

2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: BEAUFORT COUNTY

Working Hard for Beaufort County

After the tropical storms and hurricanes of 2016 and 2017 agents offered guidance to County residents. Master Gardener volunteers provide assistance, outreach and education throughout the County at local Farmers Markets, plant clinics, and schools. Volunteers in Beaufort County reported 4,143 hours of Community and Educational Service. They also receive advanced training beyond the 14 week training program in sustainable landscape practices. Master Gardener volunteers served as garden coaches at many area school gardens and the Bluffton Boys and Girls Club. Volunteers planned and planted sustainable and low maintenance park and gardens for a multi-family property in the city of Beaufort under the auspices of the Beaufort Housing Authority. There were many partners: contractors, residents, police, fire, public works, cub scouts and city officials. Several Habitat for Humanity houses have also been landscaped by the Lowcountry Master Gardener Association providing plants, compost, mulch, and volunteers. Clemson Extension Arbor Day tree giveaway is an annual event to residents of Beaufort County. Native tree seedlings are donated along with instructions for planting.



▲ Healthy Lifestyle State Challenge



▲ Master Gardeners volunteering at the farmers market

4-H Programs in Beaufort County

Beaufort County maintains between 12-15 community, in school and after school clubs, and has served nearly 4,000 youth which includes several military youth. Currently, 16 volunteers are the heart of our Beaufort County 4-H program. Science, Engineering Technology, Embryology, Agriculture, Gardening, and Healthy Lifestyles are the main focus areas for 4-H in Beaufort County. The 4-H Healthy Lifestyles State challenge with Beaufort and Jasper County youth placed 4th overall. In the 2017 4-H Backyard Rabbit and Pullet Chain projects Beaufort County had reserve and grand champion winners.

SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
AT A GLANCE



AGENTS
133



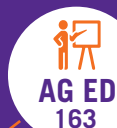
PROGRAMS
11,158



CONTACTS
242,239



**YOUTH & FAMILIES
REACHED**
104,156



AG ED
163



AGRONOMIC
133

**NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS**



76
FORESTRY



**FOOD
SAFETY &
NUTRITION**
2,967



**LIVESTOCK
& FORAGES**
316



HORTICULTURE
1,858



4-H
4,278



**WATER
RESOURCES**
1,174



181
AGRIBUSINESS



▲ Dr. Cory Heaton of Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service discussed shoreline plants with pond managers as part of a hands-on stormwater pond inspection workshop at the 2017 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Conference.

Local Stormwater Pond Conference

Clemson Extension's Carolina Clear program and the Lowcountry Stormwater Partners alongside the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium organized the 2017 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Conference. The conference provided a forum to give the latest information and tools on stormwater pond management for the Lowcountry community. The conference took place on October 19, 2017 at the University of South Carolina Beaufort campus.

Ninety-eight stormwater pond owners, property management professionals, and pond management professionals engaged in hands-on workshops and presentations by experts in pond management. Topics included integrated weed management, pond inspection, and upland management. Attendees also received networking opportunities, a resource package, and continuing education credits.

The conference also connected two communities with Ellen Comeau, a Water Resources Extension Agent, who is now advising them on pond management.



◀ Charles Jarman and Benjamin Powell of Clemson Cooperative Extension lead a group of pond owners in a hands-on pond inspection activity at the 2017 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Conference.

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