

IFAS Matters



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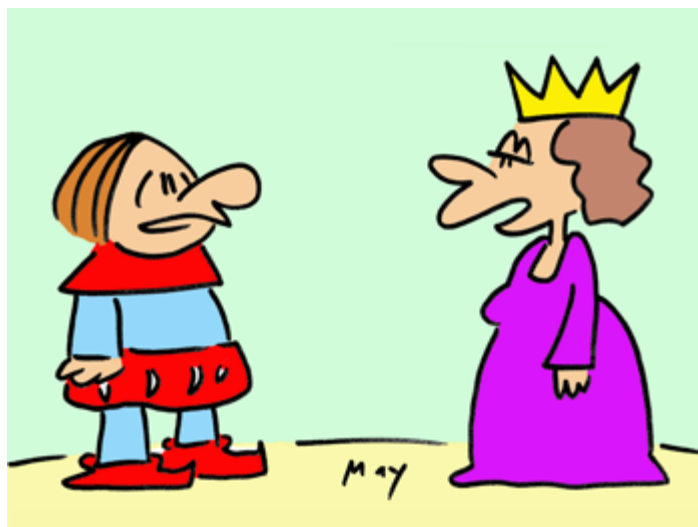
Faculty Awards

- [Faculty receive ASPB awards](#)
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- [IFAS faculty, students lauded at NACTA](#)

IFAS Matters - September 2012

Posted on September 12, 2012 by Jack Payne

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"Your Majesty, the peasants are out of bread!"

"Then let them eat low-carb stuff."

Hungry for Democracy or Just Hungry?

When it comes to inciting the multitudes, even a ruthless dictator is diminished by the hollow ache of hunger. This can be illustrated vividly by a common scenario in the Middle East or North Africa, where as much as 70 percent of household income may go toward food. Most of that food is imported. When a major food supplier has a bout with bad conditions, such as drought, floods or pestilence, sudden and severe shortages can lead to outrageous prices. Food staples become scarce for those who once had an adequate supply. With the food security system failing, the regime becomes vulnerable to further criticisms and rebellion.



150th Anniversary

Find out how the University of Florida is celebrating...

Videos & Slideshows

Folklife Festival



UF/IFAS' Jack Payne speaks during the opening of the 2012 Smithsonian Folk Life Festival.. [View Video>>](#)

Folklife Festival



The UF/IFAS exhibit theme was Water: Connections for Life. [View Slideshow>>](#)

Faculty awarded at ag, bio engineering meeting

UF/IFAS faculty, students honored at recent state entomology meeting

So in 2010, when Russia—Egypt’s main source of wheat—saw its crops fail from drought, consumer prices spiked. Those food shortages, coupled with a harsh regime, gave rise to the Arab Spring.

Similarly, this year’s failed crop in the U.S., the world’s biggest exporter of corn and wheat, could wreak havoc on global food supplies – and lead to more political turbulence around the world.

So why am I writing about this? Because food, water, and the natural resources that nourish and maintain us *are* IFAS matters. Although IFAS seeks first and foremost to improve the lives of Floridians, it is also an integral part of a global economic and environmental community in which we have both a shared responsibility and destiny.

To that end, IFAS researchers are working to develop more beef with fewer cows. They are working to reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers and energy used in farming. They are finding new ways to produce higher yields on less land, using less water. And while IFAS is serving Floridians, it’s also helping to fill the stomachs of those who hunger for democracy.

-Jack

Features



Hayes Named Dean for Research

John Hayes has been named dean for research of the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. [Read More...](#)



Place Named Dean for Extension

Nick Place is returning to Gainesville to become the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences dean for extension and director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. [Read more...](#)



Burns to Direct Southwest Florida REC

Jacqueline Burns, director of UF’s Citrus REC now has another hat to wear – she’s been named to lead UF’s Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee. [Read more...](#)

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UF/IFAS Solutions

NEON Groundbreaking



Environmental sensors are being installed at UF’s Ordway-Swisher Biological Station. [View Slideshow>>](#)

Articles

Austin Cary Donations



FL Farm Bureau



Rayonier

Citrus Greening



Model shows how citrus greening spreads

Ecosystems



Study quantifies value of ecosystems

Nutritious Food



EDIS – Florida Cooperative Extension
Publications



UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences



Databases, models for
more nutritious food

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