

SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

*COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING
1101 EAST FIRST STREET
SANFORD, FLORIDA
32771-1468*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 2026

12:00 PM

250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, FL 32773

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Please silence all cell phones/electronic devices**I. WELCOME**

Present	Jim Hunter, Rex Clonts, Shelley Nelson, J.W. Yarborough, and Yolanda McGee
Absent	Dennis Langolis, Tom Minter, Clay Archey, Erin Keefe, and John Lommerse

II. UPDATES FROM EXTENSION

- Farm Tour 2025 - This year's farm tour brought something new! UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County worked with Orlando North and UF/IFAS Extension Orange County to bring social media content creators on a tour of local agriculture and food systems. This project demonstrates the power of collaboration as well as leveraging social media to increase agricultural literacy and strengthen local food systems. Preliminary estimates suggest a cost of less than one cent per person reached through the influencers.
- Florida First Detector - Invasive Species Webinar Series has been highly successful with over 1,600 participants in the last two years. We are on our third year with this program and are awaiting potential funds to do it for a 4th year. This has allowed for many people to obtain CEU credits free of charge including FDACS pesticide and FNGLA CEUs. The webinars have ranged between 50-120 people at each session.
- Farm to Fork 2025 Monthly Programming -In January, we started a monthly series where we focus on a topic within agriculture, typically a commodity group. For the entire year, we have a once a month one hour webinar followed by a part 2 hands on in person workshop a few days after the webinar. This program will be designed to be farm to fork, talking about the agriculture, how they can garden at home, and then how to harvest and utilize it in the kitchen. So far it has been very successful! The committee suggested future topics including proper cutting of a whole chicken for a livestock focused day.
- Final Friday's Gardening Webinars -. We are using this to try and connect more people with plants and the local food system. We started again in January and the gardening topic rotates every month.
- Spring Garden Expo - The 2025 spring Garden Expo this past February was a huge success! If anyone is interested in being a vendor for next year, please contact Kaydie McCormick K.mccormick@ufl.edu.
- 4-H Butterfly Explorers Project with local schools - This was our fourth year working with the schools on the 4-H Butterfly Explorers Project. It has become one of our staple school enrichment programs to connect youth with insects and the roles they play in agriculture and beyond.
- 4-H Ag Literacy with Seminole County Public Libraries - This is our third year of a partnership with the Seminole County Public Libraries to offer a 4-H Ag Literacy Program in the Spring. This year we focused on livestock.
- Pesticide related programming and CEUs - Morgan continues to host pesticide license exam reviews and other CEU opportunities monthly. Upcoming classes can be found on the Page ' 2
UF IFAS Extension Seminole County Eventbrite page
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/ufifas-extension-seminole-county-7995917345>.
- Plant pest/pathogen diagnostics and site visits - We are continuing to offer this so people can reach out to Morgan if you have any questions or requests to visit.
Upcoming

- Reclaimed Water Educational Programming -Last year, our office hired Jacob Burris to be our Reclaimed Water Educator. This program is part of an FDEP grant. We have started to offer classes for residential audiences in the last few months, but we will be developing classes for commercial audiences later in the year. The committee didn't feel that an in-person workshop specific to the farming audience was necessary at this time.
- 4-H Youth Summer Sessions - We are hosting two different sessions this year for different age groups. Both programs will be focused on insects, and we already have a good number of youth signed up for the June programs.
- Growing Together: Central Florida Partners for Agriculture. For the past two years, this event was hosted at the UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center and brought the Central Florida Agricultural Community together with allied agencies who can provide support in the form of cost shares, grants, loans, insurance, and other opportunities as well as help growers and producers better understand programs, rules, and regulations that might impact their operation. We are planning to host virtual sessions in late July and early August at the request of many of the agencies and attendees.
- Greenhouse and Nursery Industry Training - UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County has been working with a team of Central Florida extension agents to develop a training for greenhouse and nursery workers on basic IPM practices. We are planning to offer this program in October/November of this year. Dr. Liz Felter is the primary lead on this program and will be retiring this month. It will likely be Brooke

University wide policy changes

2025 Extension Program Updates

Recent/Ongoing Programs

Upcoming Programs

III. CURRENT NEWS IN AGRICULTURE

- Ag Tax Exemptions - Morgan met with the Seminole County Property Appraisers Office to get some more insights on their Ag tax exemption process. They said there were some recent clarifications on the tax exemption process and updated information can be found here: <https://www.scpafl.org/information/agriculture-classification>.
- FDACS is in the process of modernizing and updating their databases and webpages related to pesticide licensing. There is a new webpage for all pesticide licensing access: <https://aeslicensing.fdacs.gov/>.
- After October 1, 2025, pesticide licensing testing will no longer be at county extension offices. The sole provider of exams in Florida will be FDACS through Everblue, remotely and at testing centers across the state. We expect to have more information available by the end of May.
- FDACS recently released updated BMP manuals which can be found here: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Water/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices>. Morgan is going to see if there are any charts or references that outline the changes between the old and new manuals. If the state office

Freeze Impacts 2026

Changes to FDACS pesticide licensing and testing

IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Conclusions**Next meeting date, November 4, 2026, 12PM - 1PM**

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES, ADA COORDINATOR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING AT 407-665-7940.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE, AT 407-665-7219. PERSONS ARE ADVISED THAT, IF THEY DECIDE TO APPEAL DECISIONS MADE AT THESE MEETINGS/HEARINGS, THEY WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THEY MAY NEED TO INSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, PER SECTION 286.0105, FLORIDA STATUTES.