

FAMU

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

EXTENSION STRIKES

VACCINES FOR ALL

Fall 2021
Volume 9, Issue 4



Your quarterly update and look into what's going on at FAMU Cooperative Extension Program. We remain dedicated to reaching out to serve farmers, rural and urban families, elderly, youth, entrepreneurs, small business owners, and underserved communities.

FAMU Cooperative Extension

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400 West Orange Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301
(Opening Fall 2021)

Extension Strikes

Fall 2021 Edition, Volume 9, Issue 4

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<https://amplifier.org/campaigns/vaccinated/>

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Cover picture courtesy of amplifier.org winner artist Mary Akinlabi

JULY IS...



National Ice Cream Month

July is National Ice Cream Month, and you have Kentucky to thank! In 1984, Senator Walter Dee Huddleston of Kentucky introduced a resolution to proclaim the month of July 1984 National Ice Cream Month and the 15th of that month National Ice Cream Day.

Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law the same year, and the rest is history! Even though the bill only specified that July 1984 was National Ice Cream Month, the tradition carries on—much to our pleasure. (<https://nationaltoday.com/national-ice-cream-month/>)

AUGUST IS....



National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)

This annual observance highlights the importance of getting recommended vaccines throughout your life. You have the power to protect yourself and your family against serious diseases [like whooping cough, cancers caused by HPV, and pneumonia] through on-time vaccination.

During NIAM, FAMU Cooperative Extension encourages you talk to your doctor, nurse, or other healthcare professional to ensure [you, your child, your family] are up to date on recommended vaccines.

We also encourage you to visit CDC's Interactive Vaccine Guide, which provides information on the vaccines recommended during pregnancy and throughout your child's life. Light the importance of vaccination for people of all ages.

As your children head back to school this fall, make sure vaccination is at the top of your checklist. August is also a key time to make sure you are up to date on all the vaccines you need to stay healthy. Use CDC's adult vaccine assessment tool to see which vaccines might be right for you. (cdc.gov)

SEPTEMBER IS...



National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is observed each September in the United States of America. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security, National Preparedness Month encourages Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities.

FEMA's Ready Campaign, the correlating public education outreach campaign, disseminates information to help the general public prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attack.

As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved this September.

Biden-Harris Administration Extends Eviction Moratorium for Homeowners



USDA Extends Eviction Moratorium for Homeowners to September 30, 2021

Press Release .0169.21

WASHINGTON, July 30, 2021 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today extended through Sept. 30, the eviction moratorium for homeowners of properties financed or guaranteed by USDA.

“The United States is still reeling from a nationwide housing affordability crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA is taking this important action today to allow individuals and families who face eviction from homes purchased with USDA Single-Family Housing loans more time to maintain safe and stable housing, whether it’s in their current homes, or by obtaining alternative housing options,” USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Justin Maxson said. “Actions like the one we’re announcing today are part of President Biden’s strategy to ensure a stable and equitable recovery from the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic and will provide continued protection for thousands of individuals and families in rural America.”

USDA also reminds servicers that the Single Family foreclosure moratorium will also expire on July 31. After this date, no new foreclosure filings should occur until homeowners are reviewed for new options to reduce their payments and stay in their homes. USDA released new COVID-19 Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program loss mitigation options on July 23.

Beyond Sept. 30, USDA will continue to support homeowners experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic by making loss mitigation options available to help keep them in their homes. Homeowners and renters can also visit www.consumerfinance.gov/housing for up-to-date information on their relief options, protections, and key deadlines from USDA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

COVID-19 has had a lasting impact on rural America. Families have lost their homes, students have resorted to unconventional solutions to access schoolwork online, the need for food assistance has grown, and access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations has been limited. The American Rescue Plan Act implements funding that invests in the people of rural America now and beyond the July 31 moratorium extension. It provides:

\$100 million through September 2022 in rental assistance for very-low-income tenants.

\$39 million in Budget Authority (BA) through September 2023 to help refinance direct loans under the Single-Family Housing Loan Program and the Single-Family Housing Repair Loan program.

\$500 million in Community Facilities Program funds to help rural hospitals and local communities broaden access to COVID-19 vaccines and food assistance.

In addition to programs facilitated by USDA, the American Rescue Plan Act provides significant investments into rural communities by expanding internet connectivity. It also establishes a homeowner assistance fund to assist struggling homeowners with mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, utilities and other housing-related costs.

