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## New Extension agent introduced in Levy County

### Story and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison © July 5, 2019 at 2:19 p.m.

**BRONSON** -- Mark Warren, an agriculture extension agent, was introduced to the Levy County Board of County Commissioners at the regular twice-a-month meeting on Tuesday (July 2).

**<https://youtu.be/EeTcLtexbDY>**

**In this video, Agricultural Extension Agent III Mark Warren shares with the Levy County Board of County Commissioners that he and his wife are renting in the area now, but they plan buy a home after they sell their Flagler County home. Warren is the new Extension agent who replaces the now-retired Anthony Drew.**

Warren replaces the now-retired University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Agent Anthony Drew, who was renowned for his work with row crops such as peanuts, watermelon and corn.

Like Drew, Warren also is listed for work with the Master Gardner program and 4-H. County Coordinator Wilbur Dean introduced Warren, mentioning that Drew retired a year ago.

Dean mentioned that he and the County Commission spoke with Levy County Extension Director Ed Jennings about replacing Agent Drew.

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, which is the guiding agency for all 67 county Extension offices in Florida, had a hiring freeze, Dean mentioned.

Levy County leaders worked with UF/IFAS Extension Senior Associate Dean and Associate Director Thomas A. Obreza, Dean said, and this resulted in Levy County having a row crop specialist to fill the vacated position – where several Florida counties do not.

With agriculture being one of the top three revenue producers for Levy County, UF/IFAS must have recognized the need exists here.

Warren said he sees a shocked look on people's faces when he is introduced as Drew's replacement, and he said he will work on ramping up his attitude some. Drew was known for his direct, no-nonsense commentary, as well as for his love and passion for educating people about growing crops.

Like Director Jennings, Warren appears to have a relatively strong background in livestock production. He has served in the Extension offices in Flagler and Putnam counties.