The Freewill Baptist Home for Children in Turbeville got a new addition this year, a square foot vegetable garden. The children maintained the garden and reaped the benefits of the harvest. The children decided what vegetables they wanted to have in their garden, and they planted those vegetables with help of Master Gardeners. Square foot gardens are gardens that save on space but not on yield. Grow all you want in only 20% of the space of a conventional row garden. Save time, water, work and money. Tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, beans, watermelon, peppers, and basil were planted in the garden. The Master Gardeners will continue to help monitor the growth of the garden. The vegetables grown will be prepared, cooked, and eaten at the Children’s home. The purpose of this garden is not just for fresh vegetables, but to also teach children about nature and get them interested in being outside. Plans are being made for the 2011 garden.

4-H Livestock Revived in Clarendon County

After several years of struggling to begin a livestock club, Clarendon County 4-H teamed up with the existing Sumter County 4-H Livestock Club to create a combined livestock club. Under the direction of 4-H Agent Mary Margaret McCaskill and parent volunteers Shawn and Christie Gray, the livestock club has grown in its youth and parental involvement numbers. The Clarendon-Sumter Livestock Club had great participation in the Sumter County Fair, Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair, as well as the South Carolina State Fair. The club has held fundraisers to support its monthly meetings and has also collected dog food for the local animal shelters. For Christmas the youth are collecting horse supplies such as brushes, feed, saddle pads, etc. for the Turbeville Children’s Home’s horse program. The club youth have begun to participate in non-livestock 4-H activities and will be creating a 2012 calendar with pictures they have taken. Those calendars will be for sale in the fall 2011. For more information contact Mary Margaret McCaskill.
Livestock Update

Florence County serves as the center for livestock programming in the Pee Dee Region. All livestock programs are planned and coordinated in Florence County. The Florence County Extension staff along with State Animal and Forage specialists from Clemson University assists three cattlemen’s associations with a minimum of 12 educational programs each year. Together there are over 250 livestock producers who are members of the cattlemen’s associations. The associations are the Pee Dee Cattlemen’s association, Central Cattlemen’s Association, and the Sandhill’s Livestock association. Below is a brief description of livestock programs held in the Pee Dee Region. As an area Livestock agent most programmatic work done in Florence County is done on a regional basis. This seems to work best when multiple counties are invited for large meetings done at a central location.

Very active in 4-H livestock clubs in the Pee Dee Region. Make many presentations during the year to these clubs. Clubs include Williamsburg County Horse Club, Sumter-Clarendon County Livestock Club, and Horry County Livestock Club.

Make many farm visits on a weekly basis to assist and educate livestock clientele in the Pee Dee Region. Farm visits include education on forages, marketing, herd health, reproduction, bull selection, heifer selection, pasture management, fencing, facilities, equine management, goat production and many other facets of animal agriculture. Florence County, Clarendon County, Sumter County, Darlington County, Marion County, Marlboro County, Dillon County, Horry County, Georgetown County, Williamsburg County, and Lee County.

The focus of Fire Ant Demonstration Plots is to research how well Fire Ant Baits work in a Pasture or hayfield situation. Once these products are observed and researched educational programs are planned and implemented to educated livestock producers on what products should be used and when. Demonstration plots were used in Williamsburg, Clarendon, Horry, and Marion Counties.

Planned, coordinated, and implemented 2 Goat Management Seminars in the Pee Dee Region. Over 100 Goat producers participated in these programs. These programs included information on forages, management, goat health, reproduction, nutrition, hoof care, fencing, facilities, soil sampling, and toxic weeds, and FAMACHA. Participants came from 5 different states and every county in the Pee Dee Region.

