URBAN AGRICULTURE:

Growing Needs & Responsive Research

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OVERVIEW

- · What is urban agriculture?
- · Why urban agriculture?
- · Results of Needs Assessment of Urban Farmers
- . What is the role of UF/IFAS Research and Extension?



URBAN AGRICULTURE

- Practices that include production, distribution, and marketing of food and other products within the cores of metropolitan areas and at their edges
 - Community and school gardens, backyard and rooftop horticulture, and innovative production methods that maximize output within a constrained physical area
 - Farms supplying to urban farmers markets, community supported agriculture (CSA), or farms located within metropolitan green belts

WHY URBAN AG?

- · Global population to increase from 7.7 billion to 11 billion by 2100
- · Currently, 820 million do not have enough to eat
 - 40% of food is wasted
 - Issue of food system including production, processing, distribution, and consumption
- · Habitat loss considered leading cause of loss of biodiversity
- Fossil fuels linked to US food production
 - Food travels an average of 1500 miles farm to table
- · 84% of US population lives in urban areas
 - 75% of global population will be urban in next few decades

UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, adapted from American Planning Association 2011



Fao.org, un.org, Canning et. al., Maltais Landry lecture



WHY URBAN AG?

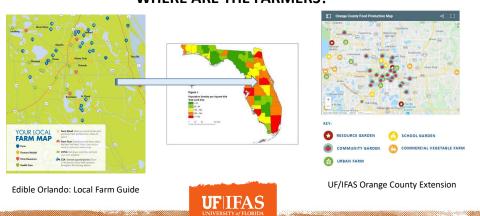
- Florida 3rd largest state by population
- · State's second largest industry is agriculture
- Nation's second highest value of vegetable production from Florida
- · Growing seasons favorable for specialty crop production
- · Less than ¼ of 1% of Floridians are farmers
- · 12% of households in Florida are food insecure







WTF? WHERE ARE THE FARMERS?



WTF? WHO ARE THE FARMERS?



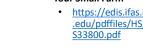






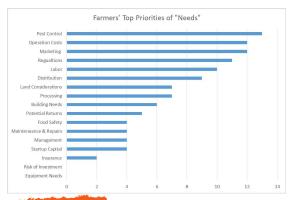






WHAT DO THE FARMERS NEED?

- **Networking Event and Needs Assessment**
- 49 participants
- · Topics selected from EDIS "Keys to Successfully Choosing **Enterprises That Suit** Your Small Farm"
 - https://edis.ifas.ufl .edu/pdffiles/HS/H









FARMERS' TOP NEEDS

Pest Control

- Organic pest control
- More classes locally throughout year

Operation Costs

- Bulk seed, compost, fertilizer, etc.
- · Budgeting is hard to factor

Marketing

- · What really works?
- · Sell it before you grow it
- Educate public- tours, field trips

Regulations

Too many!





Indicates resources UF/IFAS has and does well. Need to do it more and better according to farmers.

3 KEY POINTS

Research

- · Urban agriculture is happening
- · Responsive to needs of urban farms

Extension

- · Educate the public and community leaders
- Effectively communicate existing scientific resources

Research & Extension

- Focus on delivery and accessibility of the science we already have
 - Develop high quality educational materials at the state level
 - Provide training and materials to agents to use locally
 - PowerPoints with notes, Tools, Books, Identification Charts, Games, Evaluations



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