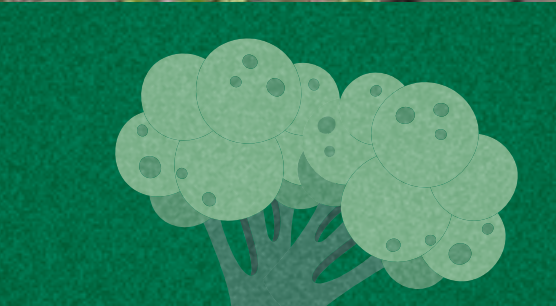
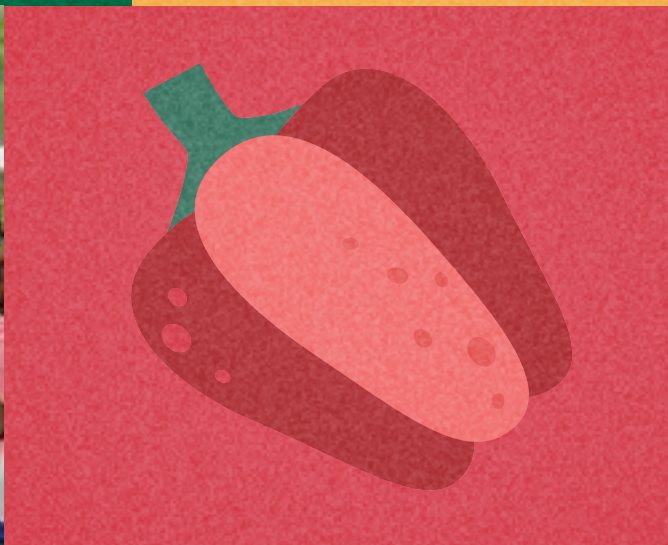
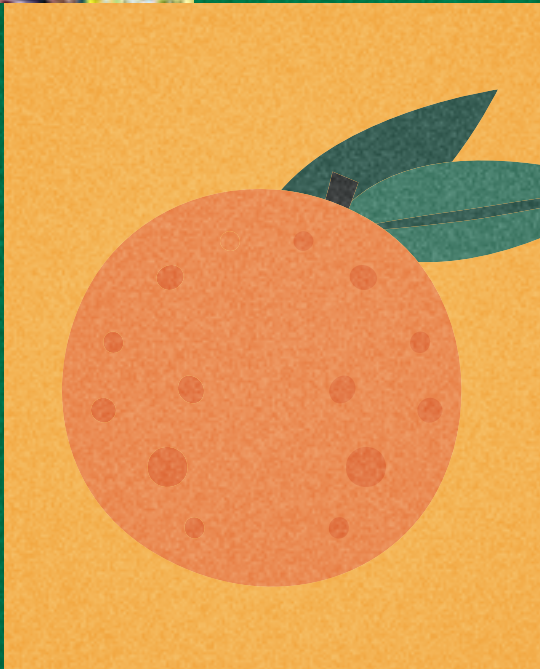




2024 FARM TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE

March 6-8, 2024
Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld®



Brought to you by the Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services



Welcome to the Florida Farm to School Conference, where we bring together Florida producers, child nutrition program operators, educators, and Farm to School advocates to facilitate collaboration among Farm to School stakeholders.

As a lifelong Florida farmer, and as a father and grandfather, I understand that serving fresh, local foods in schools not only benefits Florida's children, but also benefits local and state economies. As schools' demand for locally produced food continues to grow, there are significant opportunities for Florida farms of all sizes to reach this market to the benefit of their business and to help meet schools' nutritional needs.

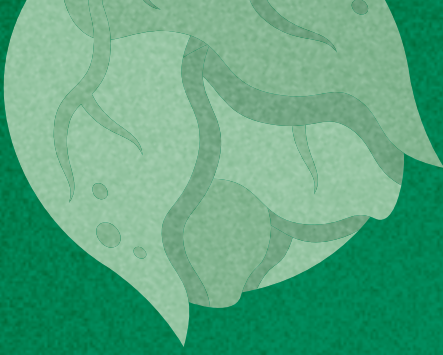
We know that Farm to School is a win for Florida's kids, farmers, and communities. The Florida Farm to School Conference presents a valuable opportunity for Florida producers, distributors, educators, and school nutrition professionals to connect, all while learning more about Farm to School's pillars: Agricultural Education, School Gardens, and Procurement.

Throughout the conference, we encourage you to take every opportunity to interact and share successes and challenges, to identify innovative ways to collaborate, and to strengthen our shared vision for the future of Florida's Farm to School initiative.

The Department's Farm to School team at the Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness stands ready to assist our schools and producers, whether you are an existing partner, or new to the Farm to School initiative. Together, we will continue "Sowing Success" for Florida Farm to School.



Commissioner Wilton Simpson
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



WHAT IS FLORIDA FARM TO SCHOOL

Florida's Farm to School (F2S) initiative works to increase Florida commodities served in schools, offer healthier meal options for Florida's children and get students involved with nutrition and agriculture education through school garden activities.

F2S strengthens local food systems in Florida by expanding access between schools, farms and communities. Through local procurement efforts, capacity building, resource development, technical assistance and training, Florida Farm to School fosters positive economic relationships between food producers and schools.

F2S provides all kids access to nutritious, high-quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to School activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture, and nutrition.

F2S can serve as a significant financial opportunity for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening the doors to an institutional market worth billions of dollars.

F2S benefits everyone from students, teachers and administrators to parents and farmers, providing opportunities to build family and community engagement. Buying from local producers and processors creates new jobs and strengthens the local economy.

F2S KEY ELEMENTS

Farm to School implementation will vary by location but will always include one or more of the following:



EDUCATION

Teaching students about Florida agriculture, nutritious foods, and healthy eating habits



SCHOOL GARDENS

Engaging students in hands-on learning through gardening activities and workshops



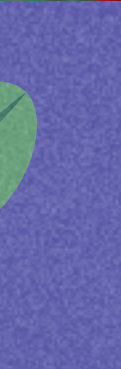
PROCUREMENT

Increasing school access to nutritious, locally sourced Florida foods



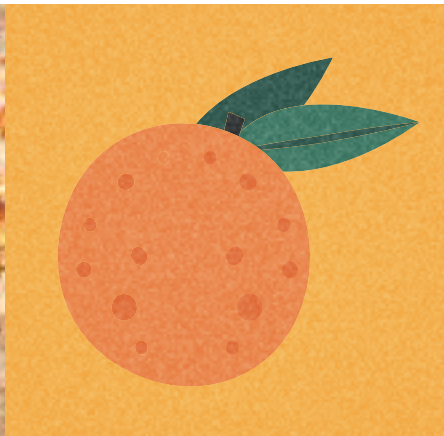


FARM TOURS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



LONG AND SCOTT FARMS is located in beautiful Mount Dora, FL and was founded in 1963 by Frank Scott, Jr. Sustainable, bio-friendly farming practices have been key to Frank's success, and the farm has strived to reduce food waste by working with local gleaning groups to support the community for years. Long and Scott Farms is now run by Frank's son Hank, and they have successfully diversified their legacy in agriculture by trademarking Zellwood Sweet Corn, continuing to grow a variety of vegetables, expanding into agritourism, and producing high quality sod. Their latest venture is Great Scott Farms Market, where you can shop for local produce, jams, honey, house made sauces, and more! Don't forget to grab a bite at their seasonally based café and enjoy all that agriculture has to offer.

