Determining Peanut Maturity

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 2015-2016 fiscal year, County Extension Agent Jonathan Croft helped farmers determine the proper digging time for their peanuts by holding a Peanut Maturity Clinic on September 11, 2015 and by conducting field visits on farms throughout the county. At the Maturity Clinic 18 peanut producers brought in multiply samples from across their peanut acreage for determining maturity. This represented approximately 3,200 acres of peanuts. Extreme weather events during 2015 lead to the need for additional farm visits across the county to help growers determine proper maturity and digging date. Farm visits were made to 20 additional farms that accounted for approximately 6,000 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 contract price of peanuts being $425 per ton ($0.21 per pound) on Virginia type and $375 per ton on runner type peanuts ($0.188 per pound) these savings equal $52.50 per acre on Virginia type and $46.88 per acre on runner type.
**4-H Lego Builders Demonstrate Robots for a Cleaner County**

How does a city planner, a sanitation worker, a composter, an anthropologist, an engineer, or a scrap dealer work with trash? Orangeburg County Lego Builders were tasked with those questions in the 2015 First Lego League’s “Trash Trek” Challenge. Building and programming machines and devices, six young builders put their heads together to come up with creative solutions to real world problems of trash, disposal, re-use, and recycling.

**New Horticulture Agent**

Allow me to introduce myself

My name is Eulalio Toledo Jr. I am the new Commercial Horticulture Agent in Orangeburg, Calhoun, and Dorchester Counties. I grew up on a small family farm in Wauchula FL. I graduated from Clemson University in 2016 with a bachelor’s in plant and environmental sciences with a concentration in agronomy and a minor in plant pathology. My main goal is to serve local horticulture needs and to serve you. I foresee potential for education in soil fertility, integrated pest management, weed management, disease diagnoses, insect control, and many other areas. I look forward to learning more, and meeting the many individuals, groups and business that support this local industry.

**Agriculture Service Lab Sample Data for Orangeburg County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil Samples</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed and Forage</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Waste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigation Water</td>
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</tbody>
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Forestry Agent Assists Landowners with Taxes

The Center for Heirs Properties out of Charleston was planning an event for their landowners at Voorhees College in Denmark. The Center works with minority people who have timber land and heir property issues. Sam Cook, the Director, asked Beth Richardson, Area Forestry Agent, to teach Federal Income Tax as it relates to Non-Industrial Private Landowners (NIPL) at two-day event. There were three break-out sessions with three different topics so that over two days, each landowner would have an opportunity to listen to each session. There were about 90 participants from as far away as the Clarendon, Williamsburg Counties to Jasper and Allendale up to Aiken County.

Ms. Richardson knew that the audience had been educated on forest management practices which plays a huge part in understanding how to use the forestry tax advantages. However, she did not realize that this program was the audiences first exposure to the forestry federal tax laws with the exception of one participant who was employed by the IRS.

The breakout sessions were approximately one hour which was enough time to cover all of the forestry tax advantages but one which requires 30 minutes.

The tax talk was a huge success. One participant stood up at the second day breakfast and told the audience that they all needed to hear the tax talk, that the speaker made the talk fun, exciting, and educational.

The Director, Sam Cook, has asked Ms. Richardson to come back in the future and do a 1.5 to 2 hour talk so that all of the provisions can be covered and how they apply to the NIPL.

Information for Local Agriculture Producers

Throughout the year local agriculture producers receive production information from the Clemson Extension Service in several ways these include; local and regional production meetings, local Extension Agent farm visits, and email/direct mailings of Clemson Extension Newsletters.

During the 2015 - 2016 fiscal year Orangeburg County agriculture producers were given several opportunities at the local level to attend crop production programs. At the local level 175 producers attended seven programs. Topics of the programs were focused on corn, cotton, soybean, and peanut production and confined animal manure management. Presenters at these programs were Clemson University Researchers, local extension agent, and agriculture related company representatives.

Growers listing to speaker during Herbicide Technology program, Santee, SC 2015
SC Farm Aid Grant Program

During the 2015 - 2016 fiscal year local farmers faced a very difficult year with the effects of the 1000 year flood. Unlike past natural disasters, farmers were unable to harvest multiple crops (cotton, peanuts, and soybeans) causing losses of millions of dollars in revenue just in Orangeburg County. In an unprecedented response the SC Legislature funded a farm aid program to assist farmers in SC. Clemson Extension agents across the state held local educational meetings and assisted farmers with sign up for the SC Farm Aid Grants. Locally an educational program was held and 108 farmers attended the program and received information from the SC Department of Agriculture on what would be required to sign up for the Farm Aid. In addition to the educational program, the local agriculture Extension Agent worked with 20 farmers to make sure that their application packets were completed and submitted correctly. Once the sign up period was finished and aid disbursed, farmers in Orangeburg County received approximately $4,000,000.

Youth Canning Workshops

A high percentage of consumers use many unsafe food preservation practices that put them at a high risk for illness, death and economic losses. Clemson Extension Service provides up to date food preservation information from the USDA for canning foods at home. Christine Patrick, the local Food Safety and Nutrition Agent helps consumers understand and put into practice safe methods to prepare foods for storing throughout the year. They are informed about how to find safe, reliable sources for recipes.

A total of four canning workshops were offered to youth in Bamberg and Orangeburg Counties. Participants used various types of equipment and supplies available for preserving jelly at home. Each participant took home a jar of the item prepared in class along with handouts. Many of the youth participants were introduced to canning through these workshops. They were pleased to have an opportunity to be involved in the process.

All participants found the workshop to be very useful and nearly all reported gaining new knowledge.

Christine Patrick, Food Safety and Nutrition Educator — Orangeburg County
Private Pesticide Applicator Programs

Agriculture producers in the State of South Carolina must be certified as a private pesticide applicator if they will be purchasing, using or supervising the use of restricted-use pesticides on their operation. The Clemson Extension Service provides the training for new applicators and programs that allow private applicators to obtain continuing education hours (CCH) that are required for licensed applicators to maintain their certification.

During the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year Clemson Extension Agent Jonathan Croft offered the one-day Initial Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Exam Session on three separate days. There were a total of 27 individuals in attendance during the training and exam session.