Public Investment in UF/IFAS Yields Significant ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND JOBS
About UF/IFAS

Florida has two land-grant institutions, the University of Florida and Florida A&M University. When UF began operations in Gainesville in 1906, the campus included a college of agriculture, predecessor of today’s UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

By 1964, the UF agricultural and natural resources enterprise had grown exponentially. That year, it was given a new administrative structure and a new name — the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences — both of which are still in use today.

As the agricultural and natural resources enterprise for a land-grant university, UF/IFAS includes three main divisions, focused on teaching, research and Extension.

1st or 2nd among U.S. universities for agricultural research and development expenditures, every year since FY 2000-01.1

$416.9 million total UF/IFAS budget for FY 2017-18.2

14 academic departments and two schools in UF/IFAS.

6,334 UF/IFAS CALS students enrolled in fall 2018 semester, a new record.

200,577 youth served by Florida 4-H in 2017-18.

6,500 free publications on the UF/IFAS Extension online library, https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu

17 off-campus UF/IFAS Research facilities statewide.

Florida Agriculture Quick Facts

2/3 of the state’s total land area is managed by agricultural and natural resources industries.3

300+ agricultural crops.

47,000 farms statewide.

Top Crops

Florida’s most valuable crops in CY 2018 included floriculture crops, oranges, nursery crops, sugarcane, strawberries, outdoor-grown tomatoes, bell peppers, sweet corn, peanuts, cucumbers and watermelon.

$12.6 billion in revenues from forest products in CY 2016.

No. 2 most-valuable environmental horticulture industry in the U.S., with $10.7 billion in revenues in CY 2015.

*All material in this column drawn from “Florida Agriculture Fast Facts 2018” booklet.
Our Agricultural R&D Investments Pay Off

No question about it — investments in UF/IFAS agricultural research and development pay off for the Sunshine State year after year.

Improved crop varieties, increased yields, optimized management practices and new technologies result from R&D investments in UF/IFAS.

Every $1 of public funding invested in U.S. agricultural research and development returns $20 in benefits from increased agricultural productivity.\(^4\)

$199.5 million in UF/IFAS R&D expenditures in FY 2017-18.\(^2\)

$3.99 billion in benefits from UF/IFAS R&D expenditures in FY 2017-18, using the 20:1 benefit/cost ratio.

UF/IFAS RESEARCH FACTS

- 858 crop variety licenses executed in CY 2013-17.\(^5\)
- 67% of the 858 licenses were obtained by Florida-based growers.\(^5\)

UF/IFAS EXTENSION FACTS

- 1,460 papers published in refereed journals in CY 2017.\(^2\)
- 30.2 million client contacts in CY 2017.\(^2\)
- 28,661 volunteers in CY 2017.\(^2\)
- 1.3 million volunteer hours contributed, worth $32 million.\(^6\)
- 290 documents posted to UF/IFAS Extension online library in CY 2018.\(^7\)
Florida’s Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Food Industries

Florida has a $1.0 trillion economy — fourth largest among U.S. states and 17th largest on Earth. Geographically, Florida is the largest state in the Southeast, and has the longest coastline of any U.S. state apart from Alaska. It’s also the nation’s third most-populous state, with 21.3 million people as of 2018.

Collectively, Florida’s agriculture, natural resources, and food industries represent the state’s second-largest economic engine. In addition, these industries manage about two-thirds of Florida’s land area.

Notable statistics concerning Florida’s agriculture, natural resources, and food industries:

- **1.7 million** full-time and part-time jobs in CY 2016, representing 14.6% of total employment in Florida.
- **9.5 million** acres of farmland statewide.
- **4.6 million** acres of planted timberland statewide.
- **$47.7 billion** in agricultural exports to other states and nations.
- **$165.5 billion** in direct industry output, i.e. sales revenues.
UF/IFAS Personnel Assist with Hurricane Michael Recovery

Hurricane Michael struck Florida on Oct. 10, 2018, bringing 155 mph winds and storm surges of 15+ feet to the Panhandle. The extent and severity of the damage were staggering.

Among those responding to the disaster were UF/IFAS faculty, staff and students from Panhandle county offices, UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center facilities in Marianna and Quincy, and from other locations around the state.

Some of the UF/IFAS hurricane recovery efforts included:

- Hundreds of UF/IFAS employees mobilized to provide assistance.
- Crop losses in 25 Florida counties assessed by UF/IFAS.
- The UF/IFAS-built Web page, Hurricane Michael: Helpful Resources from UF/IFAS Extension, launched the same day Michael made landfall in Florida.
- Updated UF/IFAS Disaster Preparation & Recovery Web page published online at http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu.
- 36,000 jars of peanut butter distributed in 10 Panhandle counties.
- UF/IFAS CALS students visited Tallahassee to remove fallen trees from homes and yards.
- First-of-its-kind dunes restoration and enhancement handbook published by UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant in 2018, to aid future hurricane recovery.

*Information on this page contributed by UF/IFAS sources.*
UF/IFAS CALS and Student Success

Preparing students for success beyond the classroom is a top priority for the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (UF/IFAS CALS). As the fourth-largest college of its type in the United States, UF/IFAS CALS offers 23 undergraduate and 22 graduate majors, 55+ student organizations, and faculty members noted for teaching excellence.

The college provides many career, networking and involvement opportunities because its student body is so large — 6,334 in fall semester 2018 — and diverse. We believe that every UF/IFAS CALS student has a unique definition of success, and we are committed to helping all of our students achieve theirs.

