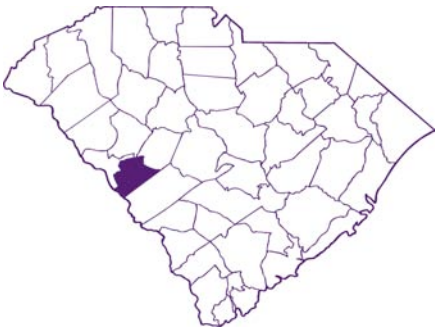


Annual Report to the People

October 2010
Edgefield 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.

Economic Impact of State Cuts

State cuts to PSA took effect July 1, 2010, requiring immediate steps to balance the budget. A voluntary retirement/ separation program this summer left 22 counties without administrative staff. To minimize inconvenience to clients, staff in adjacent county offices will provide services. All county offices will remain open; but some counties may not have a full-time administrative assistant. In counties without a full-time administrative assistant, agents or volunteers will staff the county office during operating hours, which may be reduced. Extension is moving to new operating procedures to provide customer service in all counties with significantly fewer staff. University-wide planning is in progress to ensure that we remain mission focused and relevant to you the consumer.

Level of External Grants and Contracts

Approximately \$296,000 in grant supported projects awarded to Clemson Research Specialists are being supported by Edgefield County Extension agents Greg Henderson with the assistance of Stephen Pohlman. These grants are conducted via on farm trials and supported by the SC Peach Council and individual growers. Some, highlighted below, are enhanced by grants through the SC Dept of Agriculture. Grant funding, vital to the support of the local Extension office and

personnel staff, assist in the teaching and training of producers to enhance their operations by getting researchers and agents out in the field.

Grant and Source of Funding:

USDA SCRI Grant	\$ 75,000*
Dr. Greg Reighard, Etal	
USDA IRM Grant	157,000
Dr. Guido Schnabel, Etal	
SCDA SC Grant(s)	64,000
Mr. Will Henderson, Etal	

Ongoing Research and Demonstration in Fruit Production



Most projects in fruit production are long term. Ongoing research trials in Edgefield and other areas along the Ridge will continue in the coming years. To highlight, research studies in mechanical fruit thinning, disease resistance monitoring and resistance management, peach tree root health and alternative production systems, insect trapping and monitoring are all undergoing very intensive protocols throughout the production area. Herbicide trials to test new products and evaluate older products

are undertaken with grower participation and support.

Most importantly, with current legislation mandating closer monitoring and reporting of water uses, including agricultural users, a new study to develop an updated model of peach tree irrigation needs began this year.

Funded by the SC Dept of Ag, the multiyear study will engage Will Henderson and Gilbert Miller from Clemson's EREC and software industry reps from New Jersey based *EarthTec Solutions*, and local extension Agent Greg Henderson, to apply remote sensing technology to the timing of irrigation based on soil availability and tree needs. The goal is to supply adequate water when needed while affording a savings in energy and resources.

Funding and or support for all of these studies are made available through grants, the SC Peach Council, and partnerships with local producers whose support for University programs often goes under stated.

Edgefield Hosts Peach Growers

Peach growers from the midlands to the coast attended the Annual Peach Update Program at the Ag Building in Edgefield in January. Specialist from Clemson University, NSCU, the University of Tennessee, and the University of Georgia presented the latest research updates in the areas of peach production.

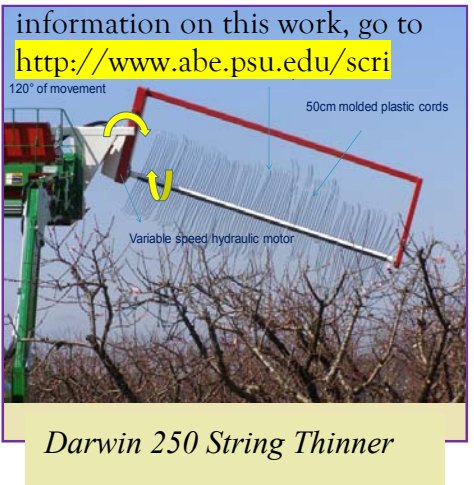
Edgefield County continues to change dramatically in the number of acres devoted to peach production. The past two years has seen an increase in acres of newly established orchards as the demand for land not recently planted to peaches increases. Currently, and estimated 17,000 acres of peaches are in production in the area which includes Edgefield, Aiken, Lexington and Saluda counties with

Edgefield ranking #1 in SC in total peach sales with South Carolina ranking #2 behind California in total peach production. Ongoing Extension educational programs like the one held each spring continue to bring the latest industry news directly to growers.



Bloom Thinning Trials Continue...

To further address increasing labor costs and fruit quality, the Mechanical Bloom thinning trials begun in 2008 will conclude in the summer of 2011 with the final year of grant sourced funding. The equipment pictured below is owned by the SC Peach Council and will be available and used for ongoing demonstrations as the technology is refined for SE production systems. Will Henderson, Clemson's Extension Ag Engineer, working with a grant from the SC Dept. of Ag, will look at further modifications to adapt this machine to our production systems of open center trees. Testing of modifications begun this past summer in trials here in Edgefield greatly reduced the fuel consumption and operator efficiency in using the equipment. This is part of and works in conjunction with the major grant award of \$1M in specialty crops research received by Clemson and other collaborating land grant universities for crop load management. For more complete



Forestry & Natural Resources Provides Expertise

Forestry Field Tour of Rivers Edge's Pole Mill

On June 10, 2010, Clemson Extension and Rivers Edge Forest Products, LLC held a field tour of the pole mill operation in Modoc, SC with 42 people in attendance. This tour showcased the ongoing efforts at Rivers Edge to make pole products from local area forests, but also to get landowners more familiar with the stringent tolerances the pole industry operates under. Participants saw firsthand the mill in operation from beginning to end. This gave landowners a better understanding of what is involved in not only the pole buying process, but also the finished product. The field tour was enjoyed by all that attended and had something educational for everyone no matter how they managed their property. A delicious meal was served to the participants of this event compliment of Rivers Edge Forest Products, LLC and Log Creek Timber Company, LLC. A special thanks to Tim and Reg Williams, as well as all the employees at the Modoc facility, that made this event happen.

