McNealy, graduate studies Agribusiness major; and Jorge Del'Angel, (not pictured) junior Biological Systems Engineering major will travel to the Dominican Republic this summer as part of the experiential component of this summer's AGG 4952 "Service Learning in International Agriculture" team-taught course.



(From left) Johnesha Jackson, junior Animal Science major; Halimah Wynn, junior Agronomy major; Travis K. Chapin, University of Florida State Specialized Extension Agent; Harriett Paul, Director, CAFS Office of International Agriculture; Rachel Fernandez, junior Animal Science major; Neil James, Ph.D., CAFS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs/Student Support; and Jorge Del'Angel, junior Biological Systems Engineering major during Chapin's guest lecture held May 16th as part of the AGG 4952 "Service Learning in International Agriculture" team-taught course.



**AGG 4952**  
**Service Learning in**  
**International Agriculture**



**Dominican Republic 2018**



FUN | FAMILY | FOOD | FITNESS

#FAMUgrapefest

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

# GRAPE HARVEST FESTIVAL

2018



August 25, 2018

FAMU CENTER FOR VITICULTURE AND SMALL FRUIT RESEARCH  
6361 MAHAN DRIVE • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308  
8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

[WWW.FAMU.EDU/GHF](http://WWW.FAMU.EDU/GHF)





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# BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS LOANS



America's next generation of farmers and ranchers are supported through FSA's "Beginning Farmer" direct and guaranteed loan programs. Farm Ownership loans can provide access to land and capital. Operating loans can assist beginning farmers in become prosperous and competitive by helping to pay normal operating or family living expenses; open doors to new markets and marketing opportunities; assist with diversifying operations; and so much more. Through the Microloan programs, beginning farmers and ranchers have an important source of financial assistance during the start-up years.



*Photos courtesy of FAMU Office of Communications.*

While FSA is fully committed to all farmers and ranchers, there is a special focus on the particular credit needs of farmers and ranchers who are in their first 10 years of operation. Each year, FSA targets a portion of its lending by setting aside a portion of all loan funds for financing beginning farmer and rancher operations. With the single exception of the Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan, the Beginning Farmer classification is not related to a type of loan program; it references a specific, targeted funding source.

## **A beginning farmer is defined as one who:**

- Has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
- Does not own a farm or ranch greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county as determined by the most current Census for Agriculture at the time the loan application is submitted
- Meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying - Farm Operating Loan, Farm Ownership Loan, or Microloan
- Substantially participates in the operation

Being a beginning farmer is one of the requirements to be eligibility for the Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan. Down Payment loan funds may be used only to partially finance the purchase of a family farm. Loan applicants must contribute a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the purchase price of the farm and the Agency will finance 45 percent to a maximum loan amount of \$300,000. The balance of the purchase price not covered by the down payment loan and the loan applicant's down payment may be financed by a commercial lender private lender, a cooperative, or the seller.

We encourage you to contact your local office or USDA Service Center to learn more about our programs. You also should be able to find a listing in the telephone directory in the section set aside for governmental/public organizations under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. Your local FSA office staffs are happy to help you.

Information courtesy of <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>



# What is a CSA?



CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture) are gaining momentum, fueled by an increasing demand for local food and a desire to reconnect with nature and the farmers who grow the crops. Basically, CSAs are a partnership between farmers and consumers. In conventional agriculture, the farmer bears all the risk of production, but CSAs allow farmers to share farming's risks and rewards with consumers.

CSAs revolve around a community of people who pledge their financial support to a farm. At the beginning of the growing season, members pay a fee to cover the cost of the farm's operations and

the farmer's salary. In return, each member receives a weekly share of the farm's bounty, typically a box that might include fresh vegetables, herbs, fruit, honey, eggs and meat. For farmers, CSAs offer a fair, steady source of income and a way to revitalize the small family farm. Consumers get fresh produce grown in a sustainable manner by someone they know and trust.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) maintains a list of CSAs throughout Florida, but, because CSAs are not required to register with us, the list is not a complete one. Being listed does not imply that a CSA is endorsed, approved or otherwise sanctioned by FDACS.

## Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) in Florida

County	Name	City	Telephone
Alachua	Franklin Farm and Trading Company	Alachua	(352) 354-5111
	Frog Song Organics, L.L.C.	Hawthorne	(352) 468-3816
	Kumarie's Organic Garden	Alachua	(352) 381-1885
	Nix Sustainable Natural Beef Farm	Gainesville	(305) 205-3036
		Gainesville	(352) 331-1804
	Plowshares CSA		
	Swallowtail Farm	Alachua	(352) 318-4164
	The Family Garden	Gainesville	
Brevard	R and B Organic Farms	Merritt Island	(321) 243-0719
Charlotte	Worden Farm	Punta Gorda	(941) 637-4874
Hernando	Rabbits Etc.	Masaryktown	(352) 796-0459
Leon	Orchard Pond Organics	Tallahassee	(828) 273-9251
	Ripe City Urban Farm	Tallahassee	(321) 945-1999
Manatee	Geraldson Community Farm	Bradenton	(941) 723-3252
Martin	Kai Kai Farm	Indiantown	(772) 597-1717
Miami-Dade	All Locally Grown Produce, LLC	Princeton	(305) 216-2336
	Bee Heaven Farm-Pikarco	Homestead	(305) 247-8650
	Seasons Farm Fresh	Miami	(305) 213-8087
	Tenna's Pride CSA	Homestead	(786) 243-1714
	Verde Community Farm and Market	Homestead	(305) 257-2005
Palm Beach	Farming Systems Research	Boynton Beach	(561) 638-2755
Polk	Bilbrey Family Farm	Auburndale	(863) 206-2900
Seminole	Sundew Gardens	Oviedo	(407) 430-2178
Sumter	Lee Farms	Webster	(352) 457-0148
Volusia	Hinckley's Fancy Metas	Lake Helen	(786) 671-1023





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