I am pleased to have the opportunity to work daily with Saluda County’s “5P Agriculture”: Ponds, Pastures, Peaches, Poultry and Pines. The latest annual cash receipts from the sale of Saluda County crops, livestock and timber is $110,000,000. Saluda County ranks 3rd out of all of South Carolina’s 46 counties in agricultural income. We are the 2nd leading livestock producing county in SC. Saluda County has statewide rank in numerous commodities: 1st peaches, 3rd eggs, 3rd hay, 4th beef, 4th broilers, 6th dairy. I hold many meetings, workshops, field days and tours to help keep our farmers on the cutting edge of food and fiber production.

Some recent noteworthy Agricultural Accomplishments include:

2010 Annual Hay Day Featured 45 Exhibitors and 400 Plus Participants.

Each year the Saluda County Extension Service and the Saluda County Cattlemen’s Association sponsor a Hay Day on the 3rd Saturday in April. At these hay days, the very latest in forage planting, harvesting and handling equipment and production techniques are discussed and demonstrated. Our 2010 Hay Day was held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 at Tony Riddle’s White Acre Farm with over 400 farmers and 45 exhibitors in attendance. Technology continues to change and we want our farmers to be aware of the very latest advancements in growing, harvesting and handling their quality pasture, hay and silage. (Continued on page 2)
The Saluda County Cattlemen’s Association is the largest and most active County Cattlemen’s Association in South Carolina with a 2010 membership of 369. This Association which is advised by the Saluda County Extension Service, meets regularly, owns cattle working equipment, provides annual scholarships to college students majoring in Agriculture, sponsors an Annual Farm Equipment Sale and conducts 3 Annual Cattle Sales.

We work constantly to improve the genetics, nutrition and health of our beef cattle herds. I work with these cattle producers with all phases of their operations, including selection, production and marketing.

Our Saluda County beef producers have won much local, state, regional and national awards for their excellence in beef production. The Saluda County Cattlemen’s Association has been featured in many national beef publications.

Beef Cattle Marketing Alliance
Saluda County beef producers have an excellent reputation for producing high quality beef heifers and steers. I have been coordinating cooperative marketing efforts for 18 years on replacement heifers and 15 years on reconditioned steers and heifers.

In 2010 alone we sold 211 replacement heifers for $215,510 and 847 preconditioned steers and heifers for $603,895. Each individual farmer participating in this special marketing effort has received a premium price over the market for their calves.

This cooperative marketing alliance has taught our Saluda County beef producers how to produce calves that the industry wants. These producers have implemented superior crossbreeding programs, utilized high quality performance tested bulls, adopted sound herd health programs and improved their forage and nutrition programs.

I also assist our purebred beef cattle producers with their annual on farm sales. These herds consistently market high quality cattle throughout the Southeast and beyond. It is true that “All Cattle Roads Lead to Saluda”.

Saluda Forestry Association Grows to 209 Members in 2010. Our Extension forestry programs are delivered through the Saluda County Forestry Association. This large and active, 209 member organization is an affiliate member of the S.C. Forestry Association and offers many educational opportunities to folks interested in Forestry. Regular meetings and tours are offered to forest landowners. The Saluda County Forestry Association provides three annual college scholarships to young people majoring in Forestry or a related Field.

Row Crop Opportunities: Meetings and tours are held each year in Saluda County to give growers the very latest information on the production of corn, soybeans, sorghum, cotton and small grains. In 2010 a most important meeting was held on Controlling Glyphosate Resistant Pigweed in Crops. We continually work with growers on designing weed control programs where herbicide resistance has occurred. An annual Crops Tour is also held to show growers new and improved varieties and cutting edge crop production technology.

Poultry Is Our Number One $ Commodity. Saluda County is mighty proud of our poultry business. Broilers and layers are found in large numbers here. The Saluda County Extension Office works with the poultry integrators and individual poultry producers. We also assist producers with small flock and game bird management.

Dairy Farmers Produce Quality Milk and Breeding Stock: Saluda area dairy producers do a very good job of producing large volumes of high quality milk and valuable pedigreed breeding stock. Our Extension programs for Saluda County dairymen have included meetings on milk quality, waste management, genetics, forages and nutrition.

Saluda County dairymen have learned to produce large volumes of high quality milk in a very efficient manner. Our dairymen have superior breeding stock that they market throughout the United States and to foreign countries.
Fruit and Vegetable Horticulture: The Commercial Horticulture Extension Program in Saluda County center’s around the peach and vegetable industries of Ridge Spring, Ward and Monetta. The peach and vegetable programs have been an area effort with programs held in different counties. The leadership for these programs is provided by Dr. Powell Smith, Area Vegetable Specialist headquartered in Lexington and Mr. Greg Henderson, Area Peach Agent headquartered in Edgefield.

Agricultural Study Tours: I conduct numerous farm tours for in-state, out-of-state and foreign groups that tour Saluda County farms. We also take our Saluda County farmers on educational trips each year to visit different agricultural schools and innovative, profitable farming operations. The 2010 Agricultural Study Tours took us to Eastern North Carolina, Orangeburg County, Lexington County and Jasper County.

