

2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: DARLINGTON COUNTY

Empowering Women in Agriculture

The sixth South Carolina Annie's Project was held in April 2017 in Clemson, SC. It proved to be another powerful and outstanding program for 24 diverse women in agriculture. The participants came from all over the state to learn more about business practices, risk management, and agricultural opportunities that are available. Topics included business and marketing plans, estate planning, and policy decisions. Annie's Project is an educational program dedicated to strengthening women's roles in modern farm practices, and, currently, classes are being taught in 33 states around the country. Annie's Project fosters decision-making skills, problem solving, and record keeping. Some comments from our participants: "Annie's Project has given me tools to begin my farm and be successful." "It was a life changing experience." "Annie's Project gave me a whole new outlook on the business of Agriculture." "I have made lifelong friends through Annie's Project." To learn more about SC Annie's Project, call or email Jennifer Boyles, State Coordinator at 843-616-0786 or jbyls@clemson.edu



▲ Students in the 2017-18 Junior Leadership program practice group dynamics to build a tower.



▲ Clemson President Clements stopping by to greet Annie's Project participants. (Class of 2017)

4-H and Schools Partner

Darlington County Schools and 4-H have partnered during the 2017-18 school year to bring a Junior Leadership program to high schools and 4-H school enrichment to elementary schools. Fifteen students from Mayo, Hartsville, and Darlington High Schools have been selected and enrolled in 4-H Junior Leadership. In six sessions, students will have had the opportunity to observe and participate in exercises that will increase awareness of traditional and non-traditional educational, career, and service opportunities. Carolina Elementary School Guidance Counselor, Christina Ewing, said, "We are making a concerted effort to have our 5th grade students confident and ready for a great middle school experience next year and after. We joined forces with 4-H to offer our students additional opportunities to practice problem-solving, group dynamics, and team-building skills." In addition to team-building, 1st through 5th grade students at Thornwell Elementary have been participating in 4-H science and agriculture in-school enrichment lessons, hatching ducks in the classroom, and playing games that teach the interconnectedness of resources, habitat, and species survival.

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**



▲ Dr. Mike Marshall, Extension Weed Specialist, describes dicamba herbicide over-application injury on soybean at the 2017 Weed Science Field Day at Clemson University's Edisto Research and Education Center.

Farmers Use New Herbicides Safely

New versions of the auxin-based herbicides dicamba and 2,4-D contain drift and volatilization reduction technology to avoid damage to non-target crops. Some states required training in 2017 (optional in South Carolina) to help producers follow the strict labeling. In March 2017, the Dicamba/2,4-D Herbicide Technologies Symposium at Pee Dee Research and Education Center included presentations by Dr. Mike Marshall, Extension Weed Specialist, and BASF (Engenia dicamba), Dow AgroSciences (Enlist 2,4-D) and Monsanto (Xtend dicamba).

Afterwards, Extension agent Trish DeHond discussed the new seed technology and herbicide options with local cotton/soybean producers. Those properly using the new system managed hard-to-control broadleaf weeds successfully. In S.C., no auxin-based herbicide injury was officially reported in 2017. However, dicamba herbicides approved for over-the-top application in soybeans and cotton are now Restricted Use Products (RUPs) due to crop damage in other states. Dicamba users must have a Private Pesticide Applicator license AND attend certification training. Clemson Extension and Department of Pesticide Regulation are coordinating the 2018 dicamba training series.



◀ In collaboration with Stay Tuff fencing company, the Livestock and Forages Team hosted a one-day fencing workshop in the Pee Dee Region with 26 participants learning the proper method to build a fence and the most economical fence type for their operation. Participants were able to gain or expand knowledge about the construction of a fence from beginning to end with the tools, equipment, and materials that are needed to properly construct a fence for livestock.

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