



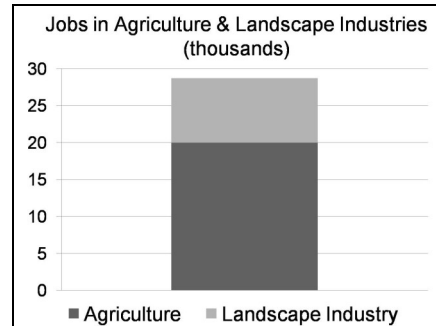
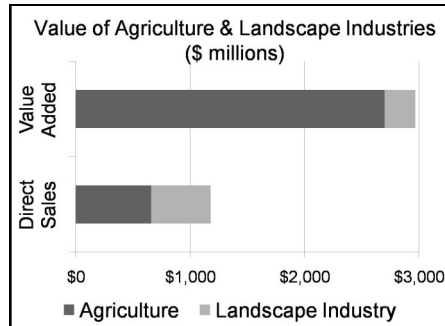
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CONSUMER SERVICES DEPARTMENT COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DIVISION



The Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service is a partnership between Miami-Dade County and the University of Florida-IFAS. **The University of Florida provides \$1.38 million as a direct monetary contribution to the Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension Service budget for salary matches (60% from the University of Florida-IFAS versus 40% from Miami-Dade County) and other support.**

Cooperative Extension has been part of Miami-Dade County government since 1914. Educational programs and information are offered countywide, at no or minimal cost. Information presented is unbiased, backed by research and responds to client needs as identified through citizen advisory committees. Cooperative Extension is flexible and responds to emerging needs such as natural and other disasters. Please direct questions to the County Extension Director, (305) 248-3311 x240.

- The **agricultural industry** is the second largest economic engine in Miami-Dade County (2nd in Florida for value).
- The Miami-Dade **landscape industry** is second in Florida for the number of jobs.



For every \$1.00 generated by direct sales from these industries, it costs Miami-Dade County only 0.087 cents (less than one penny) for Cooperative Extension.

The Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department, Cooperative Extension Division is the **only** County agency which serves this sector with educational information, including consultations, workshops and trainings. There are no businesses that provide comparable unbiased information for these industries.

Miami-Dade County is considered as **ground zero for new plant pests and diseases entering the United States**. Many are first found in residential neighborhoods and quickly spread to agricultural areas.

Cooperative Extension horticultural professionals are first responders for these invasive threats to agriculture, home horticulture, urban landscapes and the natural environment.

What makes Cooperative Extension unique

- Subject matter experts
- Accountable
- Sole provider of critical services
- Trouble shooters & problem solvers
- Unbiased, timely and relevant information
- Volunteers expand outreach exponentially

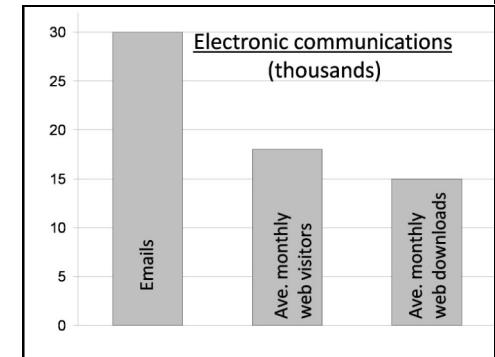
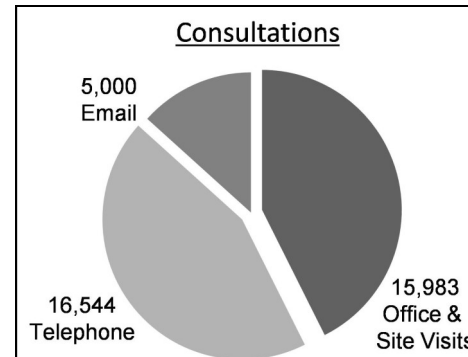
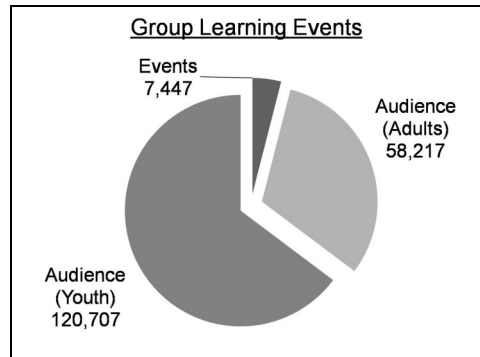
Cooperative Extension Initiatives

- Supporting the local and state economy: agriculture, landscape industry & marine industry
- Protecting the natural environment: water quality & quantity
- Promoting food security & food safety
- Youth development
- Public education: human nutrition, home horticulture & others
- Assessing damages to agriculture due to natural & other disasters

Cooperative Extension's Program Areas to Address Initiatives & County Goals

- Agriculture (fruit, plant nurseries & vegetables)
- Landscape Industry
- Home Horticulture
- Family & Consumer Sciences (family finance, nutrition, food safety)
- 4-H / Youth Development
- Sea Grant / Marine Industry

2008 Educational programs & technical assistance to Miami-Dade County growers, landscape industry, agricultural suppliers, marine industry, county agencies, youth, elderly, residents and visitors by the Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department, Cooperative Extension Division



Consequences to the Agriculture & Landscape Industries of Not Restoring the Cooperative Extension Budget

- Hardship to agricultural growers and the landscape industry
 - Agricultural producers and the landscape industry will need to travel to other counties for trainings such as:
 - Pesticide licensing exams and renewals
 - Best Management Practices **mandatory** certification for the landscape industry
 - Greater cost to industries for travel and time away from the business.
 - *Unintended consequences*: few firms willing to make the sacrifice to attend mandatory trainings resulting in increased environmental damage and risk to personal safety.
- No agency to respond to agro-bioterrorism and environmental threats such as Ficus Whitefly, fatal Avocado Wilt epidemic, and other off-shore pests

Miami-Dade County is the most populous county in Florida. It is critical that residents, including youth, have access to **accurate** education about environmental stewardship, human nutrition, leadership, entrepreneurship and citizenship.

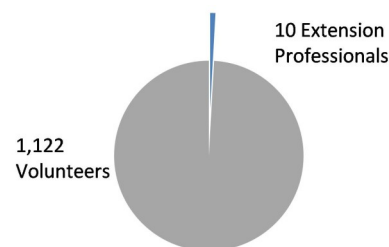
Other Consequences of Not Restoring the Cooperative Extension Budget

- The partnership between the County and the University of Florida-IFAS will dissolve. (**\$1.38 million of state funds lost to Miami-Dade County**)
- No Extension programs or services in Miami-Dade County
- No 4-H / youth development program, including **free** after care programs
- No specialized nutrition, food safety and finance programs for low-income residents
- No Master Gardener volunteer program (accurate advice on plant care to residents)
- No Clean Marina program

Workforce multipliers

Volunteers include: 4-H Leaders, Master Gardeners and other program volunteers

- Hours donated: 12,387¹
 - Value: \$250,836¹
- ¹ (2008)



Cooperative Extension Clientele

