

# Annual Report to the People

December 2011  
McCormick 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.*

## 4-H Clubs- Learning in Action

McCormick 4-H has two clubs that meet monthly throughout the school year. The General Club is open to youth age 5-18 and during their monthly meetings various topics are covered from carving pumpkins to creating necklaces from recycled paper. The goal of the General Club is to expose youth to a wide variety of agricultural and natural resources topic areas.

The other monthly club is the Cooking Club. This club is for youth age 10- 18. In cooking club we select recipes that will present the club members an opportunity to learn new culinary skills as well as allow them to try foods that they may not normally eat. At the end of each club meeting the members get to sample their creations and are often pleasantly surprised at how well they turn out. Some of the recipes that they have created are: sweet potato pecan pancakes and pumpkin cookies.



*A 4-H volunteer leads cooking club members in preparing a healthy snack.*

## Woodland Clinic Competition

This annual forestry competition field day for high school students was held again last April. The event is sponsored by the Ninety Six Resource Conservation and Development Council and included elements on tree measurement, tree identification, tree insects and diseases, compass and pacing and fun team competition events.

Extension organized and assisted with pre-event training for two teams this year, one from the

John de la Howe School, and one from John de la Howe Wilderness Program. South Carolina Forestry Commission personnel also assisted with training the teams. The Extension Service also aided with pre-event setup, and activity coordination and judging the day of the competition.

Though neither of the McCormick County teams captured the competition championship several of the John de la Howe participants won individual awards.

# Learning about the Life on the Farm



*Students are learning about the edible parts of plants from Master Gardener Volunteers*

## Farm

The John de la Howe Barn was brought to life as third graders from McCormick and Greenwood counties participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm-City Day hosted by the McCormick County Extension Office. Farm-City Day is an event that the students look forward to each year as they get to spend a day 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 eight educational stations that gave them real-life hands-on experiences and taught them how agriculture influences their daily lives. Stations included talks on: Importance of Trees by Clemson Extension Staff; Farm Animals by John de la Howe Staff and Students; Beef Cattle by Extension Volunteers; Edible Parts of Plants by Master Gardeners; Wildfire Prevention by US Forest Service and SC Forest Commission; Bee Keeping by Extension Volunteers; Water Conservation by Soil and Water Conservation District; and, Barn History by Extension Volunteers.

## Which Comes First the Chicken or the Egg?

We had 10 local youth participate in this year's Pullet Chain Project. The Pullet Chain Project began in April when the youth received their day old chicks. The youth took care of their chicks all Spring and Summer long as they grew from baby chicks into laying hens. During the Show on the youth participated in a showmanship class with one of their birds. They had to demonstrate to the judge the attributes of their bird. The youth also had a pen of 5 birds that were judged on overall quality. These 5 birds were then auctioned off at the end with the majority of the proceeds going back to the youth. In addition to all of their work with the birds, the youth also had to maintain a record book throughout the project to track the birds' growth and egg production.



*A McCormick County 4-H'er participates in his showmanship class with his blue ribbon winning bird.*

## Livestock and Forage Activities

The Area Livestock Agent put in demonstration plots in five counties using a variety of forages including alfalfa, perennial peanuts, forage soybeans, millets, clovers, vetches, brassicas, small grains and ryegrasses. There were Field Days held to show producers the forages in the demonstration plots as well as pasture management, rotational grazing, soil fertility, and weed identification.

This year the Edisto Bull Test was converted to a genuine "All-Forage" bull test. By taking the grain out of the test, each producer saved more than \$400 per animal consigned over the previous years'

tests. Also offered were six small ruminant presentations, nine forage management presentations as well as three presentations on the status of the University Bull Testing



*Learning to improve pasture management.*

# County Forestry Association Happenings

The McCormick County Forestry Association completed another active year filled with interesting programming. Dr. Tamara Cushing, an Assistant Professor and Extension Forestry Specialist at Clemson University gave her understanding and advice on timber finances and income tax rule changes effecting timberland owners.

South Carolina State Forester and head of the State Forestry

Commission Gene Kodama presented what the mission of the South Carolina Forestry Commission is and how they can be of help to the state's forest landowners. Staying with the landowner services theme Frank Love, District Conservationist, of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service was asked to give a presentation. Frank discussed the various programs and assistance that are available to landowners

through Federal Government. And wrapping up the year the Forestry Association met in conjunction with the McCormick Cattlemen's Association where Cory Heaton wildlife biologist and Area Agent with Clemson Extension provided information on fish pond and wildlife management. Particularly on how ponds on a landowners property can influence wildlife management decisions.