UF/IFAS CALS FACTS

6,334 students enrolled fall 2018, an all-time record.

4th largest college of its kind nationwide.²

$550,000+ in student scholarships awarded for academic year 2018-19.²

91% of fall 2018 undergraduates were Florida residents.²

11:1 student-to-faculty ratio, one of the lowest on campus.

18 faculty members with USDA Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards since 1992 — more than any other institution.

22% increase in total UF/IFAS CALS enrollment from academic year 2014-15 to 2018-19.

No. 1 largest undergraduate scholarship portfolio among UF colleges.

8 master’s degree and 2 bachelor’s degree programs online.

18% increase in total UF/IFAS CALS enrollment from academic year 2014-15 to 2018-19.

What’s next for UF/IFAS CALS grads after receiving their Bachelor of Science degrees?

50% are employed.

25% enter graduate programs.

25% enter professional schools.

Among 2017-18 UF/IFAS CALS graduates who answered an exit survey...

81% graduated in four years or less, among respondents who entered UF as first-year students and immediately declared themselves UF/IFAS CALS majors.

86% were satisfied or very satisfied that their educational experience has adequately prepared them for their future profession.

81% of fall 2018 undergraduates were Florida residents.²

*Figures in this column contributed by UF/IFAS sources.*
Non-Invasive Lantana Varieties Join List of UF/IFAS-Bred Crops

The South American shrub *Lantana camara* has been popular in Florida landscapes for decades, thanks to its hardiness and colorful flowers. Unfortunately, Lantana is invasive — forming dense thickets that crowd out native plants. In 2004, the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association asked UF/IFAS plant breeders to develop non-invasive alternatives. The results are Bloomify™ Rose and Bloomify™ Red, which reached consumers in 2017 and are winning accolades from nursery owners and homeowners alike.

The new Lantana varieties are just one chapter in the storied history of UF/IFAS plant breeding and commercialization.

Other recent accomplishments:

- **283** crop varieties released in the past decade.
- **4 million** acres of planted pine in Florida, virtually all of it varieties developed by UF/IFAS breeders and collaborators.
- **High-oleic peanut varieties from UF/IFAS represent the No. 5 most valuable property licensed by UF.**
- **90%** of commercial strawberry plants grown in Florida are UF/IFAS varieties.
- **25+** annual ryegrass cultivars released, which collectively dominate the southeastern market.
- **No. 1 choice for FDACS Woman of the Year in Agriculture in 2018: Longtime UF/IFAS forage breeder Dr. Ann Blount.**

BMPs and Stewardship Help Protect Florida’s Water Quality

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are science-based crop production methods that protect water quality and reduce costs for producers by eliminating unnecessary inputs. Typical BMPs address irrigation, fertilization and land-management tactics.

In Florida, many producers register for state-operated BMP programs to help protect water quality. From the beginning, numerous UF/IFAS experts have been involved in BMPs — conducting research, making recommendations, educating producers and verifying results.

Florida BMP accomplishments include:

- Each year, **276 fewer tons of nitrogen in agricultural runoff from farms and ranches north of Lake Okeechobee.**
- **5x reduction in average phosphorus levels in waters leaving Everglades Agricultural Area, from 500 parts per billion in 1986 to less than 100 ppb in 2015.**
- **10 of 11 crop-specific Florida BMP manuals were written with UF/IFAS input.**
- **5.28 million** acres of farmland and timber in BMP programs statewide.**
- **11,479 farming and timber operations in BMP programs statewide.**

Of the 78 BMP-related projects sponsored by FDACS that led to published scientific papers, **67 involved UF/IFAS academic faculty.**

*Figures on this page contributed by UF/IFAS sources, unless otherwise noted.*
UF/IFAS Statewide Locations

Northeast
District 2

Central
District 3

Southwest
District 4

Southeast
District 5

Legend
- Research and Education Centers
- UF/IFAS CALS Academic Locations @ REC
- Research and Demonstration Sites
- UF Main Campus
- UF/IFAS Extension Districts

12 Research and Education Centers
- Citrus REC - Lake Alfred
- Everglades REC - Belle Glade
- Florida Medical Entomology Lab - Vero Beach
- Fort Lauderdale REC - Davie
- Gulf Coast REC - Balm
- Gulf Coast REC - Plant City
- Indian River REC - Fort Pierce
- Mid-Florida REC - Apopka
- North Florida REC - Quincy, Marianna, Live Oak
- Range Cattle REC - Ona
- Southwest Florida REC - Immokalee
- Tropical REC - Homestead
- West Florida REC - Jay
- West Florida REC - Milton

5 Research and Demonstration Sites
- Hastings Agricultural Extension Center - Hastings
- Nature Coast Biological Station - Cedar Key
- Ordway-Swisher Biological Station - Melrose
- Plant Science Research and Education Unit - Citra
- Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory - Ruskin

4-H Camps
- Timpeochee - Niceville
- Cherry Lake - Madison
- Cloverleaf - Lake Placid

Learn about UF/IFAS Research Discoveries and the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station at: https://research.ifas.ufl.edu/main-menu-tab/research/publications-and-reports/research-discoveries/

This report, along with state-level and county-level information on UF/IFAS Extension impacts, can be found at: http://ifas.ufl.edu/economicimpacts.html

Information on statewide UF economic impacts can be found at: http://economicimpact.ufl.edu

Sources cited may be found at https://bit.ly/2XqFCEa

An Equal Opportunity Institution. Information about alternate formats is available from UF/IFAS Communications, University of Florida, P.O. Box 110810, Gainesville, FL 32611-0810.

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