



# ANNUAL REPORT





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Florida Agriculture in the Classroom (FAITC) is a non-profit organization that develops and trains teachers and agriculture industry volunteers in its agricultural curricula and materials, which they in turn use to educate students about the importance of agriculture.

The 2017 Annual Report highlights the accomplishments of the organization, which is funded by the sales of the agriculture specialty license plate, the Ag Tag. FAITC uses the \$20 it receives for every Ag Tag purchased to create and present its resources. This year they awarded 51 \$500 school garden grants and finalized *STEMming Up Gardening* with grant money it received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

Thanks to the support of the board members, volunteers, facilitators and staff, Florida Agriculture in the Classroom successfully reached over 6,500 teachers and 170,000 students through those teachers working to fulfill its mission.



Dickenson Elementary  
Hillsborough County

## OUR MISSION

To increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education.



Pinecrest Elementary  
Dade County

It is a privilege to serve as Chairwoman for FAITC and as a representative for my husband's family business Wm. G. Roe & Sons, Inc. Our children are 4th generation farmers on both sides and it seems with every new generation people are further removed from farming and the agriculture industry.

Farm and ranch families make up less than two percent of the U.S. population and have the responsibility of feeding the other 98% of the population. It is easy to believe that one is "removed" from agriculture when in reality, several daily decisions of every person influence the industry.

Bridging the gap between producers and consumers and helping people understand where their food is coming from is what excites me the most about what Florida Agriculture in the Classroom does. Incorporating agriculture into school curriculum and spreading the word of the importance of agriculture creates an appreciation for the food produced and the hard workers who produced it.

I believe that the more connected and involved in the agriculture industry people are, the more they will appreciate what it takes to get food from the farm to the table. Florida Agriculture in the Classroom does a great job of creating and sharing resources to help educate our students and teachers about where their food, fuel and fiber comes from. As a former educator, I really believe in FAITC's mission and am proud of what they have been able to accomplish through their teacher resources, workshops and grants.

2017 was a year of change for FAITC, with new leadership, new staff and new board members and we look forward to continuing all of our programs and accomplishments.



Carol Roe  
Chairwoman



## OUR TOTAL REACH

6,566



K-12  
TEACHERS

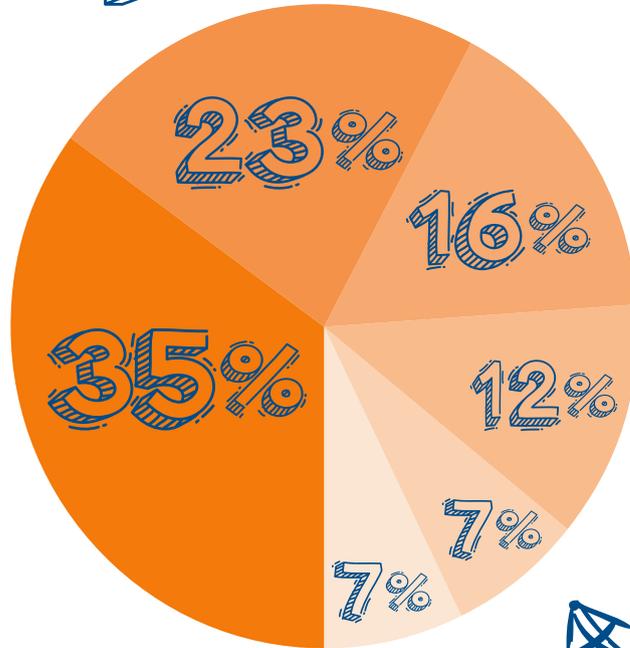


STUDENTS

170,421+



## YOUR AG TAG DOLLARS AT WORK



- TEACHER RESOURCES
- GRANTS
- WORKSHOPS
- MARKETING
- AGRICULTURE LITERACY DAY
- PROGRAM OPERATIONS



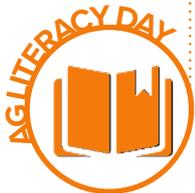
## THE BREAKDOWN



TEACHERS

900	2,500	1,974	731	100	50	300	11
31,000	48,000	53,517	16,463	9,000	6,132	5,109	1,200

STUDENTS



BY THE NUMBERS

STEMMING UP

# Gardening<sup>SM</sup>

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.

