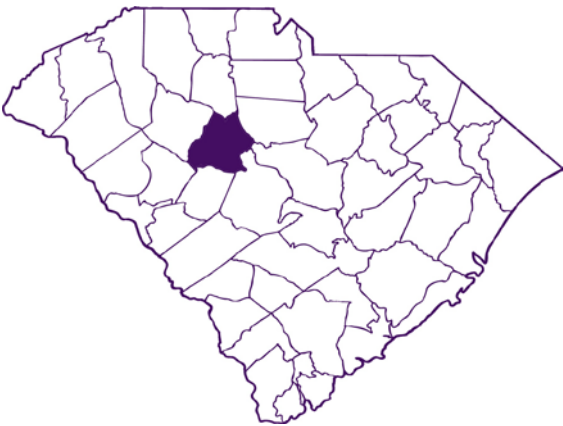


Annual Report to the People

November 2012
Newberry County



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Mission Statement

*"The mission of the
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."*

Agricultural Impact

Agricultural Service Laboratory and Plant Problem Clinic

The Clemson University Agricultural Service Laboratory provides services for the citizens of South Carolina in the following areas: soil analysis, animal waste analysis, forage analysis, plant tissue analysis, nematode screening, and irrigation water analysis. Sample numbers for Newberry County in 2011 totaled 1,248 soil samples, 59 animal waste samples, and 59 forage samples.

The Clemson University Plant Problem Clinic provides plant disease diagnosis, insect identification, and weed identification for clients as requested. Newberry County submitted 31 samples to the plant problem clinic in 2011.



Stink Bug

Forage Sorghum Acres Increase

The financial inputs required to produce a corn silage crop continue to increase, while milk income on-farm continues to decline. The need for a less input intensive forage crop to feed dairy cows has led to an increase in acres planted to forage sorghum. Forage sorghum seed costs are substantially lower than corn, the crop requires less nitrogen fertilizer, and typically shows more resistance to dry weather than corn. The need for variety information in regards to yield and quality resulted in forage sorghum being included in Clemson University's variety testing program. The forage sorghum OVT was planted in three locations around the state, with one being in Newberry County. Results from the first year were encouraging, however, further investigation in being planned as to adaptability of varieties to South Carolina and how to best feed the forage for milk production.



Individual Producer Visits

No two dairy farms in South Carolina are the same. Each farm has unique strengths and challenges as well. Individual farm visits and assistance is a vital part of Clemson Extensions dairy program.

Assistance was given in the areas of animal facilities, milk system checks, calf management, nutrition, and financial management. In addition to producer visits and assistance, assistance was given to lenders working with producers in a stressful and difficult time of high feed prices and low milk prices.

Bilingual Training

Labor management and worker training have been identified as areas of concern among many dairymen and represent an opportunity for improved performance, workforce stability and retention. Language barriers and inconsistent levels of experience make continuous training essentials; however communicating with Spanish speaking employees can be

a challenge for English speaking dairymen. With this in mind, Clemson Extension developed programs that would increase the efficiency of the dairy labor force through bilingual training in the areas of: Nutrition (bunker face management, mixing, monitoring changes in intake, etc.), Animal Health, Milking Practices, Calf Management and more... through producer meetings, individual farm visits and individualized training programs.

Mastitis Management Meetings

For most dairy producers, mastitis is the costliest animal disease on their farm. The cost is estimated to be at least \$185/cow annually in the U.S. If mastitis didn't exist, the lives of all dairy producers would be much easier (so would the lives of the cows). But since there is mastitis, producers must know how to manage it to remain profitable and stay in business. A series of informational mastitis management meetings were held to help familiarize producers with common causes, management strategies, and research in mastitis prevention. It has become increasingly important with the plans for lowering the legal Somatic Cell Count limit.

NEWBERRY COUNTY

2010 Census Number of Farms	614
Land in Farms, ac.	100,796
Average Farm Size, acres	164

Cash Receipts 2010	Dollars (000)	Rank
Crops	6,150	34
Livestock	86,827	5
Total	92,977	8

Livestock and Livestock Products	Number	Rank
Jan 1, 2012 All Cattle & Calves	23,000	3
2009 Milk Production, (000 Lbs)	71,380	1
Dec 1, 2011 All Hogs & Pigs	5,000	6
2009 Egg Production, (000)	230,000	1
2011 Broilers Produced (000)	8,100	9
2011 Turkeys Raised (000)	700	7

2011 Crops	Acres Harvested	Yield	Production	Rank
Corn for Grain, Bu.	*	*	*	*
Cotton, Lb. & Bales	*	*	*	*
Hay, All, Ton	10,200	2.2	22,300	5
Oats for Grain, Bu.	*	*	*	*
Peanuts, Lbs.	--	--	--	--
Sorghum, Bu.	*	*	*	*
Soybeans, Bu.	3,200	17.5	56,000	20
Tobacco, Lbs.	--	--	--	--
Winter Wheat, Bu.	4,800	49	235,000	13
Apples, Lbs.	--	--	--	--
Peaches, Tons	*	*	*	*

