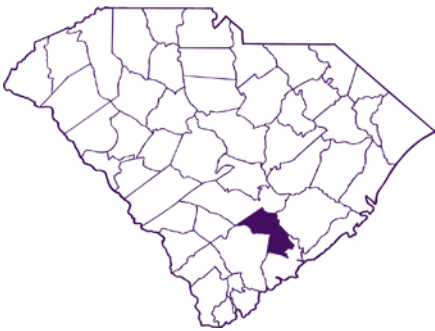


Annual Report to the People

November 2011
Dorchester County



201 Johnson Street
St. George, SC 29477
Phone: (843) 832-0135
Fax: (843) 863-0171
www.clemson.edu/extension

Mission Statement

The mission of the Clemson University 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.

Nematode Management in Soybeans

Growers have been managing nematodes in soybeans by using resistant cultivars and adding 3 to 5 lbs/acre Temik 15G applied in-furrow at-planting. This strategy has been very cost effective. However, the loss of Temik 15G has caused an immediate need for alternative strategies. Our best option appears to be the use of a seed treatment nematicide. In cooperation with Dr. John Mueller (Nematologist/ Plant Pathologist at the Edisto REC), Joe Varn (Bamberg/Barnwell County Extension Agent), Berkeley/Dorchester County Extension Agent Jonathan Croft applied for and received a grant for \$10,000 from the South Carolina Soybean Board for the project titled "Management of Soybean Nematodes with Resistance and Nematicidal Seed Treatments". The objectives of this project are to 1) Determine whether Poncho/VOTiVO or Avicta Complete Pak nematicidal seed treatments can significantly increase the yields of resistant soybean cultivars in fields infested with either soybean cyst, Columbia lance, reniform or southern root-knot nematodes. 2) Determine the relative efficacy of Poncho/VOTiVO and Avicta Complete Pak. Funds were used to conduct research plots at the Edisto Research and Education Center in Blackville, SC and on a cooperating producer's farm in Dorchester County, outside of Saint George, SC.

At the time of this report sampling and yields were not complete. Once completed results of this project will be shared with soybean producers across the state and local soybean production meetings.



*Root galling from Root Knot nematode,
Dorchester County November 2011*

Tri-County Master Gardeners

Three hundred and seventy five Tri-County Master Gardeners (Berkeley, Dorchester and Charleston) serve the residents of their counties through a variety of horticultural outreach activities. This number reflects the 35 new Master Gardeners, who were trained in 2010-2011 and graduated in February, 2011.

The primary duty of these volunteer MGs is staffing the Master Gardener Offices, answering phone calls and working with clients who walk in with gardening questions and problems. Additionally, these hardworking volunteers maintain and staff the Coastal Carolina Fair demonstration garden whose theme this year was “The Children’s Carolina Yard”, which illustrated how home gardeners could engage youth in gardening and nature in their own backyards.

TCMGs can also be found staffing Ask-A-Master Gardener booths at the Charleston & Mt. Pleasant Farmer’s Markets, Magnolia Gardens AAMG Kiosk, as well as various garden centers and community events throughout the year.

The Berkeley County Master Gardeners volunteered 2,525 hours, assisted over 8,183 clients and drove over 15,000 miles in performing their MG duties.

The Dorchester County Master Gardeners volunteered 3,857 hours, helped over 4,000 clients and drove more than 33,000 miles in 2010-2011.

The Charleston County Master Gardeners volunteered over 8,900 hours, assisted more than 14,140 clients and drove over 60,000 miles.

Agricultural Samples

During the July 2010-June 2011 fiscal year, the Dorchester County Extension office supported local agricultural producers and home owners by taking in a variety of samples. The samples are sent to the specific labs at Clemson University for processing.

