SAD/GOOD NEWS for UF/IFAS & 4-H Supporters

**This is why communication amongst ourselves is so important, so that next legislative season our Governor and Legislators will be very well educated as to the importance of UF/IFAS as well as 4-H ,**

**Please take a moment and either click the email link on the top right corner of my site or go to my  Facebook page I started titled**[Florida 4-H and FFA Supporters](https://www.facebook.com/groups/454128828291193/)**. We must improve communication and work to get these dollars back.**

**Here is Dr. Payne's letter dated 6/28/2017 - he gave me permission to post this:**

**Dear Colleagues,**

**Governor Scott’s recent budget vetoes of almost $6M in recurring funds will impact UF/IFAS programs, and I want to share with you our plan to manage them. The response to these cuts has both short-term and long-term components; there are no easy or quick fixes. The vetoes will curtail our ability and potential to deliver science-based solutions to Florida residents and the agricultural and natural resource industries. The governor vetoed funding for programs that have long been in the state budget, not from this year’s appropriations; these recurring dollars have been supporting important research and extension programs for years. Thirty-five faculty lines have lost their funding, specifically:**

**10 faculty for 4-H and Family Youth**
**3 faculty for the Center for Public Issues Education (PIE Center)**
**3 faculty for the Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology (CLCE)**
**5 faculty for the Geomatics Program**
**10 faculty for the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (Ruskin)**
**1 faculty for the Florida Ag Initiative**
**3 faculty for Bok Tower Gardens**

**Unfortunately, we will be ending our association with Bok Tower. For the other programs, I am determined to keep these programs going, and I am determined not to lose any faculty and staff members. All the affected faculty and staff are performing exceptionally well in their positions.**
**Budget Plan**

**I have frozen all searches for new faculty positions, which will get us close to the required cuts. I realize that this will delay the science and extension program expansion we had planned, but I would rather retain existing faculty members, who are already here doing a great job than letting them go and hiring someone new.**

**Besides the faculty hiring freeze, I have swept the unallocated staff rate in all IFAS units to gain the financial resources we need. I have also allocated a small percentage cut (3% of the original vetoed line items) to each of the programs impacted by the vetoes. For the balance of the budget cut, I plan to use one-time money to “float” critical faculty and staff positions for a year in the hopes that we are successful in next year’s legislative session to have the cuts restored.**

**By spreading these budget cuts throughout IFAS, we will manage to survive this setback and keep our valuable faculty and staff, and minimize the impacts to our programs. Thanks for your patience and understanding as we go through this process. We will work hard to restore these cuts in the next legislative session.**

**Best, Jack**