Protected Agriculture On-Farm Demonstrations with UF-IFAS Partnership at Hastings in Northeast Florida have Potential for Small Farm Enterprises as well as for Large Farms

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UF-IFAS Partnership is collaborating with five commercial farmers with on-farm demonstration projects that span a range of crops and systems. Although the projects are designed to transition large producers to alternative enterprises, the demonstration projects are on a scale that small farmers could manage with their own family. Off-season specialty Datil pepper production in a hothouse is a successful small scale family enterprise example.

**Four hot house on-farm demonstrations include:** Strawberry, Datil pepper, Ghost pepper, beta cucumber and red pepper production.

**One shade house on-farm demonstration includes:** Stone fruit, blueberry, blackberry, and specialty pepper production.

**Two field freeze protection on-farm demonstrations include:** Strawberry and stone fruit production.

In addition, the UF-IFAS Partnership facility maintains a field freeze protection demonstration and applied research block of blueberries and stone fruit where data is collected for commercial management purposes. This information is disseminated through a regional newsletter subscribed to by 760 agriculture producers. Field days, workshops, and farm tours have been additional methods of information distribution to all interested clientele, whether home owner, Master Gardener volunteers, or commercially interested producers.

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