Record Breaking Year for Saluda County 4-H

For the first time in history, Saluda County 4-H had three members win the 4-H Presidential Tray in 2016. Allison Harman, Andrew Owens and Micah Metts received this honor which includes a $1500 scholarship. This award is South Carolina’s top 4-H award.

Other achievements of our Saluda County 4-H youth this year include, the 2017 SC 4-H Forestry Team which is comprised of three youth from Saluda; Ethan Altman, Ashton Hallman, and Andrew Owens. The 4-H Junior Livestock judging team with members Kelly Wertz, Amber Epting, and Ellie Harman. Ellie also place 3rd individually for the junior division. The high scoring 4-H Senior team included Allison Harman, Lindsey Scott, Henry Gunter and Colden Harman. Allison also was the highest scoring individual 4-H Senior Division. This team will represent South Carolina at the Eastern National 4-H Livestock Judging Competition in Louisville, KY.

Attending the 2017 Presidential Inauguration in January from Saluda County are 4-Hers Mackenzie Riley and Grey Riley. Elizabeth Easler was chosen to attend the 2016 National 4-H Shooting Sport Leadership Institute, held at the University of Minnesota in August. Elizabeth is a member of the Richland Creek 4-H shotgun team. She is the first SC 4-H'er to be accepted to attend the Institute. After successfully completing the National 4-H Shooting Sports leadership Institute, Elizabeth Easler has been accepted as a member of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador Team. We are proud of the accomplishments of each of our 4-H youth.
Saluda County Agriculture

Livestock and Forages in Saluda County

Clemson Extension continues to deliver programs on Livestock and Forage systems through the Saluda County Cattlemen’s Association. This association is the largest and most active County Cattlemen’s association in the state and is an affiliate member of the South Carolina Cattlemen’s Association. Many educational opportunities are offered to people interested in beef cattle and forage production. Program topics include pasture management, hay production, and soil health. Programs are delivered covering selection, production, and marketing of beef cattle herds. The Saluda County Cattlemen’s Association meets regularly, owns cattle working equipment, provides annual scholarships to college students majoring in agriculture, and conducts 3 annual cattle sales.

Saluda County Replacement Heifer Sale

Saluda County Beef producers have an excellent reputation for producing high quality replacement heifers. We have been coordinating cooperative marketing efforts for 25 years through the Saluda County Replacement Heifer Sale. Top quality heifers consigned by leading beef cattle producers are sold by auction each spring and are bought by producers to go into their beef cattle herds.

Preconditioned Steer Sales

Two Preconditioned Steer Sales are also conducted cooperatively through the Clemson Extension Service in Saluda County. Steers are sorted and grouped into uniform loads and lots and are sold through Saluda Livestock Market in August and November. These steers are weaned and preconditioned, source and age verified, and follow a strict vaccination protocol. Producer’s participating in these sales receive a premium for their calves by going above and beyond to provide the industry with what it wants.

Poultry is Our Number One $ Commodity

Broilers and layers are found in large numbers throughout Saluda County. The Saluda County Extension Office works with the poultry integrators and individual poultry producers to assist in any way possible.

Historic Flood Impacts Farmers

The October 2015 rain event that led to historic flooding in South Carolina occurred at the worst time for many farmers. Cotton, peanuts, and soybeans ready for harvest were left standing in water where flooding occurred, or were so rain soaked by the continual rains that quality of the crops left them unable to be marketed. Lack of a marketable crop put an extremely large financial burden on many farmers who were left unable to repay operating loans. The South Carolina General Assembly passed legislation, named Farm Aid, that made available to eligible farmers, financial assistance to be used for paying crop production expenses. Farm Aid Eligibility software was developed in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and Clemson University and used information on crop sales, acres planted, and harvest records to determine payments made to farmers. Workshops were held across South Carolina that allowed farmers to bring their own records in for application, or one on one meetings were held with farmers for the same purpose. More than twenty, one on one meetings were held in Newberry, Saluda, Edgefield, and Aiken Counties with several farmers qualifying for much needed assistance.
Clemson Extension Personnel assisting with Saluda County Agricultural Programs include:

- Travis Mitchell, Area Livestock and Forages Agent
- Stephen Pohlman, Area Forestry Agent
- Tina Horn, Area Dairy Agent
- Jay Crouch, Area Agronomy Agent
- Dr. Powell Smith, Area Vegetable Specialist
- Greg Henderson, Area Peach Agent

Forestry in Saluda County

Clemson Extension continues to deliver forestry programs through the Saluda County Forestry Association. This large and active organization is an affiliate member of the S.C. Forestry Association and offers many educational opportunities to clients interested in forestry. The meetings covered the topics of: Establishing and Managing Warm Season Wildlife Food Plots, Coyote Biology and Management, and the annual Christmas Banquet. The average meeting had 75-125 landowners and forestry professionals in attendance, while the Christmas Banquet had +300. The Saluda County Forestry Association provided 4 college scholarships to young people majoring in forestry or a related field.

Forest Genetics and Seedling Tour

South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) and Clemson Extension held a joint meeting about forest genetics and seedlings on June 28, 2016. The tour was hosted at the SCFC Taylor Nursery located in Trenton, SC. The field tour was sold out with 50 landowners, with participants coming from the surrounding area counties. Tim Adams (SCFC Director of Forest Products Marketing) was the guest speaker for much of the program. Gene Kodama (SCFC State Forester), Hamp Holmes (SCFC Taylor Nursery Director) and Stephen Pohlman (Clemson Extension Forestry Agent) also spoke at the event. Participants were treated to a hay ride of the Taylor Nursery facility to see the operation side of growing seedlings before they can be sold to the public. Participants also saw the SCFC’s genetic trials where they test their crosses and get some of their seed sources.

