



2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: OCONEE COUNTY

Managing Cattle During Drought

During the summer and early fall of 2016 cattle producers in Oconee experienced severe drought. Many producers had already fed hay that was produced in the spring to make it through the summer and fall. Producers were faced with little or no forage remaining. Producers were faced with purchasing hay and feed to supplement cattle through the winter. Clemson Extension developed a program to assist producers with the decision-making process. Topics included Protecting Existing Forage Stands, Body Conditioning Scores, culling decisions, determining the value/cost of feeding and preparing to capitalize on moisture when applicable. Additionally, feed samples were used to illustrate the importance of feed sampling on the farm to determine if the feeds were adequate, or would require additional supplementation. Twenty-two cattlemen participated in the program; 50 percent indicated that the program did help in decision making, and that they plan to implement practices discussed. Eight individuals participated in the program, submitted 15 feed and forage samples for analysis and requested assistance in determining feeding and supplementation recommendations.



▲ County Extension Agent, Morris Warner, assists cattle producers to collect forage samples for analysis. Feed analysis helps producers better manage feed resources.



▲ Field lecture discussing importance of managing your forest land

Upstate Forest Landowners Sought

Over the past decade the forest industry has undergone huge changes. The timber market plunged with the recession and the timber industry ground to a halt. Large parcels of timber were broken up and sold from private industries to the public. Other large tracts of land were divided up as inheritors received their rightful shares. This left a disinterest in all things related to forestry. Once the economy started growing again, it was time to engage and educate landowners about managing their forests. In an attempt to attract new forest landowners to local forestry associations, Clemson Extension, along with the Forestry Association of SC and SC Tree Farm program, held a one-day intensive workshop called Managing Your Upstate Forest at the University Center in Greenville. Topics included Forest Economics, Prescribed Fire Liability, Wildlife Management, Forestry Taxation, Forest Health, Invasive Species, and GIS and GPS Technologies. Special guest speaker Dr. Walt Mcphail kicked off the program. Twenty-eight people attended the meeting. Of the attendees, 95% said they gained new knowledge and planned to use it on their land, positively impacting 19,735 acres in the Upstate region.

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



▲ 4-H Jr. Naturalists learn how to hold and tag monarch butterflies. Tagging monarchs helps researchers better understand their migration through the Upstate of South Carolina, which is one their major migration corridors.

4-H Launches Jr. Naturalist Program

Oconee County 4-H is creating a new generation of young environmental stewards to become advocates for nature and the outdoors. 4-H in partnership with South Cove County Park is a pilot program for the new South Carolina 4-H Jr. Naturalist Program. The Jr. Naturalist Program provides youth the opportunity to experience nature and the outdoors first hand, and in-return a new younger generation of citizen scientists and environmental stewards are created. Thirty youth, ages 9-13 are currently making their way through the program, which is modeled after the SC Master Naturalist Program. Out of the 30 participants in the program, 80% of them are new to 4-H.

These 4-H members are learning everything from the ground up, starting with soils and geology, and then eventually making the connection between water, plants, insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals. They are also learning about the negative impacts that humans can have on the environment, and actively participating in service projects that benefit nature. After they graduate the program, they will become SC 4-H Jr. Naturalists, and have the opportunity to participate in advanced training and form a Jr. Naturalist Club.



◀ Eight local apple growers & Extension Agent, Kerrie Roach have been increasing marketing efforts and promoting local apples in the Upstate of SC. At the Foothills Heritage Fair 350 visitors tasted 5 varieties of local apples, choosing a favorite based on taste, texture and appearance. Results will be used to influence grower replant strategies. She also worked with growers to increase apple entries in the SC State Fair. Oconee County growers won 19 premium ribbons, including a 'Best of Show'.

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