

# Annual Report to the People

December 2013  
Williamsburg County



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**Refer the last page to see our new office hours!!**

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Clemson University 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.

## New Forester housed in Williamsburg County

Corey Craig recently joined extension in 2013 as an extension forestry agent for the Pee Dee region. Corey has been busy assisting landowners with forest management issues, as well as assisting towns and communities with urban tree programs. He plans to focus most of his time educating landowners on ways to improve their forest management to better meet their desired objectives. Whether it's wildlife, timber income, aesthetics, recreation, or just maintaining a healthy forest for future generations, Corey plans to teach landowners all the proper steps to take in order to maximize all of these goals. Corey is also dedicated to teaching children about the importance of sustainable forestry and emphasizing the multitude of resources our southeastern forests provide for the rest of the world. See what Corey has been up to on page 3.



## Williamsburg Agriculture is BIG Business

**By: Jacob Stokes**

The 2007 Census of Agriculture tells us that agriculture is worth between \$40 and \$50 million dollars to Williamsburg County. In terms of sales Williamsburg County ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in tobacco and 5<sup>th</sup> in grains. Williamsburg County also recorded the 7<sup>th</sup> most soybeans, corn for grain, and cotton acres grown in South Carolina. The 2007 Census of Agriculture also tells us that in 2007 there were 861 farms. These farms averaged 243 acres per farm for a total of 209,402 acres of cropland in

Williamsburg County. During the 2012-2013-budget year we held the following programs.

- Small grain production update
- Tobacco Production meeting
- Area Peanut meeting
- Area Cotton meeting
- Area Grain Sorghum meeting
- Peanut Harvest Clinics

Our goal is to provide the programs and demonstrations that the farmers and agribusiness personnel in Williamsburg County need and want.

# Fire Ant Demonstration Plots in Williamsburg County

By: Lee Van Vlake



*Lee applying fire ant bait at test plot*

Fire ants are becoming a major issue to Livestock Producers in the Pee Region of South Carolina including Williamsburg County. Fire ants affect all livestock producers from commercial hay operations to the hobby horse producers. Fire ants can damage equipment, kill livestock, reduce grazing, and be a concern to farm labor. The decision to control fire ants will vary from farm to farm depending on their threshold specific to their farming operation. With this in mind

Clemson Extension Agents decided to put in a demonstration plot in Williamsburg County. The goal of this demonstration was to show livestock producers control strategies in their county. This is extremely important to show producers how to use the product and when they should put it out. The products used were Extinguish and Extinguish plus. Over 20 acres of hayland and pasture were treated in September of 2013. The bait was applied using a four-wheeler with a spreader. A GPS device was also used to control the speed in which the bait was put out. The bait was applied at a rate of 1.5 pounds to the acre. This is the recommended rate to use per the product label. We had a control where no bait was used and then compared the efficacy of both products to the control. The demonstration is on its third year. Over 90 percent control has been observed in the treated areas when compared to the control. The results are currently being shared with clientele and producers throughout the Pee Dee Region including Williamsburg County. These demonstrations are in several counties and have led to several programs and presentation in Williamsburg County and throughout the Pee Dee Region. Fire ant control strategies will continue to be an integral management decision on livestock operations where pastures and hayfields are being used.

## Annual Pond School held in Kingstree

By: Ben Powell

The Pond Schools are intensive, day-long trainings with lectures and field demonstrations to teach everything necessary to manage fish and farm ponds, covering topics such as permitting/construction, limnology, fish stocking/harvesting, water quality, weed control, nuisance wildlife control and more. The goal of each pond school is to teach pond owners and managers the most cost effective methods for managing their ponds. In 2013, over 50 participants attended these schools, including pond owners and lake management professionals.



*Fish sampling demonstration with Ben*

## 4-Her's Attend Summer Camp

By: Jolie Brown

Six lucky kids from the Williamsburg County 4-H attended summer camp the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> at WW Camp Long in Aiken, SC. The camp facilities include a recreational building, basketball courts, baseball field, zip line and team challenge courses, hiking trails, a climbing wall, and an 18 acre pond. Three of the kids were lucky enough to be sponsored by the Williamsburg Farm Bureau and the Soil and Water Conservation District. The three campers that received sponsors were from the Felician Center and were hand-picked for their grades and good behavior by Sister Susanne. The campers reported great food served at camp and the many talented and kind camp counselors. Ashaunti Cooper wrote that camp was, "extraordinary and fun." She also wrote, "one activity that I really enjoyed was rock climbing. It was the first time I ever tried it



*4H'ers LOVE Summer Camp*

and it was fantastic." Each 4-Her made new friends in surrounding counties. The camp also featured a talent show that one of the Williamsburg County girls participated in and received an award for her tap dancing routine. Overall, Camp Long was a wonderful experience and provided life long memories for the participants. If you are interested in joining or volunteering with 4-H, please contact Jolie Brown at 843-355-6106 or [jolie2@clermson.edu](mailto:jolie2@clermson.edu).

