

2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: EDGEFIELD COUNTY

Changing How We Plant Orchards

Ride through the county and you will see strips of green cover crops growing between where peaches will be planted. After three years of demo, educational meetings, and one on one discussions with growers, conservation efforts are beginning early in the re-establishment phase of orchard renewal. According to recent estimations, soil loss may be reduced by as much as 78% just by establishing cover early. While row middles have always been planted, it has not been until after trees are planted in late December through January. This reduces the effectiveness of the cover early, results in lower biomass, and allows erosion patterns to be developed. Our message has been that “you have one shot to do it right, or you live with the results throughout the life of the orchard”. The bedding plow pictured was obtained via a grant to address early tree decline by soil borne pathogens. Its light draft and less aggressive action causes minimal disturbance to the established cover and eliminates several field operations compared to the heavier equipment modified for prior use.



▲ Forestry Association Members learn about prescribed fire benefits.



▲ Bedding Plow purchased through a grant to address early tree decline by soil borne pathogens

Prescribed Fire Field Tour

The Edgefield County Forestry Association, Saluda County Forestry Association and Clemson Extension held a joint meeting about prescribed fire on May 15, 2017. The tour was hosted at a local family property located in the northern corner of Edgefield County near Hwy 378. The field tour had +50 landowners, with participants coming from the surrounding area counties. Steven Cockrell (American Forest Management Forester) was the guest speaker for much of the program.

Tony Ashley (South Carolina Forestry Commission) and Stephen Pohlman (Clemson Extension Forestry Agent) also spoke at the event. Participants were treated to a hay ride of the farm to see the implementation of prescribed fire and how it benefited both the timber and wildlife. Many questions were asked and answered in efforts to help all the participants learn how to use controlled burns to benefit their property and to help them feel safe about implementing the practice.

SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
AT A GLANCE



AGENTS
133



PROGRAMS
11,158



CONTACTS
242,239



YOUTH & FAMILIES
REACHED
104,156

AG ED
163

AGRONOMIC
133

76
FORESTRY

FOOD
SAFETY & NUTRITION
2,967

NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

LIVESTOCK & FORAGES
316

HORTICULTURE
1,858

4-H
4,278

WATER
RESOURCES
1,174

181
AGRIBUSINESS



▲ Edgefield 4-H'ers participate in a Fall community service activity

Edgefield 4-H Club Update

Strom Thurmond CTC 4-H Shooting Sports Club is led by Jeremy Brooks. This club teaches high school students shotgun safety, how to identify different parts of a shotgun, and how to become a skilled marksmen. Aiken/Edgefield 4-H Shooting Sports Club is led by Jason Rhodes. This club teaches participant's ages 9-15 shotgun safety, how to identify different parts of a shotgun, and how to become skilled marksmen. This club meets at the Palmetto Shooting Complex in Edgefield County. Christian Heritage 4-H Shooting Sports Club is led by Dana and Laura Linn.

This club teaches members beginner firearm safety and beginner shooting techniques. This club meets at the Christian Heritage Church in Graniteville, SC and holds shooting practice at The Palmetto Shooting Complex in Edgefield County. Palmetto All Stock Club is led by Brittany Peacock and Julia Cox. This club will teach participants 5 and older proper livestock care and handling techniques Edgefield County General 4-H Club is led by Julia Cox. This club exposes members to all 6 areas that are available within 4-H. This club meets monthly at the Aiken County Clemson Extension Office.



◀ Clemson Extension supports the citizens of Edgefield County by use of an Area Extension Forestry & Natural Resources Agent who provides advice on forest management and wildlife management through habitat modifications and food plots. This agent also aids with forestry related issues including disease and insect identification, pond issues and urban tree questions. Clemson Extension also supports the Edgefield County Forestry Association which offers many educational opportunities.

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