To read the article in its entirety, please log onto <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/30/biden-harris-administration-extends-eviction-moratorium-homeowners>

#flashback

2012 Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference
Kissimmee, Florida



Top row: Livestock showcase of alpacas, dorper sheep and goat.

Second row: IFAS research graduate student shows display of plant cloning, vendors and educational displays.

Third row: FAMU Extension display, Perdue AgriRecycle display, Florida Farm Bureau display.

Last row: Nature Safe display, Palm Frond Sun Hats and the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense

Photos: Amelia Davis

Do Olive Trees Grow in



The answer is yes! At the FAMU Research and Extension Center (REC), located in Quincy, Florida, we have a grove of olive trees that were planted in 2018 by Dr. Alex Bolques. The grove has about 20-25 olive trees in various stages of maturity.

Olive trees are evergreen, with beautiful, silvery foliage and white flowers. Florida olive trees will generally bloom in April or May.

Olive fruits start out as green and will generally become a blackish-purple color when fully ripe; though some varieties will remain green and others turn a copper-brown color. The shape, size, and flavor characteristics can vary based on the variety of the cultivar.

You should begin to see fruit on your olive tree after three years. In terms of production, don't be surprised if your tree seems to take every other year off. Olives are described as alternate-year-bearing species and typically have a year of heavy fruit production followed by a year of lighter production.

(<https://www.citrus.com/blog/do-olive-trees-grow-in-florida/>)

Photos: Courtesy of Amelia Davis/ FAMU REC



If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it
to loved ones who may get very sick.
Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is
a safer choice.



vaccinated.



Tree Liability Issues

Contributors: Sam E. Hand, Jr. and Edwin R. Duke

If you own a home on a lot with large mature trees, it would be wise to give some thought to the health of your trees and whether they present any threat to persons or property which may result in a liability risk to you. This includes threats not only on your own property, but also to adjacent properties or public rights-of-way. To limit your personal liability, not only do you need to keep your trees healthy, but you have a duty under the law to manage them so they do not create or constitute a hazard to the public.

Traditionally, assigning liability for property damage or injuries caused by trees has depended on whether or not the accident was considered the result of an “Act of God” or from an act of “Negligence.” To avoid the charge of negligence, one must simply be reasonable. Simply stated, when a tree fails and results in property damage, personal injury, or death, the law looks to see if a reasonable person, acting with reasonable care, knew or should have known that a tree on his or her property had visible, apparent, and patent signs of internal decay, disease, or structural defect and could fall (or fail structurally). If so, then the landowner has a duty to exercise reasonable care to protect the public from danger. A reasonable person is not charged, however, with the knowledge or understanding of an expert trained in the inspection, care and maintenance of trees. The only duty imposed upon the landowner is to act reasonably.

In other words, if the problem with the tree was not one a “Layman” could reasonably be expected to be aware of, then the assumption was usually that the event was an “Act of God.” However, if the tree had obvious and observable defects that the owner had ignored, or the owner had done something to knowingly or carelessly render the tree unsafe, then liability could be assigned based on the owner’s negligence. This has not changed. But now, due to recent court rulings, the liability exposure of residential landowners with trees on the property has been significantly clarified as to the conditions on private property that may protrude into the public right-of-way, even though the trees may be quite sound and healthy.

For example, in the past, it was standard procedure for the owner of public streets, roads, highways and utility easements to be the responsible party for maintaining proper tree and sight clearances on the rights-of-way, including maintenance of interfering limbs originating from trees on adjacent properties owned by private individuals. While that responsibility may continue to exist depending on the circumstances, now, should one of your tree limbs be the cause of damage to a vehicle or its passengers, as a result of protruding or falling into the public right-of-way, you may well be held liable and responsible for failing to have acted reasonably in the maintenance of your residential land.

So what do you do to protect yourself from a tree related liability claim? There are several basic requirements that go beyond the two most common maintenance practices of watering and fertilizing. They may include, but are not limited to:

- Having a “documented inspection program” of your trees designed to identify any structural problems of the crown, trunk or roots. The “inspection” requirement may be a simple “Drive By” or “Walk Through” observation of the property. If no compromised trees are noted, simply making a note of the time and date you checked on your trees may be sufficient for “documentation.” If, however, defective trees are noted or something looks suspicious, then a more thorough review should be performed by a qualified person and the results noted.
- Removing hazardous weak trees or limbs noted in your inspection, or if possible correcting these deficiencies with appropriate structural remedies such as cabling.
- Pruning or removing limbs identified as diseased, dying, or dead to promote safety and the health of the tree. Weak limbs that cannot be corrected by pruning or cabling should be removed.
- Pruning or removing interfering or objectionable limbs that fail to provide safe sight distances and adequate vehicular clearances, limbs which may constitute a threat to vehicles or persons on public rights-of-way adjacent to your property.

