



## EMPOWERING MARION FOR SUCCESS II

### Cooperative Extension

#### **FY 23/24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Accomplishments (July – Sept):**

##### Public Infrastructure

1. Protect Water Resources
  - a. Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent will also work with Stone Creek HOA and Brightview landscaping to install a revamped Florida-Friendly Landscaping demonstration garden to demonstrate Florida-friendly plants and mulch that conserve water.
  - b. Agents continued to host educational programs for industry and citizens on best management practices to conserve water and protect water quality.
  - c. Agents did field visits to advise clientele of the proper selection and installation of Florida-Friendly Landscaping. Florida-Friendly Landscape Agent hosted the FFL program and evaluated yards to determine the next step for residents to ensure their landscapes were done to save water and reduce fertilizer usage.
  - d. Agents continue to teach Hydroponics to Home gardeners. Hydroponics allows garden crops to grow significantly faster with less pest pressure and less fertilizer use, eliminating the excessive use and potential runoff of chemicals. Additionally, Hydroponics uses approximately 75% less water for crop production.

##### Planning and Future Growth

1. Guide Future Growth and Housing
  - a. Agent worked with Community Partners to build community capacity to assist with underserved populations' affordable housing needs. Hosted first-time homeowners and affordable multi-family housing classes for HUD.
  - b. Agent delivers one-on-one financial counseling sessions to help clients meet their financial and housing goals.

##### Organizational Experience

1. Customer Experience – Customer Service
  - a. The Extension Department recognized outstanding employees dedicated to serving the clientele of the extension office. Positive recognition ensures an improved work environment by increasing the positive response to positive behavior.
  - b. Family and Consumer Science Agent received State Honor in Respect from her Professional Organization.
  - c. The Extension Department spent the first part of the staff meeting recognizing employees for their accomplishments and awards received.

#### **FY 24/25 – 1st Quarter Goals (Oct through Dec):**

##### Public Infrastructure



## EMPOWERING MARION FOR SUCCESS II

1. Protect Water Resources
  - a. Agents will continue to host educational programs for industry and citizens on best management practices to conserve water and protect water quality.
  - b. The water agent will develop partnerships with community organizations and county departments.
  - c. FFL and Water Agent received an H2O grant and will partner with the City to do water savings programs.

### Planning and Future Growth

1. Guide Future Growth and Housing
  - a. The agent will continue to build a clientele base and create marketing programs to help citizens find affordable housing. The agent will attend professional development training to become more aware of the resources available to help families find affordable housing.
  - b. The agent will continue to build community partnerships to increase awareness of finding affordable housing opportunities.
  - d. The agent will collaborate with nonprofit organizations to increase financial health and stability and promote financial resources that expand households' opportunities to find affordable housing.

### Organizational Experience

1. Customer Experience – Customer Service
  - a. The Extension Department has reviewed the tasks and ensured a plan of action to make sure backup staff is prepared to cover tasks when there is an absence.
  - b. The Extension Department will continue to conduct professional development activities at staff meetings. The extension department will enroll new 4-H program assistant in the customer service boot camp hosted by the Human Resources department.