City Meets the Farm

The 14th Annual Farm-City Day was held in September for third graders from McCormick Elementary, Long Cane Academy, Greenwood Christian and Cambridge Academy. Farm-City Day is an event that the students look forward to each year as they get to spend a day out at the John de la Howe Barn learning about farm animals, plants, forestry, water, fire safety and more. The goal of Farm-City Day is to connect youth who may not have an agricultural background with those people and organizations that produce our foods and fibers. Throughout the day the students and their teachers rotated through nine educational stations that gave them real-life hands-on experiences that teach them how agriculture influences their daily lives. Guest presenters included members of the following organizations: John de la Howe School, US Forest Service, SC Forest Commission, DNR, Lakelands Beekeepers Association, McCormick Master Gardener Association, and local volunteers and Extension Staff. A hotdog lunch was provided for the youth thanks to the donations from: AgSouth Farm Credit, McCormick Forestry Association, McCormick Cattleman’s Association, Lakelands Beekeepers Association, Farm Bureau, McCormick County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Food Lion.

Timber Tax Workshop Attempts to Take Confusion Out of Tax Law

Federal income tax laws change on an annual basis and being aware of these changes can be challenging. County Extension staff coordinated a webcast, open to citizens in McCormick and surrounding counties, of the Forestry and Natural Resources Department’s Continuing Education workshop designed to provide participants with the information needed to manage their own timber taxes and to those who advise clients on tax strategies and implications up-to-date with the latest changes in the tax laws. The two day Workshop was held on November 10th and 11th to allow topics to be covered in-depth and to allow time for reviewing IRS forms. The workshop instructors were Dr. Harry L. Haney, Jr. who specializes as a consultant on forest management focusing on income tax, estate planning and financial analysis. He is an adjunct professor at Clemson University. Also presenting was Dr. Tamara L. Cushing, Assistant Professor and Extension Forestry Specialist at Clemson University. Dr. Cushing specializes in forest economics, management and taxation.
Quality Time at Lake Thurmond

Twenty youth explored their watershed and learned about protecting our water quality during the 2009 4-H2O Summer Camp. During this four-day camp students explored Steven’s Creek, Turkey Creek and Lake Thurmond in their quest to test the water quality throughout the area. On day one students had a lesson on understanding water quality testing by SC DHEC, they then took their knowledge on a hike down to Steven’s Creek. While at the creek the students tested the quality of the water using their kits and a visual assessment. Students also learned about the role that the forest plays in protecting water quality as well as learned about where their drinking water comes from through a tour of the Water Treatment Plant. Day two was spent exploring Turkey Creek. Students tested the water quality in the creek and then they began looking for Macro Invertebrates. After they filled their buckets full of Macros, the student’s id them and classified them according to their pollution tolerance to determine the overall health of the stream. The third day was spent out on the lake as they turned pontoon boats into floating classrooms. Students again used their test kits to determine the quality of water on the surface of the lake as well as deep down in the lake. Students used what they learned out on the lake to explore the myth of the “Man Eating Catfish”. To cap the day off, students got to practice their fishing skills using the DNR fishing simulator. The last day provided the students a chance to get out and paddle on the lake. After a safety talk from the Power Squadron, students paired up and went canoeing. After lunch students learned about one final way to test water quality by a Stream Shock Demonstration by the National Forest Service.

Shooters Take Aim at Fun and Fellowship

The 2010 McCormick County 4-H Shooting Sports program educated 20 youth on the safe and proper handling of firearms and archery equipment. Through the eight-week program, certified instructors taught youth the disciplines of archery, air rifles, .22 rifles, and shotguns. The program ran on Wednesday nights from February thru April. At the end of the program, we had a family fun cookout where the whole family got to come out and experience shooting skeet, archery and .22 rifles. For many youth, the 4-H Shooting Sports program provided them their first opportunity to handle and shoot a gun or a bow. Having a positive first experience is valuable to their success as future sportsmen and women. All of the youth enjoyed their experience within the program and are also well versed in the rules of safe firearm use and handling. This Clemson Extension Agent Jaime Pohlman assists a 4-H shooting sports participant with the proper
and up and all instruction was done by State Certified 4-H instructors.
Robots Rule the Day

National 4-H Council awarded $1000 grant to McCormick County Mechanical Heads 4-H robotics team. This funding supported the team as they worked together to learn how to build robots and to participate in robotics competitions as part of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League Program.

The 4-H Mechanical Heads began their hard work in October under the direction of their volunteer coach. As part of the FIRST Lego League Program, they had to design and build a robot that would complete a set of given missions. In addition, the team also had to work on a real world research project that revolved around the “Smart Moves” theme. In January, the 4-H Mechanical Heads Lego Robotics Team participated in the Aiken Regional Tournament. During the tournament, the youth were judged on four different components: teamwork, research presentation, robot design, and the robots ability to complete missions. For the research presentation the youth had to identify one transportation problem within their community and then come up with a solution. The Mechanical Heads chose to design a way to make trains more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly by installing wheel generators on the rail cars. The youth explained to the judges that they could generate power by using the rotations of the wheels. The power could be stored in a battery and used to run the train. The youth also told the judges that the power generated could be used to run the “End of Train Light” and that would make trains safer and help them to avoid collisions with other trains. In order to gain the information for their research project, the youth interviewed several train engineers. During the robot design presentation, the youth had to tell the judges about how they designed their robot to complete missions. The youth discussed problems and successes they had during the design, build, and programming of their robot. The youth got to show-off their robot during the missions’ portion of the tournament. During the missions’ portion, the youth competed against other teams to see whose robot could complete the most missions and gain the most points in under 2.5 minutes. All of the missions that the youth competed in dealt with “Smart Moves” or transportation issues such as gaining access places, avoiding impacts, gaining access to things, and surviving impacts. The teams would receive points for each mission the robot completed. The teams got four chances to see how many points they could obtain in a 2.5 minute time frame.

