

EXTENSION SERVICE

Public Works Division

OVERVIEW



Marion County Extension Service is a cooperative effort between (and funded by both) the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and the University of Florida (UF).

Extension Service faculty work directly with citizens, providing the latest developments from UF and other land-grant universities. Expertise is demonstrated in the following areas of specialty:

- 4-H Youth Development.
- Agriculture and environmental sciences.
- Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Water and Energy Education.

The **Southeastern Livestock Pavilion (SELP)** is part of Marion County Extension Service. Joint ownership between the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides rental opportunities of the following amenities:

- A multi-purpose auditorium seating up to 400 guests with a catering kitchen.
- An indoor amphitheater with up to 800 seats.
- Two rodeo arenas; one with a 4,200-seat capacity.
- Two barns housing a total of 325 stalls.

KEY SERVICES



Extension Service faculty promote best management practices and county-specific recommendations through individual consultations, publications and seminars on crop, equine, livestock and small ruminant production as well as:

- The 4-H Youth Development program.
- Master Gardeners' Plant Clinic.
- Nutrition and family finance programs.
- Pesticide applicators training.

The **Southeastern Livestock Pavilion** accommodates large-capacity events from equine and car shows, rodeos and reunions to high school graduations, the Ocala Bull Sale and the Southeastern Youth Fair.

FUNDING



Funding sources include:

- General revenue (property tax, state shared sales tax and other state shared revenues).
- University of Florida (funding partnership).
- Fees (Southeastern Livestock Pavilion).
- State and federal grants (for various educational programs).

MARION COUNTY

- 1,652 square miles.
- Population: 345,749.
- Florida's fifth largest county; larger than the state of Rhode Island.
- Known as the "Horse Capital of the World," the county's rich equine and agricultural heritage is internationally renowned.
- Comprises thousands of acres of national forest, 32,000 acres of lakes, 92 miles of rivers and more than 40 springs, including Silver Springs, which is recognized as one of the largest artesian spring formations in the world.

By the Numbers*

90,940 Volunteer hours

39,814 Participants in programs

179,067 Customers served

*FY 15-16



Updated 11-16