**A comprehensive guide for  
Florida educators designed  
to integrate science,  
technology, engineering and  
math into a school garden.**





**Claywell Elementary** in Hillsborough County uses their garden to teach students to protect and conserve ecosystems, build leadership and communication skills and allows student hands-on scientific experiences.

**Hunter's Green Elementary** in Hillsborough County has 20 gardening beds that are used to teach Florida Standards.



**“The success of this project (school garden) has been powerful. The students have gained so much knowledge, awareness, responsibility, pride and excitement participating in the garden. Their attitudes have changed for the positive recognizing the importance of Florida’s agriculture.”**

- School gardens continue to be a popular and instrumental teaching tool for Florida teachers.
- 232 *Gardening for Grades* curriculum were distributed.
- FAITC received a grant from the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization and USDA to update and reorganize *Gardening for Grades*.
- FAITC partnered with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Farm to School to host two Summer School Garden workshops.
- FAITC distributed 51 \$500 school garden grants.
- 1,111 *Gardening for Nutrition* curriculum were distributed.
- FAITC partnered with UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program to host Keep it Fresh: School Garden Workshop in Escambia County.
- *STEMming Up Gardening*, the third school garden curricula was printed.
- Florida was chosen for a second Seed Survivor Mobile Classroom Tour sponsored by Agrium (now Nutrien). The mobile classrooms reached 731 classrooms and over 15,000 students.



FDACS' Chef Paula Kendrick taught teachers how to use their school garden produce to create simple snacks for students at the Summer School Garden Workshops.



Teachers learned about photosynthesis and energy through designing and building their own photoelectric tree at the St. Lucie County Workshop.



Escambia and Santa Rosa County teachers learned how to use square foot garden planning as a fun way to teach perimeter and area.

# WORKSHOPS & FARM TOURS

On February 23rd, FAITC and FDACS Farm to School held a workshop with farm tours for 42 teachers in Fort Pierce. Adams Ranch hosted the workshop and gave teachers a tour of their beef cattle operation. The second tour stop included a visit to Schacht Groves in Vero Beach to learn about Florida citrus and current events impacting the industry.

Reached over

900 &  
TEACHERS

31,000  
STUDENTS

through school garden workshops and workshops with farm tours.

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**“Loved it and because of attending the workshop (St. Lucie County) I plan to involve more students in agriculture.”**

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The 2016 Summer School Garden Workshop was so successful that FAITC hosted two in 2017. FAITC again collaborated with FDACS Farm to School to host the two two-day school garden program. Day one of the workshops consisted of FAITC Curriculum Connections, FDACS School Garden Sustainability, food safety and garden recipes. Day two of the workshops consisted of hands-on gardening skills such as; Gardening 101, propagation, vermicomposting and hydroponics. The first workshop was held in Tampa (June 1-2), consisting of 100 participants. UF/IFAS Extension, Hydro Harvest Farm and Whitwam Organics presented on day two. The second workshop was held in Miami (June 13-14), consisting of 101 people with the Education Fund presenting on day two.

FAITC teamed up with UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program, UF/IFAS Extension Escambia County, The School District of Escambia County, Live Well Partnership and From the Ground Up Community Garden to host a school garden workshop on October 9th for 39 teachers in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

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**“What a FANTASTIC presentation this has been. I have had my expectations exceeded and have learned SO MUCH. I am psyched to go back to school and REALLY revamp the use of our school garden. THANK YOU!!!”**



Students from Tallahassee School of Math and Science were assisted by Mike Rogalsky, Florida FFA Foundation and Kristi Hatakka, FDACS, while they made fish origami at the Capitol.