Long and Scott takes pride in their history, and they hope to continually conquer new horizons to protect the land they have nurtured for over half a century. Their highest priority is to feed their families and the surrounding communities as well as share the importance of agriculture for many years to come.



A NATURAL FARM & Educational Center



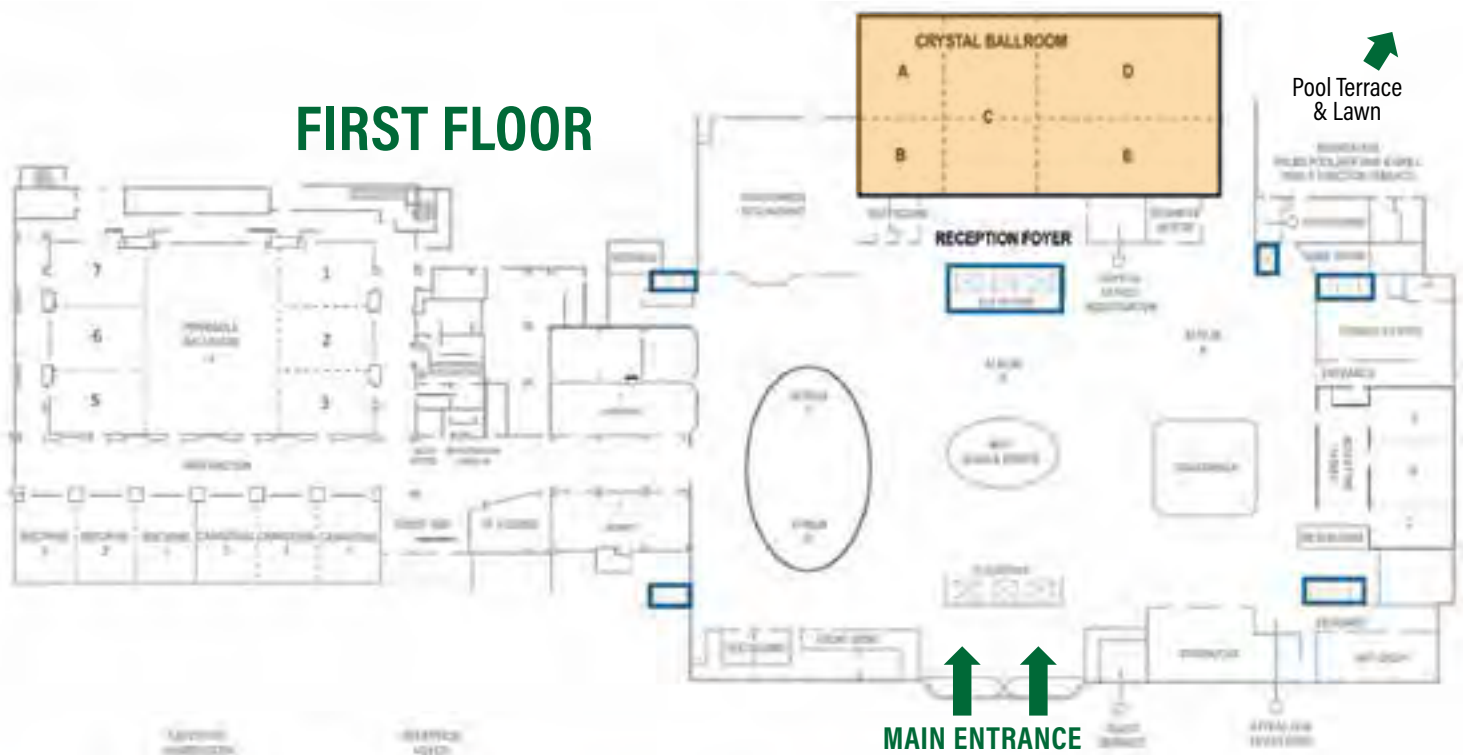
A NATURAL FARM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER was founded in 2012 by Luc & Sonia Duytsche. The main focus on the farm is the production and selling of edible plants and medicinal plants, fruit trees, ginger and turmeric plants, blueberry and blackberry bushes, and many more edible plants. The secondary mission of the farm is offering free or low-cost educational classes for both children and adults on sustainable farming, gardening, and plant production through hands-on workshops.

Born in France, with background degrees in horticulture and business, Luc Duytsche has worked 20+ years in the states perfecting natural, chemical-free gardening here in Florida. Arriving as a student intern in 1992, Luc began his career with a large Lake County tree farm and by 1994, he returned with his family to call Florida home. Since then, Luc worked for several plant nurseries before opening his own farm and educational center.



RENAISSANCE ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD®

FIRST FLOOR



Pool Terrace & Lawn

MAIN ENTRANCE

SECOND FLOOR



Access to second floor.



2024 AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024 | FARM TOURS

1 - 5 p.m. REGISTRATION

1:15 - 5 p.m. Farm Tour A
LONG & SCOTT FARMS | Glean with Society of St. Andrews

1:30 - 5 p.m. Farm Tour B
A NATURAL FARM

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. REGISTRATION

8 - 9:15 a.m. BREAKFAST

8:30 - 9:15 a.m. D/E WELCOME - *Vianka Colin, FDACS*

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A/B **Teaching in the School Garden**
Becky Sponholtz & Jennifer Morgenthal, FL Ag in the Classroom

C **Navigating the USDA Funding Environment**
Lissa Ong, USDA SERO

LBRD **Nutrition Nudges with Smarter Lunchrooms**
Jeannie Necessary & Peace Nwagbo, UF/IFAS FNP

GRPR **Share Tables and Food Recovery in K-12**
Karena Bozarth, Orange County Schools

10:30 - 10:45 a.m. BREAK

10:45 - 11:45 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

GRPR **Food Forest Science: Incorporating Lessons on Ecosystems Services in the Classroom**
Cara Rockwell, FIU

LBRD **Bridging the Gaps - A Step-by-Step Guide to Connecting with and Selling to Schools,**
Natasha Smith, FDACS

A/B **Locally Grown Project's Journey to a Sustainable Farm to School Program in Hillsborough County**
Jenna Kaczmarek & Arianne Corbett, Locally Grown

