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Beaufort County

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Mission Statement

We improve the economy, environment, and well-being of South Carolinians through the delivery of unbiased research-based information and education.

Master Gardeners

The Lowcountry Master Gardener Association hosted a statewide Advance Master Gardener Training on Plant Propagation. One hundred Master Gardeners attended an all-day program held at the University of South Carolina’s Bluffton campus. Four workshops, construction demonstrations and propagation techniques were presented. Attendees received a printed manual of various plant propagation procedures and demonstration. The workshops included starting seeds, division, cuttings, grafting and air layering. There were lots of giveaway plants, cuttings, and seeds. Demonstrations on hand included a cold frame, p.v.c. light stand for starting seeds, and a mist bench.

Lunch and Learn Speakers series.
There were twenty-two lecture and demonstration programs held weekly at

Master Gardeners (continued)

the Port Royal Farmers Market. The Lowcountry Master Gardener Association was recognized by the International Master Gardener Association for its Lecture Series in Beaufort. The programs are informal and informative and include topics for beginners and experienced gardeners. The emphasis is on sustainable and responsible landscaping practices including using native plants and harvesting rainwater for irrigation.

Master Gardeners in Beaufort County volunteer on local and civic boards, at neighborhood events, plant clinics, farmer’s markets and give research based landscape information to local clients. They report over 5,000 hours of educational and volunteer service in Beaufort County yearly.
4-H Healthy Lifestyle

4-H in Beaufort County has had an awesome year. Over 3,800 youth participated in 4-H this year. Over 2,300 youth participated in the 4-H Stem (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) Science programs. Over 600 youth were exposed to animals, 450 participated in the Healthy Lifestyles as well as 4-H Citizenship and Leadership. One youth was a State 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Ambassador. Sara Jones, was chosen to attend the 4-H National Healthy Lifestyle Summit in Washington, DC and the state 4-H Healthy Lifestyles in Summit held in Columbia, SC. She worked with various chefs and professionals in the field to bring expertise to our 4-H youth. Sara, her club and the Friends of the Library hosted Author Dori Sanders at the St. Helena Library for an exciting program on Healthy Eating. Ms. Sanders demonstrated receipts from her cookbook, and the youth prepared a delicious healthy meal from her recipes. 55 youth and adults attended the affair.

The Lowcountry 4-H program received a generous gift from Bosch this year to host 4-H Robotics Camps. Over 130 youth attended a 5-week camp, each week the 4-Hers would learn about design, engineering, robotics building, programming and team building. At the end of the week each team had to complete a robotics team challenge.

Professional Development Training

Members of the Horticulture Team held a Sprayer Calibration and Pesticide Safety Workshop at the St. Helena Library for 50 Certified Pesticide Applicators. This training included worker safety and identification of weeds and diseases found in ornamental landscapes and turf. South Carolina Department of Pesticide Regulation enforces the state law that anyone who applies pesticides commercially or privately must be licensed and attend approved recertification trainings. There are 396 licensed applicators in Beaufort County. Most of these individuals depend on Clemson Extension agents and training programs to complete this requirement to operate safely and to minimize exposure of pesticide to the environment and themselves.

Cook Like a Chef

Who would not want to “Cook like a Chef”? 4-H received a grant from Walmart with that we held a week long healthy lifestyles camp where the 4-H youth would get a hand-on-chef experience. The week began taking a field trip to Dempsey and Barefoot farms to meet the farmers and picked fresh fruits and vegetable.
Agronomy Agent Provides Expertise

Local Area Agronomic Agent, Andrew Warner, is helping local producers collect yield data for annual South Carolina Corn/Soybean Yield Contest. These yields contest are great ways for growers to get to compete with other growers within the state or around the nation. The contest allows growers to showcase their skills and ability to producing a high yielding/quality crop in their fields. This is second year now Andrew has helped producers in Beaufort County collect the data for these contests. If you need help or are interested in entering into Local, State, or National Yield contest please contact your Clemson Extension Beaufort County Office.

Agriculture Agent Assisted Local Growers

Clemson Extension programs in Beaufort County are coordinated in conjunction with the SC Department of Agriculture, Carolina Farm Stewardship, Lowcountry Local First, Lowcountry Strawberry Growers and PrePlant Growers; they include ecological pest management, best agriculture practices, spray calibration and pesticide safety trainings. Agents conducted surveys and trials on two spotted spider mite causing problems on tomatoes, trialed six broccoli cultivars, and facilitated a surve which monitored for spotted wtn Drosophila.

Clemson agents met with, scouted, and made recommendations to growers in Beaufort County, and a “Crop Report-Vegetable News in the Lowcountry” was distributed to 25 local growers monthly.

School Gardening for SC Educators instructed over 250 educators on how to garden successfully on school grounds, helping to improve students’ access to healthy, nutritious foods across the state. Good Agricultural Practices were offered to classroom teachers and a seasonal planting guide so that even the smallest school gardens could produce and harvest vegetables during the school year.

Farm Aid - After the floods of 2015 local agents documented all the damages on farms in the Lowcountry, prepared materials for vegetable growers about their losses, wrote letters to legislators and encouraged growers to do the same. Clemson hosted a Farm Aid workshop helped 12 Beaufort County farmers individually fill out the paperwork for flood reimbursement. The reimbursement an estimated $295,000 in payments.

Local agriculture programs have had statewide results including updated Clemson Extension Fact Sheets, provided instruction to all ages and demographics on the importance of sustainability by using research-based methods, innovative approaches and good judgement in solving problems.

Consumer Horticulture

The Beaufort Extension Office serves 200 clients providing soil, irrigation water and plant problem sampling each year to county residents. Our friendly staff and volunteers answer home and garden questions, research solution and give timely feedback to over 100 phone calls email and office visits a year. County Extension Agents serve on local advisory boards and assist schools, gardens, libraries and other county agencies by offering technical guidance, relevant educational programs, newspaper articles and demonstrations.

In cooperation with Beaufort County Stormwater Utility staff, Clemson Extension volunteers and Public Works employees constructed and installed plantings in a demonstration rain garden at the Government Annex in Beaufort Industrial Village. This very successful project allows rainwater from roofs and parking lot to infiltrate slowly into the soil and relieved an ongoing flooding situation. The native plants in the garden were chosen for their ability to tolerate wet soil and slow down the overflow of rain into the storm drain.
Beaufort Senior Leadership

Clemson Extension sponsors the Beaufort County Senior Leadership program. It is managed by Community Development Extension Agent, Bob Guinn, and is delivered at various locations throughout the county based on the topics being covered. This year there were 36 students and an advisory/action team board of approximately 25 individuals helping to deliver the program. The program consists of 13 sessions, approximately 120 speakers, and an additional 65 individuals which are featured artists, discussion panels, and performing groups. Each year, members participate in conducting research and producing a “White Paper” on local current issues. These papers are presented to the larger class on graduation day and then distributed to policy and political decision makers to help promote sound policy development. With this year’s theme of economic development, elected leaders received a copy of our economic development “White Papers” and several of our work groups were requested to give presentation to councils of local government. Upon graduation, students are encouraged to become civically engaged in their local community and take a leadership role. Historically, many students volunteer to be on boards, task forces, or work with local civic groups or local schools.