Thanks to volunteers like John Madison Landscape, over 48,000 students learned about the Florida aquaculture industry through Agriculture Literacy Day.

Visited over

**2,500** &  
**CLASSROOMS**

read the book, *Drive Through Florida: Aquaculture and Seafood* to more than

**48,000**  
**STUDENTS**

Agriculture Literacy Day is an annual event that gives volunteers from the agriculture industry a chance to interact with Florida elementary students. Volunteers visit classrooms to read the current book and share their knowledge of Florida's agriculture industries.

More than 1,400 Florida Farm Bureau members, farmers, ranchers, growers, UF/IFAS 4-H, master gardeners, extension agents and FFA teachers and students visited 2,500 classrooms and read the 2017 book *Drive Through Florida: Aquaculture and Seafood* to more than 48,000 students in 2017.

Third grade students from Tallahassee School of Math and Science joined FAITC in the cabinet room at the Capitol to kick off Agriculture Literacy Day held May 2, 2017. FAITC was joined by several Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services divisions to help make the event a success. Special thanks to Dr. Lisa Conti, FDACS Deputy Commissioner and Chief Science Officer, who gave a welcome to the students, FDACS Food Nutrition and Wellness who helped students create origami fish, Arlette Roberge with FDACS Marketing, who helped with an interactive activity and Portia Sapp, FDACS Division of Aquaculture, who led a question and answer session.

Agriculture Literacy Day will be held in the fall starting the 2018-2019 school year with the book *These Florida Farms*.

**Surfside Elementary** students show off their hard work on their grade level school garden at Surfside Elementary in Brevard County.



## TEACHER & VOLUNTEER GRANTS

Learning how to raise quail, the importance of bees and diversity through a school garden are just a few of the projects funded with Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher and Volunteer Grants.

In 2017, 21 teacher grants, 13 volunteer grants and 11 hurricane relief grants were funded, reaching over 12,000 students. FAITC offered a special grant in the fall of 2017 after Hurricane Irma effected many counties and damaged school agriculture projects.

### TEACHER GRANTS

#### **DIVERSITY ROCKS: GROWING FINE PRODUCE AND STUDENTS!**

First grade students at Celebration K-8 School in Osceola County created an outdoor edible garden to grow a diversity of crops in order to promote a hands-on and multidisciplinary learning experience.

#### **GREENHOUSE DREAMS**

Students with disabilities at Oak Park School in Sarasota County updated their greenhouse with exhaust fans and shade cloth to allow them to use their greenhouse in hotter months. The greenhouse is used to teach students important agriculture, science and math concepts and how to read and write about what they learn. Students also benefit from developing independence and job skills.

### VOLUNTEER GRANTS

#### **EXPLORING FARM TO FORK IN CITRUS**

Fifth graders in Citrus County attend a one-day agricultural adventure to explore agriculture through a farm to fork curriculum. Youth rotate through a series of educational stations devoted to topics such as local agriculture commodities, environmental stewardship, water quality, careers in agriculture, weather/climate, crop management and citizen science.

#### **TRI-COUNTY POTATO PROJECT**

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade in St. Johns, Flagler and Putnam Counties get hands-on, science based learning that will increase STEM knowledge and raise awareness of agricultural careers.

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ABOUT AGRICULTURE AWARD

A chemistry and agriculture biotechnology teacher from Hardee County and an elementary teacher from Broward County won Florida Agriculture in the Classroom's Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award for 2017.

### CARRIE SUE EDENFIELD

Carrie Sue Edenfield, a high school chemistry and agriculture teacher at Hardee County High School, won the award for the high school level and was the overall Florida winner. She developed an acid/base titration lesson in which her ninth and 10th grade chemistry students test oranges from a local citrus harvester to determine whether or not the fruit is ripe enough to be picked. In addition, she uses identifying elements in fertilizer and understanding the ionic bonds in salt blocks fed to cattle to educate her students about complicated chemistry concepts using real-life agricultural situations.



