

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

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'Peanut Better' – County Employees Help Donate on National Peanut Butter Day

Fort Walton Beach – In honor of 'National Peanut Butter Day,' members of the Okaloosa County Agricultural Extension Department donated more than 1000 jars of peanut butter to local food banks.

The extension worked with the Crestview Rotary, Catholic Charities of northwest Florida and other civic groups to collect the peanut butter.

The total number of jars distributed was more than 2,000 jars of peanut butter – the Florida Peanut Producers Associated matched the contribution by the Okaloosa County's Agriculture Extension.

Okaloosa is known for its peanut crop in agricultural circles. "We grow peanuts here in Okaloosa County," said Extension Director Jennifer Bearden, "it highlights a crop we grow and also allows us to give back. Peanut butter is coveted by food banks. It is a high protein food, good for your cholesterol, long shelf life and it doesn't need to be refrigerated. So it makes for a good staple of a food bank."

The act of giving is something Director Bearden and the rest of the staff enjoy the most about 'National Peanut Butter Day. "I just feel really good about giving back, especially when it is so needed. Every time I drop the peanut butter off at food pantries, I'm told that it's exactly what they needed."

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