

2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: RICHLAND COUNTY

4-H Expands in Richland County

2017 was a year of profound growth and innovation for 4-H in Richland County, with more than 550 youth becoming 4-Hers, through in-school, after-school, special projects, events and community club programming. In addition, through school enrichment efforts, hundreds of children benefited from 4-H activities, throughout the county, at K-12 school sites. Partnerships with other local youth development-oriented groups, such as EngenuitySC, #EveryBlackGirl and the SC Department of Juvenile Justice have yielded new clubs in Richland focused on gardening, film making, and automotive repair. Two new county 4-H summer camps were successful in bringing unique project areas to Richland – woodworking and small engine repair. Woodworking participants each made four projects, including a garden bench. Small engine participants repaired several mowers, while learning mechanical engineering. A 4-H teen council was formed, the Tri-County 4-H Teen Council, in partnership with Kershaw and Fairfield counties. The new group of high school-aged youth recently collected and sent food and supplies for hurricane relief to the Caribbean island nation of Dominica.



▲ A 10-year old 4-H member designed and built a birdhouse, by hand, during countywide summer woodworking camp.



▲ Seed starting workshop.

Community Gardening Series

Horticulture 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 Dept. 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”, “Managing Pests” and “Starting Seeds”, have been offered. A demonstration on how to install a drip irrigation system was also part of the garden series. The series runs March through November.

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

SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION *AT A GLANCE*



AGENTS
133



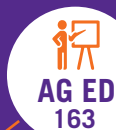
PROGRAMS
11,158



CONTACTS
242,239



**YOUTH & FAMILIES
REACHED**
104,156



AG ED
163



AGRONOMIC
133

**NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS**



**76
FORESTRY**



**FOOD
SAFETY &
NUTRITION**
2,967



**LIVESTOCK
& FORAGES**
316



HORTICULTURE
1,858



4-H
4,278



**WATER
RESOURCES**
1,174



**181
AGRIBUSINESS**



▲ “Adopt-a-Stream volunteers look through a sample to find benthic macroinvertebrates.”

The New SC Adopt-a-Stream Program

The South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream (SC AAS) is finally up and running! This program is modeled after Georgia Adopt-a-Stream, but has been altered to suit the needs of the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC). Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium (RCSC) co-coordinator Karen Jackson has worked with SC DHEC and Clemson’s Center for Watershed Excellence to form a new database, add additions to the statewide manual, and incorporate issues relevant to South Carolina into the trainings.

The RCSC held their first South Carolina training in June at Camp Discovery, where over 20 certifications were completed. Since their first training, nearly 40 volunteers have been certified in the biological, chemical, and bacterial parameters. Certification involves not only an exam in the field, but also a written test requiring 80% accuracy.

Volunteers range from college students majoring in the sciences, to retired teachers and community members interested in learning more about the environment in which they live. We anticipate future trainings focusing on the Catawba and Pee Dee Watershed Basins as this program continues to grow.



◀ Isreal is a graduate of Winthrop University where she received her Master of Science in Human Nutrition. Since starting in August, Isreal’s focus areas are with the aging population, increasing vegetable, and fruit intake with all age groups, and food safety in food service and for consumers. If you are interested in requesting programming, please contact Faith Isreal through the Richland County Extension Office.

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