

Report to the People

Anson County Center

October, 2012

Inside This Issue

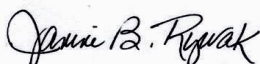
From the Director	1
Livestock	1
4-H & Youth	2
Horticulture	2
4-H Youth Promise	3
Area Poultry.....	3
Congratulations on Title Promotion	3
Community Rural Development	4

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. 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

What a year. The past nine months seem like a blur. Our staff has experienced a retirement, the office suffered a minor flood, we celebrated a staff member's title promotion, and the Anson County Commissioners bought an option on a land purchase for a new Agri-Civic Center. Talk about a lot going on. In the midst of all this change, we have also had some outstanding educational programs and worked on some exciting projects. The staff of the Anson County Cooperative Extension Center is pleased to share this update of programs and accomplishments with you. As you will see while reading through these program highlights, our staff is committed to serving the citizens of this county. We are fortunate to have an exemplary team of individuals, and daily, they meet the challenges of demanding schedules with professionalism and positive attitudes. It is my pleasure to work with such a dedicated team. They are some of Anson County's finest. Here are their stories.

Livestock – Jessica Anderson, Agricultural Agent

Farmers are continually asked to provide more finished product on the same amount of land, and at the same input costs. Anson County Cooperative Extension is proud to assist producers with research-based information to make important decisions on their operations.

Through the Anson County Cattlemen's Association, the work with the Beef Quality Assurance Program and the Stanly County Livestock Market, as well as Cooperative Extension, beef producers in the area are receiving accurate information on which to base their operational decisions to become the most efficient and profitable. The Anson County Cattlemen's Association is also proud to announce that it has

increased attendance from the past and is having a marketing focus for this year's speakers. In addition to these activities, there has been an increased focus on youth in agriculture, with the addition of a 4-H Livestock Club in the county with 20 members, as well as a Young Farmers & Ranchers Chapter associated with Farm Bureau. These two entities are striving to provide information to the young folks in Anson County about the importance of agriculture.



Anson County youth, part of the new 4-H Livestock Club, exhibit goats at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Days, August 17, 2012.

NC

State University
A&T State University

**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

Empowering People • Providing Solution

4-H & Youth – Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent

This year has been super busy with 4-H in Anson County, with school enrichment programs, program fundraising, and managing the day to day operations of the program. School Enrichment programs brought out 422 2nd and 3rd graders to Pee Dee National Wildlife

Refuge to learn about the environment and get some hands-on experience with species, plants and soils, while two yearly fundraisers generated \$13,000 funds for the upcoming year.

Anson County 4-H also had four seniors graduate from high school this year. Working with their 4-H Agent, all applied for college and scholarships, and were awarded funds to attend college this fall.

Summer Fun Adventure Camp ran June through August with five fun-filled themed weeks for youth ranging in the ages of 5-12 years.

In addition, 4-H youth and volunteers participated in district and statewide events including NC 4-H Citizenship Focus, District Activity Day, NC 4-H Electric Congress and NC 4-H Congress.

Volunteer Leaders attended state board meetings, taught and assisted with summer day camps, and have had various club community service events throughout the summer. With the new 4-H Livestock Club, there are now 5 clubs in the county. This fall, 4-H hosted the annual Youth Livestock Show during the Anson Ag Expo & Fair, and is currently holding a shoe drive to help with the clothing closet for underprivileged youth in Wadesboro. The office will also continue its community collaboration for Backpack Buddies in the schools.



Curtis Crump, Anson County 4-H'er (center), sits at the head table with Dr. Marshall Stewart, State 4-H Program Leader (left) and Dr. Joe Zublena, Associate Dean and Director, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service (right), for the Donor Luncheon at NC 4-H Congress this summer.

Horticulture – Aimee Rankin, Agricultural Agent

This year, the Anson Cooperative Extension Service conducted beekeeping programs at an assisted living facility, a beekeeper's home apiary, church, summer camp, and conducted two field tours. To date, we have reached 238 individuals through these programs. Extension will next partner with the Anson



Horticulture Agent Aimee Rankin teaches young people about beekeeping during an August workshop at Harmony Community Church in Peachland.

Beekeepers Association at Anson New Tech, offering guidance as students learn about sustainable small farming practices. Finally, there are plans to conduct a second beekeeping school this winter to compliment the student's learning as well as build hobby beekeeping interest from the general public. Commercial and hobby shiitake mushroom growers who attended the February 12 workshop are enjoying the fruits of their labor this fall. The palm-sized gourmet mushrooms are just emerging from their inoculated logs. In September, one commercial grower remarked, "we have picked about a pound of mushrooms in the last ten days. I then soaked logs 15 minutes to force more into action. They should become active in the next few days." The

abundant rains this summer have helped the shiitake spores spread throughout the treated logs, which are off to a good start.