4-H Teen Shares

During the Summer of 2010, Aubri McLeod, member of the Clarendon County Leadership Council for two years, organized a week long cooking camp for 4-Hers ages 9-13. Youth learned to cook recipes that were special to Aubri and her family, as well as other traditional 4-H recipes. They also learned nutrition facts, how to measure ingredients and the importance of portion control. One morning the campers had the opportunity to pick fresh blueberries and used them to cook a homemade blueberry cobbler. By the middle of the week the camp had to expand into a larger room to accommodate everyone. The cooking camp was a huge success and will be offered again during the summer of 2011. For more information on 4-H Cooking Camp or any other 4-H Day Camps, please contact Mary Margaret McCaskill, Clarendon County 4-H Agent.
Master Gardeners at Work

Clarendon County has an active Master Gardener Association and more members were added this year, when nine students completed the 2010 Master Gardener Training Course. The Training Course is a 14 week course that teaches volunteers different aspects of horticulture from soils to diseases to plant identification to irrigation systems. Once a person has completed the course they volunteer 40 hours of service to the Clarendon County Extension Office and its activities. These knowledgeable volunteers are a valuable asset to Clarendon County. This year the Master Gardeners have helped beautify Clarendon County through various landscaping projects, including the flag garden at FE Dubose, the intersection of Church and Brooks Street, and helping with Habitat for Humanity Homes as well. The Master Gardeners also help with Horticulture programs in Clarendon County sponsored by Clemson Extension. For more information contact Carrie Trebil.

Main Street is the Place to Be

Main Street Manning is dedicated to the revitalization of the downtown business district through economic development, design excellence and business promotions. This year was an exciting year for Main Street Manning. We had a variety of activities to encourage people to shop downtown including the Watermelon Crawl Back to School Bash, the Snowball Drop, Sweets for My Sweet, and Pictures with the Easter Bunny. Shopping locally is the best bet for everyone! In addition to all of the events, the first two façade grant recipients were completed, the Wateree Community Action Building and the Nettles Building which is now Manning City Hall. We are working on the second and third rounds of the façade grant recipient and look forward to seeing the construction on these projects. In September 2010 the first annual Main Street Manning Annual Meeting was held at the French Hens. The Annual Meeting is chance for businesses to show off what makes them unique in a table top display. In addition the Best of Main Street Manning Awards are awarded. These awards are voted on by the citizens of Clarendon County and Manning. The winners for 2010 were Most Hospitable Business – Merle Norman Cosmetics; Best Window Display – The French Hens; Best Building Renovation – Johnson and Robinson; Main Street Hero awards were given to Mrs. Marie Land and Mr. Jeffrey Black for their vision and dedication to downtown Manning revitalization efforts. Main Street Manning also offers Merchants Roundtables to the business owners and managers in the downtown district. These roundtables are held quarterly and offer a wide variety of topics from customer service to navigating social media and supplemental lending from governmental agencies. Manning hosted a Main Street South Carolina training for Economic Restructuring and shared the beauty of Manning with visitors from across South Carolina, and learned how to improve our communities at the same time. Main Street Manning is looking forward to another exciting year of activities and events in the downtown district. If you would like more information about Main Street Manning contact Mary G Adger at 435-8477 or Carrie Trebil at 435-8429. Shopping locally it is your best bet!
Los Angeles 4-H Club was established in 2008 when Hispanic outreach became a top priority to 4-H on the state and national level. With the help of Dr. Bob Lippert from Clemson University and Clarendon School District 2 ESOL teacher Kathy Brunson the club was started. Los Angeles meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month during the school year and is made up of Hispanic youth from grades second through sixth. Former club members who are now in the seventh and eighth grades serve as mentors and youth leaders for the group.

The group has continued to grow every year and now has 30 active members. They have participated in service projects that include making holiday cards and cookies for area nursing homes and cleaning and landscaping the garden at Manning Primary School. They were invited to participate in a camp councilor training activity for high school age 4-Hers during Senior Teen Weekend at Camp Bob Cooper. Club members served as “campers” during the training.

Los Angeles club members have branched out from their group and participated in state 4-H activities such as Junior Teen Weekend and other Clarendon County 4-H Day Camps.

For more information about Los Angeles 4-H Club or any other 4-H activities please contact Mary Margaret McCaskill.