

UF/IFAS ADVANCEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





OUR MISSION

The mission of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is to develop knowledge in agricultural, human and natural resources, and make that knowledge accessible to people in Florida, the US, and around the world. At UF/IFAS Advancement, we build essential relationships and secure private support for UF/IFAS.

The University of Florida Foundation, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit soliciting charitable gifts to support the University of Florida. Gifts are tax deductible as allowable by law. Full disclosure available at uff.ufl.edu/foundation/disclosures.

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GIVE.IFAS.UFL.EDU

*Photo: the UF/IFAS Advancement team (and Albert)
at the 2025 UF/IFAS Flavors of Florida.*

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2024–2025 UF/IFAS Advancement Annual Report.

This year has been one of changes and challenges, but also of progress, impactful partnerships, and a shared commitment to advancing the future of agriculture, natural resources, and communities across Florida.

UF/IFAS has continued to grow its capacity to educate the next generation of leaders, fuel groundbreaking research, and deliver real-world solutions through Florida Extension. Your philanthropic gifts in 2024-2025 provided scholarships for students, endowed faculty positions, powered innovative research programs, and delivered vital Extension initiatives that strengthen communities in every portion of the state.

In 2024–2025, UF/IFAS raised more than \$39M, the second strongest fundraising year on record! This achievement reflects the importance you place on UF/IFAS to achieve our land-grant mission. Whether through major gifts, annual contributions, planned gifts, or corporate partnerships, each investment has played a critical role in helping UF/IFAS continue to serve the people of Florida.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the momentum building toward our upcoming capital campaign and the continued partnership with our alumni, friends, and stakeholders. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, thank you for your dedication and generosity. Your support is truly making a difference.

With gratitude,



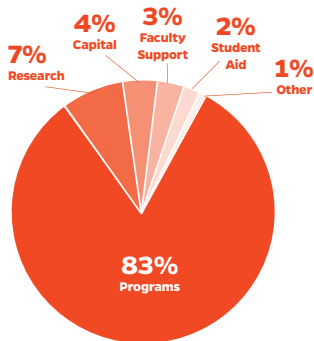
Cody Helmer
Executive Director

GIFT SUMMARY

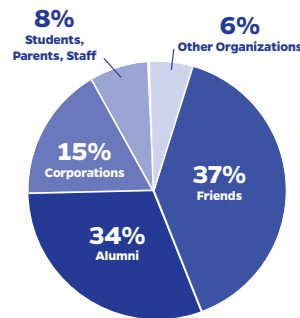
The following data outline charitable gifts and pledges received for the benefit of UF/IFAS between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

Gift Designation

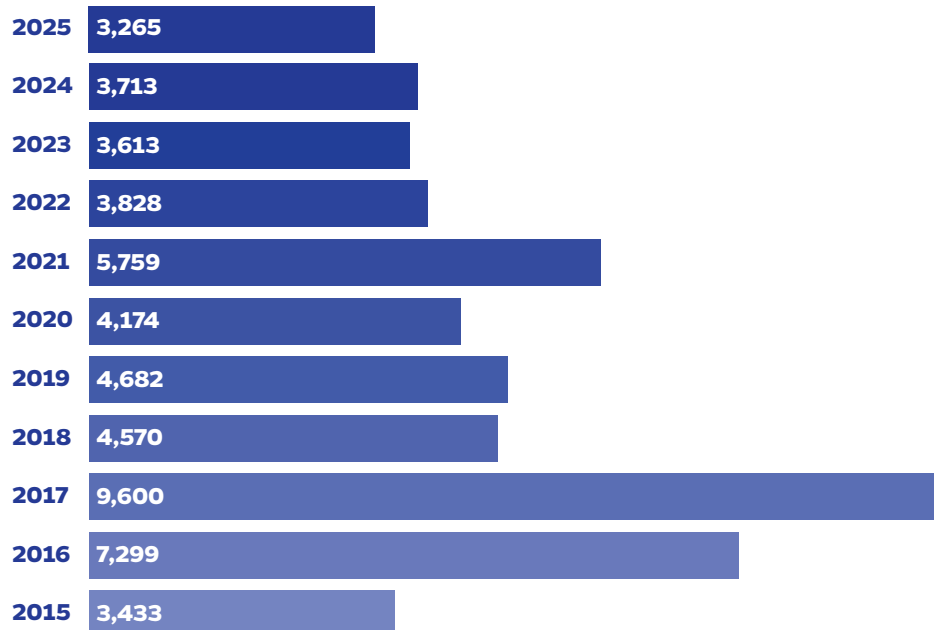
(by dollar amount)



