A New Location for Clemson Extension in Berkeley County

In March 2016, the Clemson Extension office in Berkeley County opened its doors at its new location in the Berkeley County Administration Building at 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner SC 29461. The Clemson Extension staff thanks Berkeley County Government for their support of Extension programming and work in our community. You can visit the Extension Office office during soil sample drop-off hours, weekdays from 8am-noon.

Meet Regan Brown-Sims

Program Assistant Regan Brown-Sims is a Greenville native that migrated to the Charleston area to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the College of Charleston. She enjoys working in her community to help others create healthier lifestyles in and out of the office. As Program Assistant with the Berkeley County Extension Office, Regan assists agents, staff and visitors with a variety of programming needs. She is currently seeking her Master Gardener Certification to better serve local client needs.
Agents Work to Assist Area Row Crop Producers

Soybean Production Meeting and Grower Appreciation Dinner

Clemson Extension held a Soybean Production Meeting on March 1, 2016. The meeting included presentations by Clemson’s Soybean and Corn Specialist David Gunter, Corn and Sorghum Entomologist Dr. Francis Reay-Jones, Row Crops Agent Rebecca Hellmuth, Precision Agriculture Specialist Hollens Free, and Soybean Disease Specialist Dr. John Mueller. Topics included Soybean Production Update, Sorghum and Corn Pests, Growing Group 5 Soybeans, Importance of Uniform Germination, and Soybean Disease Update. The meeting was held at the Holly Hill Depot in Holly Hill, SC and had 37 farmers in attendance. After the Soybean Production Meeting, a Grower Appreciation Dinner was held for the hard-working farmers who grow our food and fiber in Dorchester, Berkeley and Orangeburg counties. The farmers were served a delicious catered dinner and door prizes were raffled for the growers. Bayer, Nachurs, Verdesian, AgSouth Farm Credit, First Citizens Bank, Pioneer, and Monsanto sponsored this special event.

2016 Area Cotton Meeting

The 2016 Area Cotton Meeting was held on February 9, 2016, at Weathers’ Farm Supply in St. George and had 42 farmers in attendance. Presentations included “Cotton Varieties and Production Practices,” “Nematode Thresholds in Cotton: When do I need to treat?,” “Cotton Economics,” and “Dicamba and 2,4-D Resistant Cotton Cropping Systems Update.” Speakers included Cotton Specialist Dr. Mike Jones, Plant Pathologist Dr. John Mueller, Cotton Economist Dr. Nathan Smith, and Extension Agent Rebecca Hellmuth. The meeting and lunch were sponsored by PhytoGen, Mixon, Deltapine, Stoneville and Americot.

Forestry Economic Impact and Tri-County Forestry Association

The forestry industry has a total economic impact of $18.6 billion annually and exports total $1.5 billion. Forestry is number one in the state’s manufacturing industry in jobs (90,320) and payroll ($4.5 billion). Timber is the number one harvested commodity crop at $759 million annually and the top export, by volume, out of the Charleston port. In South Carolina, forested land accounts for 68% of the total land area, or 13.1 million acres of forest land. Approximately 88% of our forest is privately owned. The Tri-County Forestry Association is a group consisting of more than 100 private landowners, consultants, non-profits, government agencies and others that have interest in our natural resources. The group meets quarterly and provides educational content on subjects related to forestry, wildlife and the environment. In 2016, meeting topics included timber markets, growing season burns, regional conservation plans, and legislative changes that affect deer management. To join, contact Derrick Phinney at dphinne@clemson.edu or 843-563-0135.
Food Safety and Nutrition Programs in Berkeley County

A canning talk was held in September 2015 at the Sangaree Library. Basic information relating to food preservation was discussed along with displaying current canning equipment. Other food preservation classes scheduled for the fall and winter were cancelled due to the October flooding. Canning Coaches are needed to assist agent with food preservation activities.

The Food Safety and Nutrition Agent provides expertise to tri-county 4-H Healthy Lifestyles programs as well as adult programs. Youth programs focus on some aspect of healthy eating, healthy lifestyles and nutrition. Family and Consumer Sciences Career options were shared with Cross Elementary School students on Career Day. A vegetable seed tape making activity was conducted with children attending Berkeley County Kids Who Care Naturescope Field Day. A sustainable eating lesson was taught to campers attending Berkeley County School District Career and Technology Education Summer Day Camp. Students had to consider numerous factors relating to food, natural resources and nutrition. Children and families attending the Cross Communities in Schools Resource Fair made sachets using dried herbs. The agent also coordinates the 4-H Food and Nutrition Contests held during the Coastal Carolina Fair.

A new curriculum written by Food Safety Team members was piloted in four locations across the state. Selected locations were chosen based on team member’s home county. Twelve participants from local churches and other groups attended the Moncks Corner session. The curriculum is designed to teach safe food handling skills to volunteer food handlers such as church groups, civic groups, fund raisers, family reunions, etc. Ideally, volunteers will be trained to teach the lessons to their groups.

