

**INFORMATION – FFGC LETTER CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF
ADEQUATE FUNDING TO MAINTAIN ALL SERVICES CURRENTLY
PROVIDED BY IFAS --- UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

Information about IFAS services can be obtained at: <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu>

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA – IFAS
INSITUTE OF FOOD and AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

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Dr. James Bernard “Bernie” Machen, President, University of Florida

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SAMPLE LETTER SAMPLE LETTER SAMPLE LETTER

The delegates attending the FFGC Convention briefly discussed the across-the-board budget cuts being considered by the 2008 Florida Legislature. It was suggested that a sample letter to the President of the University of Florida be posted on the FFGC web site.

Instead, included below is a copy of the personal letter I am sending to the President of the University of Florida. A copy will also be mailed to the Chairman of the UF Board of Trustees.

Please, do not copy the letter. You may freely select ideas or thoughts but use your own words.

If you agree that the overall programs of the UF/IFAS Extension offices have benefited you, your community, your garden club, personal letters are urgently needed. Letters from your circle and/or club are also important. Share personal experiences. Form letters are seldom read. A brief but concise personal letter usually makes an impression on the reader.

Instead of commenting on the overall UF/IFAS program you may choose to talk about one or two recent IFAS Extension programs that you attended and briefly explain how you are using the information.

Noted are a few IFAS Extension programs familiar to garden clubs:

- Master Gardeners**
- 4-H Youth Programs**
- Agriculture Research**
- Homemakers**
- Environmental Issues (water, air)**
- Landscape Design**
- Lawn and Garden Pests**
- Plant Inspection**
- FFGC sponsored Short Course**
- New plant introductions**

**Dr. J. Bernard Machen
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Support for an Unimpaired UF/IFAS 2008-2009 Extension Program Budget

Dear Dr. Machen:

It is unfortunate that due to the current economy the 2008 Legislature has been forced to ask the University System as well as all government agencies to make drastic reductions in their operational budgets for the forthcoming fiscal year.

I am writing because I am concerned that the budget for the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), a very important segment of the University of Florida (UF), may be drastically reduced affecting the extensive services it provides.

The Institute (IFAS) is a federal-state-county partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources and the life sciences, and making that information available to a huge state-wide audience. In addition to facilities on the University of Florida campus, and Extension offices in each of Florida's 67 counties, the UF/IFAS has earned and enjoyed an international reputation for its extensive accomplishments in teaching, research, and extension.

The UF/IFAS Extension offices partner with local government, advisory committees, concerned citizens, the agriculture industry and provide an extremely important link between the public and research conducted on campus and at the 13 research and education centers.

Leadership for the next generation of citizens is provided through programs like the 4-H. The participating young people learn about food nutrition, safety, environmental stewardship, animal care and have an opportunity to demonstrate their new skills at county fairs and in state competitions.

I have been an active and involved member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) since 1972. It would be almost impossible to list all of the state, county and club educational programs that have been presented to our members over the ensuing years by UF/IFAS Extension agents.

In thinking about writing this letter, I tried to recall all of the UF/IFAS programs that have personally benefited me: my family, the food I eat, my garden, my yard and home, my local garden club, my community, the plant industry, and my environment.

My list of UF/IFAS benefits is grossly incomplete. However, I wanted you and the UF Board of Trustees to know how grateful I am for all the learning opportunities UF/IFAS has provided that has enriched my life, our youth, the plant industry and my community over more than three decades.

I strongly believe that the UF/IFAS programs should be financially supported at the level necessary to ensure that all existing IFAS programs be maintained and continued in the 2008-2009 fiscal budget year. I hope that I can count on your support.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss my comments or would like additional detailed information about my personal and garden club IFAS experiences.

Sincerely,

**Marion Hilliard
FFGC Government Agency Liaison
Former FFGC President 1995-1997**

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**cc: Dianna Fuller Morgan
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