

Annual Report to the People

2011

Clarendon County



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www.clemson.edu/extension

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cooperative Extension Service is to provide sound, scientifically based information to South Carolinians and help them use that information to improve the quality of their lives.

Clemson University 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.



Master Gardeners Active in Clarendon County

Clarendon County has a very active Master Gardener Association. The Master Gardeners are very active in the community, and have participated in Kids Day and the Annual Health Fair through the Clarendon County Health System. The Master Gardeners participated in the first annual Camellia Tea sponsored by the Manning Council of Garden Clubs. Camellias were identified by camellia judges. The Master Gardeners answered questions about growing camellias and helped sell camellias. Every spring the



Habitat Plantings

The proceeds from the Plant Sale are used to fund various community service projects like landscaping Habitat for Humanity houses. This year the Master Gardeners partnered with the Manning High School FFA to grow plants in the greenhouse. Students and Master Gardeners have learned from one



another. Six individuals received their Master Gardener Certification for completing their forty hours. The Master Gardeners also set up at the City of Manning Farmers' Market with an Ask a Master Gardener Booth. The Master Gardeners also built a pergola at the Clarendon County Department of Social Services. The pergola will be used by the Pilot Club each month for birthday parties and give families a place to visit outside. Improvements will continue to be made to the pergola including planter boxes and perennials. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener please contact Carrie Trebil at 435-8429 ext 112.



Livestock Update

Livestock and forage programming are done on a regional level in the Pee Dee Region. This is done so livestock and forage producers can meet in at a central location in order to receive information from Extension Staff throughout the Pee Dee Region. Extension staff along with State Animal and Forage specialists from Clemson University assists three Pee Dee Region cattlemen's associations with a minimum of 12 educational programs each year. Together there are over 150 livestock producers who are members of the cattlemen's associations. The associations are the Pee Dee Cattlemen's association, Central Cattlemen's Association, and the Sandhill's Livestock association. Other Livestock and Forages programs held in the Pee Dee Region include equine management seminars, goat management seminars, calibration field days, manure management programs, and 4-H livestock care presentations.

Livestock Programs Pee Dee Region:

- Planned, coordinated, and implemented 10 beef cattle programs in the Pee Dee Region. Over 350 producers participated in these programs. These programs included information on forages, general management practices, marketing, proper culling, fencing, and other practices associated with beef cattle management.
- Planned, coordinated, and implemented 1 Goat Management Seminar in the Pee Dee Region. Over 37 Goat producers participated in these programs. This program included information on forages, management, goat health, reproduction, nutrition, hoof care, fencing, facilities, soil sampling, and toxic weeds, and FAMACHA. Participants came from 5 different states and every county in the Pee Dee Region.
- Send a Livestock article to the Sumter, SC newspaper every 3rd week about livestock management and livestock events going on in the Pee Dee Region.
- Assisted with the Pee Dee Cattlemens Association on programming and implementing meetings. Producers from Marion, Horry, Dillon, Marlboro, Georgetown, Williamsburg, and Florence Counties are members of this association.
- Assisted with the Sandhills Livestock Association on programming, support, and newsletters to help educate their members and local producers. This association is based out of Darlington County, South Carolina.
- Assisted the Central Cattlemens Association on programming, and implementing meetings.
- 2010-2011 helped various beef cattle producers in the Pee Dee Region select bulls and replacement heifers for their cow herds. Make many farm visits on a weekly basis to assist and educate livestock clientele in the Pee Dee Region. Farm visits include education on forages, marketing, herd health, reproduction, bull selection, heifer selection, pasture management, fencing, facilities, equine management, goat production and many other facets of animal agriculture.

Four Seasons

Lunch Series

Clarendon County Clemson Extension and the Town of Turbeville have partnered to bring residents the lunch learning series Four Seasons. One Wednesday a month Horticulture Agent Carrie Trebil shares a different topic with residents. Topics have included turf grass, houseplants, pruning, and proper planting techniques. Four Seasons meets from September to May each year. Lunch is provided for attendees. People that regularly attend the meetings have gotten to know one another and it creates a fun atmosphere to learn about gardening. It isn't all learning and no fun, some of the meetings include seasonal activities like decorating straw bales, making Christmas ornaments, and decorating the town clock. For more information on Four Seasons contact the Clemson Extension Office or Turbeville Town Hall.