Requests for programs should be directed to the Gayle Williford, Food Safety and Nutrition/4H Agent.

Need Advice?

Bring your soil, plant or irrigation water samples to the Berkeley County Extension Office for assistance from a Master Gardener or Agent, or for send off to the Clemson Agricultural Service Lab. Since reopening at our new office location in March 2016, the Berkeley County Extension Office helped process more than 420 soil samples for Berkeley County residents and businesses.

You can also call or visit our Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC) for research-based information on landscaping, gardening, plant health, household pests, food safety & preservation, and nutrition, physical activity & health.

Call the HGIC from 9am-1pm on weekdays: 1-888-656-9988
Visit the HGIC online: www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic
Impacts in Urban Horticulture

Since January 2016, over 2540 Berkeley County residents have received gardening information and assistance from Clemson Extension Master Gardeners. The 2016-17 Master Gardener Training Course has 29 students enrolled this year who will volunteer in the Tri-County area.

The Berkeley County Master Gardeners have traveled over 10,580 miles to contribute over 1,300 hours to community service and educational outreach activities including:

- Staffing the Master Gardener Office at the Berkeley County Extension Office
- Participating in community outreach events including:
  - The Charleston Area Beekeepers Association Honey & Bee Expo
  - Charleston Horticulture Society Plantasia
  - Ask A Master Gardener at Ace Hardware in Moncks Corner
  - Shem Dig Celebration Mt. Pleasant
  - Cario Middle School Wellness Fair
  - Ask a Master Gardener at Lowe’s in Goose Creek
  - Summers Corner Sneak Peek Event, Summerville
  - Berries for Babies Event at Champney’s Blueberry Farm
  - John’s Island Farmer’s Market
  - St. George Farmer’s Market
  - Autumn on the Ashley Magnolia Gardens
  - Fall Home & Garden Show in Mt. Pleasant
  - Summerville Farmer’s Market
  - Charleston Farmer’s Market
  - Mt. Pleasant Farmer’s Market
  - MUSC Earth Day
Where's the 4H? 🌼

Do you remember when...you participated in the pullet project, or the county agent conducted club activities in your classroom, or you attended a week of camp at Camp Long or Camp Bob Cooper? A lot has changed through the years. 4-H is still the youth development organization sponsored by the Cooperative Extension System. 4-H programs provide experiences for young people to learn by doing. Youth ages 5-19 complete hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture and citizenship, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles.

Membership is open to all youth. Clubs may be community clubs or project clubs and are organized by volunteers in local communities. Currently, there are three clubs affiliated in Berkeley County. They meet in and around Moncks Corner (Horse N Around 4-H Club), Ridgeville (Graymour 4-H Club) and Awendaw (Just Bee You 4-H Club). Clubs meet at least six times, usually monthly, throughout the year.

School enrichment programs provide a 4-H experience in today’s classrooms. 4-H curriculum is taught to classes by an extension agent, teacher or volunteer. The Youth Voice, Youth Choice (Eight lessons in Nutrition Education) program was conducted at Sedgefield Intermediate School, St. Stephen Elementary, and Miracle Academy Preparatory School. Fourth graders learned about MyPlate, label reading, increasing fruits, vegetables and grains and increasing physical activity.

Special interest programs are used to expose youth and adults to some topic of interest. Children who have received at least six hours of instruction through any school group, 4-H Club Summer Camp, day camps or other 4-H activities are eligible to participate in all 4-H sponsored programs. This type program may include partnering with other groups who provide services in local communities.

Special interest programs in 2016 included:
- Healthy Lifestyles Daycamp held at Centenary United Methodist Church
- CHECKS Kids Fair at Cross HS
- 4-H Is... at Sangaree Library
- Career Day Exhibit (Family and Consumer Sciences) Cross Elementary School
- Cross Communities in Schools Health and Resource Fair
- Berkeley County Kids Who Care Naturescope
- Baldwin Carson Community Health Fair
- BCSD Career Technology Education Daycamp
- Healthy Lifestyles Daycamp for Cross NAACP
- Creative and Food Contests held during the Coastal Carolina Fair

Join us!

Contact Gayle Williford to discuss options for using 4-H programs with local groups of children throughout the county.

#IAM4H

4-H is the nation’s largest youth development and mentoring program, with over 6 million youth members across the United States! In South Carolina, youth grow through projects and experiences that focus on:
- Agriculture and animals
- Leadership and citizenship
- Healthy lifestyles
- Personal development
- Natural resources
- Science, engineering and technology
Berkeley County’s Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP) Program

Clemson University’s Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in Berkeley and Charleston counties are working to improve health habits for youth and adults. During this year over 279 youth and 35 adults were reached at local schools, afterschool programs, centers, and community sites.