C **Practical Composting Concepts: How to Structure, Monitor, and Maintain Your Compost Pile**
Sundiata Ameh-El, Compost Community

11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. D/E LUNCH

Noon - 1 p.m. D/E KEYNOTE SESSION: **Growing Farm to School** with *Joe Pettit*

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

GRPR **More Than a Garden**
Fredando Jackson, Flint River Fresh

LBRD **Menu Planning & Variety**
Sydney Kelly, FDACS

A/B **The Science of Cooking: Brown, Crispy, and Delicious**
Chef Jorge Sanchez, FDACS

C **Turning Cafeterias into Classrooms through Food Waste Audits and Education**
Mary Jane Chandler & Brianna Rodarmel, WWF & 4Roots

2:30 - 2:45 p.m. BREAK

2:45 - 3:45 p.m.	PANEL BREAKOUTS		
	A/B Gardening for Teachers by Teachers <i>Mary Lenn Hess, Breton Homewood, & Brad Jones</i>	C Procurement for Producers by Producers <i>Paul Allen, Glyen Holmes, & Ian Macpherson</i>	D/E Farm to School In the Southeast <i>Beth Spratt, Tina Garland, & Michael Cranford</i>
3:45 - 4 p.m.	BREAK		
4 - 5 p.m.	D/E ROUND TABLES		
5 - 7 p.m.	NETWORKING RECEPTION <i>at the Pool Terrace & Lawn</i>		

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024

7:30 - 10 a.m.	REGISTRATION		
8 - 9 a.m.	BREAKFAST		
8:30 - 9 a.m.	D/E COOKING DEMONSTRATION <i>with Chef Jorge Sanchez</i>		
9:15 - 10 a.m.	MINI BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	GRPR Sustainable Farming Practices in Urban Settings <i>Josh Taylor, Do Good Farm</i>	LBRD Grant Writing Strategies that Tug the Heart and Excite the Brain of Your Funders <i>Martina Brawer, FSNA</i>	C Expanding Aquaculture Education & Training Opportunities in Florida <i>Katrina Bayliss, FDACS</i>
			A/B Ways Our Students Can Connect to the Value of Food <i>Elaine Fiore & Adrian Carter, Broward County Schools</i>
10 - 10:15 a.m.	BREAK		
10:15 - 11 a.m.	MINI BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	A/B Cultivating Community: Exploring City of Orlando's Urban Agriculture Initiatives <i>Alyssa Musacchio & Tuesday Piper, City of Orlando</i>	LBRD Sowing Connections, <i>Natasha Smith, FDACS</i>	GRPR Field of Dreams: If You Build it, They Will Come... One Small Step at a Time <i>Leslie Surowiec, Greenwood School - Jacksonville</i>
			C Engagement on Government Composting and Food Waste Education <i>Edgar Castro Tello & Shelby Lewis, City of Tampa</i>
11 - 11:10 a.m.	BREAK		
11:10 - Noon	D/E CLOSING SESSION <i>with Bela Delgado & Michael Carter, FDACS</i>		

ROOM LEGEND

A/B = Crystal Ballroom A&B

C = Crystal Ballroom C

D/E = Crystal Ballroom D & E

LBRD = Labrid (2nd Floor)

GRPR = Grouper (2nd Floor)

OUR SPEAKERS



PAUL ALLEN | Co-owner - R.C. Hatton Inc. FL

SESSION: Panelist, Procurement for Producers by Producers

Paul Allen is the co-owner of several businesses, including R.C. Hatton Inc., Performance Packaging, LLC., Performance Napa, LLC., and D&D Ag. LLC. Having earned his degree in Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University, he has extensive experience serving on the boards of agricultural associations. He is married to his wife, Debra Allen, with whom he shares two children and four grandchildren. He remains involved in his community through his ties to the Chamber of Commerce and his local Rotary Club.



SUNDIATA AMEL-EL | Compost Community

SESSION: Practical Composting Concepts: How to Structure, Monitor, and Maintain Your Compost Pile

Sundiata El is a professional agricultural consultant and farmer. He spends a great amount of time perfecting the art of composting and building soil structure which is the foundation of organic agriculture. Sundiata engages in the art of growing microbes, food, and people. His holistic approach to agriculture includes methods of regenerative agriculture and AgroEcology principles. These ecological principles shape his approach to food and community. Sundiata expresses his passion for food and community through his presentations, lectures, and volunteer workdays at the multiple urban agricultural spaces that he manages.



KATRINA BAYLISS | Biological Administrator, FDACS

SESSION: Aquaculture in the Classroom: Expanding Aquaculture Education and Training Opportunities in Florida

Katrina Bayliss is the head of the Education and Development Program in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Aquaculture. She acts as the education lead and aquaculture/aquaponics system specialist, as well as wearing many other hats for the Division. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree with a focus in marine biology from Florida Tech and has spent the past 10 years presenting the world of marine biology and aquaculture to the citizens of Florida. Currently, Katrina works closely with agency partners, extension agents, and educators to bring aquaculture into Florida schools and community groups.



KARENA BOZARTH | Sustainability Manager, Orange County Public Schools, Food and Nutrition Services

SESSION: Share Tables and Food Recovery in K-12

Karena Bozarth began her career at Orange County Public Schools in 2010. During this time, Karena has had the opportunity to work in several departments, which include Food Service, Procurement, and currently in Sustainability. In 2018-2019, Karena worked closely with the 4Roots Farm at Ocoee High School to streamline a procurement process of freshly harvested produce between Food and Nutrition Services and Orange County School Greenhouse for use in the cafeteria. The goal of this process was to assist in educating students on the importance of good nutrition in our school meals, support the agriculture curriculum, and to generate revenue for continued growth and harvest of hydroponic Romaine lettuce, beefsteak tomatoes, and cucumbers.

In 2021, Karena was asked to develop and head-up the OCPS-FNS food recovery program. With passion and dedication in this area, she has built the program from two schools to almost 50 schools, donating over 140,000 lbs. of food to local community partners. In addition, Karena has created waste diversion strategies for school gardens' composting and other farm-to-school activities.

Karena's free time is spent in the garden, spending time with her family and friends, and relaxing on the beach.



MARTINA BRAWER | Executive Director, Florida School Nutrition Association, Inc.

SESSION: Write, Edit, and Celebrate - Grant Writing Strategies that Tug the Heart and Excite the Brain of Your Funders

Martina Brawer is a management and communications professional with 30 years of experience in communications, government relations and policy development, project management, strategic planning, and training. She began her career writing for financial trade magazines, working in marketing and communications, and producing documentaries for the Public Broadcasting Service. Martina has been successful in moving state bills into law and in preventing proposed legislation or policy from becoming a law. Her most recent employment is in the association management sector serving as the Executive Director of the FL Assoc. of Centers for Independent Living, the FL Library Assoc. and the FL School Nutrition Assoc. Ms. Brawer holds a B.S. in Journalism and a M.S. in Education from the University of Florida. Her undergraduate minor was achieved at the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität in Bonn, Germany. Ms. Brawer is active in her community teaching swimming lessons and serving as a Master Gardener Volunteer, and she enjoys travel.





