Mission Statement
The mission of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is to improve the economy, environment, and well-being of South Carolinians through the delivery of unbiased researched-based information and education.

The Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

4-H Shows Off Green Thumbs
Amber Starnes, County Coordinator - Chesterfield County

Through collaboration with the Town of Chesterfield, the county’s 4-H club members were able to plant a fall garden at the Chesterfield County Community Garden. The club members prepared the raised beds and planted collards and purple top turnips. The youth teamed up and are responsible for the care of their assigned plots. There are 7 plots total so many club members help with more than one plot. This project offers an excellent opportunity for the youth to learn about the process of growing a garden and the hard work and persistence that it takes to manage a garden.
For many producers in the Pee Dee Region this has been one of the best years for hay production they have experienced in a long time. Most producers were able to get four cuttings in comparison to the usual three cuttings. Not only did most gain a cutting, the quantity of hay produced for each cutting increased from previous years. Although the hay crop was better this year, so was the weed production. Many producers had weed problems that they had never experienced before. By working with local livestock and forages agents, the producers were able to properly identify the weeds and to apply the recommended herbicide to target those weeds for control. When working with herbicides the producer must always read the label to ensure proper use of the product. Producers reported great control of the weeds throughout the growing season.

With the increased quantity, many producers wanted to know more about the quality of the hay. There was an increase in the number of producers requesting and submitting forage samples for analysis. This information is very valuable to livestock producers to know exactly what they are getting from the hay. Forage analyses give the nutritional value of the hay that is being fed so that producers can know what hay to feed to different classes of livestock and when to feed that hay.

Picture Left: Illustrates a core sample being taken for forage analysis

Agriculture Service Laboratory and Plant Problem Clinic and HGIC

The Clemson University Agricultural Service Laboratory provides services for the citizens of South Carolina. The Agricultural Service Laboratory processed 49,480 soil samples, 2,067 plant tissue, 713 feed and forage, and 1,604 waste samples in 2015.

The Home & Garden Information Center (HGIC) provides research-based information on landscaping, gardening, plant health, household pests, food safety & preservation, nutrition, physical activity, & health.

Call Toll Free: 1-888-656-9988 SC Residents Only, Hours Are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday - Friday -OR- Visit our website at: http://hgic.clemson.edu

Hay Production in the Pee Dee Region
Amber Starnes, Area Livestock and Forages Agent
Small Ruminant Workshop  
Amber Starnes, Area Livestock and Forages

The Pee Dee continues to see growth in small ruminant production throughout the region. Novice and seasoned producers that are seeking information on ways to improve production and efficiency of their operations. In the summer of 2016 a production workshop was held at the Florence Extension Office to address key management practice and fencing concerns for small ruminants. The workshop included the topics of hoof care and management, checklist for parasite control, when to call the veterinarian, management options for improved forage production, fire ant control, and avoiding fencing pitfalls and mistakes. There were several hands on portions of the workshop that included fencing, hoof care, and FAMACHA training. The workshop had 26 participants from the Pee Dee Region. Several participants reported gaining knowledge about better management skills and fencing concerns.

Making-it-Grow Comes to Chesterfield  
Tony Melton, Area Horticulture Agent

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<td>People desire to have their personal gardening questions answered. This has been the success of SCETV’s show Making-It-Grow which has been on SCETV for over 25 years. With only a few phone calls received each show many others are missing out on having their individual question answered.</td>
<td>Therefore, we presented a Home Gardening Workshop in Chesterfield, SC to instruct home gardeners on improved gardening techniques and answer their gardening questions. Since the County Agent has been on Making-it-Grow from its beginning we call these gardening programs personal or Mini-Making-it-Grow Programs.</td>
<td>8 individuals attended the program helping them to become more proficient gardeners.</td>
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Chesterfield County youth participated in multiple 4-H livestock projects for the Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair (ECAF) in Florence, SC. Chesterfield had participants in the market meat goat project, backyard rabbit project, and pullet chain project. For the pullet chain project, Mattie Griggs won ribbons in each category for the pullet project which included cage judging (2nd place), interview (4th place), project book (3rd place), and cage decorating (4th place). Mason Reid placed 3rd in overall showmanship and 3rd for Junior Division project books in the pullet project. Richard Horton placed 3rd in the cage judging for the Junior Division in the pullet project. The backyard rabbit project had a record number of participants this year. Angel and Victoria Purvis both from Chesterfield scored high with Angel Purvis winning 1st place in showmanship and 1st place in rabbit costume contest. Victoria Purvis won 1st place in interviews, 3rd place in Cage Judging, 2nd place in rabbit costume contest, and Junior Grand Champion.

For the market meat goat project, Angel Purvis (Senior Division) won 1st place in record book and 2nd place in carcass class, goat weight gain, showmanship, and overall. Victoria Purvis (Junior Division) won 1st in record book, 3rd in carcass class, 5th in goat weight gain, 2nd in showmanship, and placed 4th overall.

