

Annual Report to the People

2015 - 2016
Richland County



900 Clemson Road
Columbia, SC 29229
Phone: (803) 865-1216
Fax: (803) 865-1219
www.clemson.edu/extension

Mission Statement

The mission of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is to improve the economy, environment, and well-being of South Carolinians through the delivery of unbiased research-based information and education.

Coyote Management Workshop

Charles Davis, Commercial Horticultural Agent

Coyotes have been on the increase in South Carolina for years. Many hunters blame them for the decline in the deer population in the Calhoun/Orangeburg/Richland County area. While deer are considered to be pests which cost farmers thousands of dollars in crop damage, many landowners see deer hunting leases as an important part of their income, the values of which is directly related to how many deer hunters see on their property while hunting. To these landowners, declines in deer population reduces the values of their hunting leases.

After requests from landowners the Calhoun/Richland County Extension Agent partnered with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to present a Coyote Management Workshop at the Santee Convention Center on February 18, 2015. Attendees were educated on the biology, habits, and impact of coyotes on wildlife, as it is currently understood. Attendees were made aware of the trapping and

shooting laws pertaining to coyotes, and were given an outdoor tutorial on trapping techniques by a member of the South Carolina Trappers Association

Sixty four attendees registered and 62 turned in evaluations after the workshop concluded. Of the 62 who turned in evaluations, 41 registered as landowners, 8 as foresters, 10 as other (land managers) and 3 as government employees. All 62 respondents indicated they had learned useful information as a result of attending the workshop. Sixty felt like the information would help them address their coyote issues. Sixty two felt they had a better understanding of coyote management based on their attendance, and 59 said they would attend another similar workshop if offered in their area. Attendees traveled an average of 46.3 miles to the conference.

South Carolina Trappers Association member demonstrates trap sets for coyotes at the coyote Management Workshop.



Richland County 4-H

Weatherly Thomas, 4-H Youth Development Agent

Weatherly Thomas came to Clemson Cooperative Extension in December 2015 as the new Richland County 4-H Agent. She brings a myriad of skills and experience to the job, as she comes from careers in both agriculture, broadcast journalism and media arts.

Since joining the Richland County Extension team, Weatherly has conducted 4-H programming in more than 30 schools throughout the county, reaching more than 1,000 children, in the 4-H program areas of Healthy Lifestyles, Science/Engineering & Technology, Natural Resources and Agriculture & Animals. Several new in-school and afterschool 4-H clubs are being chartered this year.

Weatherly developed a STEM-based summer reading and activity camp program, "4-H Flight School," that was piloted this summer at a charter school in Columbia, the Imagine Columbia Leadership Academy. Camp attendees learned basic aeronautics through hands-on activities, such as kite and rocket building. Weatherly also helped integrated 4-H Healthy Lifestyles programming into Children's Defense Fund "Freedom School" sites this summer, at both Francis Burns United Methodist Church and Richland School District One's W.A. Perry Middle School.

At the recent 4-H State Congress, held at Clemson University, Weatherly taught a class on filmmaking, "Movies with a Mission." She is looking forward to starting a "4-H Film Festival" in Richland County in the coming year, with 4-H clubs and individual members participating.

In June, Weatherly traveled to Maine to attend a training by 4-H National Shooting Sports. She is now a Level 2 archery instructor, which allows her to train other instructors in the sport. She is one of only (3) Level 2 4-H archery instructors in South Carolina. In addition to training new 4-H archery club leaders and volunteers around the state, Weatherly plans to begin a robust archery shooting sports program in Richland County.

Weatherly is working to provide students at nearby military installations the opportunity to participate in 4-H, as well, providing programming to schools located on post at Fort Jackson and at the South Carolina National Guard's Youth challenge site at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover. Beginning this coming spring, Youth Challenge cadets will be the first to pilot a 4-H farming business entrepreneurship program Weatherly developed in association with Clemson economic and community development agents. Cadets will farm 5 acres, complete with a state-of-the-art greenhouse, growing specialty crops for Columbia-area framers markets.