ADRIAN CARTER | Operations Manager, The Diallo Group, LLC
SESSION: From School Food Forests to Cafeteria Share Tables and Food Waste Prevention Week: Ways Our Students Can Connect to the Value of Food

Meet Adrian Carter, a passionate advocate for school food forests and a dedicated member of the STEM and Computer Science Department in Broward County Public Schools. Adrian's journey is nothing short of inspiring. She's not just a former horticulture therapy teacher; she's gained an extensive background in plants and their connection with our developed world with a master's degree in landscape architecture. Her unique background allows her to enlighten anyone she comes in contact with, nurturing their love for the environment. Adrian's commitment goes beyond the classroom. She also played a vital role in Broward Education Foundation's Garden Delights, a groundbreaking program that paved the way for Broward TEA School Food Forest. Now, Adrian is on a new adventure, ready to share her expertise far and wide. Her mission? To train and support schools across the district in creating their very own Technology empowered School Food Forests.



CRAIG CLEMMER | Education and Program Innovation Director, FDACS
SESSION: Moderator, Gardening for Teachers by Teachers

Craig graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Leisure Services Administration (2005), and graduated as a Certified Public Manager (CPM - 2022) through Florida State University (FSU). He is a Florida Certified Contract Manager (FCCM) and has helped the State of Florida administer USDA's food and nutrition programs for over 15 years. He enjoys time with family and is always looking for the next DIY home improvement project.



EDGAR CASTRO TELLO | Recycling Specialist, Department of Solid Waste & Environmental Program Management
SESSION: Engagement on Government Composting and Food Waste Education

Edgar Castro Tello, Venezuelan-born and University of Central Florida (UCF) graduate, started his environmental career in conservation education at Disney's Animal Kingdom. He worked as a field biologist performing migratory bird studies and evaluations, while implementing federal and state policies relating to urban development and wildlife. He continued his passion for environmental education with the City of Tampa where he's worked for almost six years, working on programs such as backyard composting, bead reuse program, and other waste reduction initiatives.



MARY JANE CHANDLER | Food Waste Warriors, World Wildlife Fund
SESSION: Turning Cafeterias into Classrooms through Food Waste Audits & Education

Mary Jane Chandler is the Program Officer for World Wildlife Fund's Food Waste Warrior Program. In this role, she oversees outreach and implementation of educational programming, guiding K-12 schools across the U.S. in measuring, analyzing, and reducing cafeteria food waste. With an M.Sc. in Food Studies, Mary Jane specializes in regional food recovery networks, through the lens of food waste reduction and food security. She joined WWF in 2022 and collaborates with school partners to tailor food waste projects, advocating for regional food policies and amplifying voices for lasting impact in schools and communities.



ARIANNE CORBET | President and Co-Founder, Locally Grown
SESSION: Connecting Cafeterias, Classrooms, and Communities: The Locally Grown Project's Journey to a Sustainable Farm to School Program in Hillsborough County

Arianne Corbett is Nutritionist for Hillsborough County Public Schools and President of Leading Health, LLC with more than 15 years of experience in food and nutrition programs and policy. Arianne's work is focused on efforts to improve children's access to healthy, high-quality food in schools and community settings. She is particularly interested in supporting local food systems in Hillsborough County as cofounder of Locally Grown and an advisory committee member of the Homegrown Hillsborough food system coalition. Prior to forming her consulting company, she managed public health and nutrition advocacy efforts for the Center for Science in the Public Interest and School Nutrition Association.



MICHAEL CRANFORD | Farm to School Coordinator, SCDA
SESSION: Panelist, Farm to School in the Southeast

Michael Cranford is a Marketing Specialist for the South Carolina Department of Agriculture's Market Development team. In this role, he serves as the Executive Director for the SC Specialty Crop Growers Association and the SC Farm to School Program Coordinator. As the coordinator for the Farm to School Program, he works with farmers and school food service staff to increase procurement of fresh local food. This includes managing the USDA Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS) for the state of South Carolina. He also works with other agencies, organizations, and groups to effectively implement and expand farm to school programs throughout the state.



ELAINE FIORE | Environmental Educator, BCPS
SESSION: From School Food Forests to Cafeteria Share Tables and Food Waste Prevention Week: Ways Our Students Can Connect to the Value of Food

Elaine Fiore is an environmental educator, currently overseeing the TEA Garden Food Forest Grant with Florida's Broward County Public Schools. Recognizing the sacredness of food, her passion is inspiring action around a sustainable food system. Elaine piloted a food recovery program for BCPS. Additionally, she spearheads Food Waste Prevention Week and collaborates with organizations across the country to shine a light on this important issue. Sharing a love of growing food, offering children access to healthy foods, while guiding schools to see the benefits of food forests at the community level and beyond, inspires Elaine to share this work with others.



TINA GARLAND | Administrative Branch Manager, Kentucky
Department of Agriculture's (KDA) Foods Division
SESSION: Panelist, Farm to School in the Southeast

Tina Garland has a passion for local foods and supporting local farmers/producers. In her role as Administrative Branch Manager, she manages several programs: Farm to School, the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Chefs in Schools, and Junior Chef. Garland and her husband reside in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky on her family's sixth generation farm where she enjoys farming, horseback riding, hunting, cooking, and quality time with her family, especially her four grandchildren. Her active service on various program advisory boards (Sterling Community Food Coalition, UK Cooperative Extension Nutrition Education Program, and USDA Southeast Region Junior Chef) demonstrates Garland's dedication to agriculture at the local, state, and national levels.



MARY LYNN HESS | K-5 STEM Resource Teacher
SESSION: Panelist, Gardening for Teachers by Teachers

Mary Lynn Hess, a distinguished K-5 STEM resource teacher, possesses a global reach, sharing her expertise as a speaker at local, state, and international levels. She was recognized with the 2021 National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award for her innovative teaching approach. She is also an active member of the NSTA Early Childhood-Elementary Science Teaching Committee, contributing to national science education initiatives. As the 2022 Seminole County Agriculture Educator of the Year, she solidifies her role as an influential figure in STEM education. Her speaking engagements at various platforms, including the Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival, where she presented "Edible Education," attest to her ability to engage and inspire audiences with garden-based teaching methods. Moreover, Mary Lynn's commitment to education extends to her personal goal of sharing her expertise with students, staff, and colleagues, expanding curiosity, and offering fresh ideas in agricultural literacy through lessons, garden clubs, and staff meetings, thereby enriching educational experiences for all.