## Campers Go Wild at Camp Wild Tree

Fifteen youth learned about the natural world that surrounds them during 4-H Camp Wild Tree held June 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> at the Plum Branch Yacht Club. On the first day of camp youth learned all about forestry through a talk on the importance of trees and how to identify trees. The youth also learned how to measure trees to determine their value and got to practice measuring trees at the Plum Branch Yacht Club. The second day of camp the youth learned land surveying skills by learning how to use a compass and their pace to measure an area of land. The youth also learned how to operate a handheld GPS unit and participated in a scavenger hunt using the units.

The third day of camp the youth learned all about wildlife. Through a talk from Cory Drennan with the SC Department of Natural Resources, the youth were able to see and learn about the native and non-native wildlife of our area. The youth also learned about wildlife by making plaster molds of animal tracks and by dissecting owl pellets to learn about what wildlife eat. The last day of camp the students knowledge learned throughout the week was put to a test as the campers competed in a tree measurement, compass and pacing and tree and wildlife id contest. The overall contest winners were Langley Willis, Brianna Collins and Patrick Clayton. Each afternoon during camp was spent learning new shooting sports skills as the campers had the chance to learn to shoot archery and air rifles.



**A SC DNR officer teaches campers about the wildlife native to McCormick County during Camp Wild Tree.**

## Shooting Sports

Eighteen youth participated in this year's nine-week Shooting Sports program. The McCormick County 4-H shooting sports program provided a safe and positive way for youth to learn the skills of shooting archery, rifle and shotgun. The program ran on Wednesday Afternoons from February through April. At the end of the program, all of the participants' families were invited out to the range to shoot and enjoy a cookout. All instruction was provided by certified 4-H instructors and focused on teaching youth the safe and proper way to handle shooting sports equipment as well as the rules of shooting sports safety. For many youth, the 4-H shooting sports program provided them their first opportunity to handle and use a bow, rifle or shotgun so ensuring that this was a positive experience has been essential in their development as sportsmen.



[www.clemson.edu/extension/county/mccormick/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/mccormick/)

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## Appreciation Banquet 2010

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Clemson Extension Appreciation Banquet was held at the John de la Howe School. This event is hosted by the McCormick County Clemson Extension Advisory Council and is designed to recognize individuals and businesses that assisted with Extension programs in the county and to honor those who have done outstanding work. Advisory Council Chairperson, Paula LeMond, served as master of ceremonies for this year's program.

Several awards were presented during the evening. The Friend of Extension Award was presented to Mark Young. Mark has served as the volunteer leader of the 4H Shooting Sports program for several years and has instructed dozens of participants in the safe use of firearms for recreational shooting and hunting. Mark is a strong advocate for the Extension Service discussing issues of pertinence to Extension with both county council and state legislative representatives.

The 4H Volunteer of the Year award was presented to a group of individuals who have assisted the McCormick County 4H Program for many years. Ms. Bea McClain, Mr. George Selfridge and the staff at Plum Branch Yacht Club welcome us every summer by supporting our 4H2O Water Quality Camp. This widely popular camp would not be the success that it is without the help and

support of the Plum Branch Yacht Club.

Joseph Barron was selected as 4Her of the Year. He has been very active in 4H programs participating in the 4H Lego Robotics Team, the 4H General Club, FACE food plot program and in the 4H2O summer camp. But Joseph may be most known for his egg production business that he has started due to his participation in the 4H Pullet Chain project for the past 3 years.

Billy Lagroon received the Forest Farmer of the Year award. This award recognizes a landowner who has managed their land well or a professional who has made outstanding contributions to the practice of forestry.

Cathy Gibbons was awarded her South Carolina Master Gardeners Certification certificate. Having completed the fourteen week Master Gardener course, passed the final examination and provided forty hours of volunteer service to the local community to earn this certification.

The featured program speaker was Bob Edmonds, writer and author of local history. Mr. Edmonds discussed the pre-settlement and early settlement history of the part of South Carolina that is today McCormick County. Mr. Edmonds told of a region and people that were instrumental to development of the State of South Carolina and Nation as a whole.