



# 2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: AIKEN COUNTY

## 2017 Aiken County Master Gardeners

52 Aiken County Master Gardeners drove 18,059 miles to deliver more than 3,539 hours of educational, research-based horticulture programs to 3,400 people. Master Gardeners in Aiken provide services and programs unique to Aiken County: 7 certified MGs provided horticultural advice to 190 home gardeners via the in-office Master Gardener Help Desk. 10 Aiken MGs provided horticultural information to 373 market patrons via a Meet-a-Master Gardener booth at the Aiken County Farmers Market. 10 AMGA's free Lunch Box Series lectures had over 593 attendees in 2017. 10 The AMGA Speakers Bureau accommodated 26 Speakers Bureau requests and spoke to 562 people. 10 Proceeds from the 20 fee-based Rent-a-Master Gardener visits made in 2017 helped fund 6 scholarships totaling \$4,500 for 4 high school and 2 college students from Aiken County. 10 Aiken Master Gardeners design, install, and/or maintain a number of plantings and gardens around the County. -AMGA Display Garden-Silver Bluff Audubon Center and Sanctuary Butterfly Garden-Aiken Railroad Depot-Dollhouse Garden-Claudia Lea Phelps Memorial Garden-Brothers and Sisters of Aiken County garden-Various church and school gardens around the County



▲ Attendees watch as Joe Leonard gives a demonstration on how to trap coyotes within the state laws and regulations. The Coyote Control Workshop was provided by the Aiken County Livestock and Forestry agents.



▲ Aiken Master Gardener Association

## Aiken County Livestock and Forages

Clemson Extension delivers timely and research based educational programming through the Livestock and Forages program team. Topics vary but include pasture management, forage quality, weed identification, equine facilities and fencing, soil fertility and much more. Workshops on average have around 30 attendees. Clemson Extension also plays a large role for the citizens of Aiken County through the use of the Livestock and Forages agent. The agent can provide information in topics ranging from beef cattle, dairy cattle, equine, small ruminant, poultry and pork production. Establishment, management and efficient utilization of grazing and hay crops like bermudagrass, bahiagrass, alfalfa and tall fescue are also areas of expertise for many of the agents. The county Livestock and Forages agent is available for farm visits to assist in the needs of the county land owners. One of Aiken County's most popular programs is the Equine Pasture Management program. Other programs include but are not limited to, problem weeds, equine forages and hay production, management and feeding of metabolic horses, ant demonstrations, pest management, Aiken County Cattlemen programming and many more.

**SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
*AT A GLANCE*



**AGENTS**  
133



**PROGRAMS**  
11,158



**CONTACTS**  
242,239



**YOUTH & FAMILIES  
REACHED**  
104,156

**AG ED**  
163

**AGRONOMIC**  
133

**76**  
FORESTRY

**FOOD  
SAFETY &  
NUTRITION**  
2,967

**NUMBER OF  
PROGRAMS**

**LIVESTOCK  
& FORAGES**  
316

**HORTICULTURE**  
1,858

**4-H**  
4,278

**WATER  
RESOURCES**  
1,174

**181**  
AGRIBUSINESS



▲ Members of the 4-H Palmetto All Stock Club are working hard with their project calf.

**Aiken County 4-H Programs of 2017**

Ridge Spring Middle School 4-H Agriculture Club is led by Crystal Coleman. This club teaches agricultural lessons to the middle school students at Ridge Spring Middle School. Aiken/Edgefield 4-H Shooting Sports Club is led by Jason Rhodes. This club teaches participant's ages 9-15 shotgun safety, how to identify different parts of a shotgun, and how to become skilled marksmen. This club meets at the Palmetto Shooting Complex in Edgefield County. Christian Heritage 4-H Shooting Sports Club is led by Dana and Laura Linn. This club teaches members beginner firearm safety and beginner shooting techniques. This club meets at the Christian Heritage Church in Graniteville, SC and holds shooting practice at The Palmetto Shooting Complex in Edgefield County. Palmetto All Stock Club is led by Brittany Peacock and Julia Cox. This club will teach participants 5 and older proper livestock care and handling techniques Aiken County General 4-H Club is led by Julia Cox. This club exposes members to all 6 areas that are available within 4-H. This club meets monthly at the Aiken County Clemson Extension Office.



◀ Many families who have attended the Aiken County Public Schools ESLP program at the Freedman Parenting Center put to use their basic learning skills of good nutrition through EFNEP. We served a total of 53 program families. The number of new families increased 23% with a total of 199 people in the program, 80% showed improvement in food safety practices, 89% in food resource management and 98% in nutrition practices.

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