Samples by type:

Soil Analysis	777
Nematode Assay	38
Animal Waste	9
Feed and Forage	6
Plant Problem	4
Insect Identification	2
Plant Tissue Analysis	3

Master Gardeners Host Event

An exciting event hosted by the Tri County Master Gardeners, was the 2011 Tri-County Carolina Yard Gardening School, a one day hands-on gardening ‘school’ where over 65 students enrolled to learn about gardening topics ranging from plant propagation to container gardening, vegetable gardening and native plants. Clemson Extension Agents were showcased for their knowledge of gardening. Amanda McNulty instructed students on using backyard plant material to make amazing floral designs. Mark Arena taught Lowcountry gardeners the basics of soils in Gardening Basics. Jonathan Croft gave tips for greener turf grass lawns and Dave Joyner

led a rainwater harvesting course. Indigo dye making, leaf casting and bog gardening rounded out the event.



Above, Amanda McNulty of Clemson Extension instructs students on floral design at the 2011 Carolina Yard

Forestry & Natural Resources Provides Expertise

There's no question the past two years have brought on hard times for many in Colleton and surrounding counties. The region has been hit hard with job layoffs and plant closings. For those who lost their jobs, bills still needed to be paid and food put on the table. Those who were laid off and owned timberland were slightly more fortunate. They could sell timber to generate income; however, they were forced to sell timber in the worse timber market in memory with stumpage going for half of what it did before the housing market crashed.

To help financially distressed landowners cope, Area Forestry & Wildlife Extension Agent Bob Franklin offered individual financial counseling on the marketing of timber. Thirty-six landowners from Colleton and surrounding counties contacted

the Colleton Extension office seeking help. They had lost their jobs and were desperate to sell timber to generate sorely needed income. Franklin counseled them about the current timber market and cautioned them about selling in this down market. Through individual sessions he walked them through the timber marketing process, provided them with timber marketing guides, wood buyers lists and a list of consulting foresters. He strongly encouraged the landowners to hire consulting foresters to assist them in the marketing process. Consultants could maximize timber income in good markets or bad, according to Franklin.

Through follow up visits, Franklin found that all thirty-six had sold timber in the past year; twenty-six used forestry consultants to market their timber and ten

opted to sell the timber themselves. All of the timber tracts sold ranged in size from 30 to 122 acres with the average size being 58 acres. Timber was sold in small clear cuts or larger sized thinning operations. Landowners who used forestry consultants received an average of \$511 per acre for their timber. Those who opted to sell it themselves received an average of \$365 per acre, or about 40% less than those who used a forestry consultant. In addition, those who used forestry consultants are getting valuable assistance with reforestation and management plan assistance. With most consultants charging 10% commission on sales, the landowners who used them more than made up the commission fee with additional income, netting an average of \$459.90 per acre.

Feral Hog Management program for Land Owners and Agriculture Producers

Feral hogs have become a real problem for local land owners and agriculture producers in Berkeley and Dorchester Counties. Control of feral hogs is a process that land owners and agriculture producers have been seeking information on. During the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year, Berkeley/Dorchester County land owners and agriculture producers were provided an opportunity to

participate in a feral hog management program. The program was held at Brosnan



Clemson Extension Agent, Cory Heaton demonstrating feral hog trap setup.

Forest in Dorchester County. Forty-four land owners and agriculture producers attended the program. During the program, participants heard presentations from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina USDA/AHPIS-Wildlife Services and Clemson University Extension Service. Topics covered during the program included: laws and regulations governing harvest and movement of feral hogs in SC, current USDA research on feral hog control and recommendations for trapping and hunting feral hogs. Participants were also given the opportunity to participate in setting up a feral hog trap. During the program, a survey of participants showed that in the year (May 2010-May 2011) \$120,000 was the

estimated cost of management of feral hogs on the participant's property. The survey also showed that \$90,100 was the estimated cost of damage to property and crops of program participants. In evaluation of the program, 100% of participants rated the program as very useful/useful.

