

# REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

NC Cooperative Extension—Anson County Center

September 2013

## From the Director

*Each year seems to bring different challenges as well as opportunities. Budget woes are challenges, but a talented and motivated staff is an opportunity. A vacant secretary position is a challenge, but a future new Anson Agri-Civic Center is a huge opportunity. And so goes the daily grind of Extension work. As we enter into another busy fall, we are again celebrating the importance of agriculture to Anson County, now ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in agricultural income in the state. We are fortunate that Anson County recognizes the importance of agriculture, and that our citizens appreciate our rural way of life.*

*Cooperative Extension has always worked to deliver quality educational programs that matter to this county. This summer, our staff discussed the relevance of our programs, and how we get bogged down in the numbers that we reach and the outcomes we have. Sometimes we work so hard to get the job done, that we forget to explain the “why” of what we do.*

*Extension’s goal is education, and our programs are developed in answer to a need in the community. The “why” is different in each program area, but it is always in response to an issue. From local foods to nutrition, and animal health to youth development, the Anson Cooperative Extension Staff is working with a variety of opportunities. In this Report to the People newsletter, overviews from staff members of their programs and people will give you a better idea. Take a moment and let us share our story of Extension in Anson. We are proud to serve the citizens of this county. Thank you for letting us do what we do.*

### Row Crops & Livestock—Jessica Anderson, Agricultural Agent

Farmers are continually looking to Cooperative Extension and NC State University for on-going research on crop production, variety selection, weed management and entomology. The Tri-County row crops team has partnered with NC State Crop Specialists to bring the best of NC to Anson, Stanly and Union Counties. Corn/Soybean Production Meetings were held in the spring with more than 250 people in attendance to hear crop specialists discuss their research on soybean varieties, weed control, and soil fertility. At the Corn and Soybean Meeting, 97% said they would recommend the training to others while 93% stated that the information was easy to understand. In May, a Small Grains Field Day was held in cooperation with NC State and the NC Small Grains Growers. Seventy-six people were in attendance to discuss wheat varieties and disease pressures. Future field days to discuss varieties and weed management will be held this fall, and are a testament to the dedication of research in the southern piedmont.



**The Southern Piedmont Small Grains Field Day was held in Union County on May 16, 2013 with 76 in attendance.**

## Inside This Issue

From the Director .....	1
Row Crops & Livestock .....	1
Horticulture & Forestry .....	2
4-H & Youth Development .....	2
Poultry .....	2
Job Promotion .....	3
Local Foods.....	3
4-H Youth Promise .....	3
Comm. Rural Dev./Fam. & Consumer Science .....	4

### Cooperative Extension’s Mission –

North Carolina Cooperative Extension is an educational partnership helping people put research-based knowledge to work for economic prosperity, environmental stewardship and an improved quality of life.

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



*Wasps can become a nuisance when enjoying outdoor activities. With help from Anson Cooperative Extension, Pauline Sellers learns how to make a simple yellow jacket trap using different baits that will make tending the yard safer.*

### **Horticulture & Forestry—Aimee Rankin, Agricultural Agent**

Anson Cooperative Extension has collaborated with local schools, agencies, and organizations on several horticulture projects this year: Partnership for Children community garden project, town beautification projects, land-use projects at Parks and Recreation, Farm Fresh Ventures (food hub) outreach, SPCC educational programs, Anson New Tech High School, programs for churches, assisted living facilities, schools, 4-H, and summer camps. We have also provided consumer horticulture and forestry assistance at the homeowner level to address gardening issues, beekeeping, structural insect pest management, pond problems, planting recommendations, and assistance with forestry management plans. This is accomplished through site visits, workshops, phone calls, email inquiries, office

visits, and educational programs. In the last 6 months, 1165 people have been served through horticulture and forestry program areas. Planning is already underway for next spring.

### **4-H & Youth—Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent Agent**

Summer programs are winding down but the 4-H office is busy preparing for the upcoming fall/winter programming and reporting season. Here is a brief recap of what is happening in Anson County 4-H and what is coming in the future. School enrichment programs were held for 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders this past school year involving 492 youth across the county. Volunteer leaders and youth worked hard to prepare for county and district presentation competition this summer. Four youth presented on the district level with one gold winner advancing on to state competition. Parents have also been busy and strengthened their knowledge by attending project record book training, participating in our county 4-H video, and making sure their youth were in attendance at various programs on the local and state levels. Anson 4-H was also busy with youth measuring, cutting and sewing garments for the local competition. This first ever series of workshops was a success with a 100% increase of participation for the local fashion revue. Our spring chicken plate fundraiser was also another success. We sold 589 plates and our goal was 550! Besides day camps, 4-H youth and volunteers participated in District Activity Day, NC 4-H Congress and 4-H Electric Congress. There is no slowing down in sight. Coming up is our youth livestock show, community and in-school club planning, volunteer trainings, and various project classes for enrolled youth.