GLYEN HOLMES | Executive Director, New North Florida Cooperative
SESSION: Panelist, Procurement for Producers by Producers

Glyen Holmes is the forward-thinking Executive Director of the New North Florida Cooperative located in Marianna, FL. He has a solid history of accomplishments in the Farm to School and Community Food Insecurity Implementation arena.

Since 1995 he has: established and successfully carried out the first Farm to School (F2S) Program in the United States; worked with over 100 school districts across six states (Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee) training school district personnel and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers (SDF) on the implementation of F2S programs; worked hand in hand with the National Farm to School Network to get the National Farm to School Grant passed through Congress; brought in more than \$5 million in grant monies in an effort to help support F2S activities in the South/Southeast; developed a product line that can be grown, processed, and delivered by SDFs to their local school districts; developed a distribution system consisting of seven refrigerated trucks as a means to aggregate produce from SDFs for F2S markets; and has consistently worked with national, state, and local agencies throughout the South/Southeast.



BRETON HOMEWOOD | Policy, Systems, and Environment Specialist,
UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program

SESSION: Panelist, Gardening for Teachers by Teachers

In his role as PSE for UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program, Breton provides PSE changes to SNAP-ED eligible youth in seven counties - Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Suwannee, Levy, Madison, and Lafayette. Breton loves building gardens in schools as well as advising early childhood education centers on GONAPSACC and nutrition/development improvement strategies. An educator at his core, Breton has collaborated with Florida Ag in the Classroom to teach teachers statewide in the School Garden Leadership Training series. Breton has his master's from the University of Florida in Sustainable Development Practices, having done his research in Western Honduras with a focus on gender and nutrition. Breton's passions and career goals were formed during his service in the U.S. Peace Corps in Paraguay from 2012-2016. Breton's hobbies include beekeeping, world travel, and riding his Triumph motorcycle.



SHARI HUBBARD, APR | Bureau Chief, Education & Outreach, FDACS

SESSION: Moderator, Farm to School in the Southeast

Shari Hubbard serves as Chief of Education and Outreach for the Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness with FDACS. With more than 30 years' experience as a communications and public relations professional, she is passionate about leading her team to achieve the Division's goals and objectives.

Previously, Shari was Director of Communications with Second Harvest of the Big Bend food bank. In this role, she was responsible for the development and implementation of communications and outreach programs to support Second Harvest's mission across all departments, including community education and stakeholder engagement initiatives; media relations; social media; and volunteer program oversight and stewardship.

Shari enjoys leisure time with friends, family, and her Miniature Australian Shepherd Rudy. She is a proud FSU alumna, and her hobbies include travel, reading, cooking, hiking, and gardening.



FREDANDO JACKSON | Executive Director, Flint River Fresh, Inc.

SESSION: More than a Garden

Fredando Jackson is the Executive Director of Flint River Fresh, a non-profit based in Albany, GA. He is an advocate for "Partnership Farming" where farmers are paid fairly for what they grow, no food is wasted, and everybody eats good in the neighborhood. In 2021, he was recognized as Community Hero by the Atlanta Braves Foundation for Flint River Fresh's work during the COVID outbreak where they distributed thousands of produce boxes and hot meals to essential workers during the height of the pandemic.

Flint River Fresh helps people grow vegetables and fruit from garden plots and orchards located in schoolyards and community sites, provide resources and support to local growers, and nurture young leaders through the important work of growing, distributing, and selling local food.

When he's not playing in the dirt, you can find him relaxing near calm blue waters with his wife, Angela, and son, Stephen.



BRAD JONES | Garden Educator; Co-founder of Edible Education

Experience

SESSION: Panelist, Gardening for Teachers by Teachers

Brad Jones is the Garden Educator and one of the founders of Edible Education Experience, a not-for-profit organization located in Orlando, FL. In this role, Brad collaborates with chefs and educators to plan seasonal crops and sensory tours of their 3000+ sq. ft. garden. He also guides students through experiential lessons the garden has to offer and encourages students to develop a meaningful understanding of our food cycle. Every summer Edible Education Experience hosts a two day teacher academy where Brad leads educators through hands-on lessons for integrating gardening into school curriculum. Before his current role, Brad was employed by the City of Orlando Fire Department where he served 25 years as a firefighter and volunteered at his daughter's school where he led an award winning, multi grade gardening program.



JENNA KACZMARSKI | President and Co-Founder, Locally Grown Inc.

**SESSION: Connecting Cafeterias, Classrooms, and Communities:
The Locally Grown Project's Journey to a Sustainable Farm to School
Program in Hillsborough County**

Jenna Kaczmariski, President and Co-Founder of Locally Grown Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to advancing Farm to School Programs in Florida, brings a wealth of expertise to the intersection of nutrition, education, and community well-being. With a background as the former School Nutrition Director for Polk County Public Schools, Jenna is deeply committed to elevating the standard of nutrition integrity within school meals and helping school nutrition operators overcome the challenges to creating healthy school environments and Farm to School initiatives. In addition to her role with Locally Grown Inc., Jenna serves as a consultant at the local and national level on transformative projects with prominent organizations such as the Florida School Nutrition Association, Chef Ann Foundation, and Action for Healthy Kids.



SYDNEY KELLY, RD | Nutrition Standards Program Specialist, FDACS

SESSION: Menu Planning and Variety

Sydney Kelly is a registered dietitian and team lead for the nutrition standards team within the Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness with FDACS. She is a proud graduate of FSU and completed her dietetic internship at FDACS-FNW. As a nutrition specialist, Sydney assists sponsors in serving nutritious, reimbursable meals to students across our state.



SHELBY LEWIS | Recycling Coordinator, City of Tampa

**SESSION: Engagement on Government Composting and Food Waste
Education**

Shelby is a native Floridian and a graduate of the University of South Florida with a degree in psychology. She has worked for the City of Tampa for five years and has a professional background in the Solid Waste industry, more specifically in waste diversion and outreach. Prior to that, Shelby worked in the marine conservation and research field. A passion for the environment and all those that inhabit it has kept Shelby in the industry of conservation, from researching wild dolphins, to studying waste.



IAN MACPHERSON | Agricultural Coordinator Green Apple School
Management

SESSION: Panelist, Procurement for Producers by Producers

Ian grew up in Palm Bay, FL. While working in restaurant management, he got into reading works by Michael Pollan, and from there, Elliott Coleman. Inspired by organic gardening and farming as a method to leave the world a better place for his children, Ian embarked on a series of farm internships. Upon returning to Palm Bay in 2015, he founded the farm and garden program at Odyssey Charter school, with a mission of teaching children the beauty of organic gardening. The program continues to flourish, with a full-scale organic farm and over 20,000 sq. ft. of vegetable production space.



