

THE SLICE

HURRICANE IAN
RESPONSE & RECOVERY
RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS
PIE FELLOWS
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Incident Command Post in Arcadia, Florida, Oct. 1, 2022.
(UF/IFAS Photo)



Hurricane Ian Response & Recovery

BY KAELYN NELSON

In October 2022, Hurricane Ian made landfall in southwest Florida, resulting in catastrophic flooding and damage. In response to the devastation brought by the storm, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) sent an incident management team to the impacted area to assist in recovery efforts.

Angie Lindsey, University of Florida associate professor of family, youth and community sciences and point-of-contact for the Florida Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) was deployed to Arcadia, Florida, as the UF/IFAS liaison. Lindsey assisted FDACS in its efforts by securing donations of animal supplies to meet the needs of animals impacted by Hurricane Ian.

During her time in Arcadia, Lindsey worked to procure and manage donations from across the country. Donations were delivered to Arcadia and dispersed to animal shelters, pet-friendly shelters and agricultural stakeholders across the impacted area. The donations were crucial in helping owners and shelter workers care for animals when necessary resources were lost due the hurricane.

“Working in the Incident Command Post (ICP) following Hurricane Ian was very busy but extremely rewarding,” Lindsey said. “I enjoyed collaborating with FDACS and other resource organizations to meet the immediate needs of the animal and agricultural community following the storm.”

As Florida EDEN point-of-contact, Lindsey works closely with FDACS and the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) partners to help the agricultural industry prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from disasters like Hurricane Ian.

“I noticed that response happened much quicker this time than in past storms,” Lindsey said. “I think that speaks to the work that our organizations have done in ‘blue skies’ to understand what each one of us can bring to the table and how we can work together in times of response.”

To learn more about Florida EDEN’s collaborative efforts before, during and after disasters, visit:



piecenter.com/fl-eden/



FOCUSING ON FLORIDA FARMER MENTAL HEALTH

PIE Center researchers are in the process of conducting focus groups related to farm stress and mental health. Results from the focus groups will inform outreach efforts to communicate about farm stress and mental health in rural Florida communities.



PREDICTING IMPACTS OF LAND USE & CLIMATE CHANGE

As part of a three-year project, the PIE Center is collaborating with an interdisciplinary team to predict future impacts of land use and climate change in the Suwannee River Basin. In 2023, the PIE Center will facilitate a public workshop and webinar to inform stakeholders about project results.



EXAMINING EXTENSION EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS) is surveying Extension professionals to identify educational needs related to agricultural health and safety. Results will guide the development of materials that can be used to educate clients about agricultural health and safety topics.

PIE Fellows

BY RACHEL STORMANT

The PIE Center launched a new fellowship program this fall to provide University of Florida graduate students with professional development opportunities related to social science.

The PIE Fellows program was created to facilitate learning and collaboration among students from various disciplines. Over the academic year, the PIE Fellows will meet monthly to work on a social science research project and create an outreach campaign.

Ashley McLeod-Morin, associate director of communication for the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS), leads the PIE Fellows program.

“In addition to developing their social science skills, I hope that the PIE Fellows will cultivate long-lasting relationships with students they might not otherwise have an opportunity to collaborate with,” McLeod-Morin said.

The 2022-2023 PIE Fellows class includes seven UF graduate students representing two colleges and five academic departments.

Emily Pappo, a doctoral student in the UF School of Natural Resources and Environment, was selected to be part of this year’s PIE Fellows program.

“My area of focus as a Ph.D. student has been on the ways that climate change impacts agricultural systems,” Pappo said. “The PIE Fellows program provides the opportunity to consider how the public might engage with or respond to these agricultural impacts, and in what ways consumer responses might mitigate or exacerbate the issues for farmers and agricultural workers.”

The PIE Fellows are currently developing a survey related to public perceptions of agricultural health and safety. Students are exploring the topic through their own disciplinary lens, incorporating subtopics such as food safety, technology, surveillance and mental health.

“My ultimate goal is for these students to be more well-rounded scholars after participating in the PIE Fellows program,” McLeod-Morin said. “The PIE Fellows are gaining great experience working with diverse teams, while also learning about public opinion research.”

2022-2023 PIE FELLOWS

Miranda Badolato, Nutritional Sciences
Madison Dymont, Agricultural Communication
Alwin Hopf, Agricultural & Biological Engineering
Arati Joshi, Extension Education
Dharmendra Kalauni, Extension Education
Andres Manrique, Environmental Health
Emily Pappo, Interdisciplinary Ecology



Karlibeth Leitheiser

Karlibeth Leitheiser is a first-year master's student at the University of Florida studying agricultural education and communication with a specialization in Extension education. She is from Keystone Heights, Florida.

Leitheiser has worked with the PIE Center since November 2021. Her favorite project has been assisting with curriculum development for the Center for Rural Enterprise Engagement's (CREE) Insight Summit.

"I've been able to work with an amazing team to develop curriculum that is really making a difference in the lives of participants," Leitheiser said.

After she graduates, Leitheiser hopes to become a 4-H Extension agent. She is passionate about working with youth and creating enriching programs to help educate them about agriculture.

In her free time, Leitheiser loves nature and exploring Florida state parks. She also enjoys baking; she has a goal to bake something new every week of 2022. Her favorite treat she has made so far is cranberry-orange scones.



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or visit www.piecenter.com



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Cover Photo: Angie Lindsey manages donations in Arcadia, Florida, following Hurricane Ian. (UF/IFAS Photo)

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