In fact, some hobbyists are considering expanding to a commercial level next year. The schools have also expressed interest in shiitakes as part of their agricultural sustainability programming. Extension continues to follow up with workshop participants and interested individuals as they look to diversify or initiate new enterprises.



Todd Moore with Pee Dee EMC, came out this summer for programming to teach important safety lessons involving electricity and assisted the youth in making 'soda can' lamps.

4-H Youth Promise – Erin Dempsey, Program Director

In addition to two different components of youth development initiatives, 4-H Youth Promise also helps with various traditional 4-H programming. So there is never any telling what you may find the staff or participants doing. Youth enrolled in the program have been busy with after school schedules, completing community service hours, attending summer camps and enjoying various on-going outreach projects. Since January, youth have completed 460 community service hours. Numbers have increased this year, due to an increase in contracted youth, even though the program grant outlines a lower enrollment amount. Instead, staff have served 32 youth in the after school program and 24 youth in the community service/restitution program just since January. Even with the increase of participants, report numbers for 4-H Youth Promise are still well above required objective measurements set by the Division of Juvenile Justice.

Poultry – Richard Goforth, Area Poultry Agent

Cooperative Extension was recently contacted by Anson County Solid Waste wanting help educating poultry growers about composting mortalities to reduce the use of landfill space, save cost for growers, and create a useful recycled product. Solid waste had received a significant increase in poultry mortalities due to the extreme high temperatures in late June. The heat wave caused excessive mortality in near market age broilers and turkeys that overwhelmed some growers' normal disposal methods. Area poultry agent Richard Goforth worked with representatives from the NRCS, NCDA and two alternative composting systems (forced air & in-vessel) to offer a workshop to make growers aware of the regulations, methods, benefits and operational aspects of composting normal and mass mortality. According to post workshop evaluation survey results, 67% indicated they would consider making a mass mortality plan, and 100% indicated they would use or consider composting mass mortalities in the future.



Henry Moore shows a Biovator unit, one type of commercially available in-vessel composting system. These systems rotate the materials providing increased aeration which speeds up the composting process and eliminates the need for turning by hand or loader.

Congratulations to 4-H Agent, Roshunda Blount!



4-H Agent Roshunda Blount teaches a group of kindergartners during a special interest class at Lilesville Elementary School.

Anson County Cooperative Extension extends a salute to Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent, in recognition of her recent title promotion within the organization. Roshunda has served as the county's youth development agent for 9 years, raising a total of \$98,886 for traditional programs during that time. She also wrote a grant to house the Youth Promise Afterschool and Community Service program, that has received \$661,000 in funding since her tenure began. Roshunda's core programs include 5 nationally chartered community clubs, school enrichment programs that reach over 700 youth annually, 5 weeks of summer day camp, 21 registered volunteer leaders, and community projects including Backpack Buddies and Toys for Tots. We are all proud of Roshunda's work and her contribution to the total Cooperative Extension program in Anson County.

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

Many Cooperative Extension development programs are long-range in nature and will take some time to see true impacts. Over the past couple of years, program efforts have focused on the local foods movement, and the regional Farm Fresh Ventures agricultural cooperative. Changing strides as the project has materialized, hopes are now to have the cooperative in operation for next spring. This year, the county has made good on their interest to invest in capital projects, and an Anson County Agri-Civic Center became closer to a reality. The county has entered into an option to purchase 30 acres of land on US Hwy 74 East, with a deadline to break ground in five years. The Agri-Civic Center Steering Committee has pledged to assist with a local capital campaign to raise 25% of the cost, so much of the next few years will be spent fundraising. However, a few community projects do have current numbers that show success. The Anson County Voluntary and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts program has enrolled its 10,000th acre into the program. Current acreage stands at 10,018, representing 45 landowners and 125 tracts of land. And finally, this year's Anson Ag Expo & Fair was another hit. Over 1750 people came out for the week of activities that included the annual Farm-City Week Banquet. In total, 104 exhibitors entered 380 entries in the fair, 78 youth showed 110 animals in the livestock show, and another 103 youth and adults participated in special activities throughout the event. Special thanks go to our sponsors, who gave \$16,667 to put on this year's celebration of agriculture.



Anson County celebrated agriculture at the 2012 Farm-City Week Banquet held September 18, with 185 in attendance and catered by the Anson County Cattlemen's Association.



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

Official Business