JENNIFER MORGENTHAL | Education Specialist, Florida Ag in the
Classroom

SESSION: Teaching in the School Garden

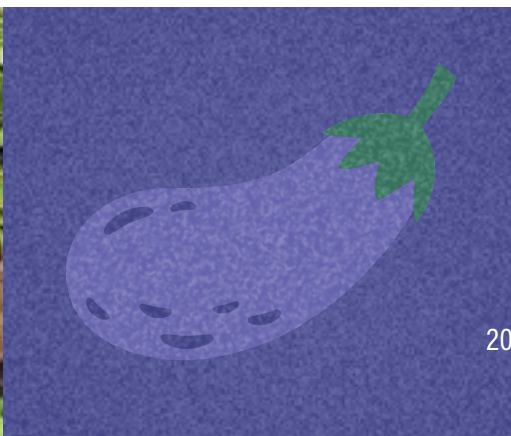
Jennifer Morgenthal comes to us from Williston, FL. The land of watermelon, peanuts, cattle, and timber! She was Valedictorian of her graduating class from Williston High School. Her love for the industry was built by her agriculture teachers, Marcia Smith, Chris Wilder, and the late Robert Philpot. She attended the University of Florida and earned her bachelor's in Agricultural Education and Communications. She started her teaching career at Freedom High School and Steinbrenner High School in Hillsborough County. She then moved into online education as an instructor with Florida Virtual School. She has two sons, Royce and Reese, and one daughter, Rose.



ALYSSA MUSACCHIO | Sustainability Project Coordinator, City of
Orlando's Office of Sustainability, Resilience, & Future-Ready

**SESSION: Cultivating Community Connections: Exploring City of
Orlando's Urban Agriculture Initiatives**

As a Sustainability Project Coordinator for the City of Orlando's Office of Sustainability, Resilience, & Future-Ready, Alyssa Musacchio is dedicated to fostering environmental education and resilience initiatives. Her primary focus involves coordinating impactful programs, with a special emphasis on overseeing the Garden Program - a dynamic youth environmental education initiative aimed at nurturing a connection between students and the natural world around them. She is deeply committed to engaging youth in garden education, promoting an understanding of food cultivation, and encouraging the confidence to create delicious recipes using garden-fresh produce. Rooted in a passion for sustainability, her background includes volunteering with WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) in France and Italy, as well as over five years of hands-on gardening experience.





JEANIE NECESSARY | State PSE Coordinator, UF/IFAS Extension FNP
SESSION: Nutrition Nudges with Smarter Lunchrooms

Jeannie leads the Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change (PSE) Unit. She holds bachelor's degrees in communications and political science from the University of Miami and is currently working towards a master's in agriculture education and communications with a specialization in leadership at the University of Florida. She has more than ten years of experience with childhood nutrition programs focused on gardening, cooking, and food insecurity. Jeannie enjoys basketball, bird watching, hiking, and traveling, and volunteering with local farmers markets to support local farmers.



PEACE NWAGBO | PSE Specialist, UF/IFAS
SESSION: Nutrition Nudges with Smarter Lunchrooms

Peace is a Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change (PSE) Specialist for the UF/IFAS Extension FNP in Broward County. Her role as a PSE Specialist involves collaborating with local organizations to develop and implement programming that promotes healthy eating and physical activity in SNAP-eligible communities. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Miami and a Master of Public Health degree from Florida International University (FIU). She is currently working toward a PhD in public health at FIU, where her research interests include food insecurity, racial equity, and program planning and implementation. Peace has over five years of experience in community health work, three of which have been dedicated to working for FNP in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties to advocate for and improve health promotion, disease prevention, and health equity. Outside of work, Peace enjoys playing word games, binge watching Marvel films and TV shows, and working out.



LISSA ONG, MPH, RD | F2S Specialist, USDA SE Regional Office
SESSION: Navigating the USDA Funding Environment

Ms. Ong is a Farm to School (F2S) Specialist with the USDA Southeast Regional Office. She began her career with FNS over 22 years ago as a Regional Nutritionist with the Western Regional Office, supporting nutrition and food systems work in WIC, Schools, Child and Adult Care Food Programs, and SNAP-Ed. In 2017-May 2021 while with Western Region, she was also part of their F2S team supporting F2S grantees and the facilitation of regional farm to school meetings, and promoting Farm to Preschool at national conferences and webinars. In Georgia, she volunteers throughout the year with her church that has adopted a low resourced elementary school to maintain a community garden on the campus.



JOE PETTIT | Keynote Speaker & Founder of New Leaf Leadership
Keynote Session: Growing Farm to School

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome a true pioneer in leadership development and emotional intelligence, Joe Pettit. With over two decades of hands-on leadership experience, Joe has not only authored the impactful book 'Seeds to Success,' which has sold thousands of copies, but he has also personally impacted the lives of over 10,000 leaders in the past four years. His unique approach is grounded in real-world application, and his sessions are renowned for their activity-based, tangible takeaways. Today, Joe will inspire us with his insights and empower us to become better leaders in our own right.



TUESDAY PIPER | Sustainability Coordinator, City of Orlando
SESSION: Cultivating Community Connections: Exploring City of Orlando's Urban Agriculture Initiatives

In her capacity as the Sustainability Coordinator and the inaugural beekeeper for the City of Orlando, Tuesday Piper integrates her expertise in sustainability, education, and inclusive environmental advocacy. Piper graduated from the UCF with a B.A. in Communication and a B.S. in Environmental Studies, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Environmental Education, where she applies her knowledge to oversee the Apiary Education Program. Operating in Orlando's Downtown area, this program caters to a diverse audience, including high school students in the Black Bee Honey Program, elementary and middle school science classrooms, and adults discovering a newfound passion for beekeeping and volunteering. Piper's overarching goal is to instill in her students an appreciation and respect for insects and the natural world, all while immersing them in the captivating biology and artistry of beekeeping.



CARA ROCKWELL | Assistant Professor, Florida International University Department of Earth & Environment
SESSION: Food Forest Science: Incorporating Lessons on Ecosystems Services in the Classroom

Cara's interest in forestry began during her childhood, exploring the lowland swamps and long-leaf pine savannas of the Florida Panhandle. She received her undergraduate degree in biological sciences from FSU, after which she spent three years working with the restoration of urban tallgrass prairie and oak-hickory forest remnants in Ann Arbor, MI. She then served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay, where she worked with small landowners to improve soil conservation and reforestation efforts. She pursued her Masters and PhD at the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and conducted her fieldwork in Acre, Brazil. Post-graduation, she worked for the Center for International Forestry Research in Peru to investigate the optimization of timber and non-timber forest product harvesting. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor at Florida International University's Department of Earth & Environment, where her research focuses on ecosystem services in urban agro-forestry systems, as well as recovery of forest ecosystems post-disturbance.



