

2020 Floridians' Perceptions of Issues for Which UF/IFAS Extension Should Apply Effort

The UF/IFAS Program Development and Evaluation Center surveyed Florida residents from May to July 2020 to identify issues for UF/IFAS Extension to prioritize. Florida residents agreed that protecting water quality should be UF/IFAS Extension's highest priority. Residents' responses indicated that UF/IFAS Extension

should devote high or very high effort to multiple natural resources issues (depicted with blue shading) and Safe and healthy food systems issues (depicted with orange shading) were also listed as priorities for UF/IFAS Extension's efforts.

% of Floridians reporting "Very high effort" or "High effort" is needed for the issue

STATEWIDE n = 1500	FARM OR RURAL n = 244	SUBDIVISION in a Town or City n = 1,009	DOWNTOWN in a Town or City n = 239
85.0% Protecting water quality	82.3% Protecting water quality	85.2% Protecting water quality	86.6% Protecting water quality
80.6% Protecting freshwater resources (e.g., lakes, rivers, springs, wetlands)	79.9% Strengthening the local food system	81.6% Protecting freshwater resources (e.g., lakes, rivers, springs, wetlands)	81.2% Protecting air quality
80.5% Ensuring safe food handling practices to prevent foodborne illnesses	78.2% Ensuring safe food handling practices to prevent foodborne illnesses	81.0% Ensuring safe food handling practices to prevent foodborne illnesses	80.9% Protecting freshwater resources (e.g., lakes, rivers, springs, wetlands)
78.7% Protecting air quality	76.6% Protecting freshwater resources (e.g., lakes, rivers, springs, wetlands)	78.8% Protecting natural habitats and ecosystems	80.7% Ensuring safe food handling practices to prevent foodborne illnesses
77.9% Protecting natural habitats and ecosystems	76.2% Protecting air quality	78.6% Protecting air quality	79.1% Protecting natural habitats and ecosystems
76.5% Protecting the marine environment	75.8% Protecting the coastal environment	76.9% Protecting the marine environment	77.4% Strengthening the local food system
75.1% Protecting the coastal environment	74.7% Protecting the marine environment	75.6% Protecting the coastal environment	76.2% Controlling invasive pests (e.g., animals, insects)
74.6% Strengthening the local food system	73.3% Addressing hunger issues	73.8% Ensuring individuals have access to affordable healthy food	75.8% Protecting the marine environment
73.8% Ensuring individuals have access to affordable healthy food	73.3% Assisting farmers in agricultural production	72.4% Strengthening the local food system	75.8% Ensuring individuals have access to affordable healthy food
71.0% Controlling invasive pests (e.g., animals, insects)	72.6% Protecting natural habitats and ecosystems	72.1% Controlling invasive pests (e.g., animals, insects)	75.4% Assisting farmers in agricultural production