

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Cash Creamer

The mission of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is to safeguard the public and support Florida's agricultural economy by:

- Ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of food and other consumer products through inspection and testing programs;
- Protecting consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices and providing consumer information;
- Assisting Florida's farmers and agricultural industries with the production and promotion of agricultural products; and
- Conserving and protecting the state's agricultural and natural resources by reducing wildfires, promoting environmentally safe agricultural practices, and managing public lands.

What we did that day

- We went out on the boat and performed water quality testing and getting oyster samples.
- Water testing is needed because the laboratory takes our samples and checks for types of bacteria from fecal matter that might make people sick and adversely affect the ecosystem.
- They also check for pollutants that could cause many problems in the aquatic environment.



DACS Laboratory



Oyster & Water Samples



Vibrio is a type of bacteria that occur naturally in warm coastal areas, such as the Gulf of Mexico.

These bacteria are found in higher concentrations in the summer months when water gets warmer. That's why oysters may have this type of infection because they grow through out the summer month's.



http://www.foodsafety.gov/poisoning/causes/bacteriaviruses/vibrio_infections/index.html

How it influenced me

- This program was a positive experience , for me because it really taught me how to contribute to the environment in a positive way.
- It also was a good learning experience for me , because a lot of the things we did, I did not know about before.