“Get More with Milk” was the topic of interest for the month of June as we celebrated dairy month in Berkeley and Charleston counties. Participants were thrilled to learn about dairy products and its production in South Carolina. Dairy Month was celebrated throughout the month of June. Posts were developed on the Berkeley EFNEP face book page to include pictures, recipes, and dairy information to encourage reviews about the importance of dairy products. Participants were able to learn about:

- Nutrient-rich dairy foods
- Benefits of nutrient rich dairy foods
- Quick and easy dairy recipes for families

EFNEP offers a variety of topics and hands on nutrition education lessons in four core areas:

- Diet quality and physical activity
- Food resource management
- Food safety
- Food security

Who’s Eligible?

- Children/Youth
- Adults/Families eligible for food assistance such as WIC, SNAP, etc.
- Low-income parents, grandparents/guardians who have primary responsibility for preparing food for children
- Referrals through agencies
- Low-income pregnant women or teens
- Title I Schools

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) are serving youth and adults in Berkeley and Charleston counties to help them live better.

Students learn the amount of sugar in popular drinks in the “Think Your Drink” lesson.

Fruit salad with yogurt dip made by the Charleston Center. Participants learn simple, quick recipes to introduce to their families.
Community Partnerships for Healthy Waterways

Clemson’s Carolina Clear program organized and administers the Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium (ACSEC). The ACSEC regional partnership includes Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties, as well as the City of Charleston, City of Folly Beach, City of Goose Creek, City of Hanahan, City of Isle of Palms, Town of Lincolnville, City of North Charleston, Town of James Island, Town of Mount Pleasant, Town of Sullivan’s Island, and the Town of Summerville. The communities, working alongside Clemson Extension Services Carolina Clear program and more than twenty regional education providers, are working together to educate and involve Tri-County residents in protecting water quality. These activities also help communities meet NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Phase II permit requirements for public education and public involvement.

ACSEC programming addresses pollution management through work with multiple audiences in our community, including residents and home gardeners, commercial restaurant owners, pond management and landscape professionals, youth and K-12 educators, and more.

A few programs of note during the 2015-2016 reporting year, included:

- The “Carolina Rain Garden Initiative” was launched to increase the number of rain gardens installed both locally and throughout the state of South Carolina. Rain gardens can assist residents with erosion and flooding issues in the home landscape, provide habitat for pollinators, add beauty to the community and help to protect downstream water quality. Diverse rain garden resources and tools were developed as part of the Carolina Rain Garden Initiative. The Virtual Rain Garden provides a step-by-step video tutorial for rain garden design and installation. The map of demonstration rain gardens provides information on nearby educational rain gardens in public spaces and a list of rain garden workshops that provide participants hands-on learning opportunities. One workshop included the 2015 offering of the “Rain Garden Workshop for Professionals,” hosted at the Hanahan Public Library, part of the Berkeley County Library system. Learn more about the Carolina Rain Garden Initiative at clemson.edu/raingarden

- In October 2015, Clemson’s Carolina Clear program partnered with the SC Department of Natural Resources and the ACE Basin NERR Coastal Training Program to host the “Shorescaping Workshop” for pond owners in the Tri-County. There were 20 participants who took part in the half-day training on the design, installation and maintenance of native shoreline plantings for pond management. The best part of the day- a hands-on chance to install a shoreline planting that will ultimately be a demonstration site for the ACSEC.

- The 4th annual ACSEC rain barrel sale occurred in April-June 2015. With pickup sites in Charleston, Summerville and Goose Creek, the ACSEC sold more than 300 rain barrels to residents from across the Tri-County region. All rain barrels were sold at a near 50% reduced price to the general public in an effort to encourage water resource conservation and stewardship.

- Trainings for commercial audiences expanded with
opportunities in training pesticide applicators, landscapers, and restaurant managers and staff through multiple one-on-one restaurant trainings through the Carolina Clear Watershed Program and a pesticide applicator training offered in March 2015.

- Statewide programs first hosted in the ACSEC continue to make an impact across the southeast region. The Master Pond Manager and Post-Construction BMP Inspector Certification training, hybrid online and field-based training focused on water resource best management practices, have combined trained nearly 300 residential and commercial participants in stormwater pond, recreational pond, and other stormwater best management practice maintenance.
- Check us out on TV! The ACSEC launched a mass media blitz in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties with a dancing, talking raindrop providing tips to pond owners on best practices for maintenance of stormwater ponds.

The ACSEC thanks all of our Lowcountry residents for doing their part to protect our water resources for today and future generations. To find out more, visit www.ashleycooper.org.

### School Gardening for SC Educators

School Gardening for South Carolina Educators is a training and garden support program designed to help youth and their teachers grow and consume fresh, healthy vegetables on school grounds. Comprised of an interdisciplinary Extension team of horticulture and 4-H extension agents and Master Gardener volunteers, the program works in partnership with the College of Charleston Farm to School Initiative.

Since 2013, the program, consisting of a five-week online training course, hands-on workshops and technical gardening support, has trained over 150 teachers and installed over 60 school gardens in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties!
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