



2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: LEXINGTON COUNTY

County Vegetable Production

Dr. Powell Smith, began to work in Lexington County as an extension agent in May of 1994. Lexington County at the time grew only a few acres of matted-row strawberries and about 1200 acres of fresh-market vegetables. However, this industry was poised to grow. The growers were modern and realistic in their marketing goals and needed some encouragement and a catalyst. He came at a great time to help the industry grow. Lexington County now produces over 8000 acres of fresh market vegetables and small fruits. Much of his work centered on pest management for the greens crops; our growers have made great strides in caterpillar management on these crops. SC produces about 22% of the collard crop nationally, which led to the collard being named as our state vegetable. As mentioned before, our industry was poised to grow; he was not the reason, but has certainly enjoyed working with the growers to help them reach this point. However, all good things must come to an end. Dr. Smith plans to retire in March of 2018. It has been great, and he appreciates having the opportunity to serve Lexington County for 24 years.



▲ Strawberries growing in Lexington County



▲ Tabitha Swygert (left) and Lydia Swygert (right) exhibiting their 4-H Project Chickens

4-H in Lexington County

It's a busy time of year for Lexington County 4-H'ers! Several of our 4-H'ers showed their 4-H project animals in the Horse, Beef, Swine, Poultry, and Rabbit shows at the South Carolina State Fair this past October. Several Lexington County 4-H youth were awarded regional and state awards for their participation and record keeping in the state Small Garden and Pollinator 4-H projects. We currently have one Lexington County 4-H'er serving as a midlands representative on the South Carolina 4-H Teen Council, and another young lady that will be attending the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. In addition to all that our community based clubs and club members are participating in, we've been as busy as bees in schools across the county providing and delivering supplemental learning curriculum for teachers. Curriculum subject matter available ranges from Embryology, Agriculture and Healthy Lifestyles to STEM, Environmental Awareness and Wildlife. Schools in all districts of our county are currently taking advantage of the programs 4-H can offer, and we are currently seeking new teachers and schools to deliver 4-H programming to.

SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
AT A GLANCE



AGENTS
133



PROGRAMS
11,158



CONTACTS
242,239



**YOUTH & FAMILIES
REACHED**
104,156



AG ED
163



AGRONOMIC
133



**LIVESTOCK
& FORAGES**
316



HORTICULTURE
1,858



4-H
4,278

**NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS**



76
FORESTRY



**FOOD
SAFETY &
NUTRITION**
2,967



**WATER
RESOURCES**
1,174



181
AGRIBUSINESS

Forestry Education in the Midlands

With the help of many volunteers; Beth Richardson, Clemson Extension Area Forester, hosts an annual one-day forestry meeting in May at T&S Farm in Leesville, SC. Technical forestry experts from as far as Mississippi, Auburn, and the Virginia Polytech Institute are invited to attend in order to share the latest in forestry research. Topics from the last meeting included: proper way to have a timber sell to bring a higher return, forest management, pole production, estate planning, and more. The 170 audience members are a diverse group of foresters, timber buyers, and forest landowners from South Carolina and our neighboring states.

The Forestry Association of SC needed a video on reforestation for the TOP logger recertification training. Beth submitted an outline and the video was shot locally on 3 landowner properties.

The video will be released at the Timber Producers Association Annual meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC in January 2018 and will be viewed by all of the certified loggers in SC. Other states such as North Carolina, Arkansas, and Mississippi may also use it as a part of their logger-training program.

◀ The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program in Lexington County had a fun filled year due to Amanda Benson-Bremseth, the Nutrition Education Assistant. She worked with staff at Seven Oaks Elementary and HE Corley Elementary to teach youth nutrition education, as seen above. After each lesson, she usually fixes a healthy snack, which the youth thoroughly enjoys!



▲ It's a full house with 170 people attending the one day forestry meeting at T&S Farm in Leesville, SC.



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