Allendale County Lunch & Learn Series continues to be very popular. It has been an opportunity to involve community residents in both planning and participating. It supports the belief to “Be Local”.

In October, 2015 we were challenged with a Yoga class conducted by Amanda Benson-Bremser, EFNEP agent. It was low-impact yoga designed just for our class. It was great fun and hopefully will be a part of our lives.

In November and December, Allendale citizens made holiday centerpieces using local greenery and berries. Catherine Campbell, now retired Assistant Program Coordinator, led this class. Participants agreed that the secret to a beautiful arrangement was “Oasis”. Too, we made miniature Christmas trees with cedar and small ornaments. The auditorium reeked of an “old timey cedar” Christmas.

In January 2016, Ms. Campbell wrote a grant to the Savannah River Community Foundation requesting assistance with our Lunch & Learn Series. The mission was to fund the program for 12 months out of the year for our senior community to provide an outlet for learning and socializing. The Allendale County Extension office was awarded a $1000 grant.

In February, we had a local herbalist do a presentation, “All About Herbs”. We made herbal flower arrangements and butters. We drank herbal teas from china cups.

Ms. Campbell then conducted a class on propagation. A local farmer shared his expertise on his experience with propagating grape vines. The participants all left with new plants.

In March 2016, we caravanned (4 vehicles) to the Midlands Plant & Flower Festival, at the Columbia Farmer’s Market. A good time was had by all.

Our series has continued to fulfill a community need. The participants show their gratitude by contributing donations for each program.

We ask that any community member that has a special talent and would like to share with us, please call 803 584 4207.
EFNEP Programs Serves Allendale County Residents

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) offered by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is aimed at providing practical, hands-on nutrition education. EFNEP delivers nutrition education in four core areas: diet quality and physical activity, food resource management, food safety, and food security.

EFNEP Eligibility:

EFNEP includes programming to a diverse audience of children, youth, adults, and families with limited financial resources and who are eligible for Food Assistance programs such as WIC, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), AFDC, or Head Start. The primary audiences are:

- **Low-income parents and other adult caregivers** (such as grandparents and guardians) who have primary responsibility for selecting, purchasing, and preparing food for their children. Emphasis is placed on families and caregivers of young children
- **Low-income pregnant women/teens**

To participate in an EFNEP program please contact the Allendale Extension Office at 803-584-4207 or email Patrick2@clemson.edu.

Serving Safe Food

Every year many deaths and hospitalizations are caused by foodborne illness within the United States. Just one incident of foodborne illness caused by a lack of training can damage a business image, increase insurance premiums, result in legal battles and fees, shrink revenues, and finally, close the establishment doors forever. Food safety training is critical because food safety is critical. Public concern about food safety has never been greater. New headlines every day prove that no operation is exempt from a foodborne illness outbreak. After an outbreak has occurred, it is too late!

ServSafe Employee and Manager Certification classes were taught in various counties and several ServSafe Managers test were also proctored. A total of thirty-seven food service employees, restaurant owners and others participated in the course. ServSafe is a program for food service employees based on Servsafe, the leader in food safety training. Course content: included, An Introduction to Food Safety, Personal Hygiene, Using Thermometers and Keeping Temperature Logs, Receiving and Storing Food Safely, Preparing and Serving Safe Food, and Cleaning and Sanitizing.

Eighty percent of the participants became certified after completing a written exam. Evaluation results showed that all participants gained increased knowledge about the benefits of serving safe food.
Allendale 4-H’er Attends State 4-H Congress

The 53rd Annual State 4-H Congress brought 110 delegates, from across South Carolina to Clemson University, July 16-19, 2014, to participate in educational, service and social activities centered around the theme “Changing the World One 4-Her at a Time.”

In keeping with the event theme, State Congress featured an international dinner and evening of cultural experiences led by Clemson’s international students.

Educational programs and activities continued with the work of Global Food Web and workshops with an international flair such as Zumba, drumming and international cooking. As a service project, the group set out on a shopping trip for youth group homes located across SC that offer 4-H programming. The youth raised over $1,000 for their shopping spree.