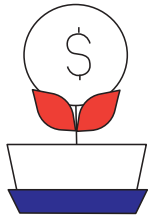
Donor Demographics



UF/IFAS Donors by Fiscal Year

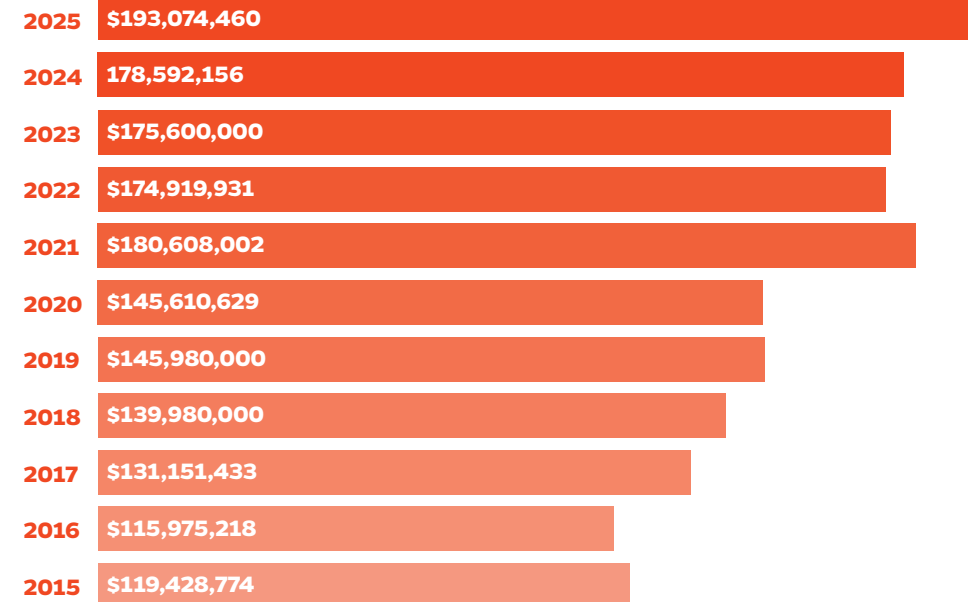


Endowments are permanent, named funds that provide annual, renewable support for UF/IFAS programs. The donors designate the use of the endowment's earnings for a UF/IFAS area or program of their choice. A minimum gift of \$30,000 is required to establish an endowment.



Endowment assets are managed and invested by the University of Florida Foundation through the **University of Florida Investment Corporation (UFICO)**, created in 2004 to manage UF's investment portfolio. As of June 30, 2025, there are more than 450 UF/IFAS endowment funds established by individual alumni, businesses, organizations, associations, and friends, with a combined value of more than \$193 million.

UF/IFAS Endowment Value by Fiscal Year



Total Gifts and Pledges (FY2025)

\$39,002,146 *Thank You!*

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT



Thanks to the heartfelt generosity of UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) alumni and friends, more than \$46,000 has been raised to establish the [R. Elaine Turner Endowment Fund in CALS](#) — a lasting tribute to Dr. Elaine Turner’s remarkable decade of leadership as dean (2014–2024).

During her tenure, Dr. Turner championed student development and innovation, most notably through the creation of the **CALS Florida Youth Institute (FYI)** in 2016. This immersive, weeklong program has empowered more than 200 high school juniors and seniors to explore global challenges in food security, agriculture, natural resources, and the life sciences.