While most people can maintain and avoid damaging the observable portion of the tree above ground, what about maintaining and protecting the hidden tree roots under the ground that you can't see, roots that keep the tree alive and anchor it structurally? Most trees in our Florida soils have a root zone that extends outward two to three times the height of the tree, generally growing in the top two feet of the soil (which is where the roots can find nutrients and oxygen). Obviously a root zone this close to the surface is very susceptible to damage from many common site improvements. Damage from construction operations such as homebuilding, installing irrigation, trenching for utilities, site grading, and many other operations can all cause root damage which may put your trees or trees on adjacent property at risk and make them unsafe.

So what should you do, or not do, in order to preserve and protect tree roots in a healthy and safe manner?

- First, when planning site activities that could damage or destroy a tree's roots, determine the tree's "Critical Root Zone" and protect it with a fenced barricade.
- Some municipalities have tree protection standards which define this area as "one foot of radius, from the tree's trunk, for each one inch of trunk diameter" (measured at four and one-half feet above the ground). This is the minimum "Critical" area as the more undisturbed root area you can protect, the better the chance of survival and structural anchoring. It is important to check your own local ordinances to be in compliance.
- Avoid "Root Raking" as a site clearing procedure whenever possible. "Root Raking" is just that: raking, or ripping the tree's roots out of the ground, often right up to the trunk of the tree causing major damage that can result in structural instability, decline, or death of the tree.
- Tunnel under the root zone rather than trenching through it. Even shallow trenches can cause major damage to large roots just under the surface, roots which provide structural support, water, and nutrients to the tree.
- Avoid chemical spills, including paints, solvents, and alkaline concrete tailing washed from cement mixers in the tree's root zone.
- Monitor soil moisture levels. Remember though, too much water can force air out of the soil and can "drown" your tree.
- Mulching two to three inches on top of the affected root zone will help to retain soil moisture.
- Placing soil fill or pavement over root zones can also suffocate your trees' roots by not allowing the soil to rid itself of excess carbon dioxide, a by-product of tree root respiration.
- Avoid soil compaction of the root zone. Storing fill dirt, vehicular driving and parking, heavy construction equipment, and the like can compact the soil to the extent that air and water may become unavailable to the roots for use by the tree. Even two or three trips with a loaded pickup truck can compact soil and crush roots to the point of causing root loss, tree decline, or even eventual death.

[Figure 1.]

Finally, if the above suggestions seem beyond your ability to personally work out a solution to keep your trees safe and healthy, your best advice is to call a professional "ISA" (International Society of Arboriculture) "Certified Arborist" to develop a "Tree Management Plan" to assist you in managing and maintaining your specimen trees. Your county may have an Extension Forester and he/she is also a good source for this type of information and assistance.

Remember, not only do properly maintained healthy trees add value to your property and enjoyment to your life, they benefit the entire community. They may also keep you out of the lawyers' food chain.



Figure 1. Soil compaction, probably caused by years of parking automobiles under the tree, resulted in root death and tree failure.

Extension Collaborative on Immunization Teaching & Engagement Announces Funding Recipients for Activities 1 and 2

The Extension Foundation, in cooperation with the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, through an Interagency Agreement with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are funding the Cooperative Extension System to address health disparities among rural and other underserved communities. This initiative is called the Extension Collaborative on Immunization Teaching & Engagement (EXCITE).

The EXCITE program serves all Land-grant universities through two sets of activities: system-wide engagement with the CDC's *Vaccinate with Confidence* communication campaign (Activity 1) and selected adult immunization education pilot projects (Activity 2).

72 applications for non-competitive Activity 1 funding were received from Land-grant institutions representing all six regions of Cooperative Extension. 30 applications were received for competitive Activity 2 funding involving 38 Land-grant institutions representing five regions of Cooperative Extension; 24 were selected for funding.

