

Pasco County Extension – Family & Consumer Sciences

Submitted by Betsy Crisp

In Pasco County, my main program areas:

- I. **Food, Nutrition, Health and Food Safety = 50%**
- II. **Environmental Education (Recycling, Water/Energy Conservation) = 25%**
- III. **Personal & Family Well-Being (Employee Workshops) = 25%**

Financial management education has been a part of all three!

- I. **“Stretching Your Food Dollars”** has been a main component of our Family Nutrition Program (FNP) funded by USDA. We have 6 program assistants who work with school children PreK through High School (38 schools), Parent-Teacher Organizations, Elderly Nutrition Sites (4), Food Distribution Sites (3), etc. A “match game” was created to help get the message across. In 2009-2010, the program assistants with the help of teacher/volunteers reached a total of 155,342.
- II. **“Ways to Save Water – Inside Your Home”** is a brochure developed by this agent to help consumers save on their water bills. It is featured through out the year in various talks and exhibits along with a one-page worksheet by Southwest Water Management District on how to calculate water usage. A total of 11 classes/events were held and reached 1,364. Agent and her Home and Community Education volunteers (8) help to staff monthly **Creation Station** (a reuse center) to offer ideas for teachers to save time and money by reusing donated items for class projects – 645 teachers participated in 2009. A **Sewing Club** was formed to teach participants how to save money by sewing their own clothes, decorating their homes, and making their own gifts. Group meets twice a month, 12 months/year and 225 attended. Summer 2009 a **Sewing Day Camp** (one week long) was held that reached 8 adults and 10 youth.
- III. **“Survival Skills for Tough Times”** was offered during 8 classes for 140 Pasco County Utilities employees.

Media was used to announce the above events but no weekly columns or main articles on financial topics were featured in local papers.