Master Gardeners Spread Knowledge through Green Thumb Horticulture Course

The McCormick County Master Gardener Association presented a short, 4 week course designed to help newcomers to the area learn to garden wisely. Topics covered during the course were: improving your soil; mulching; selecting, growing and caring for flowers, vegetables, trees and shrubs; lawn care; how to deal with garden and lawn pests. Instruction was be provided by Master Gardener Volunteers and Clemson University Extension Staff. Participants not only received hands-on instruction, they also received a book containing topic related materials. We had 36 people attend from McCormick and surrounding counties.
Extension Says Thank You at Annual Appreciation Banquet

Tom Brant
Area Agent
jbrant@clemson.edu
864 465-2112, Ext. 115

Jaime Pohlman
4H Agent
Jaime@clemson.edu
864 465-2112, Ext. 113

Jaime Keller, 4-H Horse Club Leader, received the 4-H Volunteer of the Year award. Jaime, who has been the one person who has gone above and beyond this past year. When the position of 4-H agent was left vacant, she stepped up and kept the 4-H program going and growing. If it were not for that, my transition to 4-H agent would not have been as easy.” After the meal and awards, Rebecca Rodgers enlightened everyone on The Augusta Canal. She has served as the Marketing Director for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area since 2003. Her speech, “The Brightest Arm of the Savannah: the Augusta Canal” was drawn from the award-winning book of the same name by historian Edward Cashin. She explained the impact of the Savannah River and the Augusta Canal on the development of our region from the 1800’s into the present. Ninety five people attended this year’s banquet.

Annual Appreciation Banquet competition. Don has spent many hours providing one-on-one service to control wildfires in the county.” Victoria Steele, Mighty McCormick Mustangs 4-H Horse Club Leader, received the 4-H Volunteer of the Year award. Jaime Keller, 4-H agent, stated that “Volunteers are the heart of any 4-H program and here in McCormick it is no different. I could not do most of the things that I do if it were not for the help and support of volunteers. Vicki has been the one person who has gone above and beyond this past year. When the position of 4-H agent was left vacant, she stepped up and kept the 4-H program going and growing. If it were not for that, my transition to 4-H agent would not have been as easy.” After the meal and awards, Rebecca Rodgers enlightened everyone on The Augusta Canal. She has served as the Marketing Director for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area since 2003. Her speech, “The Brightest Arm of the Savannah: the Augusta Canal” was drawn from the award-winning book of the same name by historian Edward Cashin. She explained the impact of the Savannah River and the Augusta Canal on the development of our region from the 1800’s into the present. Ninety five people attended this year’s banquet.

Annual Appreciation Banquet competition. Don has spent many hours providing one-on-one service to control wildfires in the county.” Victoria Steele, Mighty McCormick Mustangs 4-H Horse Club Leader, received the 4-H Volunteer of the Year award. Jaime Keller, 4-H agent, stated that “Volunteers are the heart of any 4-H program and here in McCormick it is no different. I could not do most of the things that I do if it were not for the help and support of volunteers. Vicki has been the one person who has gone above and beyond this past year. When the position of 4-H agent was left vacant, she stepped up and kept the 4-H program going and growing. If it were not for that, my transition to 4-H agent would not have been as easy.” After the meal and awards, Rebecca Rodgers enlightened everyone on The Augusta Canal. She has served as the Marketing Director for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area since 2003. Her speech, “The Brightest Arm of the Savannah: the Augusta Canal” was drawn from the award-winning book of the same name by historian Edward Cashin. She explained the impact of the Savannah River and the Augusta Canal on the development of our region from the 1800’s into the present. Ninety five people attended this year’s banquet.

Annual Appreciation Banquet competition. Don has spent many hours providing one-on-one service to control wildfires in the county.” Victoria Steele, Mighty McCormick Mustangs 4-H Horse Club Leader, received the 4-H Volunteer of the Year award. Jaime Keller, 4-H agent, stated that “Volunteers are the heart of any 4-H program and here in McCormick it is no different. I could not do most of the things that I do if it were not for the help and support of volunteers. Vicki has been the one person who has gone above and beyond this past year. When the position of 4-H agent was left vacant, she stepped up and kept the 4-H program going and growing. If it were not for that, my transition to 4-H agent would not have been as easy.” After the meal and awards, Rebecca Rodgers enlightened everyone on The Augusta Canal. She has served as the Marketing Director for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area since 2003. Her speech, “The Brightest Arm of the Savannah: the Augusta Canal” was drawn from the award-winning book of the same name by historian Edward Cashin. She explained the impact of the Savannah River and the Augusta Canal on the development of our region from the 1800’s into the present. Ninety five people attended this year’s banquet.