

# Annual Report to the People

December 2012  
McCormick County



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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is to provide sound, scientifically based information to South Carolinians and help them use that information to improve the quality of their lives.

## McCormick Youth Explore Their Watershed

Fifteen youth learned about water quality during the 2012 McCormick 4-H2O Summer Camp hosted by the Plum Branch Yacht Club. Throughout this four-day camp, youth learned all about the importance of protecting their waterways through a variety of hands-on learning activities.

Hands-on learning activities included: collecting macro-invertebrates from a local stream, testing water quality from aboard a pontoon boat, touring the Strom Thurmond Dam Facility, fishing and kayaking. The campers also learned all about boater's safety from DNR. At the end of the week the campers' knowledge was put to a test during a game of 4-H2O Jeopardy. All of the youth enjoyed their week of water fun and said they cannot wait till next summer to return. The McCormick County 4-H2O camp is open to youth age 9-13 years old and runs for one week each summer at the Plum Branch Yacht Club.



*McCormick 4-H2O Participants*

## Campers Cook around the World

Students learned to cook across continents during both of this year's cooking camps. Two McCormick 4-H Cooking camps were held on June 5th and 6th at the County Administration Building.

The Bitty Bites camp for 5-8 year old chefs was held from 9am - 11am and featured recipes from Kenya, the Middle East, Argentina, Sweden and Zimbabwe. They made dishes such as Baba Ghanoush, Hummus, Chapati and cookies.

The Kids in the Kitchen camp for chefs age 9 and up was held from 1pm - 4pm and featured recipes from Kenya and Thailand. Dishes they prepared included Kuku Na Nazi, Kachumbari, Lettuce Wraps with Peanut Sauce, Khanon Kleeb Lamduan as well as several others. Kids in both camps learned to try new foods.

A big thank you goes to Mrs. Carol Mavity and her daughter Colleen for all their hard work with this year's camps.

# Feral Hog Management Workshop



*A packed house ready to learn about their feral hog problem.*

native plants and wildlife. Control of feral hogs can be time consuming, expensive and frustrating. This workshop was designed to provide landowners, land managers and natural resource professionals with information about the status and biology of feral hogs, as well as the most effective control techniques to reduce feral hog populations and associated problems. Regulations and human health and safety concerns associated with feral hogs were also discussed, and various trapping techniques demonstrated on-site by experts using a variety of traps.

Feral hogs are increasing in distribution and abundance across the Southeast. They can have significant impacts to ecosystems and cause damage to agricultural crops, newly regenerated forests, landscaped settings (e.g. golf courses, suburban communities), roads, wildlife food plots, yard and ornamental plantings, and other natural and managed resources. Additionally, feral hogs pose potential disease risks and can negatively impact

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## McCormick County Appreciation Banquet

The Clemson Extension Staff and Advisory Council came together to thank all of those who assisted the McCormick County office at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Appreciation Banquet. The Appreciation Banquet recognized those who have gone above and beyond their support of Clemson Extension and several awards were presented to thank them for their service.

Mr. Tom Dowtin was awarded the forest farmer of the year award. This award was presented by Mr. Byron Thompson on behalf of the McCormick Forestry Association.

County 4-H Agent, Jaime Pohlman, presented two awards for 4-H'er of the year and 4-H

Volunteer of the year. The 4-H'er of the Year was Ms. Mo'Neque Luchey and Mr. Josh Sandt was awarded 4-H Volunteer of the Year.

County Forestry Agent, Tom Brant presented the Friend of Extension Award to the McCormick Messenger.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr. Kirk Smith and Mr. David Twiggs with the Little River Blueway, a local non-profit that promotes local outdoor recreation.

A BBQ meal was catered for the event by BK BBQ and Seafood from McCormick. Mark Young, Extension Advisory Council Chairman, served as our master of ceremonies for this year's program.

## 4-H'ers learn about life on the dairy farm

McCormick County 4-H'ers and their families had the opportunity to tour the Hickory Hill Dairy Farm as part of their fall fun days. During the tour the youth were able to learn about where their milk and other dairy favorites come from.

