



2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: LAURENS COUNTY

4-H Members Take It to the Next Level

The North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) is the largest all-breed, purebred livestock event in the world, with 10 livestock divisions and nearly 30,000 entries from the 48 contiguous states. The exposition is held in Louisville, KY and lasts two weeks. Bradleann Willis, the daughter of Ellington and Brad Willis of Fountain Inn, and Drew Walker, the son of Mary and Tyler Walker of Laurens, both 9 years old, traveled to the show this past November with their families and goats to test their skills in showing and raising meat goats. Using the skills and knowledge they learned by being a member of Laurens County 4-H, Bradleann and Drew received international awards. Drew was awarded 1st Place in his showmanship class and 1st Place over his showmanship division. Bradleann was awarded 3rd place in her showmanship class. Bradleann also placed in the top 5 of all of her doe classes. She was also awarded 1st Place in Doe Class 4 with her goat, Cowgirl. Laurens County 4-H is very proud of their incredible accomplishments on an international stage and is looking forward to seeing what more will come from these two talented young people.



▲ Bradleann Willis and Drew Walker display two of the many international awards they received during the North American International Livestock Exposition.



▲ Hardwood timber stands similar to this may be adversely affected by the invasive emerald ash borer beetle, according to David Jenkins of the SC Forestry Commission. The beetle was first detected in the State last August.

Laurens Forest Landowner Programs

The Laurens County Forest Landowners Association provided a full year of educational programs. The topics covered a wide variety of forestry and natural resource issues. Chip Cooper of Destination Powersports provided information on how an ATV can help a landowner achieve management and maintenance objectives on timber properties. His staff also demonstrated some of the vehicles for the group. David Jenkins the Forest Health Program Coordinator for The SC Forestry Commission discussed the pine bark beetle situation and outlook. He also covered the invasive emerald ash borer, including possibly instituting a quarantine in SC. Many landowners feel they need some advice in managing their timberland. They know there are foresters available but do not know what they can do to help. Tom Mason with Piedmont Forestry Consultants, Inc. discussed the reasons to use a forester to manage timberland holdings. Holly Welch, the Piedmont BMP Forester for the SC Forestry Commission, presented an update on the State's Best Management Practices for Forestry. Holly spoke about the changes to the program and the success of this voluntary program in protecting water quality throughout the State.

SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION *AT A GLANCE*



AGENTS
133



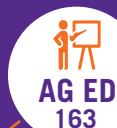
PROGRAMS
11,158



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. Julie Helm with Clemson's Livestock Poultry health division teaching growers about Biosecurity and Avian Influenza issues with poultry. This class is one of many CAMM recertification classes offered each year.

Confined Livestock Education

SC confined animal facility operators are required to complete training provided through the Confined Animal Manure Manager Program. The Program includes an initial, full-day training and continuing education, which requires growers to obtain 10 hours of recertification credit every 5 years. This recertification program helps keep growers informed on manure management strategies, new technologies, and changes or updates in regulations. On March 30 Dr. John Chastain with Clemson University presented "Land Application Planning: Apply Sound Nutrient Management Principles to Optimize Use of Available Land" to Laurens County growers. This training provided information to help growers efficiently utilize their manure production on cropland and pastures.

On May 31 Dr. Julie Helm with Clemson's Livestock Poultry Health division presented "Update on High-Path Avian Influenza and Biosecurity Audits." Dr. Helm discussed the ramifications of Avian Influenza, the possibilities of occurrence in SC, and the measures that would be taken if it is discovered in the State. These trainings help our growers protect the environment while efficiently utilizing available land and resources.



◀ The Laurens County Extension Advisory Committee hosts the Spotlight on Agriculture awards banquet each year. The event is held to honor the accomplishments of local farmers and farm families and related local community accomplishments. This event is funded completely by sponsors and ticket sales. Over 300 Laurens County residents attend each year, enjoying a congenial, family-friendly atmosphere. This year's keynote speaker will be Mr. Harry Ott, President of the SC Farm Bureau Federation.

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