(Article originally posted on extension.org June, 2, 2021)

Florida A&M University is a recipient of both Activity 1 and Activity 2, with the latter a collaboration with the University of Florida. In an effort to get the message across social media, the social media grass roots campaign organization *Amplifier.org* created a campaign aimed at getting the global message of getting vaccinated:

#Vaccinated

Through our Global Open Call for Art we are awarding \$1000 to 100 artists from around the world to create symbols that build trust in the safety and efficacy of vaccines, advocate for vaccine equity, and help combat vaccine disinformation.

Here are a few of the submissions from artist all over the world (<http://www.amplifier.org>)





TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP SERIES

August 31, 2021
6 p.m.

Introduction to the Farm Service Agency Loan
Process

Come and join us for a **FREE** train-the-trainer workshop series to learn the ins and outs of FSA (Farm Service Agency) loans and application processes .

This is a three-part series workshop with professionals from FSA presenting and answering your questions.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Carmen Lytle-N'Guessan, PhD at (850) 412-5363 or at carmen.lyttlenguessa@famuedu.

September 28,. 2021
6 p.m.

Overview of the Farm Loan Application

October 26, 2021
6 p.m.

Components of a Successful Business Plan



To Register:

<https://famuedu.zoom.us/j/64812345678>
<https://famuedu.zoom.us/j/64812345678>

Main office: 850-599-3546

1710 S. Martin Luther King Jr, Blvd,
Tallahassee, Florida 32307

<http://www.famuedu/index.cfm?cooperativeextension>

HBCU Assistive Ag Tech and Empowerment Workshop

August 26, 2021
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

August 27, 2021
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

FAMU Teleconference Center
2010 Pinder Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32307
FREE event !

You are invited to attend the HBCU Assistive Ag Tech & Empowerment Workshop on August 26-27, 2021 on the campus of Florida A&M University.

This year we have developed an awesome roster of workshop seminars and interactive programs that will engage and empower you take your agriculture career to the next level. The Life Project, this year's new co-host, will feature a special health & wellness seminar.

Featured Topics:

Assistive Technology - with a live hands-on demonstration
Capital Assistance
Aquaponics/Farm 2 Market
Opportunities in Plant-Based Markets
USDA Support Programs
Farmer Health & Wellness

To RSVP:

<https://the-lifeproject.com/life-conference#f6cbf0f5-ae0c-462b-9d3f-ea8a908ac78d>

For more information, contact Rhonda Miller
at rhonda.miller@famuedu

Sponsored By:



The Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program is an equal employment/educational opportunity access organization which provides research-based educational information and other services only to eligible individuals and institutions regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status.

Welcome To The Hill

Welcoming all new and returning students!

Come and join FAMU Cooperative Extension

Friday, September 10, 2021

10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Perry Paige Building Courtyard

Come and check out what we have to offer!

Sign up to volunteer in areas such as:

4-H Youth Development

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Community Development

Family and Consumer Sciences


On the Spot Volunteer Sign Up!

ALL MAJORS WELCOME!

FREE SNACKS



FREE GIVEAWAYS!



Silvopastoral Systems for Small Ruminants (Goats and Sheep)

**Friday, October 15, 2021
6 p.m.**

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Oghenekome U. Onokpise, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus and Research Plant Scientist
Florida A&M University

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://famu.zoom.us/meeting/register/
tJltdOutqj4qHN090cqa_GDdduXXv4xEgfVM](https://famu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJltdOutqj4qHN090cqa_GDdduXXv4xEgfVM)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing information about joining the meeting.



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For more information, contact Angela
McKenzie-Jakes at 850-412-6535 or at
angela.mckenziejakes@famu.edu.

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2021 Master Goat and Sheep Certification Virtual Workshop

The Small Ruminant Program at Florida A&M University will host the fall virtual Master Goat and Sheep Certification Program.

**Friday, November 5, 2021
6 p.m.**

Who Should Participate?

Beginning or advanced goat or sheep producers, agricultural professionals, students, or others that are interested in attending the training program

Courses: herd health, breeding, and reproduction management, selecting and evaluating livestock and so much more.

This is a free event and open to the public!

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://famu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJltdOutqj4qHN090cqa_GDdduXXv4xEgfVM

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For more information, contact: Angela McKenzie-Jakes at or at (850) 412-6535 or angela.mckenziejakes@famu.edu.

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...on the move!



79th Annual
North Florida Fair
November 4 - 14, 2021
Tallahassee, Florida

If you are in the area, come and check out our booths and displays!



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REACHING. TEACHING. SERVING.

*Please Mask Up and
Stay Safe!*