Also, in Spring 2017, Weatherly will break ground for the "4-H Flower Farm," a farm entrepreneurship training and incubator program at Clemson's Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia. The farm will grow flowers for commercial sale by area 4-Hers with the help of Richland County Master Gardeners. Participants will learn, from field to vase, what it takes to grow a successful business.



Weatherly Thomas, 4-H Agent,
Richland County

Tax Talk for the Center for Heirs Properties

Beth Richardson, Area Forestry Agent

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 audience's first exposure to the forestry federal tax laws with the exception of one participant who was employed by the IRS.

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.



Tax talk for the Center for Heirs
Properties

Livestock and Forages

Travis Mitchell, Area Livestock and Forages Agent

Clemson Extension continues to deliver programs on livestock and forage systems through the Richland County Cattlemen's Association. This active organization is an affiliate member of the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association and offers many educational opportunities to people interested in beef cattle and forage production. Program topics include pasture management, hay production, and soil health. We also deliver programs covering selection, production, and marketing of beef cattle herds.

Clemson Extension also supports the citizens of Richland County by use of an Area Livestock and Forages Agent to assist producers in livestock and forage production. This agent aids with weed identification and fertilization requirements for hay fields and pastures. He also helps livestock producers with management decisions that influence the overall success of their herds.

Adopt-A-Stream with the Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Karen Jackson, Water Resource Agent

Slowly South Carolina is beginning to incorporate the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) program into its citizen science programming. Early June, the Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium brought a group of Clemson and USC Upstate affiliates to the Midlands for two trainings on the Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) water monitoring protocols. Participants learned ways of measuring abiotic stream parameters such as dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and temperature. They also became familiar with bacteria, macroinvertebrates, and how living organisms can give insight to the quality of water. This program requires monthly sampling and the data are added to a database that includes Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Participants not only collect valuable data used to detect illicit discharges and water quality impairments, they learn more about the watershed in which they live and how it can be affected by stormwater runoff. Recently, the Department of Health and Environmental Control has adopted this program and South Carolina will soon have its own database. Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) is a great way to engage the community and spread that work about the importance of water quality.



Richland County Agricultural Science Assistants Activities

Don Carter, Agricultural Science Assistant II

During the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, the Richland County Extension Office Agricultural Assistant responded to over 1930 questions submitted by phone, e-mail or in person. We provide research-based, unbiased information in the area of consumer horticulture. We received 273 questions about lawn care and 156 questions involved identifying an insect or a plant. We answered 59 questions pertaining to vegetable gardening; 59 on growing fruit and nuts. We answered 57 questions about chemicals. We also answered 119 question on shrubs, 82 on trees, 275 on growing other plants, and a whole lot we categorize as 'miscellaneous.' We processed and sent to the Clemson campus over 2280 soil samples for analysis. We also accepted nearly 69 samples of plants and turf for disease and abiotic problem diagnosis. We also accepted other sorts of samples for analysis, including plant tissue and animal feed for nutrient analysis, animal waste, irrigation water, compost, soil for nematode assays, and plants, insects and other organisms for identification.

Food Safety and Nutrition

Katherine Shavo, MS, RD, LD Food Safety and Nutrition Agent

Katherine Shavo, joined the Richland County Food Safety and Nutrition Team in January 2016. Katherine’s focus area is the aging population, increasing vegetable and fruit intake with all age groups, and food safety in foodservice and for consumers.

