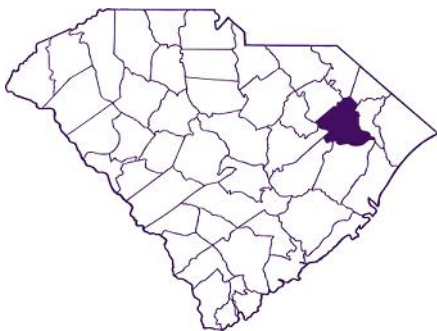


Annual Report to the People

November 2011
Florence County



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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.

Florence County Area Agronomic Production Update



Jacob Stokes

Clemson Extension has a new area Agronomy agent. Jacob Stokes was hired in May and is covering Florence, Williamsburg, and Clarendon. He is based out of Florence 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.

Stokes 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 Master's degree in Plant and Environmental Sciences. His research is focused on control options for Roundup® (glyphosate) resistant *Palmer amaranth* or pigweed. He plans on utilizing the knowledge to help area producers.

Boiled Peanuts a Southern Delicacy

Boiled peanuts are a Southern delicacy and McCall Farms wanted to keep their market share. Tony Melton worked with them to develop a beautiful, pretty, visually perfect peanut so when you open the can, you would love their peanuts and they could keep their market share. Marion Swink, owner of McCall Farms, said "The southeast grows peanuts in a number of different areas, but McCall farms needed a brighter color and a better flavor peanut for canning. Through Clemson

University and their research program, they have helped us identify and develop a variety that has made McCall farms the leader in the boiled peanut industry." A video of this presentation may be seen at

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/psatv/ag/peanuts-for-canning.html>



Tony Melton, Extension Agent along with Marion Swink, owner of McCall Farms in Peanut Field.



McCall Farms-We Can

Growing a small canning and freezing operation in rural Effingham, S.C. into a business that prepares nearly 2 million servings a day, takes much expertise in business and agriculture. After the acquisition of other similar

business such as Glory Foods and Peanut Patch Peanuts, McCall Farms needed additional reliable sources of quality raw agricultural products. Tony Melton worked with McCall Farm's vegetable growers in S.C. to produce the quality raw product needed to make quality canned and frozen product. This year McCall Farm's purchased or grew over 1100 tractor/trailer loads of raw product in S.C.

Livestock Pee Dee Region

Lee Van Vlake, Area Livestock and Forages Agent/Pee Dee Region



Livestock and forage programming are conducted on a regional level in the Pee Dee Region. This is done so livestock and forage producers can meet at a central location in order to receive information from Extension Staff throughout the Pee Dee

Region. The Extension staff along with State Animal and Forage specialists from Clemson University assisted 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:

Lee Van Vlake, 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.

4-H Livestock Programs:

He serves as the director the Eastern Carolina Agriculture Fair 4-H Livestock Show. As the director he helped plan, coordinate, and implement the 4-H wether goat project and 4-H barrow project shows. Over 50 kids participated in this project. Responsibilities included coming up with show rules, picking up goats, handing out goats and pigs, judging the barrow and goat shows, assisting with poster projects, assisting with participants on barrow and goat issues before the fair, and other matters pertaining to the shows at the fair. Vlake, assisted with the care of the animals before the show and during the show.

Florence County Youth Practices Healthy Lifestyles

4-H youth in Florence experienced firsthand how to plan, prepare and eat healthy. The future health and well being of our youth depend on how well we do today in providing the basic skill of teaching how to make healthy food choices. The Healthy Lifestyles Program conducted in Florence County taught youth how to work as a team to prepare a dish, make a presentation about it to the judges, interpret a label, plan a menu utilizing the dish and prepare a fitness plan. The presentation included information about the serving size, nutritional value, how to utilize the dish in a meal and the cost of the dish. The 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Challenge allowed 4-H members to demonstrate their culinary and food safety skills to judges and observers. The goal of the program was to improve the nutrition education of youth by empowering them to be able to choose a variety of foods, eat more fruits and vegetables, grains and select foods lower in sugar and fat. Participants learned how to use the new My Plate Food Guide and other nutrition reference books to research nutritive values of food. 4-H Clubs in Florence County will continue to incorporate this program in their club activities. Statewide activities include a challenge that a Florence County Junior team place first overall, showcasing their skills and knowledge learned from the program.



4-Her's receiving first place overall winners at the State Fair.

Pesticide Trainings Held in Florence

Four initial Pesticide Trainings were held in Florence County. The purpose of these trainings is to help producers obtain a

restricted use pesticide license in order to buy and use restricted use pesticides. Trainings were held at the Florence County Extension

Office. Producers came to the pesticide trainings from all counties in the Pee Dee Region.

Pee Dee Residents Learn About Environmentally Friendly Landscaping



One hundred seventy-nine residents of the Pee Dee learned about environmentally friendly landscaping through the 2011 Pee Dee Backyard Landscape Series. Developed by Dr. Dara Park, Assistant Professor, Clemson University and Terasa Young, Natural Resource Agent, Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, the Series was designed to assist homeowners in creating a beautiful and functional landscape while saving time, money, and protecting natural resources. The Series was held the first Thursday of each month from March through September at the Doctors Bruce

and Lee Foundation Library in Florence. Each presentation focused on a different topic with all topics incorporating the principles of environmental landscape management.

The topics of the Series included:

- Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods
- Right Plant, Right Place
- Vegetable Gardening
- Maintaining Southern Lawns
- Drought Tolerant Plants
- Managing Yard Pests
- Gardening for Wildlife

The Series was well attended and the organizers received positive feedback from those completing evaluation surveys. Attendees Pat & Henry Bromley said, "As transplanted northerners, we have so much to learn and can't get enough." Based on attendance and feedback, the Series will continue in 2012.

Confined Animal Manure Managers (CAMM)

The focus of CAMM trainings is to educate facility owners and operators about water quality protection, best management practices, animal manure utilization, nuisance vector control, and dead animal disposal. An owner or operator of an animal confinement facility must pass an examination to become a Certified Animal Waste Applicator.

Livestock Agent Lee Van Vlakte planned, coordinated, and implemented 8 CAMM trainings throughout the Pee Dee Region. The trainings were held in Sumter, Florence, Dillon, Kershaw, Lee, and Darlington Counties. Over 170 confined animal producers attended these meetings. Those in attendance came from all over the state of South Carolina.

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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.

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Permeable Pavements Workshop Held in Florence

On Thursday, May 12, a group of 39 professionals interested in permeable pavement applications attended the Permeable Pavements Workshop at the Surface Water Treatment Plant in Florence. The workshop was hosted by the Florence Darlington Stormwater Consortium (FDSC) which is coordinated by Natural Resource Agent Terasa Young. The FDSC is composed of the City of Florence, Darlington County, and Florence County along with various education partners whose goal is to enhance water resource protection and stewardship throughout Florence and Darlington Counties through stormwater education, public involvement and outreach, and by fostering partnerships with local governments, citizens, businesses, schools, and organizations to support healthy waterways. Designed to allow water to flow through rather than run off the surface, permeable pavements are hardscaping alternatives with many structural, economic, water quality, and storage benefits. Dr.

Brad Putman with Clemson University opened the workshop with an Overview of Permeable Pavements which was followed by presentations on three specific permeable pavement types: pervious concrete, permeable interlocking concrete pavers (PICP), and porous asphalt. By providing information on the three permeable surface materials, attendees were able to gain a better understanding of appropriate applications of each surface as well as cost compared to traditional impervious surfaces.



Rice Krispie Treats designed to look like pervious concrete were given to attendees. The sticker on the treat read: "Pervious Pavement: When it rains, it drains!"