Peanut Maturity Determination

The proper timing of peanut harvest is one of the most important aspects of peanut production. Improper timing of peanut harvest can cause farmers to lose yield and profits if done either too early or too late. During the 2011 season, determining a digging date was extremely important due to drought conditions, which resulted in several different stages of peanut maturity in fields across the state, individual counties and even individual farms. Currently, the best solution to properly time peanut digging is proper monitoring of crop maturity. In September of 2011, Clemson Extension Agent Jonathan Croft of Berkeley and Dorchester Counties initiated a monitoring program to assist farmers with this situation. Croft began by conducting two peanut maturity clinics with the help of State Peanut Extension Specialist Dr. Jay Chapin and Dr. Scott Monfort. Samples of peanuts from fields were checked using the pod blast method. At the clinics, the samples that were checked represented approximately 3,000 acres of peanuts. The clinics farm visits were made over the next several weeks by Jonathan Croft, to determine peanut maturity and the correct digging date of the peanut crop on farms in Berkeley, Dorchester and Orangeburg Counties. Farm visits were made to 10 farms with approximately 2,500 acres of peanuts. With a conservative estimate, it is easy to assume that the assistance with determining maturity and digging date saved producers 250 pounds of peanuts per acre. With the contract price of peanuts being \$600 per ton (\$0.30 per pound), these savings equal \$75 per acre of peanuts.



Samples of peanuts after being blasted with pressure washer. Hull color is used to determine maturity, Dorchester County 2011

4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program – Food, Fun and Fitness Workshop

Twenty one children participated in a 3 day food, fun and fitness workshop over the spring break holiday. The purpose of the workshop was to increase their knowledge of fruits and vegetables, learn safe food handling/food preservation techniques and to increase physical fitness activities all while having fun.

Activities included a field trip to Hickory Bluff Strawberry Farm in Dorchester County. There the children gained knowledge about strawberries from Mr. Earley, a long time supporter of Clemson Extension and 4-H youth development programs.



Youth learning safe food handling, starts with clean hands.

To reinforce healthy eating habits, several healthy snacks were used with strawberries and other low fat, healthy food choices and prepared by the children. The Physical fitness activities that were included emphasized team building skills and working cooperatively.



Mr. Earley explaining his strawberry operation to participants

Food Safety Education

The ServSafe Employee course from the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation was taught to 25 food handlers. Concepts in basic food safety, good personal hygiene, controlling time and temperature, preventing cross-contamination, cleaning and sanitizing were taught to food handlers.

Certificates of completion were earned by ninety-eight percent of participants. Food handlers were Dorchester County Career and Technology Center Culinary Arts Program students.

Dorchester County Youth Development Program Participants

The South Carolina 4-H Youth Development Program uses a learn-by-doing approach, the involvement of caring adults, and the knowledge and resources of Clemson University and the land grant university system, to empower youth to become healthy, productive, and contributing members of society.

Dorchester County 4-H CLUBS

Horse	6
Poultry	1
Community	1
Gardening	1
Small Animals	1

200+ youths are members of a 4-H club.

425+ youths participated in Extension youth development programs.

Over 65 adult and youth volunteers

www.clemson.edu/extension/county/dorchester

The 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.

Staff

Jonathan Croft

Extension Agent - Agriculture
croft@clemson.edu
843-563-5777

Gloria Springs

Extension Agent - EFNEP
gbarr@clemson.edu
843-563-5780

Jessica Ponds

Administrative Assistant
jponds@clemson.edu
843-563-5773.

Private Pesticide Applicators

The Dorchester County Extension office offered several opportunities for agriculture producers to obtain their private pesticide applicators license during the July 2010-June 2011 fiscal year. During the fiscal year, 18 agricultural producers took part in the day long private pesticide applicator training program, to obtain their private applicators license for the first time.

For those agriculture producers that currently have a private applicators license, they must obtain 5 credit hours of approved recertification hours during the 5 year certification block.

During the fiscal year, there were several opportunities for licensed private pesticide applicators to receive recertification credits at the programs offered in Dorchester County. Fifty-six licensed private applicators received recertification credits by participating in the programs.