Livestock is Still Substantial in Anderson County
Chris Talley, Agriculture Agent, Anderson County

Anderson County still ranks number one in the state for beef cattle, forage land (pasture and hay acreage), sheep and goats, and number two in equine numbers. There are over 1400 farms in Anderson County covering over 150,000 acres of land. Over 62 million dollars’ worth of products are sold annually off of Anderson County Farms. It is apparent that livestock production and agriculture in general is still a vital part of Anderson County and the livelihood of many residents in the county.

The Extension staff continuously works with residents through educational programs as well as phone calls and farm visits to aide producers in being successful farmers. Work is done with the Anderson County Cattleman’s Association as well as other groups to offer programs to their producers. In addition, we work extensively with the youth to help build the next generation of farmers through various 4-H programs and livestock shows.

Extension will continue to work to help keep Anderson County the number one Livestock county in the state.

Sporadic Weather Impacts Trees Throughout the State
Mark Arena, Specialty Crops Agents

Over the last two years the ever changing weather patterns have impacted every type of vegetation in the state. The organization TreesSC was seeking a professional that could address this concern. They contacted Mark Arena of the Clemson Extension Service. Arena agreed to make a presentation on the subject. On September 15 in Columbia, SC TreesSC hosted a workshop to address this topic. This state-wide event was attended by approximately 85 individuals that work in the tree care and landscape industry.

Arena’s in depth presentation covered the ever changing weather patterns from excessive rain to drought conditions. Also, signs and symptoms of these conditions, potential long term affects and how to mitigate such conditions.

Arena is also writing several articles for different facets of the horticulture industry to better educate growers on the causes and effects of sporadic weather conditions and how to address such problems.
This has been a great year for the Carolina Clear program in Anderson County. The Anderson & Pickens Counties Stormwater Partners implemented many great programs through a regional effort including Anderson and Pickens Counties along with the cities of Anderson, Belton, Clemson, Easley, Liberty, Norris, Pickens, and Clemson University.

One major project in 2016 was converting an existing dry detention pond to a bioretention cell at Green Pond Landing and Events Center in Anderson, SC. This engineered rain garden provides aesthetically pleasing flood storage while also facilitating water infiltration and pollutant removal. This decreases the volume of stormwater runoff that is discharged into Lake Hartwell. It also decreases the amount of contaminants that are discharged into the lake including nutrients, heavy metals, harmful bacteria and pathogens, sediment, oils and grease, and various types of organic material. The plants that were used at this site are rain garden tolerant, meaning that they withstand both dry and wet conditions. These plants (glossy abelia, Virginia sweetspire, pink muhly grass, and butterfly bush) will beautify the site and provide important habitat and food for pollinator insects.

Other programs include the Carolina Yards Online Course, Rain Barrel Sale, and Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop. Additionally, we partnered with the Anderson Arts Center to provide weekly water pollution programs at their summer camp. Campers were invited to submit their designs for a stormdrain painting contest, and the winners’ designs will be painted on two stormdrains at Watson Park in Anderson. Learn more about Carolina Clear and our regional efforts at www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear/apcsp or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pickenscountystormwaterpartners

The Anderson County Livestock Show continues to get bigger and better each year. An area of significant growth was in our Meat Goat Show, an increase of 45.7% was seen from 2014 to 2015. In 2015, youth from South Carolina and Georgia participated in this three-day event, exhibiting five species of livestock, totaling 379 head. Youth learn leadership, citizenship and responsibility and animal husbandry skills through showing livestock.

This show would not be possible without the support from sponsorship and donations from local businesses, producers, and the Anderson County Council. In 2015, $2300 in scholarships were awarded, among many other prizes and premiums to the youth. We are grateful to all our sponsors and volunteers.
Anderson Forestry & Wildlife Association President allows Clemson to Establish Research Thinning and Seedling Plots on Forest

Carolyn Dawson, Area Forestry Agent

The Anderson Forestry & Wildlife Association is still going strong after its debut year and attendance has remained strong. The association’s president Alex Turner, with the guidance of Clemson Forestry Professor Patrick Heisel of Clemson and Clemson Extension, is allowing Clemson to establish thinning and seedling demonstration plots on his property for research purposes. The plots have been measured, recorded, mapped and already thinned. Planting should take place this winter. This will be an ongoing research project that we will publicly share with forest landowners in order to educate them about various thinning densities and seedling options in our upstate region.

Zika Virus Forum

Marty Watt, Extension Sr. Agent

With all the calls and emails received by Clemson Extension this summer, Anderson County Emergency Services and Clemson Extension hosted a Forum focusing on Mosquito’s and the Zika Virus.

A regional forum was planned and held on September 6, 2016 at the Anderson County Civic Center. Several presenters made their presentations on various topics.

Dr. Chris Evans, Public Health Entomologist, SC-DHEC led our discussion of the Zika Virus carrying mosquito. Dr. Evans presented the life cycle of the mosquito and how to control it without chemicals. Dr. Tim Drake, Clemson Department of Pesticide Regulation, stressed the efforts of being proactive to prevent the spreading of the Zika Virus by preventing the mosquito from reproducing. Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, Clemson University Apiculture Specialist, said to “make sure if spraying pesticides is the only solution for preventing the Zika Virus spreading mosquito in your area, to identify and notify any bee hives in and around the treatment area.” J. Wallace Davies, MD of AnMed Health gave a presentation on all the medical issues associated with the Zika Virus. Microcephaly and Guillain-Barre Syndrome are of most concern. Danielle Nixon, DVM, Owner of Crescent Animal Hospital, discussed the mosquito as it pertains to small animals. Dr. Nixon assured us that there were no major threats to small animals to the Zika Virus at this time.

