



## Fruit and Vegetable Bingo as a Tool to Teach Kids about Locally Grown Produce

MARY LAMBERTS\*

University of Florida, IFAS, Miami-Dade County Extension, Homestead, FL 33030

Extension agents are asked to spend at least 5% of their time on 4-H and youth activities. In large urban counties, people who do not live near the farming area may not know that crops are being grown in their “backyard” so to speak. Children seem to enjoy playing Bingo, so various forms of the game have been developed to teach such things as beef products to fish identification.

A fruit and vegetable “Bingo” game was developed for Miami-Dade County Extension, originally for Farm-City Week, which is when winter vegetables are plentiful, though not very many tropical fruit are available. The agent used a total of 25 items of fresh produce grown in Miami-Dade County. She found a Bingo card generator (Fig. 1) online to help arrange the produce randomly across 20 different cards. The center contains the words “Fruits & Vegetables” as a free space. All cards were printed in color and are about the size of a postcard. Since it is expensive to print the cards, the agent laminated them.

She planned to use dry erase markers after trying another version of the game with stickers. She finally chose miniature marshmallows in a small cup for each child or pair of children since that allows for a more rapid transition between groups.



Fig. 1. Several free bingo card generators can be found on the World Wide Web.

\*Corresponding author; email: lamberts@ufl.edu