

# Report to the People

Anson County Center

April, 2012

## Inside This Issue

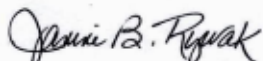
From the Director .....	1
4-H and Youth .....	2
Livestock .....	2
Horticulture .....	2
Community & Rural Development .....	3
Poultry .....	3
4-H Youth Promise .....	3
Staff Recognition .....	4
Other Stuff .....	4

## Contact Us

Anson County Cooperative Extension  
501 McLaurin Street  
P. O. Box 633  
Wadesboro, NC 28170  
Phone: 704-694-2915  
Fax: 704-694-2248  
<http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu>

If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter, contact me at the Extension Center or e-mail me at [janine\\_rywak@ncsu.edu](mailto:janine_rywak@ncsu.edu). For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact me no later than five business days before the event.

Sincerely,



Janine B. Rywak  
County Extension Director

Distributed in furtherance of the acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

## From the Director

Anson County Cooperative Extension conducts an agricultural tour each spring for Leadership Anson, the leadership class sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and South Piedmont Community College. We are in the process of planning the 2012 tour. Last fall, because of positive feedback from past programs, local elected officials requested a similar educational tour. To accommodate this interest, the Extension staff altered their traditional Report to the People dinner and presentations into a day-long report, combining the tour with Extension program stops along the way, and a lunch of locally grown and prepared foods.

Commissioners and county administrative staff learned about the latest technology being used on the farms, local foods projects, county agricultural statistics, and Cooperative Extension's outstanding programs. The tour was so successful, and ag numbers so insightful, that Anson's Agricultural Agents were asked to present their morning session to the Anson County Economic Development Corporation. Local business owners, bankers and community leaders were reminded of the monetary figures generated through agriculture, and the dollars that are circulated back into the economy through farming. As a result, they immediately asked for ways they could support the local agricultural community, have inquired for opportunities to participate in programs, and re-energized the new agri-civic center project, that has been placed in the county's long-range capital improvement plan.

The Extension staff recently finished up our annual reports from last year's accomplishments, and each year I am amazed by the amount of work that gets done, the impacts that are made, and the community involvement utilized. In this issue of our report newsletter, we have pulled some of the success stories from our 2011 accomplishment reports to share with you. As you will see, Extension programming efforts are a diverse mix, but targeted to the issues in the county, with the help of a network of volunteers and partnering organizations. We are pleased to share this report with you, and highlight some of the work that exemplifies Cooperative Extension programming.

### **Cooperative Extension's Mission –**

**North Carolina Cooperative Extension partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolinians.**

**NC** State University  
A&T State University  
**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**

*Empowering People • Providing Solutions*

### **4-H and Youth – Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent**

Many of Anson's 4-H teens have recently become involved in attending various leadership and citizenship led programs on the local and state levels. Leadership has been defined as a social and cultural term consisting of a process that results from the interaction among leaders, followers and the situation. 4-H events have allowed participating youth to become active leaders in the community and to develop more important leadership skills. One 4-H'er has grown in his leadership skills and has taken such a lead role in speaking about 4-H and recruiting new members, that he was asked to serve on the flag team for NC 4-H Citizenship Focus at the Legislative Breakfast. He was later selected as a Governor's Page during National 4-H Week. This 4-H'er is growing into a productive adult and says, "Without 4-H, the opportunities I have had to learn about government and increase my leadership knowledge would not have been possible. I am a much better, well-rounded person because of my experiences. I am grateful for 4-H."



*Anson County 4-H teen volunteers assist with teaching programs to youth ages 5-12 at the 4-H Holiday Craft Workshop last December.*



*Cow-calf operations are the main segment of the beef industry in Anson County. Brood cows have a calf each year that is raised and sold to the market to continue growing until a slaughter weight of around 1200 lbs. Here, young calves are seen on pasture, ready to be sold to the market.*

### **Livestock – Jessica Anderson, Agricultural Agent**

Part-time cow-calf beef operations are plentiful in Anson County. Most producers also have full-time employment away from the farm as well as tending to their herds. As a result, the size of their herd is smaller in quantity than others. Because of this, putting together truck loads of calves sold off the farm is difficult and not always cost effective. Together with the Stanly County Cooperative Extension Center and the Norwood Livestock Market, the Anson County Cooperative Extension Center has worked with 32 producers in Anson County to sell cattle at the value-added Beef Quality Assurance Sales. These special state-graded sales brought a premium of \$40/head more than the regular feeder calf sales, a total of \$76,706.

