A high percentage of consumers use many unsafe food preservation practices that put them at a high risk for illness, death, and economic losses. Clemson Extension Service provides up-to-date food preservation information from the USDA for canning foods at home. Christine Patrick, the local Food Safety and Nutrition Agent, helps consumers understand and put into practice safe methods to prepare foods for storing throughout the year. They are informed about how to find safe, reliable sources for recipes.

A total of four canning workshops were offered to youth in Bamberg and Orangeburg Counties. Participants used various types of equipment and supplies available for preserving jelly at home. Each participant took home a jar of the item prepared in class along with handouts. Many of the youth participants were introduced to canning through these workshops. They were pleased to have an opportunity to be involved in the process.

All participants found the workshop to be very useful and nearly all reported gaining new knowledge.
Regional Peanut Production Meeting

A regional Peanut Production Meeting was held in Allendale on February 25, 2016. Producers from Colleton, Allendale, Hampton, Jasper, Bamberg, Barnwell, Orangeburg, and Aiken counties attended. Dr. Anco, Extension Peanut Specialist, covered varieties and insect control in peanuts. Dr. Smith, Extension Economist covered Financial Reports and Loan Opportunities. Dr. Kirk, Extension Precision Agricultural Engineer, discussed Improving Harvest and Precision Agricultural. Growers asked a wide array of questions and gained knowledge for the upcoming peanut season.

The Clemson Extension Peanut program has a total economic impact of over 3 million dollars by allowing growers to choose the most effective disease management programs. Even though peanut acreage in Bamberg and Barnwell counties has fluctuated due to contract prices, peanuts are still an important crop. Also input costs have increased substantially leading producers to search for current and cost effective information.

Regional Watermelon Disease Meeting

A Watermelon Disease and Fungicide Training was held in Bamberg on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. The meeting was organized by Joe Varn and Marion Barnes, county extension agents, and growers from Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale, and Colleton counties attended. Dr. Tony Keinath serves as the state extension Vegetable Pathologist for SC vegetable growers and is located at the Coastal Research & Education Center in Charleston. He covered watermelon diseases and the fungicide treatment spray schedules. A 2016 Watermelon Spray Guide was given out to all in attendance, which covered three major diseases that affect watermelons in the southeastern part of the US. Without treatment, these diseases will cause a huge loss for watermelon growers, but by following recommendations in the Spray Guide, growers will realize that money has been saved by using this Extension education information.
Sole Hope encourages 4-H’ers to make the World a Better Place

“My **Hands** to larger service,” is a promise to give the world as much as a member can. The 4-H pledge has taught thousands to use their head and not think of themselves as much as they should think of others. “For my club, my community, my country, and my world,” stretches past local concerns to make the world better for all.

South Carolina 4-H participated in Sole Hope as a 2016 statewide service project. Sole Hope is a Christian Organization that provides shoes, medical relief, and education to communities in Uganda, Africa. The children in these communities suffer from getting jiggers in their feet because they do not have shoes. The jiggers are very harmful and can cause diseases. The shoes provided by volunteers through Sole Hope are made from recycled blue jeans and plastic milk jugs.

Carey Herndon, State 4-H Council President and a high school senior, was inspired by Sole Hope, and wanted to make a difference in the lives of children halfway around the world. Starting with a couple of news articles in local papers requesting blue jeans and milk jugs to supply the materials for shoe cutting parties at statewide 4-H leadership retreats, she was overwhelmed by the response. Individuals, churches, businesses, and schools started bringing in trash bags of milk jugs and blue jeans, more than what was needed for the retreats. Between word-of-mouth and social media, the success of cutting out shoes for children less fortunate than ourselves spread, and by the summer deadline of July 13, Carey hosted ten shoe cutting parties with over 280 participants ranging from 8 to 85 years old, resulting in 160 pairs of cut out shoes and $648 in donated funds. Between the three statewide shoe cutting events and the local donations and shoe cutting parties, South Carolina 4-H donated 250 pairs of shoes to Sole Hope for the children of Uganda.

The left over blue jeans, cut out pieces and parts of mismatched shoes, and plastic heels were sent to Florence County to help with their county wide Sole Hope project.

Giving your **hands** to larger service is when a member steps back from their own personal needs and gives to others what they can. Through “**hands**” 4-H members gain the ability to give strength to others. 4-H members have the opportunity to get out in the community and show everyone how much care their hands hold, to live better, while making their own personal best, better.

The 4-H Pledge is “I pledge my **Head** to Clearer Thinking, My **Heart** to Greater Loyalty, My **Hands** to Larger Service and My **Health** to Better Living, for my Club, my Community, my Country and my World.”

Sole Hope inspired Bamberg County 4-H to cut out 160 pairs of shoes made from recycled blue jeans and milk jugs for the children of Uganda.
Senior 4-H member Carey Herndon helps fourth graders Alli Polk and Jesse Chandler at Andrew Jackson Academy cut out blue jeans to make shoes for Sole Hope.

Edisto Elementary 4-H Club Members trace and cut out shoes from blue jeans for Sole Hope.

Multigenerational church members take part in cutting shoes out of recycled blue jeans and milk jugs at Spring Branch Baptist Church for Sole Hope.

For information about Sole Hope go to SoleHope.org. For information about Bamberg County 4-H, contact sbhrndn@clemson.edu or like the Bamberg & Barnwell 4-H Facebook Page.

Resources: What the different H's mean for the backbone of 4-H.

Posted on December 30, 2013 by Janelle Stewart, Michigan State University Extension
Brandi has been with the Bamberg County Clemson Extension Office since October of 2014. She enjoys providing assistance to the Extension agents as well as the Bamberg county FCL members, assisting them in preparing for upcoming programs & events. She also enjoys helping the citizens of Bamberg county as they come in to inquire about agriculture, 4H membership, and how to receive help with their food safety concerns. Being able to be the face of the office and help others is a joy of hers.