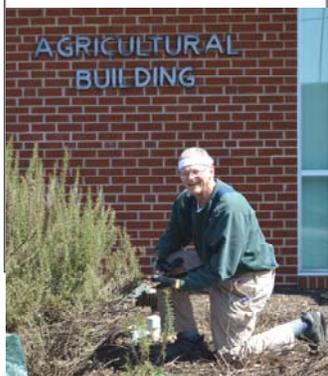


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SOLUTIONS

Newsletter of the Alamance County Cooperative Extension Service

Spotlight on Alamance County Cooperative Extension

Mark S. Danieleley, Interim Director

As we continue to celebrate Extension's Centennial, I thought this would be a good time to highlight some of the services offered by the staff of the Alamance County Cooperative Extension Center. Often as I talk to people about Cooperative Extension I find they are not aware of all we do.

Many people have heard of 4-H, but think of it as a program for just farm kids. Actually less than 20% of the children that participate in 4-H activities come from farm families. In fact you don't even need to be a 4-H club member to participate in the 30 different classes offered during the Summer Shine program. 4-H also has a presence in our local school system reaching over 1500 students through the embryology program.

Traditional agriculture is very important in Alamance County and we have it covered. Producers that grow field crops like tobacco, corn, soybeans and wheat know they can count on Extension for reliable information. Properly diagnosing insect and disease problems as well as providing up to date

production advice helps improve profitability. Livestock production used to be mainly cattle, but now we have increasing numbers of sheep, goats and backyard chickens. There are some folks interested in homesteading

and have a few animals of several different species. Every animal has different needs and Extension can provide the expertise to keep your animals healthy.

The horticulture program includes commercial folks like farmers that grow fruits and vegetables as well as landscapers, greenhouse and

nursery producers. The consumer horticulture area assists homeowners with their questions whether it is a home garden, a bare patch in the lawn or an unhappy tree. We can help identify insects, weeds and diseases and tell you if it is a real problem or something that will take care of itself. If you have a question about any of our program areas, please give us a call. Our mission at the Alamance County Cooperative Extension Center is to empower people and provide solutions.

Mark S. Danieleley



Calendar Updates

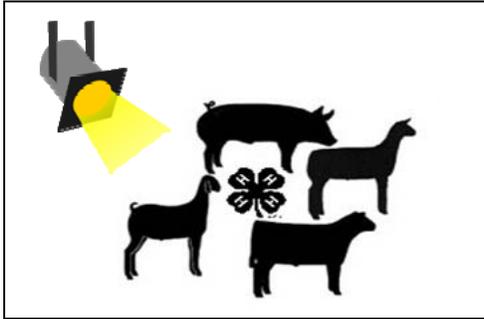
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|----------------|-------|---|
| Thurs., Jul 10 | 10:00 | THINK GREEN THURSDAY - Preserving Your Bounty |
| Thurs., Jul 24 | 10:00 | THINK GREEN THURSDAY - Fall Vegetable Gardening |
| Thurs., Aug 7 | 10:00 | THINK GREEN THURSDAY - African Violets |
| Thurs., Aug 21 | 10:00 | THINK GREEN THURSDAY - Fall Lawn Care |
| Thurs., Sep 11 | 10:00 | THINK GREEN THURSDAY - Shade Gardening |
| Thurs., Sep 25 | 10:00 | THINK GREEN THURSDAY - Planting Trees and Shrubs |
| Thurs., Oct 9 | 10:00 | THINK GREEN THURSDAY - Hydroponics |
| Thurs., Oct 23 | 10:00 | THINK GREEN THURSDAY - Plants with Fall/Winter Interest |

For more information and to register:
 Call 336.570.6740 or visit
[http://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu/](http://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu)



Spotlight on Youth Livestock

Lauren Langley, Livestock Agent



Did you know that we have youth in Alamance County who love learning about livestock? I mean *really* love learning about livestock. There are currently about a dozen youth ages ranging from 9-16 that meet at least once a month to practice their skills when it comes to livestock judging and skillathon. In addition to activities such as livestock judging and skillathon, we have youth participating in livestock projects and livestock shows throughout the year.



