

Annual Report to the People

November 2010
Kershaw County



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is to teach, to demonstrate, to promote, and to lead through off campus educational programs designed for both youth and adults.

4-H Volunteer Wins State Award

Mrs. Paula Favor was recognized for her outstanding volunteer work with 4-H at Clemson University, where she received the Glenn Krohn 4-H Volunteer Award. She also was selected as the volunteer to attend National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC. Mrs. Paula Favor began her volunteer service with the Kershaw County 4-H program over 8 years ago as the Afterschool Coordinator at Midway Elementary School. Before her volunteer career, she served in many youth leadership volunteer roles. She has always had a love for children in her school and in the community. Many of the youth that Mrs. Favor has worked with have had many outstanding accomplishments and have credited some of their successes to their involvement in her 4-H club. Two of her former 4-Hers were State winners, and one was the Presidential Tray while in her Teen 4-H club. "She has a special way of keeping her 4-Hers entertained, and is thought of as a fun-loving volunteer," said Deon Leggett, County Extension Agent. In addition to being leader for 4-H clubs, Mrs. Favor has been active in several committee 4-H events/activities. She is the Chair of the Kershaw County 4-H Advisory Committee, member of the Kershaw County Advisory Council (chair of the Advocacy sub-committee), and is a 4-H representative on the county Farm City/4-H Awards Committee. For the past 7 years she has served as the county



chaperone for Senior Teen Weekend, Junior Teen Weekend, State 4-H Congress and Director of the State Congress Chorale.

Youth Leadership and Service Benefit Community

Every child has potential to be a leader in something that they do. Whether it is an activity in school, at church, or in the community, there are many opportunities available for leadership. It is also essential for children to understand the importance giving back to their communities and/or doing something to help someone else.

The local 4-H program partnered with community groups such as the Teen Health Promotion Coalition, Family and



Community Leaders (FCL), and local community centers to provide educational workshops throughout the summer for 78 youth to participate in leadership and

Youth Leadership and Service Benefit Community – cont'd

community service/activities. The workshops include etiquette/manners, public speaking, team building, leadership/problem solving, and community service projects with various agencies and business.

As a result of participating in the workshops, four youth used their public speaking skills at the County Council meeting during National 4-H Week, 5 served as counselors by assisting younger 4-Hers at various day camps, and 6 organized a team building activity for their peers. After realizing the impact that service projects have on the community, 100% of the 4-Hers participated. All of them also indicated that they gained leadership skills and feel they have the skills to become productive leaders in the community. Ninety five percent indicated that they will continue to participate in some type community service project that will benefit others.

Nutrition and 4-H for The Entire Family

There is a wide spread epidemic of obesity in young children. Statistics show that the average child does not eat the recommended amounts of healthy foods each day, nor do they get an adequate amount of exercise. Encouraging children to eat healthy and participate in at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day is essential to their optimum health.



Nutrition and 4-H for The Entire Family – cont'd

Young children are sometimes the easiest to influence to change a behavior. They are eager to learn new things and are willing to adapt easier than older children and adults. Therefore, a way to educate the entire family about eating healthy may be a start with the young children of the family. A new nutrition education curriculum was used at Antioch Head Start to teach young children about various ways to be healthy. During the monthly 30 minute sessions, Deon Legette, County Extension Agent, provided lessons to 70, five year olds, while the teachers emphasized the importance of daily physical activity. The children learned about fruits, vegetables, serving sizes, textures, shapes, and the importance of eating healthy and exercise. They sampled various health foods made by their own creations such as “ants on a log”, and played games that involved exercising.

As a result of the nutrition lessons, many parents have indicated that their children have ask for more healthy foods while in the grocery store. Ninety percent of the parents felt like their children gained knowledge from the lessons, and 85% indicated that they had made changes in their family's diets. Six new Cloverbud Nutrition 4-H clubs were organized at the school, with 6 new volunteers.

Agriculture Impacts in Kershaw County 2009-2010

Weed Control Still a Significant Cost in Producing Corn and Soybean

Even though Kershaw County row crops (namely corn and soybeans) are grown on only 5,000 plus acres of land, these crops still provide a living for a number of farm families in the county and add over two and half million dollars to the farm gate. One of the main cost producing either corn or soybeans in the county relates to weed control, and specifically resistant pigweed. The cost of minimizing yield loss in both of these crops is between \$35-\$50 per acre, mainly to control the Palmer amaranth species of pigweed. An ongoing project in the county is collection of seed for these weed plants near harvest time in cooperation with our state weed specialist. We agents harvest seed from fields at a random that look suspicious to the problem resistant weed. Our specialist establishes tests over the winter to grow out new weeds from these seeds and treats them with herbicides representing the various families of weed killer registered for use on corn and soybean crops. This is to check for resistance to other herbicides families. More resistance continues to be documented as seed samples from new fields each season are sent to the Edisto Research & Education Center near Blackville for testing.



On-Farm Testing of Varieties Importance To Area Growers

When a corn grower invests \$400 per acre for out-of-pocket costs to grow an acre of corn, next to fertilizer investment, the second highest input in that costs is the seed. Once the seed is in the ground, his choices are over in respect to the right variety. One thing Extension agents do across the state is establish on-farm variety tests with grower cooperators who are looking for facts. These tests offer comparisons of varieties presented by the seed companies intended for sale in the area. These plots in Kershaw County are harvested and the data summarized with data from other county Extension tests, then placed either on a website for growers to access or mailed direct to them. This is an on-going project benefits for both farmers as well as ag seed dealers. The opportunity available to the grower is he can view how a given variety performed in all participating counties and how the yield averaged across the board.