BRIANNA RODARMEL | Community Program Manager, 4Roots
SESSION: Turning Cafeterias into Classrooms through Food Waste Audits & Education

Brianna Rodarmel serves as the Community Program Manager for 4Roots, overseeing the design and delivery of educational programming that aligns with 4Roots' mission to unearth the power of food to build healthy communities. In her role, Brianna works to develop content and curriculum for agriculture-based learning experiences at the 4Roots Farm Campus and within the community. Before joining 4Roots in 2022, Brianna was a Sustainability Project Coordinator for the City of Orlando, where she led a youth after-school program that engaged students in hands-on lessons and activities around environmental science and urban gardening. Brianna graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Resource Management and a master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. She is passionate about local food initiatives and inspiring youth to think more deeply about food and farming.



CHEF JORGE SANCHEZ | FNW Chef, FDACS

SESSION: Cooking Demonstration & The Science of Cooking

Cuban born Jorge Sanchez has decades of experiences as a chef, entrepreneur, writer, culinary consultant, and educator. Sanchez earned a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Cornerstone University and holds multiple culinary industry certifications from the American Culinary Federation. He is a graduate of the Secchia Institute of Culinary Education in Grand Rapids, MI., where he later became a professor and instructor. He was also the program director and instructor for culinary education at the College of the Florida Keys, in Key West, FL., and a Master Instructor at Indian River State College in Vero Beach, FL.

Prior to his teaching career, he was the founder and co-owner of San Chez, A Tapas Bistro which was recognized as one of the 50 best Hispanic restaurants in America by Hispanic Magazine. He has consulted and traveled extensively throughout Europe, China, Latin America, and the West Indies. He was a food columnist for Tasters Guild International and has written several articles about the food culture and cuisine of the Florida Keys in regional publications. He also is the author of Kids Sense, Cooking with their Hands, a children's e-cookbook. He has won several international culinary awards including a silver and bronze medal at the International Culinary Olympics in Frankfurt, Germany, as well as first place prizes in edible art, ice carving, and mystery basket competitions.



QUINN SKINNER | Procurement Standards Director, FDACS

SESSION: Moderator, Procurement for Producers by Producers

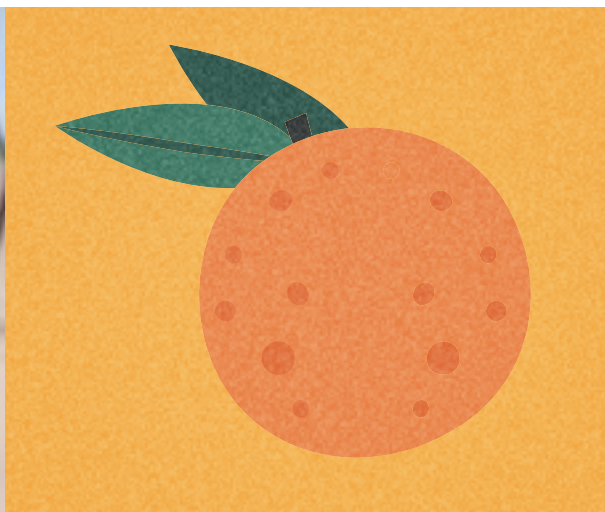
Born and raised in Florida, Quinn Skinner received her bachelor's degree from FSU in Dietetics and is currently enrolled in the FSU College of Law's Juris Master Program. She has worked for Food, Nutrition and Wellness for over 10 years in several positions and is currently the Director of Procurement Standards.



NATASHA SMITH | Project Manager (Farm to School), FDACS

SESSION: Bridging the Gaps - A Step-by-Step Guide to Connecting with and Selling to Schools & Sowing Connections

Natasha Smith serves as the System Administrator for Florida Farm Connect and Project Manager for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In her role, she educates Florida farmers/producers about Farm to School procurement processes/opportunities and is an insightful and engaging speaker and training facilitator. She also develops key relationships as FDACS works to introduce and implement the new Florida Farm Connect tool.





BECKY SPONHOLTZ | Executive Director, Florida Ag in the Classroom
SESSION: Teaching in the School Garden

Becky Sponholtz joined Florida Agriculture in the Classroom as their Education Program Manager in June of 2013 and became the Executive Director in February of 2017. Before joining FAITC, she was an Agriscience Instructor and FFA Advisor for seven years at Keystone Heights High School and two years at Fort Pierce Westwood High School. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and a Master of Agriculture from Auburn University.



BETH SPRATT | Agriculture Industry Representative, ADAI
SESSION: Panelist, Farm to School In the Southeast

Beth Spratt grew up in a small rural community in South Florida. She graduated from the University of Florida in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Food and Resource Economics and a minor in Agricultural Law. She worked on the Florida Farm to School initiative from January 2015 to April 2020 and has since been working on the Farm to School program for the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. She is currently focused on increasing Alabama growers participating in Farm to School by helping them identify and overcome obstacles to selling to schools as well as helping connect schools to farmers that can supply their produce needs. She is also co-managing the Local Food to Schools (LFS) and Local Food Procurement Agreement (LFPA) grants.



LESLIE SUROWIEC | STEAM Teacher, Greenwood School
SESSION: Field of Dreams: If You Build it, They Will Come... One Small Step at a Time

Leslie Surowiec is a teacher at Greenwood school in Jacksonville, FL with 29 years of experience in the education field teaching all over the world as a teacher, principal, director, and curriculum developer. Her interests include robotics, 3D printing/design, and gardening. Although she lives within the city of Jacksonville, she has quite the farm life; dog, cat, rabbit, three chickens, turtle, and an axolotl. Currently, she is working on combining all of her interests into one environment through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM); pets, plants, and AI. Hopefully, we can influence children to engage with the environment around them one small step at a time.



JOSH TAYLOR | Founder and President, Do Good Farm
SESSION: Sustainable Farming Practices in Urban Settings

Josh Taylor is the Founder and President of Do Good Farm, which exists to end hunger and malnutrition locally and globally by teaching people to grow their own food rather than shipping boxes of rice and beans over and over again. He is also the Head Farmer for 4Roots, a new farm campus under construction near downtown Orlando, which will function much like a science center for the City of Orlando, but with a focus on agriculture and farming. He is overseeing the design, installation, and operations for all of the farming components for the campus. He is passionate about seeing farming move to more regenerative and sustainable practices and about inspiring the next generation of farmers. Josh has been married to Kelly for 23 years and they have two beautiful daughters, Morgan and Cameron.

