



2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: ABBEVILLE COUNTY

The 2017 Abbeville Farm City Day

All 230 Abbeville County third graders with their teachers and chaperones visited the County Agriculture Building to learn where our food, clothing and shelter really come from. The students rotate through a series of educational stations where a particular agricultural or animal husbandry practice is explained. These include practices such as horticulture, beef and dairy cow production, poultry production, to forestry and honey bees. The purpose of each educational station is to teach how food and other staples come from farmers and livestock producers and eventually become groceries on the shelf, clothes on the rack and building materials, possibly from right here in Abbeville County. The annual program is conducted by the County Extension staff and many dedicated volunteers. Each station is manned by local farmers, FFA members, 4-H members, or Clemson Extension Agents who live or work in the County. The day is geared to be in line with third grade standards and be fast paced with lots to do and see. The students not only meet some of the people that provide their daily needs but as always the many farm animals they encounter during the day can be the real stars of the program.



▲ 4-Hers at an after school 4-H club have fun using engineering and design skills to make penny boats to learn about buoyancy. Just one of many scientific inquiry activities youth have the opportunity to learn in 4-H programs.

Science and 4-H Make a Good Match

The Abbeville County 4-H Program offers STEM and science inquiry activities for local youth. The 4-Hers have explored their outside environment learning about aquatic habitats, wildlife tracking and wildlife biology at Wild, Wild Creature day camp. Youth also had the opportunity to explore technology, engineering, and physics during a summer day camp where Hot Wheels tracks were testing speedometry and relating it to real world scenarios. Youth also built Lego robots and closed electric circuits. Other 4-H activities in after school clubs have tested viscosity and buoyancy by designing penny boats. There are science based learning activities planned for 4-H members throughout the year through school enrichment programs, after school 4-H clubs, summer day camps, and traditional 4-H clubs. The elements of program design that are being taught in these 4-H activities is an effort to increase skills and to provide a fun way to explore scientific methods. Being involved in 4-H allows youth to engage in teamwork, critical thinking, creativity, speaking and communication, reasoning, and leadership, all while being in a safe and fun environment.



▲ Abbeville County 3rd grade students being introduced to some of the farm animals that may supply part of their daily needs. This station for goats and sheep was staffed by local FFA students and livestock producer volunteers

SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
AT A GLANCE



AGENTS
133



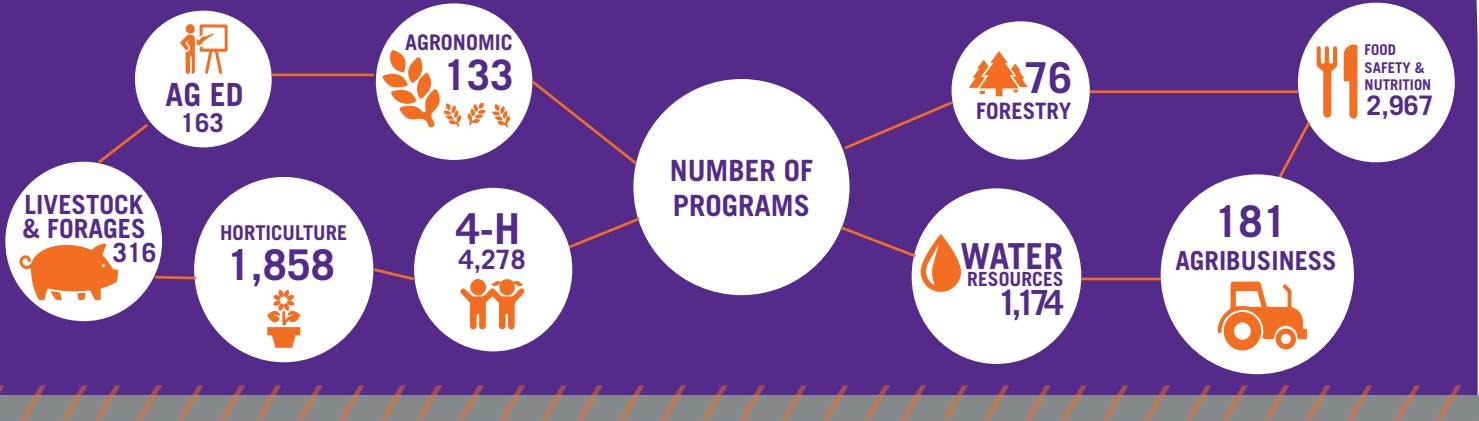
PROGRAMS
11,158



CONTACTS
242,239



YOUTH & FAMILIES
REACHED
104,156



▲ Abbeville Area Livestock Agent Gary Coleman(R) and a local beef producer, discuss the future cattle market.

Old Farm Thinking–New Farm Success

Gary Coleman, the Area Livestock and Forages Agent for Abbeville County has had an eventful year working with livestock producers here in the County. Due to well-timed rains, livestock producers have benefited from a plentiful grazing and haying year, where they were able to produce an abundance of grasses to support their operations. Mr. Coleman has continued to work closely with the growing number of small ruminant producers, cattlemen’s youth scholarship committee, and the local cattlemen’s association in Abbeville County. Gary continued his efforts this year with a process he started in 2016, where he began putting more emphasis on encouraging producers to think outside of the box, when it came to the traditional ways of bringing in a farm income. This year he focused his efforts working with producers on multi-species grazing. A number of producers he has worked with have started incorporating goats into their cattle program. In the years to come, Mr. Coleman hopes this practice will diversify many of the operations here in the Abbeville County area leading to more productive and successful livestock producing operations.



◀ Here Dr. Lance Beecher is teaching a workshop on aquaponics. 70 people attended the Aquaponics workshop in Abbeville. Aquaponics is a system of aquaculture in which the waste produced by farmed fish or other aquatic animals supplies nutrients for plants grown hydroponically, which in turn purify the water. The workshop provided instructions for building aquaponics systems that fit the attendees’ needs. Additionally there was a tour of the Clemson Aquaponics Center, 25 people signed up to visit.

<http://www.clemson.edu/abbeville>