Decorating fall bales

Main Street Manning

Main Street Manning is dedicated to the revitalization of the downtown business district through economic development, design excellence and business promotions. This year was an exciting year for Main Street Manning. We had a variety of activities to encourage people to shop downtown including the Fall Fest, the Snowball Drop, Sweets for My Sweet, and Pictures with the Easter Bunny. Fall Fest was an inaugural event that was a partnership between Main Street and the Manning United Methodist Church. Games were set up by local businesses and children competed in a Pumpkin Decorating Contest. A movie was even shown in the pumpkin patch. Main Street partnered with the City Of Manning and Clemson Extension to bring the Farmers Market Downtown. The Manning Farmers Market was awarded a roadside stand from the Department of Agriculture. Main Street sponsored the Grand Opening of the Market. Main Street Manning was excited to hold its 2010 Annual Meeting in conjunction with the dedication and Grand Opening of City Hall. The Annual Meeting is chance for businesses to show off what makes them unique in a table top display. In addition the Best of Main Street Manning Awards are awarded. These awards are voted on by the citizens of Clarendon County and Manning. The winners for 2010 were Most Hospitable Business - Merle Norman Cosmetics; Best Window Display - The French Hens; Best Building Renovation - Manning City Hall; the Main Street Hero award was given to Mr. and Mrs. Ikey Brunson for sharing their love of fall with downtown Manning. Main Street Manning also offers Merchants Roundtables to the business owners and managers in the downtown district. Several new businesses have opened in downtown Manning. Downtown is an exciting place to run a business. If you haven't been downtown lately, take a stroll around the beautiful Courthouse and surrounding streets to find that perfect gift, enjoy a delicious meal, or just window shop. In the fall of 2010 Manning was added to the National Register of Historic Places, as the Downtown Manning Commercial Historic District. A huge debt of gratitude goes to Ms. Janet Meloney for working on the application. Main Street Manning was honored with two inspiration awards, one for Public Private Partnership to revitalize 29 West Boyce Street and the Gaines Jontz Award was given to 2 North Brooks Street for revitalization. Main Street Manning is looking forward to another exciting year of activities and events in the downtown district. If you would like more information about Main Street Manning contact Carrie Trebil at 435-8477 ext 132. Shopping locally it is your best bet!



Teaching Forest Profitability to Forest Landowners

Forestry is one of the leading industries in SC. People from foresters to environmentalists have concerns about the selling and fragmentation of forest lands. Many of the forest landowners managing their own lands believe that forest profitability is the answer to help prevent the fragmentation of forest land to other uses. If the forest land can yield a profit in a time frame of someone's life time, then they may consider keeping the land. Many forest landowners have only one timber sell in their life time.

The key to forest profitability after establishment of a stand is thinning. The type and timing of thinning is the key to adding or subtracting profit.

The type of thinning method matters. Not every timber stand has every tree of equal quality. Therefore, it becomes increasingly more important to take out more of the bad trees and leave more of the good crop trees. Part of this is teaching forest landowners and professionals that 3rd row thinning does not promote diameter growth. This type of thinning removes 33% of the trees, leaving 66% to choose the best trees to leave. This method is inadequate for tree spacing and if there are fewer potential crop trees to choose from.

The less homogeneous the timber stand, the further apart the take out rows should be. A fifth row thinning takes out 20% leaving 80% to leave the best



Timber stand after 3 thinnings at age 22. There are about 85 trees per acre. The goal is to have 12,000 board feet per acre by age 26. Photo taken September 2010.



crop trees. In some cases, a sixth row (taking out 17%) leaving the remaining trees to choose the best to leave. Every residual tree should have space around the crown so that it can grow and expand.

From the top of the tree to the bottom is considered 100% of the bole of the tree. The first thinning should take place when the tree crown (the limbs containing major portions of green needles) is 35% of the total tree height.

Allowing the trees to continuously grow keeps them healthy and disease resistant. The trees do not slowdown in growth rate and it allows the landowner to have more thinnings. This, in turn, enables the landowner to receive more intermediate returns from thinnings. Ergo, the landowners realize the profitability of their forest lands.

Forest landowners in several counties have allowed me to have these thinning demonstrations on their property as well as allow me to take forest landowners from Alaska to New Jersey onto their property to see the results. Thus, they realize that there can be a profit from a 14 acre tract of well managed woods. This, in turn, helps keep the forest landowner interested in managing their forest for a profit rather than selling the land for a one time gain.