2010 Edgefield Forestry Association News

Clemson Extension works closely with the Edgefield Forestry Association. The Forestry Association held 4 meetings for 2010. March 8th's meeting included a lecture from Bob Franklin, Clemson Extension Forestry Agent from the Low Country on 'Longleaf Pine'. May 10th brought us Kenneth McCaskill, USDA-FSA State Program Chief, to speak on 'BCAP Program'. August 9th brought Greg Henderson, Edgefield County Clemson Extension Agent, to speak on the importance of 'Herbicide Responsibility'. The end of the year meeting on November 8th included Walt McPhail speaking on his active role as a forest landowner and teaching everyone the importance of managing your timber for revenue.

To round out the year retired Extension Agent Tony Watson was elected President for the upcoming year as was Dr. Michael Fulford to Vice President; Joyce Harling would remain as Secretary as would Roger Timpson to Treasurer. Average meeting sizes range from 50 to 60 people, with a mailing list of just over 160 people (some out-of-state).

Another \$500 Scholarship was raised by the members of the Association by having a raffle for a NWTF edition Mossberg 500 Shotgun. The Scholarship was awarded to Brian Ross Williams who is now attending Clemson University.

Pesticide Licensing and Recertification Training

One of the most important aspects of Extension education is continuing education of Private and Commercial users of pesticides. Holders of these licenses must obtain their required number of continuing education credit hours to maintain their certifications. Training is offered here at the Edgefield Extension office each spring and recertification opportunities are available through programs and educational meetings held throughout the year as approved by the Department of Pesticide Regulation at the University. There are currently 67 *Private Applicators*, 18 *Commercial*, and 10 *Non-commercial* or government employee license holders in Edgefield. In the last reporting year, over 150 hours of continued education credits were approved for producers in Edgefield County. More information can be found by going to...

http://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/pesticide_regulation/nse.

www.clemson.edu/extension/county/edgefield

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4-H and Natural Resource Programs

Edgefield 4-H Shotgun Club

The Edgefield 4-H Shotgun Club meets every third Sunday of the month from January till May. This year the Edgefield 4-H Shotgun Club had to limit the number of participants to 20 4-H's due to resource and time constraints. Thus unfortunately individuals were put on a waiting list incase participants dropped out. Shooters were separated into 2 separate groups of 10, and both groups were assigned a different time to show in efforts of keeping everything moving smoothly.

The primary goal of this Club is for 4-H'ers to learned firearm safety and how to properly shoot shotguns at clay targets. Meetings were held at the National Wild Turkey Federation's Five Stand Shotgun Range.



4-H Shotgun Club member, Julia Miller, displaying proper follow

4-H Camp FIRE summer camp

2010 brought a new 4-H summer camp to Edgefield County due to the change in definition for Title III funding. 4-H Camp FIRE was held at the NWT Outdoor Pavilion July 29th-30th. Camp FIRE was structured to teach FireWise education material to youth through lessons showing the impacts fire has on everyone's life. Campers learned by hands-on interactive lesson plans from fire ecology, wildlife benefits, forestry benefits, to designing a FireWise home landscape and the destructive nature fire can bring. The afternoons brought an opportunity for youth to learn shooting sports (air rifles and archery). A full attendance of 16 youth participated in the camp.

A special thanks to Bill Hammond and some of his men with the US Forest Service for their help on the final day by bringing equipment for the 4-H'er's to look at as well we operate.



Junior Wildland Fire Fighter in the making.

Edgefield County Livestock Activities

This year was a very tough year for forage producers. The weather started out very cold and then became warm and wet (a very good thing). When the weather dried off it got very dry and army-worm moths migrated in just as the chinch bugs were starting to proliferate. The rest of the summer was spent battling armyworms and chinchbugs. Some producers sprayed 8 times to attempt to control the voracious eaters, others simply lost an entire stand of hay or pasture. To combat these pests a fact sheet was assembled and distributed to Cattle producers, small ruminant producers, haymakers and horse owners. 500 of these fact sheets were distributed and 219 farm visits were made to identify the pests and discuss control methods.

In an attempt to show producers how to grow high quality, drought tolerant forages, we have teamed up with the University of Georgia to plant demonstration plots of alfalfa that was developed at Athens GA (Bulldog 805) as well as switchgrass, gamma grass, Auburn University's Sand Mountain Bahiagrass, ball clover, crimson clover, arrowleaf clover, and chickling vetch. All totaled there were over \$5000 dollars in seed planted for demonstration plots. By incorporating the high quality legumes into an existing stand of grass, producers will save approximately \$50/acre in nitrogen fertilizer and see an increase in animal performance due to the increased palatability of the plants the animals are eating. Research has show animal gains increase by 40% when the legumes are incorporated in pastures and conception rates of cows increases due to their improved body condition. These demonstration plots will be used at Cattlemen's Field Days, Sheep & Goat Field Days and Forage Field Days.

While growing the proper forages on the proper sight is crucial for livestock producers, managing those forages is equally important. Clemson University offered the Grass Masters program to area livestock producers to learn the basics of forage production and management. The program is a four night series that covers two topics per night. The producers leave with several reference resources as well as the knowledge to select and manage forages that are appropriate for their livestock enterprise. To date, 180 producers have successfully completed the course. 98% of the participants responded to the survey after the program and said it was "very educational".