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Annual Report to the People - Chesterfield County

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Annual Report to the People

November 2012
Chesterfield 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.

Row Crop and Livestock Producers attend safe pesticide use training



Trish DeHond
Area Agronomy Agent
Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon and Marlboro County

Chesterfield County has approximately 85 private pesticide applicator license holders. The private license allows them to purchase and use restricted use pesticides on their own farm or property. The end of the last five-year licensing block for private applicators was December 2009. At that time many license holders found that their license had expired because they had not earned the required five continuing certification hours (CCHs) and/or did not send in their renewal form and check on time to the Department of Pesticide Regulation at Clemson. The initial training and exam for private applicator license had not been held in Chesterfield County since 2008, when the previous pesticide training coordinator had retired.

According to the manager of a local agriculture chemical and supply dealership, there were many license holders in the county needing the CCHs for re-certification in 2014, and there was a demand for new licenses among those who had expired. Carolina-Eastern helped coordinate with Area Agronomy Agent, Trish DeHond, getting producers signed up for an initial private applicator licensing class in March 2012, with a total of 18 participants. Of these one received all five CCHs needed to renew his license, and 15 others passed the exam and earned a new license. The training was conducted at the Chesterfield Library by Dr. Bob Bellinger, Pesticide Safety Education Coordinator and Professor of Entomology at Clemson University. The agent continues to promote and publicize Extension educational programs in row crop and livestock production that offer CCH opportunities so that expired licenses do not become an issue in the future. She encourages private applicators to work on earning their re-certification hours throughout the five-year block rather than waiting until the last year. Pesticide licensing helps ensure that safe pesticide use practices and laws are followed.



Agricultural Service Laboratory and Plant Problem Clinic and HGIC

The Clemson University Agricultural Service Laboratory provides services for the citizens of South Carolina. The Agricultural Service Laboratory processed 57,724 soil samples, 5,084 plant tissue, 999 feed and forage, and 1866 waste samples in 2010.

The Home & Garden Information Center (HGIC) provides research-based information on landscaping, gardening, plant health, household pests, food safety & preservation, nutrition, physical activity, & health.

1-888-656-9988 (SC residents only, 9am - 1pm, Monday - Friday)

A Peach of a Crop



McLeod farms are devoted to producing quality peaches. In South Carolina this past summer, it was extremely hot. Therefore, we worked with them to use a product that acted kind of like a sunscreen to protect the fruit and keep the fruit quality so they could have a bigger market share and sell these peaches instead of culling them.

Kemp McLeod owner of McLeod Farms said, "Early in the season, we were experiencing scorch on the fruit. I read about a new product that might work as a sunscreen and I called Tony Melton and he told me about it. We tried it and to our surprise and delight, it really worked well for our peaches. For a year expecting to have nothing, we really turned out to have a good quality year. We really appreciate the help and it meant a lot to us because even with the weather, we were able to have high-quality fruit at the market this year. Thank you so much."

Chesterfield Forestry Association

Forestry landowners in Chesterfield come together once every three months to learn about several topics related to forestry and natural resources. Speakers have presented information on changes in the forest industry, proper ways to go about a timber sale, and managing food plots for wildlife. In addition to information gained at meetings, attendees have been added to the Extension mailing list and receive any natural resources information that comes through the office. If you are interested in the Chesterfield Forestry Association contact the Chesterfield County Extension Office.

Fall Schedule Begins At Cheraw Farmers Market

The Cheraw Farmers Market has begun their Fall Schedule hours. The schedule will be as follows:

-Tuesdays 2:00pm to 5:00pm
-Saturdays 8:00am to 2:00pm

Farmers report that they have collards, kale, sweet potatoes, turnip greens, onions, and mustard for sale at the market.

All local vegetable growers are invited to come to the market on these days and bring their produce for sale.

Everyone is urged to come and support your Farmers Market and local producers.

Chesterfield Community Garden

The Chesterfield Community Garden (CCG) was established to provide the Chesterfield community with access to a source of affordable healthy food. It is also the goal of this project to bring together members of the community from all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds in a healthy, family oriented environment, enhancing community pride, purpose, and values.

The location of the garden will be at the intersection of Hursey Drive and Campbell Road in downtown Chesterfield.

Chesterfield County has a new Nutrition Educator Assistant

Angela Lovelady joined the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in Chesterfield County as a Nutrition Educator Assistant in July 2012. Ms. Lovelady has begun delivering Food and Nutrition Programs to pregnant women and families of children who have limited resources. Families are learning to make good choices to improve the nutritional quality of the meals they serve. Lessons cover My Plate, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, food safety, food preparation skills, food storage, food budgeting and meal planning.



Chesterfield County 4-H Youth Win Awards in Eastern Carolina Fair 4-H Market Goat Project

Angel Purvis, Grace Purvis, Rebecca Watson and Thomas Watson 4-H'ers from Chesterfield County participated in the 4-H Market Goat Project. For their hard work and effort they received ribbons and cash awards for their labor.

They also learned the value of responsibility of raising an animal in this Project sponsored by the Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair. They received goats in June. The 4-H youth was responsible for raising their animal, keeping records on its growth, and learning to present themselves and show their animal in a show ring. The students concluded the project by showing the animals in the Eastern Carolina Fair held at the Florence Fairgrounds. The youth were judged based on their project poster, showmanship, appearance and weight gain of the animal. They were awarded ribbons and cash awards in these categories.

Rebecca Watson received a trophy for being the best showman in the 4-



H Goat Project and also was awarded third place overall in the Senior Division (Ages 14-19). Angel Purvis was awarded second place overall in the Junior Division. The 4-H members receive ribbons and also cash awards for their accomplishments.

This is one of the many projects available in 4-H. The goal is for youth to learn leadership, community service, and personal development. Congratulations to all of the youth for their hard work and dedication.



Participants from Chesterfield County.

From L-R: Angel Purvis, Victoria Purvis, Rebecca Watson and Thomas Watson

Picture 2 (Left): Holding Winning Ribbons and Showmanship Trophy is Rebecca Watson.

www.clemson.edu/chesterfield

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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4-H Programs Teach Leadership and Citizenship

In Chesterfield County, with a part time Agent we offer a variety of hands-on opportunities to help youth to learn by doing. Some of the projects and activities include Agriculture and Natural Resources, Leadership and Community Service, Safety, Public Speaking and Personal Development. Some of the specific activities are:

In-school 4-H clubs at McBee Elementary School with over 100 students participating on a monthly basis for 5th and 6th Grade. Chesterfield 4-H Horse Club which is Volunteer-led. The Club participates in community service by doing activities with the Children's Home in Chesterfield, Christmas Parade and helping with some activities at the Knox Moore

Arena. Youth have participated in trail rides and toured the Blizzard Branch Farm. School Enrichment programs have been conducted on personal development, presentation skills, and conflict resolution, goal-setting and science in the local schools. The Building Family Strengths programs have been conducted for churches and community groups. The 4-H Fire Safety Creative Writing and Poster Contest is conducted yearly with Elementary, Middle, and High Schools participating.