4-H Tech Wizards

In December of 2010 South Carolina 4-H applied for and received a National 4-H Grant. This grant was intended to use 4-H programming, along with mentoring relationships to provide fun, educational experiences for kids living in high risk areas. The program, known as Tech Wizards, is being delivered in the form of an afterschool programs at Walker Gable Elementary School in Clarendon County and the Felecian Center in Williamsburg County. Youth participating in the program are learning about technology in the areas of Robotics, Aerospace, Marine Science, Wind Power and Film Making, just to name a few. Participants have taken part in several weekend camping trips, as well as a weeklong residential technology camp. Because of this grant program other 4-Hers in Clarendon and Williamsburg counties will be able to participate in similar technology programming. For more information about 4-H please contact the Clarendon County 4-H Agent, Mary Margaret McCaskill.



Working with robots



Williamsburg Students learning at Camp Bob Cooper

Goat Management Seminar

The Goat Industry in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina continues to grow. Due to this increase goat owners in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina are looking for ways to improve their care and stewardship of the land in which they keep their goats. Goat owners in the Pee Dee Region are looking for cutting edge programs to increase their knowledge base on different management practices to improve the quality of their goats and the land in which they keep the goats on. Also goat owners in the Pee Dee Region are hungry for programs that offer answers to some of the obstacles they deal with everyday on the farm. For this program a committee was formed to help come up with different topics associated with the area and also help advertise, coordinate, and implement the Goat Management Seminar. The committee was made up of USDA employees, goat producers, and Clemson University extension agents.

A second goat management seminar was implemented due to the response of the first one. The program was coordinated and conducted by Clemson University Extension Livestock and Forages Team. The Goat Management Seminar was a one day program. The topics included soil sampling/fertility, forages, kidding, herd health, de-worming, reproduction, hoof trimming, and FAMACHA. Speakers included Dr. Patty Scharko (Extension Veterinarian), Brian Beer (Area Livestock and Forages Agent), Kevin Campbell (Area Livestock Agent and Forages Agent), and Lee Van Vlake (Area Livestock and Forages Agent). Goat owners understand they must use good management practices to ensure optimum performance of their goats and also to be good stewards of the land.

Thirty-Seven people were in attendance for the Goat Management Seminar. There were goat producers from South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina. The majority of those in attendance expressed they strongly agree the Goat Management Seminar met their expectations and they planned on taking what they learned during the program and implementing it back on the farm. Due to the Goat Management Seminar producers expressed they would increase their soil sampling, forage management, and management practices associated with goat production. Everyone in attendance expressed that the program was a success and learned the basic management practices for new and experienced goat owners. Overall those in attendance expressed the Goat Management Seminar was an asset to goat producers in the Pee Dee Region and expressed they hope Extension would continue to reach out to goat producers in SC and they look forward to upcoming programs. Due to the response of two goat management seminars held in the Pee Dee Region a goat marketing seminar has been planned for November 2011.

Clemson Extension has a new area Agronomy agent Jacob Stokes. Jacob was hired in May and is covering Clarendon, Florence, and Williamsburg counties. He is based out of the Florence County office but has a presence in the Clarendon and Williamsburg offices as well. In the coming months he has several production meetings, programs, and private applicators classes planned.

Jacob is originally from Spartanburg County but is not new to the Pee Dee. He has lived in Manning and has family in the Florence area. Jacob has an undergraduate degree from Clemson University in Agriculture Education and is nearing the completion of his Masters degree in Plant and Environmental Sciences. His research is focused on control options for Round Up (glyphosate) resistant *Palmer amaranth* or pigweed. He plans on utilizing the knowledge to help the area producers make herbicide and control decisions on their farms.

The Clarendon County Clemson Extension office has moved to 103 Sunset Drive in Manning. We are next to Carolina Family Practice and across from Hardee's. Stop by and see our new office.

www.clemson.edu/extension/county/clarendon

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4-H Club Performs at Family Night

The Los Angeles 4-H club was started in 2009 through the ESOL (English as a Second Language) Program at Manning Primary School. All of the members of the club come from a Hispanic background. Each year the ESOL program in Clarendon School District Two hosts a family night where parents, grandparents and friends of children in ESOL gather to eat, fellowship and watch performances by their children. This year the Los Angeles 4-H Club wanted to do something very special for Family Night. After much discussion they chose to perform a play for their family and friends. Each child had a very important role in the play *Mice and Beans*. Not all of the club members wanted to act, so they took roles such as stage hands and sound operators. After much practice and calming of nerves, Los Angeles 4-H Club performed *Mice and Beans* for the very large crowd at ESOL Family. The members of both the cast and crew did an amazing job and the audience loved their performance. For more information about Los Angeles 4-H club or 4-H Hispanic Outreach in South Carolina, please contact Clarendon County 4-H Agent Mary Margaret McCaskill.