Through hands-on learning and mentorship from experts, FYI participants are inspired to think

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Florida Youth Institute

critically and envision future careers in these vital fields. The Turner Endowment will provide recruiting scholarships for FYI participants, helping them take their first steps toward becoming future CALS Gators and transformative leaders in their communities and beyond.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this fund, ensuring that Dean Turner’s legacy continues to shape the next generation of changemakers.

► *After ten years of service as CALS dean, Dr. Elaine Turner transitioned to a faculty role at the end of 2024.*



JIM HANDLEY ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN BEEF CATTLE SCIENCES

A new professorship will honor James E. "Jim" Handley, who served the Florida Cattlemen's Association (FCA) for 26 years. The Florida Cattlemen's Foundation pledged \$1 million to create the [Jim Handley Endowed Professorship in Beef Cattle Sciences](#) and surprised Jim with the announcement at their annual convention in June.



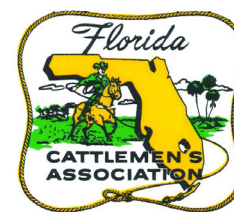
Jim Handley

Jim cares deeply about Florida cattle ranchers, engaging youth in agriculture, and the University of Florida. Fittingly, the Handley Professorship will be housed in the UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences and will support teaching, research and Extension work that directly benefits the Florida beef cattle industry.

Jim is a UF animal sciences alumnus and has served on several boards, including the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching; the Florida 4-H Foundation; Florida Ag Hall of Fame; and the Florida Agriculture Council.



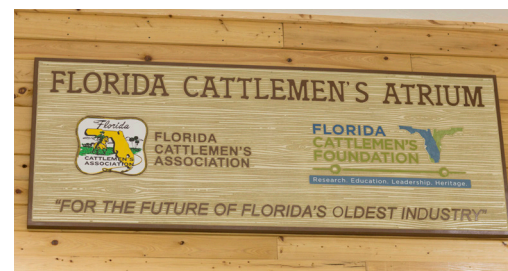
Todd Thrift, the first recipient of the Handley Professorship.



Florida Cattlemen's Foundation representatives and Rob Gilbert announcing the Handley Professorship at the Florida Cattlemen's convention in June.

The first recipient of the Handley Professorship will be Dr. Todd Thrift, a national expert in beef cattle management whose teaching and Extension programs have made an impact over the course of his 24 years at UF.

Through the Florida Cattlemen's Foundation and state funding efforts, Jim and FCA have been vital partners to UF/IFAS. This endowed professorship gift will support Florida cattle ranching for years to come.



The Florida Cattlemen's Foundation has also supported the UF/IFAS Beef Teaching Unit and Range Cattle Research and Education Center.

A TRAILBLAZING SCHOLARSHIP

FOR FLORIDA 4-H'ERS



Established this spring by George D. “Sandy” Dunn in memory of his wife of 62 years, the **Diane M. Dunn Legacy Trades 4-H Scholarship Endowment** is the first 4-H scholarship in the state dedicated to further education in accredited trade, technical or vocational programs. The scholarship will primarily benefit 4-H members in St. Johns County, with opportunities extended to 4-H’ers from Putnam and Flagler Counties.



Sandy and Diane Dunn

Diane was an organizing member of Extension’s Community Homemakers Club in 1972 and served as president of the Volusia County Council of Extension Homemakers. She also served on the Volusia County Fair’s Board of Directors for more than 20 years, including many years as Creative Arts Display Superintendent. This endowment reflects her passionate involvement in community and Extension programs, and her belief in the power of youth and the importance of supporting their growth and education.

Trade and vocational careers offer a cost-effective alternative to four-year programs, equipping students for entry into the workforce with in-demand skills and bringing skilled workers back to communities. The inaugural scholarship recipient is Rhylie Hayes of St. Johns County, who will attend Idaho Horseshoeing School this fall to pursue a career as a farrier.

