

2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: DILLON COUNTY

4-H Is On Target

The 4-H Shooting Sports Club in Dillon County is still thriving with 20 very active and successful members. The club leader, Mr. Bill Aston, continues to provide practice and shoot opportunities. Along with Mr. Aston, there are other volunteers that help assist with shooting sports safety.

The 4-Hers have elected officers and are very active in the shoots throughout the state. 4-Hers place high at every high at every shoot that occurs.

If interested in learning more please contact, 4-H agent Erika James so that she can put you in touch with Mr. Aston.



▲ Horn Flies on Cattle



▲ Congratulations to Josh for shooting his highest score ever!

Fly Control Workshop

Each year cattle farms are faced with the challenge of controlling horn flies. Reports show an economic impact of over \$1 billion annually to U.S. cattle producers. Horn flies are blood sucking insects that can result in irritation, blood loss, decreased grazing efficacy, reduced weight gains, and diminished milk production in mother cows. Research has also indicated that horn flies have a negative impact on calve weaning weights. The Livestock and Forages Team conducted a lunch program in Dillon County to address the impact of horn flies and discuss the methods available for control. The workshop had 10 producers attending from multiple counties in the Pee Dee Region. The producers gained knowledge on the severity of impact horn flies have on a cattle operations and different methods to control horn flies that would fit into different production settings. Control methods covered included ear tags, rubs, sprays, and a Vet Gun application. After the presentation, the workshop consisted of a round table discussion with questions and answers on how to reduce the impact of horn flies on the participants operation and concerns producers have regarding control.

SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
AT A GLANCE



AGENTS
133



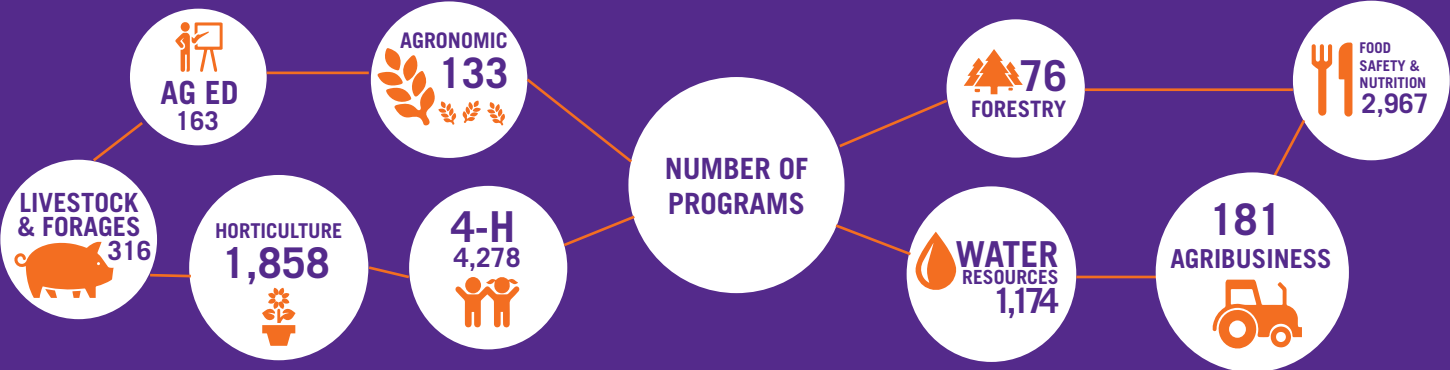
PROGRAMS
11,158



CONTACTS
242,239



**YOUTH & FAMILIES
REACHED**
104,156

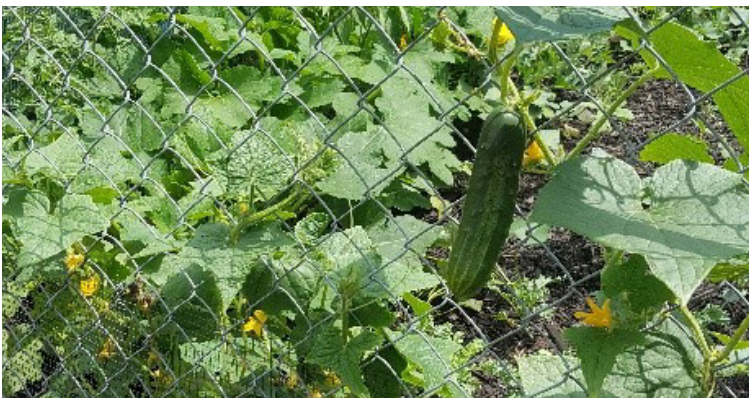


▲ Justin Ballew leads a field demonstration

Scouting Workshop

In 2016, Dillon County grew 75,000 acres of crops with corn, cotton, and soybeans accounting for 2/3 of the acreage. Insect pests present a significant threat to these crops each year. With input costs high and crop prices low, it's in growers' best interest to protect their crops in the most effective and efficient manner possible. This starts with scouting. A Row Crop Scouting Workshop was held in Dillon at the Dillon Wellness Center on August 1, 2017.

Growers, crop consultants, and retailers attended to learn scouting techniques, pest identification, and treatment thresholds for corn, cotton, soybeans, peanuts, and tobacco. Those in attendance learned the importance of using insecticides only when pest populations exceed economic thresholds as opposed to spraying at regular intervals. The role of beneficial insects in cropping systems was discussed as well. Pesticide credits were offered to with private and commercial applicators to ensure proper and continuous training on using pesticides. Row crop production will continue to be a major industry in Dillon County, therefore, Clemson Extension will continue to educate growers on the most effective methods of pest control.



◀ Dillon County Cooperative Extension Service with Rural Area Leadership Initiative-Dillon distributed free vegetable plants, seeds, use of cultivating equipment, and soil samples to the citizens of Dillon County. Recent county health report shows that Dillon County is 45 out of 46 in health outcomes and 44 out of 46 for health factors. Efforts made were to help improve the health of the county by providing healthy foods.

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