

Meet the Board

Samantha Kennedy (FL), Vice President for Awards and Recognition

Samantha Kennedy is a Family and Consumer Sciences agent in Wakulla County, Florida. She specializes in health and wellness programming – healthy cooking, nutrition, and food safety – and is working to expand her expertise in financial education by studying to become an Accredited Financial Counselor (AFC). She also currently serves as the NEAFCS VP for Awards and Recognition.



Sam began her Extension career in 2004 as the Family and Consumer Sciences agent in Manatee County, FL. In 2013, she became the County Extension Director and served in that role until November 2016, when she left southwest Florida for the beautiful Florida Panhandle.

Hands-on teaching and live demonstrations are Sam's favorite part of being an Extension agent. She loves interacting with clientele and teaching them new skills while having fun.

Sam was born in Michigan but moved with her family to south Florida when she was four, after her dad decided he was never shoveling snow ever again. When she was around seven years old, her family moved to west Arkansas, where they lived for about two years before heading back to Florida for good (well, almost). She spent the rest of her childhood and adolescence in Deerfield Beach, FL and graduated from Deerfield Beach High School in 1995 (Go Bucks!).

After graduate school, Sam moved to Katy, Texas and lived there for two years, until she applied for and was hired for the Family and Consumer Sciences agent job in Manatee County.

Sam's cats ("the boys") are the best cats in the entire universe (though she may be a bit biased). Their names are Simon, Porter, and Phineas and they range in age from 3 to 14 years old. When she is not working to support her feline family, she enjoys reading for pleasure, taking walks, journaling, hand lettering, and napping. Sam is also a huge baseball fan (Go Rays!) and has visited over 20 major league ballparks with plans to visit all 30 before the zombie apocalypse comes.