Rhylie’s ultimate goal is to open her own farrier business. “With the support of this scholarship, I plan to purchase the tools necessary

for a successful career in the farrier industry. I am committed to continuing the values of 4-H—head, heart, hands, and health—in both my professional and personal life. With hard work, a strong foundation from school, and support from this scholarship, I’m confident I can make my dream a reality.”

4-H State Program Leader Stacey Ellison shared, “this scholarship is a powerful investment in the lives of young people and recognizes these careers as meaningful pathways to success in the workforce and life. The Diane M. Dunn Trades Scholarship is a life-changing opportunity for youth and their future families, embodying a shared commitment to helping youth prepare for their future on many pathways to becoming successful, contributing members of our communities.”



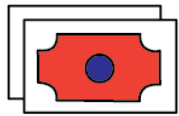
The Dunn Family with St. Johns County 4-H agent Julia Kelly and 4-H fundraiser Caylin Hilton. Above: Rhylie Hayes, first recipient of the Diane M. Dunn Legacy Trades 4-H Scholarship.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Support any UF/IFAS area through the UF Foundation. Gifts may be eligible for tax deduction.

TAX ID: 59-0974739

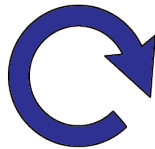
WHAT CAN I GIVE?



CASH

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

STOCKS & SECURITIES

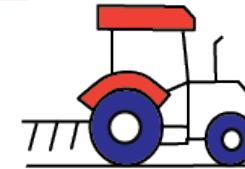
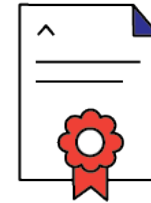


IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Required Minimum Distribution

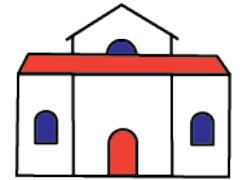


INSURANCE POLICY



GIFTS-IN-KIND

Tangible goods, like equipment, livestock, vehicles



RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS

REAL ESTATE

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

HOW CAN I GIVE?

BY CHECK

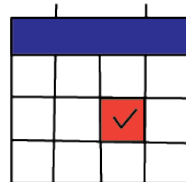
Payable to the UF Foundation, Inc.

DONOR ADVISED FUND

BY PHONE

Via the UF Foundation's secure phone line, available 8:00 am-4:30 pm ET Mon-Fri: 1-877-351-2377.

ONLINE



MULTI-YEAR PLEDGES

Let your favorite UF/IFAS programs know they can depend on your support with a 3- or 5-year pledge.



PLANNED GIFTS

A properly executed gift plan may offset estate taxes and reduce burdens to heirs, while still benefiting UF/IFAS.

ENDOWMENTS

Endowments are gifts of \$30,000 or more invested to provide stable funding year after year for a UF/IFAS purpose you designate, such as:

County Master Gardener Volunteer Program

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Student Internship

RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP County 4-H Programs

Graduate Student Fellowship Unrestricted Support

Faculty Professional Development LECTURE SERIES



FOR MORE INFORMATION,

visit giftplanning.uff.ufl.edu or contact us at 352.392.1975 or advancement@ifas.ufl.edu.

RECOGNITION SOCIETIES

The **UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) Giving Society** recognizes donors of \$1,000+ who lead the way for CALS students by supporting the highest priorities of the college. The CALS mace symbolizes the strength and purpose of CALS alumni in shaping communities and driving innovation. For more information, visit cals.ufl.edu/alumni.



UF | IFAS CALS
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**GIVING
SOCIETY**

**UF/IFAS
ENDOWMENT
SOCIETY**
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

A blue logo consisting of two interlocking loops.

The **UF/IFAS Endowment Society** recognizes donors who establish UF/IFAS endowments. Members receive a memento commemorating their induction to this society and invitations to special UF/IFAS events. Support UF/IFAS at give.ifas.ufl.edu.

The **University of Florida Legacy Society** honors donors who document a planned gift to the university, investing in future Gators. For more information, visit giftplanning.uff.ufl.edu.



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*Cover photo: Rhylie Hayes, first recipient of the
Diane M. Dunn Legacy Trades 4-H Scholarship.*