



## 2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: ANDERSON COUNTY

### Local Soybean Producers Benefit from Agronomy Agent Chris Talley's Expertise

Anderson County has about 4,000 acres planted in soybeans each year averaging around 20 bushels per acre. That comes to about 80,000 or more bushels of soybeans per year equaling \$775,000 - \$800,000 per year. Regardless of the size of farmer it is critical to work with all the same as they all have a lot of money invested in the crop and look to be profitable with every acre of soybean planted. In order to assist these producers in growing a profitable crop I offer my assistance to them in the form of educational programs as well as many farm visits throughout the year. During these programs and visits, many different production practices are looked at as well as trying to spot and prevent potential problems with the crops. Much pest scouting is done with producers throughout the year where we can identify and monitor weed, insect, or disease issues. Early detection can save the producer by increasing yield and quality. In addition, scouting can allow us to detect pests and make the decision of rather or not to spray or not. In 2017 area field day, regional producer meetings, and many field visits were made to assist our local soybean farmers.



▲ Area Agent Chris Talley, working with soybean producers during a soybean scouting field day on how to properly scout soybeans.



▲ The National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest was held November 13-15, 2017 at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky

### Anderson County 4-H Travel to NAILE

The National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest was held November 13-15, 2017 at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky. Four Anderson County 4-H members participated in the contest. 4-H Volunteer and Ag Teacher Mr. Glenn Stevens accompanied the team to Louisville. The 4-H members had to evaluate livestock animals including beef cattle, swine, and lambs. The teams had to judge 11 different classes of animals throughout the day including, Market Lambs, Southdown Ewes, Dorper Ewes, Berkshire Market Hogs, Commercial Market Hogs, Duroc Gilts, Charolais Heifers, Simmental Heifers, Corriedale Ewes, Market Steers and Red Angus Heifers. The team members had to give 4 sets of reasons to the official judge as to why they placed the animals in the order that they did as well as 3 sets of questions on the classes. The Anderson County 4-H National team consisted of Connor Durham, Joshua Bobo, Jill Shoolbred and Madiagon Greer. The team placed the classes extremely well. I look forward to these youth coming back to help coach younger teams in the future.



**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



**LIVESTOCK**  
& FORAGES  
316



**HORTICULTURE**  
1,858



**4-H**  
4,278

**NUMBER OF**  
PROGRAMS



**WATER**  
RESOURCES  
1,174



**181**  
AGRIBUSINESS



▲ Agent Mark Arena and the SC Christmas Tree Growers Association at their annual educational field day held every June.

### Fresh Grown Christmas Tree Farms

Anderson County Horticulture Agent Mark Arena has been providing site visits and educational programs to South Carolina Christmas Tree growers for the past three years. Arena states “with an increase in buying local and other market trends Christmas tree sales are growing each year.” Last year all the true grow and cut your own tree farms sold out of freshly grown trees.

Also, three new Christmas tree farms business have sprouted in the Upstate. Arena’s goals are to provide growers with the most current cultural practices, newest varieties and market trends. These three ingredients are reasonable for potential improvements in both production and profit margins according to Arena.

Each year Arena and the Public Service and Agricultural Communications Department team up to produce a video segment on the Christmas tree varieties and their proper care over the holiday season.



◀ The Anderson County Livestock Show continues to grow. Youths from South Carolina and Georgia participated in this three-day event, exhibiting five species of livestock, and other farm animals. Youth learn leadership, citizenship and responsibility and animal husbandry skills through showing livestock. Supporter, sponsorships and donations from local businesses, producers, and Anderson County Council make the event possible. We are grateful to all our sponsors and volunteers.

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