### **Horticulture – Aimee Rankin, Agricultural Agent**

Landscapers hired to beautify yards and maintain turf grass occasionally seek help from Anson Cooperative Extension to identify pests, diseases, or weeds that warrant control. Last fall, a landscaper submitted diseased turf samples to the Plant Disease and Insect clinic for diagnosis. Having battled this problem for three years, it worsened each year. When the lab reports came back inconclusive, the landscaper still needed answers. After discussing cultural practices performed over the course of the season; type and amount of fertilizer applied, rate and frequency of irrigation, and symptoms of the disease; the client learned that his practices were actually promoting the development and spread of brown patch on fescue, which peaks in June/July. The pathogen had long since gone dormant on his October sample, leading to inconclusive lab results. He realized he needed to keep better records of activities at each residence to properly recount information that would help diagnose problems, and said he would incorporate more record keeping in his business to help him remember beneficial practices or eliminate those that negatively impacted turf.



*This wildlife food plot affected by sclerotinia crown and root rot, a soil-borne fungus that causes sporadic dying of plants following cool wet weather, was also identified by Cooperative Extension, with recommendations to prevent recurrence.*

## Community & Rural Development – *Janine Rywak, County Extension Director*



*Doloris Evans and Ken Caulder judge the first annual Local Foods Bake-Off at the 2011 Anson Ag Expo & Fair, while fair goers inspect one of the educational exhibits in the background.*

In its seventh year, the Anson Ag Expo and Fair was an annual tradition of educating the public about the importance of agriculture and highlighting the role that it plays in our economy. In addition, the event has become a tourism draw, infusing additional dollars into the local economy. In 2011, the event was approached to serve as a new venue and host a lumberjack sports competition. Since Anson County currently ranks fourth in the state in income from timber sales, the opportunity was a natural fit. As a result, the entire week of agricultural celebration grew in participation and attendance. Final numbers included 189 at the Farm-City Week Banquet, 260 fair exhibits, 17 vendors, 87 youth in the livestock show from 11 different counties, 30 youth in the Kiddie Tractor Pull, 52 in the Ag Scavenger Hunt, and more than 1600 in attendance over the four days of activities. Finally, sponsors contributed over \$21,000 to fund the week of events, a 21% increase from last year.

### **Poultry – *Richard Goforth, Area Poultry Agent***

An Anson County local heritage turkey breeder was hatching only about 44% of the eggs he incubated for hatching, far below the average hatch rate. The NC Cooperative Extension area poultry agent worked with the grower to examine unhatched eggs, and review handling and incubation procedures to determine areas of concern. The agent recommended increasing vent openings in the setter, increasing humidity levels, and lowering temperature at transfer. After implementing several recommended changes, the hatchability improved to about 70% regularly. This improvement produced approximately 39 extra poults this season with a value of \$390, and next year during a full hatching season about twice that amount of additional income.



*To pinpoint issues with low hatch rates, one unhatched embryo was broken out and examined to determine when the embryos were being lost. Since embryos were dying late, the culprit turned out to be ventilation and high temperatures.*



*4-H Youth Promise partnered with the Blanket of Hope Program to create and decorate blankets in a community service project, to give to injured war vets. Blankets were presented to local veterans in our county.*

### **4-H Youth Promise – *Erin Dempsey, Program Director***

Adjudicated youth in the Anson County 4-H Youth Promise come with a variety of problems. Most issues prevalent are low self-esteem, poor grades and attendance in school, peer pressure and the lack of leadership skills. Structured After School and Community Service/Restitution Programs are designed to turn these negative behaviors around, and the results have been positive. For example, through participation in the program, one teen not only improved his grades and started attending class on a regular basis, but was selected as captain of the wrestling team. His coach attributes his turnaround to the positive impact that 4-H Youth Promise is playing in his life. He reports, "The child has completely changed and is making a great leader for the team."

### ***Special Staff Recognition –***

Ruth Ann Pope, Administrative Secretary in the Anson County Extension Center for the past 16 years, is retiring at the end of this fiscal year, June 30. We will greatly miss her ready smile, creativity, and keen eye in putting finishing touches on everything we do. We have her for another three months, so be sure to stop in sometime before she leaves. Ruth Ann has been a wonderful member of this team. We wish her many wonderful years of retirement!



### **Other Stuff –**

We had a mouse in the Extension Center last week. Kind of odd. We are used to running out an occasional rodent in the cold months. But this winter was so warm, we did not have a problem.

break room. You can only

imagine how exciting the morning was. And loud. But we got him, caught him alive with a shoebox. Never underestimate the power of determination.

In fact, there have been a lot of exciting things going on lately. The staff has been busy with all sorts of programs, plans for upcoming events and special activities. It seems like we do not wind down from one program before we are gearing up for another, all delivered by a very dedicated and talented group of professionals. Yes, this group of professionals is capable of just about anything. They keep it busy, fun, exciting and real. And they get things done. Just ask the mouse.



**North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
Anson County Center  
P.O. Box 633  
Wadesboro, NC 28170**

**Official Business**