Green Thumbs in Chesterfield County

Chesterfield County had several participants in the 4-H green tomato project this year at the Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair. Participants included Kinsley Hardwick, Tanner Starnes, Tyler Starnes, Cash Gainey, Easton Watkins, Carlee Rayfield, and Liam Rivers. All participants placed high in the contest with Kinsley Hardwick winning Best of Show in the prettiest tomato category and Tanner Starnes winning Best of Show in the categories of ugliest tomato and best plate of three tomatoes. Kinsley Hardwick also won 3rd place for ugliest tomato in the Cloverbud division. Tanner Starnes also won 1st place for biggest and 2nd place for prettiest in the Cloverbud division. Other winners in the Cloverbud division included a tie for 2nd place in the ugliest between Cash Gainey, Liam Rivers, Tyler Starnes, and Easton Watkins, a tie between Tyler Starnes and Cash Gainey for 2nd place in biggest, a 2nd place tie between Cash Gainey and Tyler Starnes for best plate of 3, and a tie for 3rd in the prettiest category for Tyler Starnes, Cash Gainey, Easton Watkins, and Liam Rivers. Carlee Rayfield won 2nd place in the junior division for ugliest tomato.
The South Carolina Women’s Agricultural Network (SC WAgN) provided through the Clemson Extension Service. SC WAgN’s mission is to support women in agriculture in South Carolina by providing positive learning environments, networking, and empowerment. The primary purposes of SC WAgN are to encourage and support women in agriculture provide and strengthen networks for women in agriculture; provide educational and mentoring opportunities for women in agriculture; raise community awareness of agricultural related issues and concerns; and sustain farming livelihoods.

The network is comprised of women farmers, agricultural professionals, agricultural educators, and informed consumers committed to supporting and providing educational opportunities to women working in agriculture and ag-related businesses.

Membership is open to any person supporting the mission and purpose of SC WAgN.

To join, or for more information, go to: www.clemson.edu/scwagn; call or email Jennifer Boyles, jbyls@clemson.edu; 843-616-0786.

The fifth South Carolina Annie’s Project was held April, 2016 in Georgetown SC. It proved to be another powerful and outstanding program for 23 diverse women in agriculture.

The participants came from all over the state to learn more about business practices, risk management and agricultural opportunities that are available. Topics included business and marketing plans, estate planning, and policy decisions.

Some comments from our participants:

“I had a life changing weekend with an amazing group of women who want to know more about agriculture in South Carolina.”

“Annie's Project was an amazing learning experience.”

“I have made lifelong friends and mentors through Annie’s Project.”

Annie’s Project is an educational program dedicated to strengthening women’s roles in modern farm practices and currently classes are being taught in 33 states around the country, Annie’s Project fosters decision-making skills, problem solving and record keeping.

To learn more about SC Annie’s Project, call or email Jennifer Boyles, State Coordinator at 843-616-0786 or jbyls@clemson.edu
Forestry is Big Business in SC

Ryan Bean, Area Forestry Agent

Forest Industry in SC 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 number one export by volume out of the Charleston port. In South Carolina, forested land accounts for 68% of the total land area, which equates to 13.1 million acres of forest land.

The Chesterfield County Forestry Association is a group consisting of private landowners, consultants, government agencies and other individuals that have interest in our natural resources. The group meets quarterly and provides educational content on many subjects related to forestry, wildlife and the environment. Topics this year included: “Property Watch” by SCDNR, “South Carolina Forestry: Celebrating the past, Preparing for the future” by Cam Crawford, and “Conservation Easements” by Seth Cook. The Association is always looking for new members and encourages anyone interested in our natural resources to join. Ryan Bean serves as Forestry and Natural Resources Agent in Chesterfield County and provides support to the association.

Extension helps Chesterfield County farmers with flood aid

Trish DeHond, Area Agronomy Agent

The devastating floods of October 2015 left many South Carolina farmers unable to harvest crops, including soybeans and vegetable crops. Growers suffered an average crop loss of 75% as a result of the flood, with crop insurance covering 37% of that loss. In response to efforts spearheaded by advocates such as S.C. Farm Bureau, the S.C. General Assembly approved $40 million in aid on May 24, 2016, to help farms recover in flood-ravaged communities. To assist them with the SC Farm Aid grant application process, Clemson Extension conducted twenty farmer training sessions in 21 days in partnership with S.C. State University and S.C. Department of Agriculture (SCDA), beginning in late June. Farmers from Chesterfield County participated in three of these training sessions, in Camden, Darlington (above, right) and Society Hill. Area Agronomy Agent Trish DeHond helped 14 Chesterfield County farmers with one-on-one application assistance, and responded to individual questions through emails, text messages and phone calls to help them meet the August 15 deadline. Along with the SC Department of Revenue, SCDA staff reviewed applications from 1244 farmers statewide and approved a total of $35,512,560 in grant aid for farmers. Chesterfield County row crop producers received $334,852 in checks mailed on September 16 to help them continue their farming operations.

Comments of appreciation from SC Farm Aid Grant applicants included:

“Trish I need help filling out package for disaster money - have all forms. Do not want to make a mistake. Can we schedule an appointment?” on July 16. He met with the agent for about an hour on the 18th, and then sent this message on the 27th...
“Trish I just got a call from SC Dept. of Ag. I’m approved! Thank you for your help!”

“I just want to thank you for helping me fill that paperwork out. I just got my check Saturday (September 17) and it’s the full amount. I appreciate everything you helped me with.”

“Thanks again, Trish, for all your help….we could not have completed everything without your help.”
Check out Chesterfield County Extension Service on Facebook today!!

https://www.facebook.com/chesterfieldcountycooperativeextensionservice/

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