



2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: DORCHESTER COUNTY

Connecting 4-H to the Community

Youth can get involved in 4-H through community clubs, school programs, or as a family. In schools, 4-H staff provided programming to over 35 classrooms reaching over 1,400 local youth grades K-7th. For the majority of students, classroom programs are their first exposure to 4-H. Community Clubs led by adult volunteers are steadily increasing. 4-H saw the renewal and continuation of six existing clubs and the creation of five new clubs. Youth membership topped 170 this past year. Sr. and Jr. members won state contests, received regional recognition, and had the opportunity to represent S.C. at National 4-H events. 4-H programs offer opportunities in Poultry Showmanship, Egg Judging, Poultry Genetics, Technology in Action, Archery, and more. Programs and workshops are offered to clubs and schools, providing hands on activities and experiences. New programs are added as staff is trained and as youth and community members help identify areas of interest and express 4-H related goals. Connecting with the community takes many shapes, from classroom programs to community clubs, to festivals and fair events. 4-H is constantly striving to reach and engage youth throughout the community.



▲ Students discover STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) in school gardens.



▲ Cloverbuds take part in a non-competitive section of Poultry Showmanship at the 2017 Coastal Carolina Fair. Cloverbuds highlighted their showmanship skills with a pullet they hatched as a part of a 4-H embryology project.

School Gardening for SC Educators

School Gardening for SC Educators is a horticulture-based training program designed to help S.C. educators grow successful school gardens to address childhood obesity & improve academic outcomes. Developed by an interdisciplinary Extension team of Horticulture and 4-H agents, along with Master Gardener volunteers, the program is part of The College of Charleston's Food Systems Change initiative. This multi-agency partnership is funded by Boeing SC. Training is received through a 5-week online course & follow-up hands-on workshop. Participants receive THE GARDEN STEM Curriculum for Your Garden Classroom (K-8). Technical support is provided through turn-key garden kits and timed delivery of transplants & seeds based on the Seasonal Planting Guide and Calendar for School Gardens. Since 2013, over 400 teachers have received online and in person training. More than 142 school gardens have been installed statewide, 22 of these gardens are in Dorchester County. When surveyed, 73% of educators report using their school garden to teach during the school day. 70% of the instruction is science-based. Over 51% of educators say they use the school garden for up to 2 hours per week.

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



▲ Attendees looking at twin row vs single row corn planting.

Agriculture Programing

Clemson Extension Service delivers production information to local agricultural producers throughout the year in several ways. These include; local and regional crop production programs, local Extension Agent farm visits, and email/direct mailings of Clemson Extension Newsletters. During the 2016 - 2017 fiscal year, Dorchester County agriculture producers were given the opportunity to attend an on farm Corn Field Day on August 30, 2016, in Reevesville, SC.

Topics of the indoor program focused on the use of precision agriculture in corn production, selection of corn varieties, insect management in field corn, and common fertility issues of corn.

For the outdoor portion of the program participants were able to walk out into the test plots where twin row vs single row planting and different seeding rates were being evaluated for any possible increases in yield and profit. There was also a local dryland variety trial that data was presented from. There were 48 participants at the program from three surrounding counties. Seventy five percent of the participants indicated that they gained information that they could use on their operations.



◀ Derrick Phinney discusses wetland delineation methods & permitting requirements with participants at a Master Pond Manager field day. The Master Pond Manager program, which was first launched in the Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester region in 2015, has had more than 150 participants take part in the online and field based instruction, with almost 50 individuals becoming certified as Master Pond Managers. More information on the program can be found at: Clemson.edu/watershed/mpm.

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