EVENT DREAM TEAM

FNW LEADERSHIP



VIANKA COLIN
Division Director



LASHARONTÉ (LASHA) WILLIAMS-POTTS
Assistant Division Director

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP



BELA DELGADO | Farm to School Coordinator, FDACS
Communications Lead

Bela Delgado is the Farm to School Coordinator: Food Waste Specialist in the Education and Outreach Bureau at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). In this role, Bela is responsible for the development and implementation of Food Recovery in Schools and Farm to School Initiative, which strive to reduce food waste and food insecurity in our communities and schools. This role aligns with her passion of implementing sustainable food systems and creating a prosperous network of producers and schools. Bela holds a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance, with a minor in Business from FSU. Bela loves to spend time working on her family's farm, playing piano, and going on outdoor adventures with her three dogs.



MICHAEL CARTER | Farm to School Coordinator, FDACS
Program Lead

Michael Carter is a Farm to School Outreach Coordinator for FDACS where he works to expand and build the Farm to School Initiative by assisting in the establishment of school gardens, educational programming, and helping to integrate fresh Florida produce into schools.

Michael is a central Florida native and graduate of FSU, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Affairs and a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Sciences. He is passionate about creating resilient, productive, regenerative food systems and has been working in sustainable agriculture since 2014. His experience includes diverse projects ranging from agriculture extension work in rural Paraguay as a Peace Corps volunteer, to developing tropical plant nurseries and managing an organic farm and ecological restoration project in the Republic of Panama. Michael is an avid beekeeper, gardener, soap-maker, and bookworm. He especially loves his cat Hooli and all things outdoors.



JEREMY EASON | Outreach Director, FDACS
General Support Lead

Jeremy Eason was raised in Tallahassee and attended FSU. After college he moved to Los Angeles where, after working a variety of jobs, he settled at William Morris Endeavor talent agency as director of media research. After moving back to Tallahassee with his family, he consulted as a market research analyst with several clients and political campaigns, providing online marketing strategies and goals. For the past two years he has served as the Director of Outreach for Food, Nutrition and Wellness at FDACS. His wife, Nipa, is a creative director at a national advertising firm focusing on non-profit organizations and they have a daughter who is in sixth grade.



LEE MCKNIGHT | Summer Food Service Coordinator, FDACS
Registration Lead

Lee McKnight joined as the Summer Food Service Coordinator at FDACS in 2023. A graduate of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, majoring in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Business, Lee is passionate about promoting and enhancing the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) across Florida. Beyond her professional role, Lee values family time with her two children and contributes as an educator at the World Class Academy of Beauty Careers.



DOUG RYAN | Event Coordinator, FDACS
Event Lead

Doug is the Event Coordinator with FDACS, Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness and the Alternate ESF-11 Emergency Coordinating Officer. He joined FDACS in 2021 after 25 years of experience in the Florida College System (formerly called Community Colleges), including several years of service in leadership roles in statewide organizations and non-profits. Doug is a native Floridian and has been a resident of Tallahassee for the past two decades. He has a beautiful bride of 19 years and two children who are 16 and nine years old.



YASMIN SHAHIN | Strategic Partnerships Coordinator, FDACS
Expo Lead

Yasmin Shahin joined FDACS in 2022 as a Strategic Partnerships Coordinator for the Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness. Prior to joining FDACS, Yasmin came with advantageous skills that she transferred from her latest position with the International Monetary Fund to her new position with FDACS. With Yasmin's strategic communication skills, she has leveraged the cultivation of partnerships with stakeholders locally and across the state of Florida. Outside of her professional capacity, Yasmin loves traveling and learning about new cultures. Hence the reason she chose the area of her studies at the FSU with a double major in International Affairs and Political Sciences.

SESSION HOSTS



TARA DICKEY
Program Improvement Analyst



SANDER DOMINICK
Economic Analyst



TY GUTHRIE
Training & Technical Assistance
Specialist



CHESA JAMES
Program Improvement Analyst



ALYSSA MARTIN
Procurement Specialist

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION



KELITHA ANDERSON
Dietitian/Nutrition Standards Specialist



DEXTER HARRIS
ESF11 Emergency Coordinating Officer



DARREL JOHNSON
Program Eligibility Specialist



KEYURI PATEL
Property Analyst

We're so excited to show you our new website!



FDACS.gov/FarmtoSchoolFL.com



FLORIDA FARM CONNECT

Florida Farm Connect is an interactive portal that allows producers and schools to connect directly with each other to market and procure fresh Florida commodities for school meals. Find information on training, resources, and learn food safety practices.



FOOD RECOVERY

Find information that can assist your school in reducing student food waste, including: Share Tables, gleaning, and composting.



HARVEST OF THE MONTH

Highlighting locally sourced Florida products each month that can be showcased in schools and classrooms. Harvest of the Month is a perfect complement to other Farm to School initiatives. It provides free, ready-to-go lessons correlated to core academic standards that explore and promote the use of Florida-grown products in K-8 classrooms.



FLORIDA TEACHING GARDEN

Coming soon! The Florida Teaching Garden is an outdoor living laboratory created for all Floridians to enjoy and serves as a model for school garden initiatives throughout the state. It demonstrates how to use gardens as a teaching tool for hands-on learning and thinking critically about our relationship to food, agricultural systems, and health.

SCHOOL GARDEN CERTIFICATION

Coming soon! We will host trainings that address the challenges and benefits of starting a school garden while providing insight on how to establish your project. We are here to support your educational objectives and help make your Florida school garden a beautiful and bountiful place for students to learn.



OUR PARTNERS





In honor of
NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

March 4-8, 2024

#NSBW24

Chef Jorge Sanchez is mixing up some breakfast parfaits!
 Your copy of the recipe is below.

For more information, or to request Chef Jorge to come
 to your next event:



[FDACS.gov/Food-Nutrition/Nutrition-Education-Resources/Chef-Jorge-Sanchez](https://fdacs.gov/Food-Nutrition/Nutrition-Education-Resources/Chef-Jorge-Sanchez)



WHOLE GRAIN GRAHAM CRACKER YOGURT PARFAIT WITH BALSAMIC STRAWBERRIES

Serves 4



INGREDIENTS

2 cup nonfat vanilla Greek yogurt	¼ cup balsamic vinegar
2 cups fresh strawberries, hulled and quartered	1 cup graham cracker crumbs
½ cup granulated sugar (can substitute Splenda)	2 tbsp melted butter or Margarine

1. In a bowl, combine hulled and quartered strawberries with sugar or Splenda.
2. Toss and let stand for at least 1 hour.
3. Add balsamic vinegar to strawberries (a natural syrup from the sugar should now be present).
4. In another bowl, mix graham cracker crumbs and melted butter, set aside.

FOR THE ASSEMBLY:

Using a parfait cup, layer in graham cracker crumbs. Then layer in vanilla yogurt. Top with strawberries and the balsamic juice. Dust top with a pinch of any remaining graham cracker crumbs. Refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.

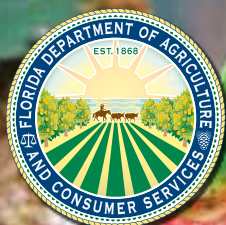
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1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

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