



2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: LEE COUNTY

Disseminating pollen...and knowledge

Pollinators and other beneficial insects have suffered significant population declines in recent years, partly due to habitat loss. Because these insects play essential roles in natural communities as well as in food production, it is important to educate the public about conservation practices and precautions that improve habitat conditions. Clemson University has partnered with USDA-NRCS to establish plots of native wildflowers and grasses that support these insects. Plots are located at Lee State Park and on a private farm in Bishopville, as well as Clemson's Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia. Several workshops have already been conducted at these sites for private landowners, natural resource agency personnel, and non-profit organizations. Participants gained knowledge about selecting important regional native plants, site selection, and methods of habitat establishment and maintenance. These workshops have helped provide natural resource employees with the tools necessary to work with the public to establish pollinator and beneficial insect habitat, and private landowners have learned how to restore and create habitat in their yards, farms, and forests.



▲ Workshop participants evaluate a field of first-season monarch butterfly habitat at Pig Creek Farm, Bishopville, SC.



▲ Whitney Dixon 18 and D'Angelo McQuillar 17 (and their feathered friends) brought home big awards from the Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair in Florence this fall.

Lee Central Students Win Big

Whitney Dixon 18 and D'Angelo McQuillar 17 (and their feathered friends) brought home big awards from the Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair in Florence this fall. This was McQuillar's second year raising chickens as part of the 4-H project. McQuillar said he had so much fun with his chicken Tina he wanted to try again this year and talked Whitney into the program also. McQuillar beat out more than 30 other students to place first overall in every category-cage judging, interview and record book; Dixon was right behind him and garnered second in each category.

4-H Pullet Chain Project provides youth a fun and hands on learning experience that develops life skills, as well as teaches valuable information about properly caring for their animal. They developed responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills. The students had to come to the school during the summer to feed, water and care for their chickens. Hats off to their teacher, Beth Tolson for the encouragement and support for her students. After graduation McQuillar has his eyes on Clemson University and Dixon plans on attending Francis Marion University. Good Luck to both of you.

SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
AT A GLANCE



AGENTS
133



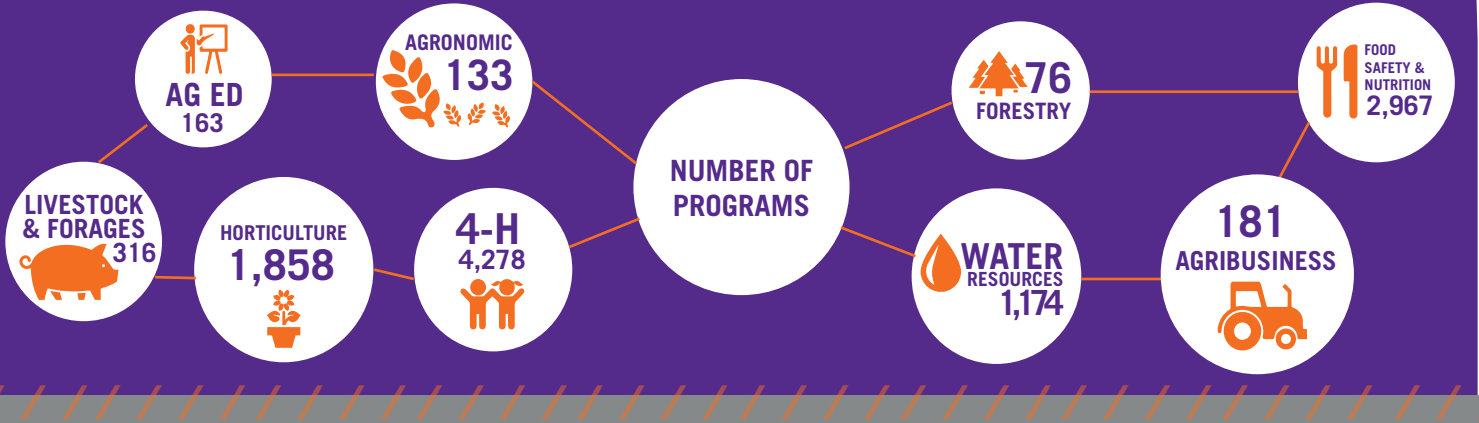
PROGRAMS
11,158



CONTACTS
242,239



**YOUTH & FAMILIES
REACHED**
104,156



Expanded Food Nutrition Education

Clemson University's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program conducts programs to youth in Lee County. The EFNEP program provides the student participants with hands on demonstrations, food tasting activities, and fun active games along with other physical activities. EFNEP is active in the Lee County schools. EFNEP this year has provided classes for grades 5K through 8th grade.

The programs are taught in the class rooms with several different nutrition curriculums for the different grade levels. The EFNEP program offers fun, interacting learning opportunities for healthier eating habits and physical activities.

EFNEP also participated in the Clemson Extension 4H2O Camp at Lee State Park in June. The campers enjoyed healthy snacks and participating in many outdoor activities such as kayaking, hiking, fishing and dodge ball.



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◀ Lee County Clemson Extension is committed to providing programs and activities to the people of Lee County regardless.

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