Successful Farm-City Week Celebration: I help to plan and coordinate our yearly Saluda County Farm-City Week events. Organizations that work together to make this a successful event include: Saluda County Extension Service, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Saluda County Farm Bureau and Saluda Chamber of Commerce. In 2010 approximately 1500 citizens participated in the following three events: Agricultural Tour to Lexington County, Farm-City Banquet and “Taste & See”.

Saluda County has received many state and national awards for our Farm-City activities. Farm-City Week is a time of celebration that strives to promote positive interaction between agriculture and industry. Producers and consumers form an inseparable chain that is easily recognized by the product—the safest, most abundant food supply in the world.
4-H is a Year Round Activity

The 4-H program in Saluda County continues to be a popular activity for youth. These young people compete and succeed in many state events. There are over 900 members involved in school enrichment clubs, afterschool clubs, community clubs, special interest clubs, and summer workshops. Some of the popular activities are highlighted below:

**Kids in the Kitchen** is basic cooking classes taught to 40 youth each summer. Teen leaders join Connie Lake, County Extension Agent, in teaching these classes. Topics include kitchen safety, measuring, proper food safety and hand washing, reading recipes and general nutrition along with the food preparation.

**Sewing** classes teach many basic techniques like cutting patterns, basic machine stitching and serger stitching. Beginner’s classes make shorts while older groups make stuffed animals. This heritage skill is one that you can use for many years to come.

**RoboLab** - Boys and girls alike put their computer and mechanical skills to the test in RoboLab. In the school enrichment group or the summer workshops, youth team up to build Lego cars with computer programmability. Using the computer, the team has to write and test the program that will make the car drive through the obstacle course. It is not as easy as it might sound.

Darron Wilson, Volunteer Leader for Dog Obedience Classes meets weekly, if the weather permits, so they can obedience train their dogs. Yes, the dogs attend the 4-H meeting!

Two community clubs host over 60 members. The Lucky Leaf 4-H Club meets at Hollywood School monthly and the Lucky Charms Club meets at the Saluda Extension Office monthly. Their educational programs include nutrition, sewing, citizenship, safety, and much more. For teens, the Cloverleaf 4-H Club was established. They emphasize community service & leadership.
Each spring, our Saluda 4-H Dairy, Livestock and Horse Judging Teams participate in the State 4-H Competitions at Clemson University and they are consistent winners. There are many plaques on the wall at the Saluda County Agricultural Building from our winning Judging teams. This 4-H activity teaches youth how to select animals based on structural correctness and performance. They also must justify their placings with reasons given to judging officials.

Our Saluda 4-H Livestock Judging Team of Hannah Byerly, Mills Dorn, Lucy Wetzel and Corbin Yon represented our county and state at the November 16, 2010 National 4-H Livestock Judging in Louisville, Kentucky. Here, they judged some of the finest beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats in the U. S.

Each spring, we order approximately 1000 Golden Comet Pullet Chicks for 4-H Youth Projects. Worthy 4-H members care for their poultry projects for approximately five months. We then have a special 4-H Project Sale where each member contributes five pullets and keeps the others for family use. Our 2010 pullet sale averaged $15.14 per bird.

Each September our Saluda County 4-H Livestock Shows which are held at the Central Milk Show and Sale Arena. In 2010, we showed 5 different types of animals: poultry, beef, dairy, goats and dogs over a 3 day period. Funding for premiums was donated by local farmers, individuals and businesses. These dollars are used to pay for premiums, ribbons and judge’s fees.

The following is a summary of participation in our 2010 4-H Livestock Shows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Exhibitors</th>
<th>Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>44 dairy heifers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>68 beef heifer &amp; steers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>59 wethers &amp; does, goats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29 flocks of pullets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
<td><strong>207</strong> Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Elizabeth Holmes wins the Grand Champion Jersey award at the Saluda Livestock Show.

Allie Gibson shows her pullets at the 4-H Livestock Show.
Homemakers Pleasant Grove Hickory Grove, Hollywood, and Saluda Clubs. Each club holds 10 to 12 educational meetings each year where they have leader-lead programs on nutrition, safety, health, and environment. This year, the members from across the state worked on project entitled, “Take it Off”. This deals with weight loss.

The Saluda FCL clubs are most noted for their annual Soup & Sandwich Bazaar which will be held on January 27, 2011. The profits from this event go back into the community.

Saluda’s representatives to the State FCL Conventions was (l to R) Jean Gibson, Trudie Nichols, Clara Riley, Connie Lake and Dot Bradley
The Home & Garden Information Center (HGIC) provides research-based information on landscaping, gardening, plant health, household pests, food safety & preservation, and nutrition, physical activity & health.

Fact Sheets available
- Landscape, garden & Indoor Plants
- Insects, Diseases & Other Problems
- Food Safety, Nutrition, Physical Activity & Health