Allendale County Farmers, Diane and Jimmy Duncan and Monsanto representative Hugh Gray, present Allendale County 4-H Agent, Karissa Ulmer a gift of $2500.

County 4-H Receives $2500 Gift

Jimmy Duncan of Martin, SC was selected as a winner in the America’s Farmers Grow CommunitiesSM program, which gives farmers the opportunity to win $2,500 for their favorite local nonprofit organizations. The awards are available through Monsanto Fund. The awards are available through Monsanto Fund. Duncan has designated Allendale County 4-H to receive the award. Jimmy Duncan is very excited to be selected as the winner in Allendale County. He says “It’s is a great opportunity to provide the 4-H with this award. It’s not everyday you get the chance to donate $2,500 to a worthy cause. I am thrilled to help out the 4-H club and appreciate the [America’s Farmers Grow Communities] program for giving back and allowing farmers to provide funds for local agriculture organizations.”

Karissa Ulmer, 4-H agent, says “The $2,500 gift will be used to support activities of the Allendale County 4-H program, including agricultural projects, day camps and school enrichment programming. In addition, a portion of the funds will go towards scholarships for youth to attend state and regional events.”

The $2,500 donation was awarded at a ceremony held at the Farm City Breakfast at Brandt Building Auditorium on Tuesday, Nov. 23.
4-H’ers Hop Into New Project

Allendale County 4-H’ers were looking for a livestock project that would allow them to learn about the responsibilities of caring for an animal. In response a 4-H Backyard Rabbit Project was introduced. Nine youth from Allendale County participated in the project. This project allowed members to receive a rabbit and materials on caring and showing your rabbit. Members also were invited to participate in a 4-H Showmanship Clinic presented by members of the American Rabbit Breeders Association. Members then had the opportunity to show their rabbits and present their 4-H rabbit project books at the 2010 Orangeburg Fair. For more information on the backyard rabbit project visit the 4-H Backyard rabbit website at: www.clemson.edu/extension/county/allendale/programs/4h/4-H-Backyard-Rabbit-Project.html

Cotton Trials Support Local Farmers

Growers face confusing choices about variety selection as numerous unfamiliar varieties come to market every year.

Information on the agronomic characteristics and yield potential is critical in variety selection and growers use industry data, university OVT (Official Variety Test) data and local test data to help with this important decision.

One of the goals of the Extension Service is to help provide unbiased research based information to the citizens of South Carolina.

One way Extension meets that need is through research test plots located on local farms.

Extension professionals gather data while giving growers and ourselves a look at new varieties in local environments.

During the 2010 growing season 7 cotton variety tests were planted in the Allendale/Hampton/Bamberg area.

Seed are provided by seed company representatives.

All of these tests have been harvested and yield results will be posted on the Allendale website when gin samples are complete.

Pesticide Container Recycling Program

Sponsored by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service and the Department of Pesticide Regulations, the recycling program has been in operation for over 15 years.

Successful collections days have been held in the majority of South Carolina counties to include Allendale County, with Extension agents making an effort to schedule collection days between seasonal harvests.

More than one million containers have been accepted for recycling. The pesticide container recycling program is free to farmers and commercial applicators.

Containers acceptable for recycling must be empty, clean and dry; have been triple or pressure rinsed; be plastic containers up to 55 gallons; and have caps removed.

For more information on this program visit: www.clemson.edu/public/regulator/pesticide_regulation/special_programs_information/pesticide_container_recycling_program/
Long Time Allendale Extension Employee Retires

In September, after 27 years of service to the Allendale County Extension Office, Ms. Gloria Williams announced her retirement.

Ms. Williams had served as the Administrative Assistant in the Allendale County Extension Office since 1984.

In honor of her retirement Ms. Williams was recognized by the Allendale County Extension staff, Allendale County Council, Salkehatchie Cattlemen’s Association, Allendale County Family and Community Leaders and the Lower Savannah River Alliance for her dedication and support of the citizens of Allendale County. She even made the front page of the Allendale County newspaper.

Though she has officially retired, you can still find Ms. Williams volunteering at the Allendale County Extension office.

Her work and dedication to the citizens of Allendale County and the Cooperative Extension Service are to be commended and are much appreciated.

Color Me Healthy Program

Only one in five children eats five servings of fruits and vegetable a day, as recommended by the National Cancer Institute.

American children spend more time watching television, videotapes and playing games than doing anything else except sleeping.

Is it any wonder that approximately one in five children in South Carolina is now overweight?

In response to these issues, Christine Patrick, Clemson Extension Food Safety and Nutrition Educator is currently conducting the Color Me Healthy program at several local child care centers in Allendale County.

The program was piloted through a grant received from the Greater Savannah River Community Foundation. Color Me Healthy is a program developed to reach children ages four and five with fun, innovative, interactive learning opportunities that encourage physical activity and healthy eating. The curriculum also uses color, music and exploration of the senses to teach children that healthy food and physical activity are fun!

During the lessons, preschoolers listened to a short story related to good nutrition and were able to sample a variety of recipes, especially fruits and vegetables. As a follow-up of the daily lesson, parents received monthly “Nutrition Notes”, encouraging healthy eating and physical activity at home.
The Salkehatchie Cattlemen’s Association is comprised of beef cattle producers from Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton counties. This group meets quarterly to at the Allendale County Extension Office in the James Brant Building in Allendale S.C. to hear the latest information on beef cattle production. Topics presented at the meeting include subjects such as herd health, feeding and nutrition, forage and hay production, weed and insect pest management, marketing, and soil fertility as well as many other topics of importance to beef cattle producers. 

Speakers for the educational programs include Clemson Extension Beef Cattle Specialists, USDA personal, Agricultural industry reps. and Area County Extension Agents from across the state. 

Karissa Ulmer and Agricultural Extension Agent Marion Barnes assist the association throughout the year with programming and other needs. Barnes makes on farm visits to assist producers with problems and questions that arise. Ulmer works with area youths in her capacity as 4-H coordinator by providing a variety of programs and projects targeting farm youths. In turn the Salkehatchie Cattlemen’s Association supports numerous 4-H projects such as the very successful S.C. Junior Beef Roundup held at Clemson annually and the S.C. Market Steer Project. If you would like to become a member of the Salkehatchie Cattlemen’s Association contact the Allendale County Clemson Extension Office for more information.