4-H Livestock Judging and Skillathon participants pose for a group photo during a practice.

Youth learn important life skills through the youth livestock program such as record keeping, leadership, responsibility, teamwork, public speaking, decision making, goal-setting, and more! It is more than just learning about livestock, it is about the friends you make and how this program helps these individuals grow.



Youth learning how to judge swine at a livestock judging clinic held in Raleigh, NC.

This program also encompasses the youth market turkey show project, summer youth farm tour, farm to table days, and many other activities. When you look at these youth, they are the future of agriculture. They are future farmers, business owners, legislators, veterinarians, and more. I enjoy working with them and helping them learn and be successful. Take time to help our youth and teach them what you know about agriculture when the moment is presented to you.◊



4-H'ers, Madison and Salem pictured here with their show market lambs.

Spotlight on Field Crops

by: Dwayne Dabbs, Field Crops Agent

If you go down just about any road in Alamance County you will undoubtedly see wheat fields turning a golden brown, and a combine running through combining wheat, oats, or barley. You will find tobacco fields that are rapidly growing, with tractors with cultivators plowing the rows for the weeds. You can see corn that is growing and green in the field, with a sprayer running through spraying for weeds. This is one of the most active times of the year for farmers. There is always something that needs to get done, and you have to get it done while dodging the afternoon showers. So with that being said, please be mindful of farm equipment and tractors going down the highway. This equipment moves a lot slower than your vehicle, and it may be wider than a single lane, so pay attention so you don't get hurt and the operator doesn't get hurt.

Since it is about time to start harvesting the small grain crops, remember not to harvest grain at too high moisture content, whether you plan to store it or haul it to a selling point. We try to cut small grains when the moisture is at thirteen to fourteen percent moisture, but weather doesn't always work with us and we have to cut it at higher moisture content. If this is the case, you need to have access to a drying system, to dry it down to moisture that will allow you to store it but that is another expense that you have in the crop. If you do plan to store wheat for about nine months after you harvest it, you need to make sure



that the moisture is around fourteen percent. If you plan to store it longer, the moisture needs to be around thirteen percent to make sure that it will not start to mold in the bin. Another thing to keep in mind when storing grain is to keep check on it for insects in the grain. If you start to see bugs in the bin, you need to get the proper fumigant to treat the grain and kill the bugs before they cause damage to the grain in the bin.

Corn is getting to the point that you will be spraying it for the last time unless you have a high sprayer with drop lines. There are a few options for spraying broadleaf weeds. Chemicals like 2,4-D and Dicamba can be used but be aware of other sensitive crops near the corn fields, such as tobacco and soybeans. Other options include Evik and Linex but with all these chemicals please note any restrictions for spraying before tasseling and label rates that you can spray for the year's duration.

In tobacco fields, hopefully you still have some residual control from the chemicals put down at planting, but if you have grass and weeds coming up at lay-by, you have a couple choices for control. Devrinol, and Prowl can be directed at the row middles but have to have rain or irrigation to activate it in the soil. Insects will make their way through the field as the year progresses. The key is to regularly scout your fields and know what is out there, so you spray only what needs to be sprayed and you save money. If you have questions or problems in the field, please feel free to call me at the office and we will try to get the problem figured out.

Spotlight on 4-H Volunteers

by: Erin Bain, 4-H Agent



Cooperative Extension's
Youth Development Program

In North Carolina, 4-H Agents are tasked with the very large job of helping our youth to develop leadership, citizenship, and life skills through a variety of programs. We love our work with youth, but even more important than direct contact with children is our work with our 4-H Volunteers. Without the invaluable assistance of our Alamance 4-H Volunteers, there is absolutely no way that I could do my job effectively and I am eternally grateful for them.

4-H Volunteers come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. Volunteers have the opportunity to choose to serve based on their interests and skills and help the youth in our community learn from a caring adult. They build a special relationship with youth, guiding project learning experiences and offering youth with opportunities to learn and serve their community. Volunteers also serve in a coaching and mentor role for youth, helping build confidence among youth and foster positive youth development. 4-H volunteers help youth achieve their personal goals and motivate them to continue participating in and learning from the various opportunities provided through the program.

