

# Annual Report to the People

November 2010  
Cherokee County



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## Mission Statement

*"The mission of the Cooperative Extension Service is to provide sound, scientifically based information to South Carolinians and help them use that information to improve the quality of their lives."*

## In the News, Every Week

Each week in the Weekly Ledger, published by the Gaffney Ledger and distributed to some 25,000 plus residents of Cherokee County, you can find a column titled 'Extension News', now in its third year. This weekly column is always full of useful information from the Cherokee County Clemson Extension Service. Articles include accurate and timely information on upcoming events, classes, and trainings from the Extension Service; helpful gardening and landscaping tips from Clemson University's Home and Garden Information Center ([www.clemson.edu/hgic](http://www.clemson.edu/hgic)); current 4-H clubs, day camps, and fundraisers; helpful holiday tips for a healthy Halloween or a tasty turkey; and much more. In addition to this weekly column, you can also find information on upcoming events in the Blacksburg Times, the Cherokee Chronicle, and the Gaffney Ledger.

More information on what the Cherokee County Clemson Extension Service offers and how the local Extension Agents can be reached can be found on the website at [www.clemson.edu/extension/county/cherokee/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/cherokee/).

## Gaffney Station Farmers' Market 3<sup>rd</sup>

For the third year, the City of Gaffney and the Cherokee County Clemson Extension Service ran the Gaffney Station Farmers' Market. The third season, which started this June with a large turnout at the opening kick-off, is still ongoing and will run through the end of the calendar year. The Market, located across from the new Gaffney Visitor's Center on the corner of Frederick and Grandard Streets, is open to the public every Wednesday from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm and every Saturday morning from 7:00 am until noon. In 2008, the Market included 17 vendors. For the current season, that number rose to 23 vendors. all of

which sell Certified SC Grown produce. Craft vendors were also allowed to sell for the first time during this third season.



*Rick Hammett sells a bag of his prized Certified SC Produce to a local.*

## 4-H: Positively Developing Youth

During the 2009-10 year, Cherokee County 4-H continued to expand its programs to offer positive youth development experiences for youth, ages five through 19. In its second year, the seven members of the Baking Buddies Club explored recipes of different cultures. For the third year, the Cabin Creek Saddle Club grew to include 17 members. For the third year, the Sewing Sisters held a membership of seven members. The Clever Clovers Cattle Club was started with a total of 20 new 4-Hers and many parents. Two young boys participated in the FACE for Wildlife food plot program. In addition to these clubs, 4-H also offers programs to the local Boys and Girls Clubs on a monthly basis and offers its services to local schools. Branching from the school recycling programs offered by 4-H, Blacksburg Middle School became the first school in Cherokee County to be certified a Green Steps School, a state level award from SCDHEC ([www.greenstepschools.com/](http://www.greenstepschools.com/)).



*4-H Cabin Creek Saddle Club members learn to ride the hard way.*

During the summer of 2010, 4-H offered two summer camps. Runnin' Wild offered youth a chance to learn firsthand about honey bees from The Bee Ladies, to see movie star donkeys in Chesnee, and to get up close and personal with snakes and reptiles from DNR. Twenty youth enjoyed this experience. Camp 4-H<sub>2</sub>O offered 15 youth a day outdoors on Lake Welch learning about water quality, water safety, water conservation, and of course water fun. In December of 2009, 4-H hosted a Clover Christmas Day Camp that allowed youth to make gingerbread men, make tree ornaments, read stories and more. The 2010 4-H camps brought in a total of \$1490. This money, as well as the \$1130 raised during 4-H fundraisers such as bake sales, hot dog sales, and the Vidalia onion fundraiser, help support local 4-H program and clubs.



*Runnin' Wild 4-H Day Campers experience the duties of honey bees.*

In addition to learning and having fun, 4-Hers once again participated in the Friends of Our Troops Christmas Card Campaign as a service project. Again, Cherokee County 4-H brought home the title of largest contributor for the state of South Carolina for 2009, with 415 Christmas cards sent to soldiers overseas and stateside. And of course, 4-H offered a break from the service and learning to have a little fun. Over twenty youth, all dressed as reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh, rode on the 4-H float during the 2009 Gaffney Christmas Parade.

## The Cherokee County 'Fare'

In the fall of 2009, the Cherokee County Clemson Extension Service and the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the first annual Cherokee County Fare to celebrate Farm City Week, aimed at strengthening the connection between farm families and urban citizens. The Fare was open to entries in several categories: farm crops, sewn items, canned goods, and baked goods. Each category was judged and awarded first, second, and third place ribbons. In all, 38 exhibitors, youth and adults, brought in 117 entries to compete in the Fare. Forty-nine blue ribbons were awarded. Other happenings at the Fare included a luncheon for elected officials and sponsors, free pressure cooker testing, a 4-H display booth, the beekeepers observation hive, a corn kernel guessing jar, and prize drawings. Over \$800 in sponsorship money was raised to put on the fare in its inaugural year.