## Health Rocks Training!

By: Jolie Brown

Williamsburg County 4-H and SC State Extension partnered together to host a Health Rocks! Train the Trainer session in Kingstree, Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The training was held at the Williamsburg County Recreation Department on Thurgood Marshall HWY in their new gym. Café on Academy catered the delicious lunch. The training covered three activities included in the Health Rocks! curriculum workbook. Health Rocks! is a healthy lifestyles program based on decision making and health knowledge targeted at youth ages 8 to 16. The program is led by teen/ adult leadership teams that mentor and guide youth through the hands on, interactive activities. The activities help youth with one or more life skills such as, critical thinking, stress management, peer pressure and effective communication. Special emphasis is placed on tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drug use prevention. This program is a great fit for youth groups, Girl or Boy Scout Troops, 21<sup>st</sup> Century programs, and many other youth organizations. To learn more about the Health Rocks! program please visit the national 4-H website at [www.4-h.org](http://www.4-h.org). To find out more about Williamsburg County 4-H and the available clubs and events, "Like" the Williamsburg County 4-H Facebook page.

## Increased Forestry Education in the area

Recent Pee Dee area activities Corey is working on to help Williamsburg and the surrounding areas...

- Teaching forestry programs at several elementary and intermediate schools across the Pee Dee
- Providing technical expertise at tree planting ceremonies throughout the region
- Engaging landowners in meetings to discuss various forestry interest such as longleaf pine and forest invasive species
- Elected as the 2014 Chair for the Winyah Chapter of the Society of American Foresters
- Speaking engagements at various garden clubs, and plant professional groups in the area focusing on urban forestry issues.
- Chosen to serve as the CFE (continuing forestry education) coordinator for the state of South Carolina
- Attending various conferences on timber investment and forest management to keep up with ever-changing markets and silvicultural practices
- Working with small towns and communities to aid in creating green space areas and improve urban forestry programs
- Teaching over 150 students about the benefits of prescribed fire at the annual Wood Magic Forest Fair
- Becoming a certified forest inspector for the American Tree Farm Program

*Corey providing technical assistance in preparation for a tree planting ceremony at a nearby elementary school.*



*Forestry Programs such as “Hardwood Management”, “Uneven – Aged Pine Management”, “Urban Tree Selection and Maintenance”, and “Maximizing Profits from your Timber” are upcoming in 2014.*



## NEW Williamsburg County 4-H Clubs

The Williamsburg County 4-H is happy to announce that we have added two new clubs to our list! Carletta Isreal will be the Volunteer Leader for the 4-H Livestock Club. This club will meet every third Monday of the month from 5-6PM. The location for the club meetings will vary. The first few months we plan to meet at the Williamsburg County Clemson Extension office in Kingstree. After the introductory meetings where the 4-Hers will learn the basics of livestock, we will then start meeting at various farms around the county. The club will cover all livestock animals including chickens, beef cows, swine, sheep, and goats.

The second new club is the 4-H Felician Center Recycling Club lead by Beth Tisdale! The club will meet every third Monday from 3-4PM at the Felician Center's Arts building on Thorne Avenue. The club will discuss ways to recycle and will create a craft each meeting. If you are interested in joining a club, you must first join the

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/williamsburg/>

*The Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.*

## Staff

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## Williamsburg office...Open for Business!

Ms. Carly Smith recently joined the Clemson Extension staff in Williamsburg County as the Program Assistant. Carly graduated from Clemson University in December of 2012 with a B.S. degree in Political Science and now resides in Coward, SC. While growing up on a family farm, Carly developed a great passion for agriculture and for the outdoors that she brings to her new position with Clemson Extension. Carly will be happy to assist you in any way that she can. Please give her a call, send her an email, or come by the office! Check out the new office hours!



### New Office Hours:

**Monday: Flexible Hours (call first)**

**Tuesday: 8:00-4:30**

**Wednesday: 8:00-4:30**

**Thursday: 8:00-4:30**

**Friday: Flexible Hours (call first)**