Students at Hardee High School use chemistry to test oranges to determine if they are ripe enough to pick.

### TARA DUKANAUSKAS

Tara Dukanauskas, a second grade teacher at North Andrews Gardens Elementary, won the award for the elementary level. She added QR codes to her school garden to help educate teachers and students beyond her classroom about the types of plants in the garden, whether or not the plants were started from seed and how to care for plants, among other information. The QR codes take visitors to a web page written by students.

The teachers received an all-expense paid trip to the 2017 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference 'Show Me Agriculture' in Kansas City, MO to gain more educational resources on implementing agriculture into their classrooms.



A second grade student at North Andrews Elementary is taking observations in their container garden.



“Being Executive Director of Florida Agriculture in the Classroom this past year has been a privilege. Florida has such a diverse and amazing agriculture industry and I love sharing that with others. With FAITC’s resources, grants and workshops we are able to educate more teachers and students every year about where their food, fiber and natural resources come from. We will continue to work hard to fulfill our mission of increasing the number of agriculturally literate teachers and students. Thank you for your support of our organization through your purchase of the Ag Tag and your time volunteering with students.”



**BECKY SPONHOLTZ, Executive Director**

Becky 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 degree from Auburn University.

**“Educating the next generation about agriculture is arguably one of the most important tasks of the industry. My favorite part about being the Education Program Manager is creating the ripple effect. I have the opportunity to teach teachers ideas on how they can integrate agriculture into their classroom and they in turn teach the future generation about our important industry. Agriculture is exciting, evolving and relatable and I enjoy that I can share agricultural knowledge with others.”**



### **TRACEE SCHIBEL, Education Program Manager**

Tracee joined Florida Agriculture in the Classroom as their Education Program Manager in June 2017. Tracee has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business Management from State University of New York at Cobleskill and a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Education and Communication from the University of Florida. Before joining FAITC, Tracee was a HungerU member, traveling the country educating students about agricultural solutions to hunger, as well as substitute teacher when not traveling. Before attending college Tracee was a New York State FFA officer.



**Carol Roe**

**Chair**

Wm. G. Roe and Sons, Inc.



**Michael Rogalsky**

**Vice Chair**

Florida FFA Foundation



**Joan Kyle**

**Treasurer**

Florida Fertilizer &  
Agrichemical Association



**Hilary Holley**

**Secretary**

The Hay Exchange



**Vina Jean Banks**

Florida Beef Council



**Ken Barton**

Florida Peanut  
Producers



**David Boozer**

Florida Aquaculture  
Association



**Michele Curts**

Florida Farm Bureau



**Lee Ann Fisch**

Florida Forestry Association



**Justin Fussell**

Farm Credit of Florida



**Lori Johnson**

Dairy Council of Florida



**Corey Lambert**

Buckhorn Nursery

**Not pictured: Rhonda Kennedy**, Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association



**Tamara Wood**  
Immediate Past Chair  
Florida Citrus Mutual



**Gary Albarelli**  
Florida Industrial & Phosphate  
Research Institute



**Tiffany Dale**  
Florida Strawberry  
Growers Association



**Chris DeCubellis**  
UF/IFAS Florida 4-H  
Youth Development



**Dr. Brian Myers**  
UF/IFAS Agricultural  
Education & Communication



**Nichole Wilder**  
Florida Department of Education,  
Bureau of Standards and  
Instructional Support

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FAITC's success is due to the guidance and hard work of its board of directors. They have spent long hours at meetings and on conference calls making sure the Agriculture Literacy Day book and educational materials are accurate, the recipients of grant money and teacher awards are deserving and the marketing of the agriculture specialty license plate the 'Ag Tag' is effective.



**FLORIDA**  
**Agriculture**  
IN THE CLASSROOM

**FAITC.ORG**

