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.
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.

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.
Barnwell County 4-H member Joseph Arnold was part of the four-man team to represent South Carolina at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational held July 31st – August 4th at Jackson Mill State 4-H Camp near Weston, West Virginia. South Carolina placed tenth in the contest against seventeen other states in the 37th annual event. Joseph was the highest score on the South Carolina Team. Events included tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect and disease identification, topographic map reading, forest stand evaluation, a written exam and quiz bowl.

Joseph has been a member of 4-H for four years and is still an active member of the Barnwell Area Christian Homeschool 4-H Club and Archery Team. He has competed at both the regional and state SCDNR Archery in the Schools Tournaments, volunteered at our local Tractor Supply Company during the Paper Clover Campaign and has volunteered at many local archery tournaments. He has taken Wildlife, Forestry, Aquaculture and Ag Science in the Agriculture Program at Barnwell County Career Center with Mindy Sandifer. He is currently doing a work study at the DNR Fish Hatchery this semester.

The South Carolina 4-H Team was represented by Joseph Arnold from Barnwell, Joseph Barron from Plum Branch, Duncan Gillis from Camden, and Nathan Stalford from Tega Cay. Clemson Extension Forestry and Natural Resources Agents- Tom Brant, Jeff Fellers, Jaime Pohlman and Stephen Pohlman coached the youth. The youth were selected for the team based on their participation in the SC 4-H Forestry Clinic and have been practicing monthly for the past year and a half.
Jane is one of our newest employees. She is a native of Fairfield County, but has lived in Barnwell county for 35 years. She is married to Fleming McMaster, also a native of Fairfield County. They have two daughters, Amanda (married to Douglas Capell) and Ashley. In May of this year, they were thrilled to welcome into the world their first grandchild, Banks McMaster Capell. What a joy and blessing he has been to their family. Jane began working with the Clemson Extension Service on October 24, 2016. She is so happy to be able to work with the Extension Service. “I was so excited when Karissa Ulmer called me to let me know that I was their candidate for this job. This is a dream come true for me! I am looking forward to learning new things and helping the community in any possible way I can through the Extension Service. Thank you so much for this opportunity.” Our office hours will be Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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.

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/barnwell/

Jane D. McMaster
Program Assistant

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