Katherine’s initial work with Extension is focusing on hydration. The Sparkleberry Fair was a nice, warm, sunny day to kick off this educational topic with a Better Beverage Choices display. Over 150 people interacted with the display that featured the sugar content of various prepared beverages and had freshly brewed, lightly sweet tea available for tasting. Many individuals stated a preference for “Carolina” sweet tea and were surprised to learn it contains as much as a soft drink. The crowd also learned about the beneficial compounds in freshly brewed tea. Many were surprised to learn that these compounds are no longer present in prepared, bottled teas. The hydration theme continued for the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging Senior day on May 5th. This time Katherine Shavo paired up with Jackie Jordan, Richland County Consumer Horticulturist, to present a “Grow It - Cook It” themed display table where Jackie answered gardening questions and Katherine educated over 160 participants on the water content in fruits and vegetables by demonstrating a cool summer salad. Most attendees were not aware that approximately 20% of our hydration needs are met through foods we eat. Emphasizing high water content foods is a strategy that can help us stay hydrated as well as aid in weight control. Proper hydration is extremely important year round so Katherine is taking this theme to senior centers, libraries, and other counties. The public has been quite receptive since it has been one of the hottest summers on record.



Katherine Shavo and Jackie Jordan and Lt. Governor Henry McMaster at the 2016 Senior Day at the State House



Clemson Extension at the 2016 Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging Senior Day

Katherine Shavo at Sparkleberry Fair Display.



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The Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

Staff

Deon Legette

Regional Lead Agent / County
Coordinator

dlgett@clemson.edu

803-865-1216, Ext. 113

Don Carter

Agricultural Assistant II

Carter5@clemson.edu

803-865-1216, Ext. 127

Will Culler

Regional Agribusiness Development
Agent

wculler@clemson.edu

803-359-8515, Ext. 115

Victoria Cushman-Rosas

Administrative Assistant

vcushma@clemson.edu

803-865-1216, Ext. 111

Charles Davis

Consumer Horticultural Agent

cdvs@clemson.edu

803-874-2354, Ext. 117

Linda Green

EFNEP Nutrition Education Assistant

lgrn@clemson.edu

803-865-1216, Ext. 117

Karen Jackson

Water Resource Agent

Karen7@clemson.edu

803-865-1216, Ext. 116

Jackie Jordan

Consumer Horticultural Agent

jkopack@clemson.edu

803-865-1216, Ext. 122

Travis Mitchell

Area Livestock / Forage Agent

twmitch@clemson.edu

864-445-8117, Ext. 113

Beth Richardson

Area Forestry Agent

mrchrdsn@clemson.edu

803-534-6280, Ext. 30

Katherine Shavo

Food Safety / Nutrition Agent

kshavo@clemson.edu

803-865-1216, Ext. 114

M. Weatherly Thomas

4H Youth Development Agent

marjort@clemson.edu

803-865-1216, Ext. 123

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

Linda Green, Nutrition Educator
Assistant

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) focuses on eating right and being active for its 4-H youths and limited resource families. Each week Nutrition Educator Assistant, Linda Green provides nutritional awareness through program lessons, hands on activities and physical activities. Fun filled educational programs have been experienced by (82) students at Forest Heights Elementary school. Today was story time - *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Story time was exciting with a tasting activity, Butterfly Bites. Each student prepared his / her own butterfly bite. Ingredients were celery, pimento cheese, pretzels, and raisins. Each student enjoyed making their own healthy snack.



Linda Green, Nutrition Educator
Assistant assisting children with their
Butterflies Bites

Vegetable Gardening Workshop Series

Jackie Jordan, Consumer
Horticultural Agent

Horticultural Agent Jackie Jordan is passionate about gardening and loves sharing her experiences and knowledge with the citizens of Richland County. She has partnered with the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Community Garden Program to offer a series of free workshops on vegetable gardening. The programs are delivered once a month at the Earlwood Community Center. Most recently topics such as, "Planning for a Fall Garden", "Intensive Garden Techniques", and "Starting Seeds", have been offered. The series will continue next year and run March thru November.

If you are interested in learning more about gardening or would like to request programming, Horticultural Agent Jackie Jordan would be more than happy to assist you. Please contact her thru the Richland County Extension Office.



Jackie Jordan, Consumer
Horticultural Agent