These county trials combined with data from the experiment stations give a grower a much better insight into what to expect from a variety being promoted by the seed vendor.

Private Applicator Training Offered Locally

Clemson Extension offers training to anyone needing a license to use or supervise the use of agricultural pesticides labeled for "restricted use only". This license is intended for commercial farmers, foresters or nursery owners only". Training was offered in early February, 2010 to a group in Kershaw County. Anyone completing the full day training and making a

minimum grade of 80 on the final exam (graded by the Department of Pesticide Regulation) is eligible for the license that is issued by the regulatory agency. The licensee must then earn five hours of recertification credit on that license to maintain eligibility for another five year block. It is an ongoing training provided by Clemson Extension in the county office to offer private applicators the opportunity to stay abreast of any pesticide issues that could affect them, their business, or the environment around them.

By: Randy Cabbage, County Extension Agent, Lead Agent/Lee County

MASTER GARDENER

Vicky Bertagnolli, Extension Agent
Midlands Master Gardener Coordinator

The mission of the Clemson Extension Master Gardener Program is to select, train, and utilize knowledgeable volunteers to facilitate the educational work of the local Consumer Horticulture Agent, by delivering research-based information to citizens of the state.

Master Gardeners in the Midlands contribute a total of 15,565 volunteer hours to Clemson Extension Master Gardener endeavors during Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Clemson Extension Master Gardeners in Kershaw County contributed 1,630 of those total Midlands hours. The hours donated in Kershaw included 995 educational service hours that were in direct keeping with the Clemson Extension Master Gardener mission of educational outreach.



Fairfield County Master Gardeners delivered Clemson Extension programs to over 173 people. Master Gardeners were invited speakers for local churches, civic groups, garden clubs, senior centers, and schools. Clemson Extension Master Gardeners partnered with library branches located throughout the Midlands to deliver educational "Garden Like a Master" lectures and provide research-based horticultural displays. Master Gardeners were present at several farmers markets during the spring and summer months where they identified weeds, diagnosed plant problems, and provided general horticultural information via "Ask a Master Gardener" booths.

2010-2011 Success Stories Brian L. Beer, Area Livestock Agent

Poultry Litter Applicators Learn Importance of Proper Spreader Calibration

Learning proper methods of calibrating application equipment is important for farmers utilizing animal waste as an alternative fertilizer. Calibration is required by DHEC under state regulations and calibration ensures against over application of plant nutrients. DHEC inspectors have indicated that poultry litter applicators have not been properly documenting their calibration procedures as required by animal waste management plans.

To address this issue Clemson Extension conducted two Spreader Calibration Clinics in York and Kershaw to educate farmers about proper calibration and how to meet DHEC requirements for documenting calibration procedures. The clinics were part of the Confined Animal Manure Managers (Camm) Continuing Education Program.

Twenty-five farmers attended the clinics that included hand-on, practical methods of measuring the amount of poultry litter applied. Participants set up various collection methods, weighed and calculated application rates, and practiced documenting the procedures and calculations in a format that satisfies DHEC requirements. Participants indicated that the skills learned during the clinics will be very helpful in meeting the calibration documentation required in their waste management plans. In addition to helping farmers comply with state regulation, proper spreader calibration protects the environment by preventing over application of plant nutrients and farmers are able to use a valuable fertilizer source to its maximum potential.



Kershaw County Farmer's Market

The Kershaw County Farmer's Market (KCFM) operates as a retail commodities market on Saturdays from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon from the 2nd Saturday in April through the 2nd Saturday in December. The KCFM was created in 2005 with the mission being to provide fresh, local, in-season South Carolina grown products to consumers. By providing a central location for Kershaw County and South Carolina growers and producers to connect and market directly with consumers, citizens gain a local alternative to corporate food production. The main objective of the KCFM is to support existing and encourage new small independent South Carolina growers and producers. Additionally, it is the purpose of the KCFM to provide a community gathering space for residents and visitors of Kershaw County. The market is located behind the First Community Bank at 631 West Dekalb Street, Camden, S. C.



Kershaw County Farmer's Market

The site of the market was purchased by the city of Camden with help from a grant. The site provides space for vendors as well as

picnic tables that allow customers to sit, smell and enjoy nibbling on fresh baked goods or hot boiled peanuts purchased from one of our vendors.

Master Gardeners from Clemson Extension are available every other week to answer questions that consumers may have about their own home gardens. Since inception the KCFM has continued to grow in numbers of producer vendors and consumers. Our local branch of Clemson Extension has been integral in helping with creating and disseminating the weekly newsletter that lets consumers know what is in season, provide recipes, and a calendar of events happening at the market. Along with city wide events such as the Jazz Festival, Blues Festival, and Christmas Parade day, the Kershaw County Farmer's Market holds events of its own such as the Fall Festival celebrating the end of the harvest season and our largest event-Farm Day.

With horse, hay, wagon and carriage rides, farm animals and equipment demonstrations and extra food vendors, this day is always fun and informative for the whole family. Visit our web-site at www.kcfarmersmarket.org for more information.

Mission of Cooperative Extension Service

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

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