



Duval County Extension Office

NOVEMBER 2025

1010 N. McDuff Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32254

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

Office: 904-255-7450 | Email: duval@ifas.ufl.edu

Leaves are beginning to change, there are cooler temperatures, the Fair will host its last event in downtown Jacksonville and it's Holiday season! In this edition, there are programs to help first time home buyers, a program for families with kids K-5th grade, a workshop on saving water, money and growing greener with rain barrels, and more.

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](#)

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FIRST TIME HOME BUYER WORKSHOP

Learn the steps to home ownership and how to obtain an affordable mortgage.

This is an online via Zoom event. Registration Required to receive the Zoom Link.

October 16th & 23rd, 5pm - 9pm
November 6th & 13th, 5pm - 9pm
December 5th & 12th, 9am - 1pm

SELECT THE LINK TO REGISTER.

<https://FTHBDuval25.eventbrite.com>

For more information email : nparks@ufl.edu

2 SESSIONS

Certificate of Completion available. Must attend both sessions to receive the certificate.

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First Time Home Buyer Workshop

Thinking about buying your first home? Join the **Family and Consumer Sciences Program** virtually to learn steps to homeownership. In this workshop you will obtain knowledge on obtaining an affordable mortgage.

This is a two session workshop. Once complete, you will receive a certificate of completion.

Remaining Available Workshops:

Thursdays, November 6 and 13 | 5pm - 9pm
Fridays, December 5 and 12 | 9am - 1pm

Cost: \$28.52 incl fee

[Click here to register](#)



4-H Enrollment for the 2025/2026 Year

4-H Online is open for enrollment. The membership fee for the year is \$30.

If your family would like to apply for a membership fee scholarship email duval4h@ufl.edu.

Encourage your friends to enroll in Duval 4-H

Apply for Books & Cooks with the **Healthy Living Program** and discover how reading and cooking can bring your family closer together.

This free 7-week program, designed with New Worlds Reading, helps families build a love for books, healthy habits, and fun in the kitchen through hands-on activities and shared experiences.

Families with a K–5 children are invited to apply and be part of an exciting research study exploring how Books & Cooks makes a difference!

Each week, families receive a book, childcare, and dinner for Free! You just have to register and show up.

For more information, email dcdiehl@ufl.edu or call 352-273-3526

[Click here to register](#)

Apply for Books & Cooks!



Books & Cooks is a FREE 7-week literacy and nutrition program created in collaboration with New Worlds Reading. Weekly sessions help families support enjoyment of reading, healthy eating, and family connection through fun, hands-on activities. Throughout the program, participants will share their experiences as part of a research study to measure the impact of Books & Cooks.

Families with a child in kindergarten–5th Grade are encouraged to apply!

Please note that spots are limited, and participation is not guaranteed. Classes will be conducted in English with supports in Spanish provided.



Each week, families receive a book, childcare, and dinner for FREE!



Scan this QR code to complete the application

To learn more about the study, contact:
David Diehl, PhD, Associate Professor
Family, Youth and Community Sciences
University of Florida
e-mail: dcdiehl@ufl.edu
phone: (352) 273-3526

new worlds reading | **UF** Lastinger Center for Learning
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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Ensure your staff is up to code!
Food Safety Manager Training is offered by the **Family and Consumer Sciences Program**.

Florida requires all food service employees in a licensed Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) establishment to be trained on correct food handling and hygiene practices.

Classes are available upon request.

Need a single-day course or a multi-day course option, we have you covered. Our training is flexible to fit your schedule.

To register and for more information contact:
Natasha Parks, Family and Consumer Science Agent III via email nparks@ufl.edu or call the office.

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Florida requires all food service employees in a licensed Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) establishment to be trained on correct food handling and hygiene practices. Only DBPR division approved training programs are accepted as meeting the training requirement.

SIGN UP FOR OUR FOOD SAFETY MANAGER TRAINING
Classes available upon request

Multiple and one day sessions available
For more information contact:
Natasha Parks @
904-255-7450 or nparks@ufl.edu

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Interested in raising chickens at home? Join the **Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Program** for the monthly Backyard Hen Seminar on Tuesday, November 18th, from 2–3:30 pm 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: \$10 plus fee

[Click here to register](#)



Save water, save money, and grow greener! Join the **Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program** for our Rain Barrel Workshop on Friday, November 21, 5:45–6:45 pm at the Extension Office.

Learn simple ways to collect and reuse rainwater for your landscape. Each barrel provides more than 50 gallons of free water while helping reduce runoff, flooding, and erosion.

Workshop cost: \$75 (includes rain barrel)

Listen & Learn option: \$5 plus fee

[Click here to register](#)



Picture Credit: Sheila Rowan

Happy
THANKSGIVING



From Your Duval County Extension

Duval County Extension 2024 Annual Report

UF/IFAS EXTENSION DUVAL COUNTY
2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



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.