For their efforts, the Extension Service and the Soil and Water Conservation District were awarded the 'Best Individual Event' for Farm City Week by the South Carolina Farm City Council.

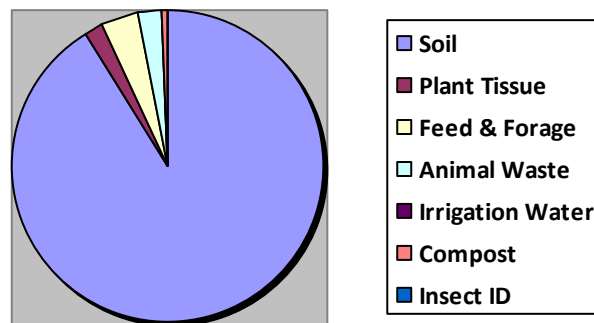


*Exhibits at the 2009 Cherokee County Fare.*

# Extension Agricultural Laboratory Services

The Agricultural Service Laboratory on Clemson's campus provides a variety of analytical agricultural testing. Samples may be submitted through the Extension office or directly to the lab. Each County Extension office has the supplies needed for submitting samples. During the 2009-10 fiscal year, the Cherokee County Clemson Extension Office sent in 213 soil samples, 5 plant tissue samples, 9 feed and forage samples, 6 animal waste samples, 1 compost sample, and zero irrigation water samples and insect identifications for the citizens of Cherokee County. These samples brought in an estimated \$1711 to the Cherokee County Office.

Sample Type



## Cherokee County Beekeepers Association Saves the Bees

The Cherokee County Beekeepers Association again continued its membership growth. Just two short years ago the CCBA was down to four active members. By the end of the 2009-10 fiscal year in June, they boasted a mailing list of seventy 76 with 38 paying members.

These members attend monthly meetings to keep apprised of current events in the beekeeping world. The CCBA maintains a resource library at the Cherokee County Extension office open for the public to check out VHS tapes, DVDs, books, journals, and publications. Beekeepers are available for swarm removal of honeybees for all citizens of Cherokee County. Calls that come in to Cherokee County



*Vice-President, Barry Millen, sports his bee suit as he shows off a frame from one of his several hives.*

911, animal control, and local pest control businesses are all forward to the CCBA. The Association held its first Beekeeping Short Course in the spring of 2010. Twenty-two locals completed the course. In addition to these activities, the beekeepers are available for public speaking and educational purposes. They often visit local schools, churches, and other groups, as well as fairs and special events with their observation hive to educate the public on the importance of the honeybee to agriculture and in our everyday lives.

The CCBA meets on the third Tuesday of most months at 6:00 pm at the Extension office. Dues are \$15 with \$10 going to the SC Association and \$5 supporting local efforts.

## Pesticide Training and Certification

The Cherokee County Clemson Extension Service continues to offer trainings for citizens and businesses alike to become certified and recertified as Private, Commercial, and/or Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicators. A large training was held in August of 2009 for those whose certificates were near expiration. Thirty applicators took advantage of this opportunity at a rate of \$10 per credit hour. Other opportunities were offered throughout the year and were advertised on the county Extension website and in local newspapers. More information on obtaining a Pesticide Applicators License can be found online at [www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/pesticide\\_regulation/](http://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/pesticide_regulation/) or at the Cherokee County Clemson Extension Office.

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/chokeee/>

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### David Parker

Extension Agricultural Agent  
Retired August 2009

### Nancy Williams

Extension EFNEP Agent  
Retired August 2010

## Cherokee County Cattlemen's

The Cherokee County Cattleman's Association continued to hold meetings throughout the year. There were approximately 64 cattlemen at the August 2009 meeting, at which David Parker was recognized for his 31 years of service as an Extension Agent in Cherokee County. At the next meeting in March 2010, there were sixty-one cattlemen present to hear Extension Agent Cory Heaton discuss problems and concerns of coyotes on cattle farms. In April, there was a joint meeting held between the Cherokee, Spartanburg, and York Cattleman's Associations. This meeting was held at Sarratt Farms in Gaffney. Those in attendance heard Cody Bright of Sarratt Farms speak on weaning techniques and Extension Agent Matthew Burns give a Beef Quality Assessment Seminar and Certification. All Cherokee County Cattleman's Association meetings and meals are sponsored by companies in the cattle industry such as Carolina Eastern, AgSouth, the Wax Seed Company, and local feed and seed stores.

## Other Annual Meetings Held in Cherokee County

In addition to local organizations utilizing Cherokee County as a meeting location, the Strawberry Producers and the Peach Producers of the southern states (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina) continue to hosts their annual meetings at the Cherokee County Clemson Extension Office, bringing in nearly eighty producers for each meeting.