Other Dairy Related activities in Newberry

- ✚ June Dairy Month Celebration at the Newberry Tractor Supply
- ✚ June Dairy Month Poster Contest
- ✚ Newberry 4-H Dairy Club
- ✚ SC Annual Jersey Cattle Association Meeting
- ✚ Newberry Ag Expo Dairy Show
- ✚ Milk System Checks
- ✚ SC Dairy Project Heifers
- ✚ Cow Comfort Meeting
- ✚ Mastitis Meeting
- ✚ State 4-H and FFA Dairy Foods Contest
- ✚ Individual Farm Visits
- ✚ Nutrition Update Meeting
- ✚ Calf Care Meetings
- ✚ June Dairy Month Banquet
- ✚ Dairy Producer Newsletter
- ✚ Dairy Youth Newsletter



Newberry County Forestry Association

The Newberry County Forestry Association hosts an educational meeting once every quarter of the year. These meetings provide those who are interested in forestry and natural resource base topics a chance to interact with each other and professionals in the field. This past year we hosted two tours and two meetings. In our first tour we visited the Belfast House which is owned and managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Participants had the opportunity to learn about wildlife food plots, prescribe burning, herbicide treatments, and timber harvest on the tract of land. Our second tour visited the West Fraser Sawmill in Newberry. Participants toured the facility and learned about identifying quality logs, the process of cutting a board from a log, and finishing it for a final product.

Our educational meetings consisted of learning about timber tax from Dr. Tamara Cushing. This information was timely as we hosted this meeting in February before the tax deadline. Cam Crawford from the South Carolina Forestry Association then came to another meeting to update the group on current legislature and the events happening at the SC Forestry Association. Overall, the Newberry County Forestry Association had a good year averaging between 30-35 people in attendance for the meetings. We are currently in the process of planning our 2013 Forestry Focus Program for February which is our signature event. The Newberry Forestry Association is open to any individual who may be interested in learning about forestry or natural resource based issues.



Newberry Family & Community Leaders

The members of the Newberry Family and Community Leaders are involved in different clubs in the county.

Heirloom Needle Arts FCL Club
Helena FCL Club

Each club holds meetings throughout the year to present educational lessons. Their lessons include nutrition, safety, health, and environment. During the year the Newberry FCL lost their President, Lillian Leavell. Many thanks to her for all her dedicated service to the clubs of Newberry County. And thanks to Faye Halfacre for her continued leadership during the past year. Those interested in joining the FCL Club can contact Connie Lake at (864) 992-8862 for more information.

Newberry County 4-H: Positively Developing Youth

4-H is proud to offer youth, ages 5-19, hands on programming in the fields of agriculture and animals; healthy lifestyles; leadership and citizenship; personal development; natural resources; and science, engineering, and technology. During the 2011-12 program year, Newberry County 4-H provided programming through 12 different clubs covering topics such as dairy cows and the dairy industry, shooting sports, horses, cooking, gardening, nutrition, school enrichment, environmentalism, and much more. There were 225 active members led by 14 qualified adult volunteers. In addition to clubs, 4-H also provides programming through day camps. Throughout 2011-12, 6 day camps were offered. A total of 73 youth participated in hands-on learning experiences about water quality, safety, and conservation; manners and etiquette; hunter education; recycling; archery; robotics; GPS; and more. Volunteers gave more than 32 hours of service to these programs.

Special interest projects, such as raising and showing livestock, planting and harvesting gardens, maintaining and observing food plots, and hatching chickens are also great opportunities for local youth.

Pictured below are youth involved in 4-H activities.



www.clemson.edu/newberry

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Newberry County 4-H cont.

The 31 youth enrolled in these special interest projects are also required to complete project record books in order to help them keep records and learn responsibility. Six area schools also joined the fun by completing the embryology project: hatching chickens in incubators. Youth from all over the state come to the Newberry Ag Expo to show their prize animals in the livestock shows for a chance at a ribbon and prize money. The dairy show, beef show, and goat show provided this opportunity for 129 youth and their 237 animals.

The Clover Clips Newsletter and a mass email system keep stakeholders and others interested in 4-H aware of upcoming opportunities. The newsletter is distributed quarterly to over 250 addresses via email and postal service.

Newberry 4-H also gives back to the community through service projects by visiting nursing homes, adopting highways, hosting food drives, and more. Members enjoy making appearances in the local Christmas parades as well. Fundraisers that are held through the year help to offset the cost of providing these programs to local youth.

For more information Newberry County 4-H check out the website at www.clemson.edu/extension/county/newberry/programs/4h/index.html and keep up with events on Facebook with Newberry County 4-H.



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