4-H’er representing Allendale County was Starr Yamaguchi-Dunbar from Allendale Fairfax High School.

Extension Office Assists With 2015-2016 SC Farm Aid

In October of 2015 the state of South Carolina received widespread rainfall from 15-20 inches and localized amounts of over 25 inches of rainfall.

This destroyed or damaged crops across the state causing extreme amount hardship on state agricultural producers. Although the Lower Savannah River Valley and Allendale Counties did not receive as much rainfall as most of the state the area did experience adverse effects from initial storm and the storms that persisted through the rest of the harvest season.

With these events eventually came the South Carolina Farm Aid, which was put in place to help growers with more than 40% crop loss in a particular crop.

Once put in place Area Extension Agents, Crop Insurance Agent, FSA, and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture worked together to help agricultural producers fill out and send off grants to relieve some of the cost created by this unexpected storm.

Allendale County alone was awarded $317,335 South Carolina Farm Aid, which greatly benefited the growers and the local community.
Kite Festival Continues To Bring Eco-Tourism to the County

Catherine Campbell, Program Assistant, represented Clemson Extension as a board member on the Lower Savannah River Alliance (LSRA).

Ms Campbell served as Chair for the third annual Kite Outing. This year, LSRA utilized their website to publicize the 2016 Kite Outing and by mid-June we had sold out. Participation is limited due to the size of our center.

On a sultry July 23rd morning, local citizens and visitors gathered at the LSRA Center. The state of SC was well represented. We had participants from NC, Ga., and Fla. Introductions were made and the daily agenda was shared. Allendale County provided us with vans and drivers to transport our guests to the field. Our birders braved unusually hot temperatures. They returned, after 2 hours in the field, with boundless kite stories to report. Their enthusiasm was evident.

The guest speaker, this year, was Maria Whitehead from the Nature Conservancy. She has studied the avian community, with emphasis on swallow-tailed-kite breeding ecology. Her emphasis is on protecting important breeding areas for kites. She is an advocate for sound stewardship of protected lands. Her work has been central to SC. She was a dynamic speaker, who complimented the field trip.

Guests enjoyed a great lunch and left feeling well-informed on our Eastern Swallow-tailed Kite. Clemson Extension is proud to partner with organizations such as LSRA to educate our local citizens and help drive economic development.

New wheat disease found in Allendale County

Clemson Extension Agent Andrew Warner and State Small Grains Production Specialist David Gunter identified new diseases that threaten wheat producers in the Lower Savannah River Valley Region.

The new disease is commonly known as “dryland foot rot” which is a disease that causes localized losses by thinning wheat stands.

The disease has been seen the last few growing seasons in the Pee Dee Region of the state, however, this disease had not been found in in our region of the state.

This means producers in the Lower Savannah River Valley Region need to start taking precautionary measures to reduce the risk of this disease.

The best means of controlling this disease is through cleaning of field debris to reduce the inoculum for this disease, using proper crop rotation, conducting proper management practice, using later planting dates, and using certified seed with fungicidal seed coatings.

If you suspect you have this disease during the future growing season please contact your local Clemson Extension office.

CHECK OUT OUR HOME AND GARDEN INFORMATION CENTER

Call toll-free in South Carolina 1-888-656-9988
http://www.clemson.edu/hgic
Allendale Office Welcomes New Program Assistant

The Allendale County Extension Office is pleased to welcome Audreyauna Hay as our new office Program Assistant.

Ms. Hay will be responsible for keeping the office open Monday through Thursday 8 am to 1 pm. She also serves as the coordinator for our Lunch and Learn Series along with assisting County Agents.

Ms. Hay is a native of Allendale. She graduated from Allendale Fairfax High School in 2008. She then furthered her education at Denmark technical College and graduated in May of 2015 with her Associates in Business.

In 2016 she graduated with her Associates in Early Care and Education and a certificate in Early Childhood. She’s a proud mother of two.

Ms. Hay can be reached at 803-584-4207 Ext. 114 or at hay2@clemson.edu.