

# UF/IFAS EXTENSION Duval County Connections



Duval County Extension Office

1010 N. McDuff Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32254

Hours of Operation 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

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JANUARY 2026

In this edition, Duval Extension wishes everyone new beginnings! Whether you're looking to start your own seeds and grow healthy transplants, care for backyard hens, or take the next step toward becoming a small farmer, we invite you to join us as you grow, learn, and thrive with Extension.

As we welcome the New Year, Duval County Extension wishes you a year of success, discovery, and new possibilities. Cheers!

## Quick View of Program Areas

- [Lawns, Gardens and Trees](#)
- [Horticulture and Pest Services](#)
- [Agriculture and Agribusiness Management](#)
- [4-H Youth Development, Duval County 4-H Foundation](#)
- [Family and Consumer Sciences and Canning Center](#)



Join the **Urban Demonstration Garden Program** for a hands-on *Vegetable Seed Starting Workshop*, Saturday, January 24 from 10am - noon at the Urban Demonstration Garden located at 1032 Superior St., 32254.

Start the New Year off right! In this make-and-take workshop, you'll learn everything you need to know in order to successfully start your own seeds and grow your own transplants.

Workshop fee includes a seed tray, growing media and a variety of seeds to take home.

Course fee: \$15 plus fees if registering online.

Pre-registration is required.

For more information, email [bmarlowe@ufl.edu](mailto:bmarlowe@ufl.edu)

[\*\*Click here to register\*\*](#)



Interested in raising chickens at home this year? Join the Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Program for the Backyard Hen Seminar, Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30pm at the Extension Office.

This informative class is the required first step toward getting your Duval County Backyard Hen Permit. Spots fill quickly as more residents discover the joy of backyard hens!

Cost is \$10 plus fee

[\*\*Click here to register\*\*](#)

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/duval/>

**Getting Started  
Farming:  
What to Do and  
Where to Get  
Help**

Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup>  
2pm-3:30pm  
1010 N McDuff Ave & Zoom



The **Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Program** is offering a program *Getting Started Farming: What to Do and Where to Get Help* workshop, Wednesday, January 28, 2-3:30pm at the Extension Office.

Do you own land? Are you looking to purchase land? Want to learn more about your options for farming on it?

Nearly a third of Florida's farmers have been farming for less than 10 years and are therefore considered beginning farmers and ranchers.

This class will include topics such as: Introductory Agronomy - Choosing a commodity - Planning and Management - Taxes and Greenbelt Exemption - How Extension Can Help

Cost is \$10 plus fees

[\*\*Click here to register\*\*](#)

Save the date for our annual "Day Of Gardening" event: Saturday, February 28, beginning at 9:30am at the Extension Office.

Gather - Grow - Learn - Shop

Tickets will go on sale in January 2026 and they will sell out! Be sure you are following us on Eventbrite so you don't miss the chance to get yours the moment they become available:

[\*\*Follow us on Eventbrite\*\*](#)



# Congratulations of Your Retirement, Stephanie Toelle



After 31 years of dedicated service with UF/IFAS Extension, we celebrate the remarkable career of Stephanie Toelle, who retired on December 12, 2025, as Duval County Extension, Executive Director.

Stephanie's leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to education, agriculture, and community engagement have left a lasting impact on Duval County and beyond. Her work has strengthened partnerships, empowered residents through her dedicated team, and elevated Extension programming in meaningful ways like through the "The Duval County I know" video and the inaugural Open House among other endeavors.

Throughout her tenure, Stephanie exemplified transparent leadership and created a workplace culture where people felt valued, supported, and treated like family.

Thank you, Stephanie, for your years of service and passion for helping our community thrive. You will greatly be missed, well-deserved next chapter!



# Honoring Our Master Gardeners!



Our Master Gardeners were proudly recognized for their outstanding volunteer service throughout 2025 during their annual Potluck Luncheon. Volunteers were acknowledged for contributing anywhere from 100 to more than 700 hours of service, with years of dedication ranging from 1 year to an incredible 25 years.

Their commitment continues to strengthen Extension programs and inspire our community.

Their service is truly the root of our success, and we are deeply thankful for all they do!

## Duval County Extension 2024 Annual Report

UF/IFAS EXTENSION DUVAL COUNTY  
**2024 YEAR IN REVIEW**



From your friends at  
Duval County Extension

Click Here!

**Duval County Video**  
[The Duval County I Know](#)



### [Helpful Resources](#)

Buy direct from a produce grower near you -  
<https://www.fdacs.gov/Food-Nutrition/Buy-Fresh-From-Florida>

The City of Jacksonville's 2024 - 2025 Preparedness Guide:  
<https://www.jaxready.com>

Look up your Evacuation Zone - <https://maps.coj.net/evsearch/>

Check Us Out Online and on Facebook!



<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/duval/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/DuvalCountyAgriculture>  
<https://www.facebook.com/DuvalCounty4H/>  
<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/duvalco/>

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The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters, listening devices, and alternate formats of written material, please contact the Duval County Extension Office at 904-255-7450 at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.