The relationships built among adult volunteers and youth have lasting effects. As Retired General Colin Powell stated, "When adults take time to help young people through 4-H, they

exert an enormous, positive influence on the lives of youth." From 4-H experiences led by volunteers, youth gain important leadership, citizenship and life skills that can be applied to daily living, used in their community, in future jobs or when they continue their education. Although it may be years before a youth realizes and truly appreciates the influence of the 4-H volunteers that served as positive adult role models, one can be certain that volunteers are truly making a difference.

Here in Alamance we are lucky to have over 170 Volunteers who work with the 4-H Program in a variety of capacities. Our extremely dedicated group of 4-H Volunteers gives their time, knowledge, resources, and sometimes literal blood, sweat, and tears to help our 4-H Program succeed. Without their support, our 4-H Program would not be nearly as comprehensive or effective as it is and I could not be more grateful that I have the opportunity to work with each and every one of them!



Spotlight on Master Gardeners

by: Mark Danieleley, Horticulture Agent



The Alamance County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are a tremendous asset to the Alamance County Cooperative Extension office. These volunteers work in the office answering telephone calls on all kinds of gardening topics as well as assisting our walk in clients. People bring in plants, weeds and insects to be identified and occasionally a snake. I don't mind spiders too much, but I usually try to stay away from the plant lab on snake day.

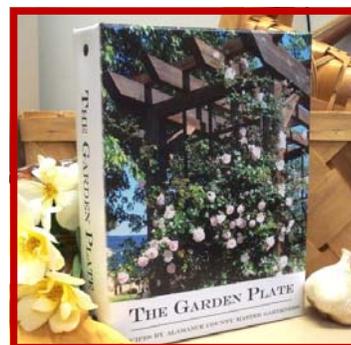
The Extension Master Gardener Volunteers also do a great job in maintaining the Arbor Gate Teaching Garden. The garden is used for many classes and demonstrations and would be impossible for Chris and me to maintain by ourselves. Planting new plants, pulling weeds, spreading mulch and pruning are just some of the chores the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers perform to keep the garden looking good.

Perhaps even more impressive than their efforts to maintain the garden is the fact that they also pay for it.

The Master Gardeners' Fall Plant Sale raises enough money to pay for most of the maintenance and improvements to the garden. Last year we added some very nice stone benches that are quite an improvement over the old cracked concrete benches.



For those of you who are interested in cooking or eating, the EMGV group has put together a cookbook that makes a great gift. I have tried many of the recipes and can give them my personal thumbs up.



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The contributions of the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers to our community extend beyond our office. They have set up information tables and conducted plant clinics at local garden stores, farmers markets and the annual Women's Resource Center Herb Festival. They have speakers who will present programs for local garden clubs, civic groups and the general public.

The Extension Master Gardener Volunteers efforts can be summed up in part by the following statistics. In 2013, they had almost 8,000 contacts with county citizens either in person or through phone and email questions. Their volunteer time of over 3,200 hours has a value of almost \$70,000. That is quite an impressive number and shows the dedication of an exceptional group of volunteers.



If you or someone you know is interested in joining our group, we are accepting applications for the Extension Master Gardener training class of 2015. The class will start in January and meets once a week for 14 weeks. Fifty hours of volunteer time over the next year is required to complete the training. Gardening experience is helpful, but not as important as the desire to volunteer for a great organization.

Release Your Inner Gardener!

To learn more about becoming an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, visit the links below

Or, e-mail:

Mark_Danieley@ncsu.edu

Christine.stecker@alamance-nc.com

Or Phone (336)570-6740

General information about NC EMGVs:

http://www.ncstategardening.org/extension_master_gardener/index.php

Quick Guide for Alamance Master Gardener Program:

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/EMGV-2015-INFO-BROCHURE.pdf>

Application: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Application.pdf>