Clemson Extension also supports the citizens of Saluda County by use of an Area Extension Forestry & Natural Resources Agent who provides advice on forest management and wildlife management through habitat modifications and food plots. This agent also aids with forestry related issues including disease and insect identification, pond issues and urban tree questions.

Contact Stephen Pohlman for more information regarding Forestry Programs in Saluda County.
Clemson EFNEP is a simple solution to help families eat smart and move more. EFNEP, the Expanding Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is offered by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. The program is aimed at providing practical hands on nutrition education. EFNEP delivers nutrition education in four core areas: diet quality, physical activity, food resource management and food safety/food security.

Overall EFNEP outcomes include: Improving diet and nutrition welfare for the total family, increasing knowledge of the essentials of human nutrition, increasing the ability to select and buy food that satisfies nutrition needs, improving practices in food production, preparation, storage, safety, and sanitation, improving ability to manage a food budget and food resources such as SNAP benefits, increases rates of physical activity.

Mary Ann Mobley, NEA in Saluda County delivers EFNEP education to our county. Mrs. Mobley had a display and introduction to celebrate June as Dairy Month at Willow Loop Apt. The tenants viewed the display and received hand-outs about Dairy Month, and dairy trivia as well as other hand-outs for the children living in the complex to use. With school being out for summer, it gave the children and their parents the opportunity to realize the importance of consuming dairy products every day for healthy bones and teeth. The hand-outs given to the adults, reminded them of the importance of dairy products for their diet as well. They also had the opportunity to taste a strawberry/blueberry smoothie.

At Reedy Branch Church, participants made peach parfait, since Ridge Spring is where a lot of peaches are grown. Everyone loved the parfait with strawberries and blueberries wasn’t as tasty. They said they had never thought of using peaches like this, but enjoyed it more and said they would use peaches again.

Contact Mary Ann Mobley at the Saluda County Clemson Extension office for more information on the EFNEP Program.

4-H Activities

The 4-H program in Saluda County continues to reach more and more youth in all areas of the county. It has become a popular activity for youth.

These young people compete and succeed in many state events. Opportunities are available through school enrichment groups, afterschool groups, community clubs, special interest clubs, project clubs and summer workshops.
**4-H Clubs**

Four community clubs host over 60 members. The Lucky Leaf 4-H Club and the Little Leaf 4-H Club meets at Hollywood School monthly after school. In addition, the 4-H Country Club meets at Corinth Lutheran Church monthly. They have a variety of educational programs. And finally, Lucky Charms Club meets at the Saluda Extension Office monthly. Their educational programs include nutrition, sewing, citizenship, safety, and much more. These clubs are especially for youth ages 5 to 12 years old.

For teens, the Cloverleaf 4-H Teen Club was established. They emphasize community service & leadership. Among their projects include an annual Christmas Bingo for the residents of the Saluda Nursing Center. They also have assisted with the Saluda County Farm-City Week Banquet, the 4-H Awards Banquet and making blankets for the needy. Youth ages 12 and older are invited to become members of the Cloverleaf 4-H Teen Club.

Project Clubs available in the Saluda County area include the Dog Club, Silver Spurs 4-H Horse Club, Dairy-Livestock Club and two 4-H Shooting Sports Club (Palmetto Punishers and Richland Creek Top Guns). These are very active in their project area.

**4-H Agriculture**

Annually the Saluda 4-H program hosts Livestock shows for goat, dairy, beef, poultry and dog exhibitors. Youth from 12 counties participated.

- 9 Dairy Exhibitors – 47 head
- 37 Goat Exhibitors – 82 head
- 42 Beef Exhibitors – 73 head
- 5 Dog Exhibitors – 5 dogs

This year 24 flocks of Golden Comet pullets were shown and sold at a sell average of $19.90 per bird.

**4-H Healthy Lifestyles**

The SC 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Challenge, modeled after the Food Network’s “Iron Chef,” brought teens from across SC for a cook-off challenge at the SC State Fair. The event, held during 4-H Day at the South Carolina State Fair, drew so much interest that fair organizers have requested a repeat performance.

As the competition began, teams of 3 to 4 members prepared assigned dishes, and then made presentations to the judges, including information about the serving size, nutritional value, utilizing the dish in a meal and the cost of the dish. They also interpreted a food label and prepared a fitness plan.

The purpose of the SC 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Challenge was to allow 4-H members to demonstrate their culinary and food safety skills. Judges and observers could witness not only how well these young people can cook, but how much they know about overall health, nutrition, and wellness — skills to take them through life.

The Challenge consisted of teams from three age divisions: Cloverleaf Division, grades 4-5; Junior Division, grades 6-8; and, Senior Division for grades 9-12. Participants had to be current members of a South Carolina 4-H county program. Food challenge categories were Fruits, Vegetables, Grains, Main Dish and Snacks.
Saluda’s winning team in the Cloverleaf Division (grades 4 & 5) were Sarah Lake, Ava Quattlebaum, Brantley Scott, and Bree Mixson. Winning in the Junior division (Middle School) were Kaitlyn Alvershire, Blake Scott, and Kelly Wertz. Coming in second was Saluda’s team of Taylor Crouch, Katie Altman, and Ainsley Gibson. Our senior team (high school) placed second. Team members were Lindsey Scott, Laken Fulmer, Allie Trotter, and Ginger Wertz.

Contact Connie N. Lake at the Saluda County Clemson Extension Service for more information regarding Saluda County 4-H programs.