Marty Watt, Clemson Extension Sr. Agent in Anderson along with Taylor Jones, Anderson County Emergency Services Manager organized the Forum and arranged for a Low Country Boil lunch. There were several Upstate Counties represented at the Forum with 183 in total attendance.

Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties Master Gardener Program

LayLa Burgess, Extension Agent-Urban Horticulture, Master Gardener Coordinator

The Master Gardener program begins with a 16-week training course covering subjects from soil and plant physiology to vegetable & fruit gardening along with improving the homeowner landscape. Participants then use knowledge acquired to serve the local communities by disseminating valuable information and educating others. Fourteen students attended the 2016 training course and eleven students graduated as Certified Clemson Extension Master Gardeners. In addition to the Master Gardener Training Course, students are required to volunteer 40 hours of their time back to their local community to become fully Certified Clemson Extension Master Gardeners. Our 2016 Master Gardener Class (15 students) will potentially donate 600 hours to South Carolina valued at $14,136 worth of volunteer service. For the program period July 2015 to June 2016, the sixteen newly Certified Clemson Extension Master Gardeners contributed a total of 640 hours valued at $15,078.40 worth of volunteer service.
Forum Bringing Growers and Specialist Together

Chris Talley, Agronomy Agent, Upstate

The Upstate area of South Carolina is not known as a large corn and soybean production area of the state. However, there are still a large number of row crop producers who either farm full time or part time. These producers are still in need of valuable research based information provided through Clemson University to help them maximize their production systems. With the emergence of the new invasive insects like the Sugarcane Aphid, Glyphosate resistant weeds like Palmer Amaranth, and potential devastating diseases like Asiatic Soybean Rust, the need for this type of program is even more critical.

In 2016, Area Agronomic Crops Agent Chris Talley, conducted his annual “Upstate Row Crops Meeting” in Anderson County on February 3rd. Over 20 local producers from surrounding counties participated in this program. Producers were given information on weed management options for corn and soybeans, as well as insect management in soybeans, soybean disease management as well as learning about Clemson’s Certified Seed Program and official variety trials (OVTs) conducted across the state.

Producers had another opportunity to interact with our state specialists and other local farmers on August 19th and 20th of 2016 by participating in the Simpson Research and Education Center (REC) annual field day and in a Pre-Field Day Row Crop Producer meeting. The pre-field day meeting was held on the Friday prior to the field day and allowed producers to spend more time with our specialists on a more one on one type environment. Both the field day and pre-field day was well represented by our local row crop producers.

The 2016 producer meeting had 27 row crop producers in attendance from five upstate counties. Over 50 producers participated in the Simpson REC field day agronomic crops tours and 16 producers participated in the pre-field day meeting. All producers expressed that they gained valuable knowledge, which will help them be more profitable in their row crop production.

Many of our state extension specialists participate in this meeting where they relay information from their research trials to our upstate producers. Producers can then utilize what they learn in making their farming operations more efficient and profitable.

Commercial Fruit Growers Meeting

S. Cory Tanner, Area Horticulture Agent

Upstate SC is a vibrant fruit-growing region with a number of large and small commercial operations producing a variety of fruit crops. Commercial fruit growers need and want continuing education opportunities to stay current with best management practices and pest management strategies. Additionally, these professionals are required to obtain pesticide license recertification credits to maintain their pesticide applicator licenses as required by law. To meet this need a team of Clemson Extension Agents coordinated the 2016 Oconee County Fruit Growers Meeting on March 2, 2016. At this meeting, held at the Clemson University Musser Fruit Research Farm in Seneca, SC, Regional Extension Specialists from Clemson University and North Carolina State University presented up-to-date recommendations for peach and apple production. The half-day program included presentations about peach pest management, orchard weed management, fire blight management in apple, and apple rootstock selection; followed by a tour of the apple rootstock trial and training systems. Attendees received resource materials, two SC pesticide license recertification credits (GA and NC credits were also available), and lunch. Thirty-eight commercial fruit growers and aligned industry professionals attended the program. Most attendees were from Oconee and the surrounding Upstate counties of Anderson, Oconee, Pickens and Greenville.
Food2Market: Helping Food Entrepreneurs Produce Safe Foods for Sale in the Marketplace

Kimberly A. Baker, PhD, RD, LD

Clemson Extension’s Food2Market program has completed its fourth year of serving food entrepreneurs of South Carolina. This program provides state and federal food regulatory information to food entrepreneurs, assists with developing required food safety plans, conducts required product testing and conducts nutrient analysis of products to create nutrition facts panels.

Food2Market is coordinated by Extension Associate Kimberly A. Baker, PhD, RD, LD with the assistance of Adair Hoover, a Food Safety and Nutrition Agent. This year, the product testing lab has performed over 200 independent tests, which includes pH, water activity, nutrient analysis, obscuration proof and peanut allergen detection and is valued at over $18,000. These tests represented 86 individual food entrepreneurs who are in the process of developing products to sell or are already selling products in the marketplace.

The Food2Market team is currently working on developing an online based food safety workshop for new food entrepreneurs which will cover topics such as state and federal regulations, facility requirements, product testing, food safety plans, packaging and more. Other educational opportunities provided by the Food2Market program in coordination with Food Safety faculty on campus are workshops for Seafood HACCP, Preventive Control for Human Food and Produce Safety Grower Training. You can learn more about the Food2Market program at www.clemson.edu/extension/food2market.