*Pictured are 4-H'ers and volunteer leaders Hannah Dunlap and Betty Garris working on garments during sewing class.*

*Photo illustrates improper placement of a bait station. Rodents travel along walls and will bypass stations placed like this.*



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

Pests in poultry operations can have many detrimental effects. They destroy the insulation and cause structural damage to the houses and equipment, waste feed, cause poor growth, and spread diseases. Growers are

encouraged to use Integrated Pest Management Strategies to eliminate and reduce pest levels through best management practices to reduce the need and frequency of pesticide applications. NC Cooperative Extension worked with NCDA to provide training through a pesticide school to help three primary breeder employees learn how to identify poultry pests, utilize best management practices, and understand pesticide labels and safety standards to obtain pesticide applicator licenses. Having licensed, trained staff will allow the breeder operation to prevent and reduce associated pest losses and protect the environment and safety of other employees and growers.

## **Pam Layfield promoted to Administrative Assistant**

On staff for the past 6 years, Pam received the promotion this past spring after applying and interviewing for the job. Some of her responsibilities include: visitor and client reception, assist staff members, handle all financials for the office, and manage the county website, in addition to many other admin tasks.

Pam serves as one of the regional new hire contacts for the Electronic I-9 System through NC State University, which has brought in many faces from around the piedmont.

An active member of the NC Cooperative Extension Administrative Professionals Association, Pam serves as second vice president with the South Central District Association and scholarship committee.

She also serves on the Anson County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council as vice chair and monitoring committee, as well as the Advisory Board of the Anson County, State Employees Credit Union. Pam serves on the Anson County Early College School Improvement Team and is president of the parent council.

Pam is a resident of the county and married to Paul "Sandy" Layfield. They have two children, Madison, a senior at East Carolina University and Parker, a senior at Anson County Early College.

## **Local Foods—Dustin Adcock, Area Agent**



*Each Farm Fresh Ventures box is hand packed to ensure quality produce and consistency. Produce contents included corn, tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, peas, beans, okra, strawberries, peaches, melons, and much more.*

Since its start, Farm Fresh Ventures has had high expectations from all those involved. Although the cooperative missed its original subscription goal, the producers and agents quickly realized that the 129 members may be just enough for putting the model to test. The unseasonable weather pushed the limits of variety and consistency, but many participants have vocalized their

approval of each week's contents. Rounding out the year with well over \$27,000 paid out to producers, the agents and members feel as though it has been quite a success for its first year. This fall will allow for discussions about continuing the cooperative, adjusting pricing, efficiency of delivery, and sustainability of the business model. Overall, the Farm Fresh Ventures cooperative has been a learning process that allowed for the access of local, healthy food with a great economic stimulus to the local economy.

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

There's never a dull moment for participants or staff of 4-H Youth Promise due to two components of programming, and helping with various traditional 4-H programming. Youth have been busy with after school workshops and programs, carrying out community service hours, attending summer day camps and helping with other on-going service projects. This year, youth have completed 594 community service hours between various worksites. Staff have served 37 youth in the after school program and 35 youth in the community service/restitution program just since January. Even with the increase of participants from last year, report numbers for the program continue to be well above required objective measurements set by the Division of Juvenile Justice. With school starting back in August, after school begins full swing, working with youth four days a week, plus community service projects and opportunities.



*4-H Youth Promise Community Service/Restitution clients work hard to get 438 fair books ready to go out in the mail for the Extension Office.*

**CRD/FCS—Janine Rywak, County Extension Director**

Family & Consumer Sciences programs in 2013 included Eat Smart Move More Weigh Less, a 15-week program designed to encourage healthier lifestyles by eating mindfully and getting active. Participants lost an average of 11 pounds each, decreased their BMI 2.5 points, lost two inches off their waist and decreased their blood pressure by 18 points. Fall is another busy season for Cooperative Extension, with the annual Report to the People dinner report for the Anson County Commissioners, Farm-City Week Banquet and Anson Ag Expo & Fair all happening in September. Staff members have been busy preparing for all three, with the Ag Expo

& Fair growing over the years to an estimated 1750 in attendance. Local organizations support the event with over \$20,000 in sponsorship funds each year. The county's Voluntary and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts program will also hold its annual membership dinner in October, celebrating 10,840 acres in the program. In a new and exciting endeavor, Extension has organized a Resource Development Committee that will be working over the next several months to initiate a grassroots capital campaign with a goal to raise ¼ of the cost of the new Anson County Agri-Civic Center. Be on the lookout for more information as this project evolves.

## 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>

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.



*Save the Dates!*

*Friday–Saturday, September 27–28*

*Ag Fair, Expo, Youth Livestock Show,  
Lumberjack Demonstration at  
South Piedmont Community College*

*with....*

*Farm–City Week Banquet*

*Tuesday, September 24*

*Lockhart–Taylor Center at SPCC*

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

---

Official Business