

Home Gardening Success with The Children's Table and UF Agriculture Extension Office



Our first series of gardening classes were a huge success, with nearly twenty students in attendance throughout the series.



The Children's Table, in collaboration with the University of Florida (UF) Agriculture Department Extension Office, is excited to announce the continuation of our free gardening classes.



In our previous newsletter, we mentioned that our planting was delayed this season. Despite this, our late spring garden has yielded impressive results.

Pictured above are some of the potatoes we harvested just 90 days after planting. Our garden produced a variety of yellow, purple, and red potatoes, showcasing the success of our efforts.

Designed to help you start and maintain your home garden, these classes provide invaluable resources and hands-on support. The UF team will offer expert assistance with garden planning, plant information, soil samples, and fertilization schedules. In addition, dedicated volunteers and staff from The Children's Table are committed to helping till your land and assist families in creating home garden spaces. Graduates of the classes will benefit from having their land tilled and prepared, ensuring the best possible start for their home gardens.

Mr. Bill, envisioned a future where everyone grows something for their families. Our mission is to make that vision a reality. Parents, it's never too early to learn how to grow your own vegetables. To support this, we will also be offering gardening classes for young students over the summer months. These classes are a fantastic opportunity to gain the knowledge and tools needed to cultivate your own garden, all at no cost to you. New classes will begin soon, so don't miss out!

For more information about upcoming garden class opportunities, reach out to us on Facebook, email us at info@childrenstable.org, or call Mr. Bill at 352-486-6525. We look forward to helping you grow!

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Supporters

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support from our community. Your dedication and generosity make our work possible.

A special thank you goes out to our devoted volunteer staff, our community leaders, and each one of you. Your contributions enable us to continue our mission and expand our services.

THANK YOU



Please support our land sponsor: Two Hawk Hammock, 17590 NE 53 Lane, Williston, FL 352-339-2026. Two Hawk Hammock offers a peaceful farm like setting with country charm. Have relatives coming for a visit? Don't send them to a hotel; send them to this beautiful Bed & Breakfast.



We are thrilled to announce a new partnership with the UF Extension team, through which we now offer ongoing gardening classes. These classes are designed for all ages and skill levels, providing budget-friendly options to make gardening accessible to everyone. A heartfelt thank you to our volunteer instructors and to everyone who attended our inaugural classes. Your enthusiasm and participation are the driving force behind our success.



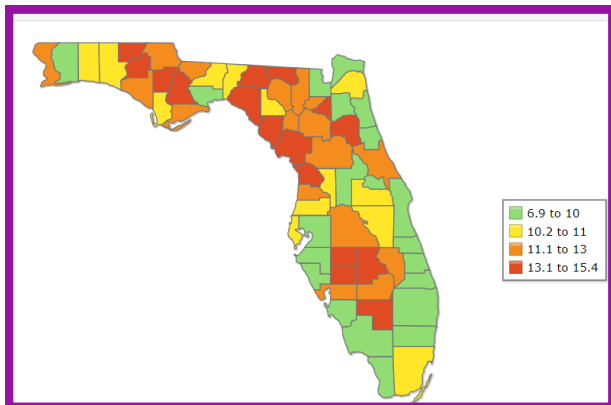
Register for **FREE Gardening Classes:**
Call 352-486-6525

What is the "Food Insecurity Rate" for Levy County - Compared to the rest of Florida?



The price of groceries has increased almost 25%! From March 2020 through March 2024, the cost of groceries rose by 24.7%, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Eggs are 50% more expensive than they were in March of 2020, flour is 36% more expensive and sugar and sugar substitutes are around 35% more expensive. This according to floridatoday.com.

The percentage of the population that do not have consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life are food insecure. Food insecurity results from inadequate financial resources for food at the household level.



Levy County is in the fourth quartile for this measure. This means that relative to other counties in Florida, the situation occurs less often in about three quarters of the counties.

Ensure Your Family Has Nutritious Food

Don't let your family go without the nutritious food they deserve. Join us every Monday from 10 AM to 12 PM at 680 West Thrasher Drive in Bronson. The Children's Table provides fresh food for your family. We ask for a \$7.00 donation per family and allow two families per car. However, donations are not required. We are here to help your family with no strings attached.

Don't Wait Until It's an Emergency -

Food Distribution SCHEDULE - JUNE 2024 6/01/2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28	29	30	31
				<p>FRIDAYS our food distributions come to you!</p> <p>10:00 Archer - Davis Center, 17500 SW Archer Rd, Archer, 11:30 Williston - Masonic Lodge 250 NW 6th Blvd. Highway 121 1:00 Gainesville - Countryside Baptist Church 10926 NW 39th Avenue</p>
3	4	5	6	7
Bronson 10 AM-12 PM 680 Thrasher Drive				<p>9:30 AM Hernando House of Power 7233 N. Lecanto Hwy, 11:00 AM Life Spring Church, 19460 E Pennsylvania Ave, Dunnellon, FL 11:45 AM Inglis Town Hall 135 Highway 40 W. 1:00 PM Otter Creek Town Hall 555 SW 2nd Avenue</p>
10	11	12	13	14
Bronson 10 AM-12 PM 680 Thrasher Drive		Branford - special assistance		<p>10:00 Archer - Davis Center, 17500 SW Archer Rd, Archer, 11:30 Williston - Masonic Lodge 250 NW 6th Blvd. Highway 121 1:00 Gainesville - Countryside Baptist Church 10926 NW 39th Avenue</p>
17	18	19	20	21
Bronson 10 AM-12 PM 680 Thrasher Drive				<p>9:30 AM Hernando House of Power 7233 N. Lecanto Hwy, 11:00 AM Life Spring Church, 19460 E Pennsylvania Ave, Dunnellon, FL 11:45 AM Inglis Town Hall 135 Highway 40 W. 1:00 PM Otter Creek Town Hall 555 SW 2nd Avenue</p>
24	25	26	27	28
Bronson 10 AM-12 PM 680 Thrasher Drive				<p>10:00 Archer - Davis Center, 17500 SW Archer Rd, Archer, 11:30 Williston - Masonic Lodge 250 NW 6th Blvd. Highway 121 1:00 Gainesville - Countryside Baptist Church 10926 NW 39th Avenue</p>

Food insecurity is a social and economic factor that impacts health. Low-income families are affected by multiple, overlapping issues like lack of affordable housing, social isolation, chronic or acute health problems, high medical costs, and low wages. People experiencing food insecurity often consume a nutrient-poor diet, which may contribute to the development of obesity, heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, and other chronic diseases.

In 2021, Food Insecurity Rate in Levy County was 13.4 compared to Florida at 10.6. The line graph shows change over time when there are at least three years of data.

How much has income-wage growth past 4 years? According to SSA.gov:

Compared with the 12.1% wage growth at the bottom, growth was less than half as fast for lower-middle-wage workers (5.0%) and less than one-third as fast for middle-wage workers (3.0%) between 2019 and 2023. Upper-middle wages grew 2.0% over the four-year period, while the 90th-percentile wage grew even slower at 0.9%.