The kids had an opportunity to pet the young calves and tour the milking parlor. The youth also learned about the different foods that the cows eat and learned how the foods can impact milk production. The kids were also able to sample the milk produced by the dairy.

Also as part of the fall fun days, the youth were able to navigate their way through a sorghum maze and take a hay ride around the farm.



McCormick County 4-H'ers posing for a picture after finding their way through the sorghum maze.

# Home Food Preservation Classes

Increasing numbers of families see the financial appeal for making the fresh fruits and vegetables from their own property last through the winter. Rhonda Matthews, Regional Food Safety and Nutrition Agent conducted home food preservation programs in McCormick County during 2011-2012. Participants in the programs learned the science of how raw food and temperature act together to create safe, low cost, shelf stable food for their family. Enrollees took part in hands-on, in-the-kitchen canning activities to reinforce the scientific principles taught during class. Each class is limited in size to allow for individualized attention, maximum learning potential, and allowing students effective access to canning equipment (only so many people can fit around one stove and still be actively involved.)

All foods canned during the program plus canning literature with recipes were taken home by participants. Classes were geared toward immediate and practical use for those growing their own food at home. The goal was for people to leave class immediately ready to go to their own kitchen capable of safely canning the fruits and vegetables they grow.

Food products canned during the classes included green beans, dill pickles and okra.



## McCormick County Forestry Association

Programming of interest to the forest landowners of McCormick County was provided through the McCormick County Forestry Association's quarterly meetings this year. A wide range of topics were covered during the meetings.

Mark Jones the 2009 State Tree Farmer of the Year started the programs off discussing the activities he does on his timber property and his overall management philosophy with the landowners.

Mark was followed by Laurie Reid, Forest Entomologist with the SC Forestry Commission. Laurie brought everyone up-to-date on the status of the southern pine bark beetle, the most damaging insect to our State's forests, as well as discussing some new pest that are just arriving in SC and some of those that are coming.

Next Area Forestry and Natural Recourse Agent Tom Brant provided an overview of thinning timberland properties. Discussing why thinning should be done, determining how to know when to thin, what to thin out of a timber stand, and how to go about getting the thinning done.

The Forestry Association joined with the McCormick County Cattlemen's Association during one quarterly meeting to hear from Wallace Wood with the Upper Savannah Land Trust on a topic of interest to both groups. Wallace discussed land conservation easements as a method for landowners to restrict the uses of their property in order to protect the conservation values of the land.



Forestry Association members learning more about their woodlands during a quarterly meeting.

## Food Safety Classes Conducted for Church Food Servers

Rhonda Matthews, Regional Food Safety and Nutrition Agent conducted a ServSafe program for several members of local churches. ServSafe is a program by the National Restaurant Association specifically designed for those who handle and serve large quantities of food on a regular basis.

Members from numerous McCormick churches received instruction on proper handwashing when working with food; proper food temperatures when preparing, cooking and serving food; principles of cross contamination; plus cleaning and sanitizing in the kitchen.

All those in the class received a ServSafe workbook plus a food thermometer.



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*The Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.*

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## South Carolina 4-H Forestry Clinic

McCormick County 4-H Agent Jaime Pohlman coordinated the 2012 South Carolina 4-H Forestry Clinic. The clinic was open to 10 youth age 14-18 from across the state. The clinic was held April 13-15<sup>th</sup> at Camp Long in Aiken, South Carolina.

During the clinic the youth received hands on training by Clemson Extension Forestry and Natural Resource team members in forestry skills. Skills taught include: topographic map reading, tree measurement, compass and pacing and tree identification.

After a day of training in all of these skills, the participants' knowledge was put to the test. The scores were compiled and the top 5 participants were chosen to compete at the National 4-H

Forestry invitational held at Jackson's Mill Lodge in Weston, West Virginia.

There were two youth with McCormick ties who participated, Colton Kirkland and Madeline McComb. Colton is a Parksville resident and Madeline's father owns property in Troy and is a member of the McCormick Forestry Association.



2012 SC 4-H Forestry  
Clinic Participants