



2017 REPORT TO THE PEOPLE: SUMTER COUNTY

Master Pond Managers in Sumter

On the first two days of November, pond owners and professional pond managers traveled to Sumter from North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and all over South Carolina. They were here to take part in two days of learning about recreational and stormwater ponds as part of the Fall 2017 Master Pond Manager course, hosted this year by Water Resources Agent Katie Altman. Clemson faculty and staff led the Master Pond Manager class on educational tours and activities at Poinsett State Park and Palmetto Park. Participants learned about aquatic weeds, dam maintenance, fish stocking, water quality, stormwater best management practices, and more. They even helped install a planted shoreline at Palmetto Park to help reduce erosion and filter stormwater runoff. Clemson's Master Pond Manager course helps pond managers learn how to keep their ponds healthy for stormwater treatment, fishing, swimming, irrigation, or a host of other uses. To obtain a Master Pond Manager certification, participants complete six weeks of online lessons, two field days, and a final exam. You can learn more about Master Pond Manager at <http://www.clemson.edu/public/water/watershed/training/mpm/>



▲ The Sumter Master Gardeners work diligently to maintain gardens at Swan Lake Iris Gardens



▲ Participants in the Master Pond Manager course used a seine net to assess the fish population in a recreational pond

Sumter Master Gardeners

Having a new crop of master gardeners join each year keeps the Sumter County Master Gardener Association strong and vital. With their joint enthusiasm and a strong sense of camaraderie the new group of eleven students faithfully attended the Sumter Master Gardener Association meetings and jumped right into helping with the Association's major projects at Swan Lake. The Sumter County Master Gardeners established, landscaped and maintain the chocolate, sensory, and butterfly gardens at Swan Lake Iris Gardens with generous support from the Garden staff and the Friends of Swan Lake. Always eager to be part of the Sumter community, Master Gardeners designed and staffed the educational booth at the Sumter County Fair, sold irises at Swan Lake Iris Festival, landscaped houses for Habitat for Humanity, rang bells for the Salvation Army, and grew and donated vegetables for the soup kitchen. Master Gardeners give educational advice to gardeners through their volunteer time spent in the Clemson Extension office and in their interactions with friends, neighbors and civic associations across the community. They also answer the phones at the Making It Grow television show, broadcast from studios in downtown Sumter.

SC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
AT A GLANCE



AGENTS
133



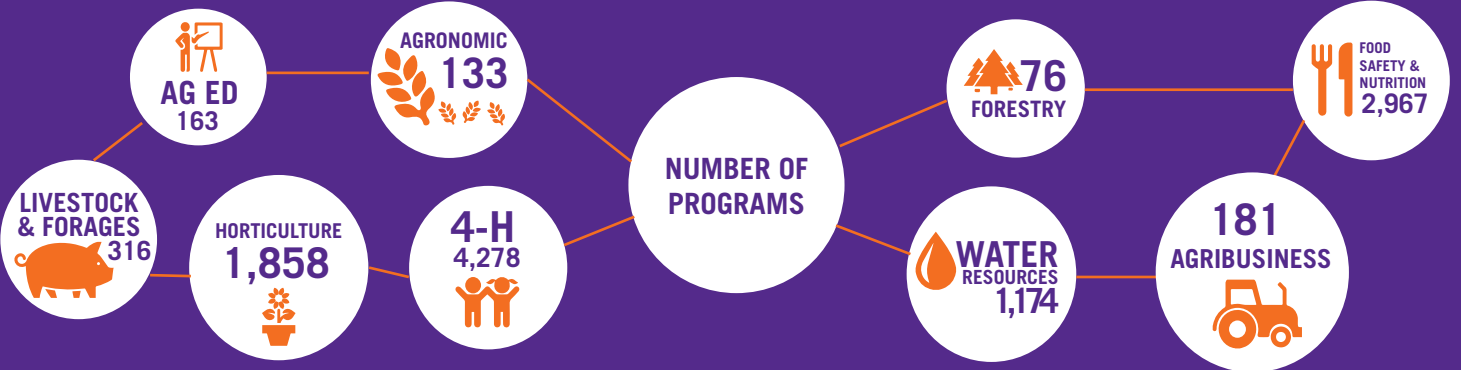
PROGRAMS
11,158



CONTACTS
242,239



**YOUTH & FAMILIES
REACHED**
104,156



▲ Youth are engaged in launching paper rockets to see who how far and high the rockets will launch

Innovative 4H programs in Sumter

Sumter County 4-H Agent, Terri Sumpter worked closely with Mayewood Middle School Principal, Anita Hunter, and teachers, Emmitt Vogt and Keonia Davis, to deliver the 4-H Healthy Lifestyle Program, Junior Master Gardeners Program and the 4-H Stem Program to 6th, 7th and 8th grades science classes, reaching approximately 150 students.

The goal of the Healthy Lifestyle Program is to engage youth in activities that encourage healthy eating and active play by increasing knowledge in basic nutrition, MyPlate, and the importance of physical activity. The program teaches them how to recognize healthy and unhealthy foods and drinks.

The 4-H Junior Master Gardener Program is an innovative 4-H gardening program that engages youth, families, schools and communities through gardening. The gardening program incorporates hands-on activities in nutrition, garden science, and food preparation.



The 4-H STEM program incorporates the use of cutting edge teaching tools to introduce youth to snap circuits, rocketry, water quality, science, technology, agriculture and gardening. With programs like these, 4-H is perfectly poised to fill the constant need for a prepared workforce in our society.

▲ The Sumter County 4-H Junior Master Gardener Club plants greens at the community garden

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