

Report to the People

Anson County Center

October, 2014

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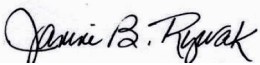
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Contact Us

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

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From the Director

This year North Carolina Cooperative Extension has celebrated a centennial of quality educational programs helping people in our local communities. While we started the year celebrating our past, we end 2014 looking to our future. In the coming months you will hear of the new strategic plan to be implemented in Cooperative Extension. While the total plan will take 22 months to become fully operational, some components will take place sooner than others. All offices across the state will be affected.

Over the last 6 years, NC Cooperative Extension has lost \$13M in state and federal funding that will not be coming back. These budget cuts have created challenges, but they also present opportunities. The organization has spent the last 10 months planning, working to position itself for long-term sustainability, and identifying ways to better ourselves for our clients.

Some things that you will hear going forward are the emphases on core programs, specifically in agriculture, 4-H and youth development, and foods. You will also hear of the new base staffing model. The new strategic plan outlines maintaining a presence in each of the 101 local centers, every county and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee. Some of the positives are that counties that are not at the base level of access to Extension through agents will see an increase in staff. Other segments of the strategic plan call for investing in more technology, maintaining personal service to clients, expanding marketing efforts, working through commodity and issues-based teams, emphasizing employee expertise and bolstering staff retention.

In Anson County, we are truly fortunate in that we have the wonderful support of our local county government partner. Because of the County of Anson, Extension programs here will be pretty much, business as usual. We have lost, like most other counties, our second secretarial position. However, since we have done without for so long, our staff is experienced in working through this challenge. We may need to implement a few operational changes going forward, but nothing drastic.

In all regards, we want to keep you, our clients, informed. This newsletter includes updates of county Extension programs and efforts of our local staff. Future newsletters will share highlights of how Anson Cooperative Extension is working towards aligning with the new strategic plan. Employees of our office have served Anson County for the past 100 years. We hope to work with you to continue that level of service for another century.



Livestock – Jessica Morgan, *Agricultural Agent*

A summer annual forage plot was planted on May 15th, at EBS Farms near Ansonville. The summer annual mixture was part of working with Dr. Matt Poore (Beef Specialist, NCSU) with varietal summer annuals. The mix was 35# cowpeas and 15# sorghum sudangrass to the acre, and was drilled using a Great Plains drill with 7.5'' row spacings, at a depth of 1''. A pasture of ~ 5 acres was utilized that had an existing stand of fescue that was grazed close before planting. The mix was drilled straight into an existing fescue stand to simulate a typical producer planting. Lack of moisture and precipitation led to a sparse stand, but was realistic considering the weather conditions. The Anson County Cattlemen's Association held their June meeting as a field day at the site that also included a pasture weed identification walk and fencing demonstration.



Field test plot this spring immediately after planting. Much thanks to Bruce Shankle as a cooperating producer. Most producers would not want to tear up a good producing perennial field to plant annuals.



4-H Volunteer Leader Pearl Blount, 4-H'er Maverick Sellers, and Golden Leaf Intern Aaliyah Escalera, who is also a 4-H alumnus, measure ingredients to make strawberry pops during summer day camp. Youth enjoyed five weeks of educational workshops, outings and activities.

4-H & Youth – Roshunda Terry, *4-H Agent*

Anson County 4-H had a busy summer with five weeks of summer day camp for 86 youth between the ages of 5 and 15. Fourteen adult and teen volunteers assisted with workshops and trips. Youth also were busy preparing and practicing for district and state presentation competitions, with four 4-H'ers competing. Two 4-H'ers participated in the first ever South Central District 4-H Science Fair. Teens attended NC 4-H Congress, 4-H Electric Congress and NC 4-H State Council Conference. Anson County was also represented at the Youth Summit during the NC Association of County Commissioners Conference by Anson County 4-H teen Chrishaun Jones. Gears have changed now that fall is here. Anson County 4-H is staying active with Livestock Shows, the Fall Paper Clover Campaign in partnership with Tractor Supply, workshops for youth and volunteers, National 4-H Week, and volunteers gearing up for their 4-H Conference of the Southern States in Eatonton, GA. County-wide community service projects are also underway including Backpack Buddies and the school supply drive donated to the Caraway Foundation.

Poultry – Richard Goforth, *Area Specialized Agent*

Eight waste management plans for new and expanding growers in Anson County have been developed so far in 2014. Producers were trained in proper record keeping, sampling and handling regulations to protect water quality and maintain compliance with the NC Division of Water Resources. Waste management plans are required by lending institutions before closing loans on poultry farms, to ensure producers have adequate land or a signed agreement with a crop farmer to utilize the waste their farms will generate. As a result of these efforts, an estimated 16,157 tons of litter these farms generate should be utilized to maximize crop production and preserve water quality for the citizens of North Carolina and protect the state's largest industry. Assistance was also provided to two farms in selecting sites and completing permit applications for composters to handle on farm mortalities.



Poultry is growing in Anson County, as evidenced by the new farms and poultry houses under construction.

Horticulture – Aimee Colf, *Agriculture Agent*

A pond weed ID and management workshop was held in August at Anson Cooperative Extension. The class featured a collection of pond weeds, available pesticide credits, and +120 page pond weed ID guide for participants. The class pretest revealed that only one participant was able to identify any pond weeds out of the 10

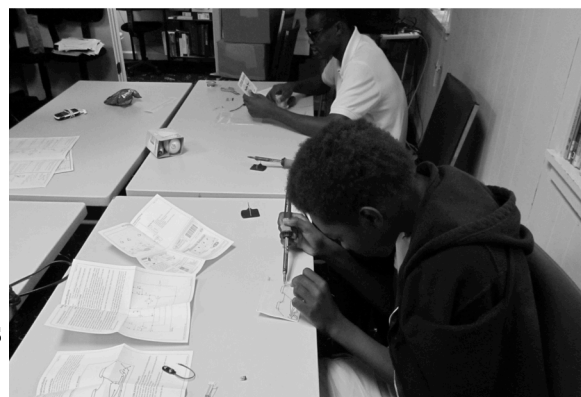


Most pond weed management calls to Anson Extension are received in late summer when coverage is greatest. Ag Agent Aimee Colf works with landowners to identify best management and cost-effective practices.

samples collected. Although late summer is not the time of year to make treatments, the timing of this class was intentional. This is the time of year when weed coverage is greatest, tolerance thresholds have been exceeded, and pond owners want to take immediate action with herbicides. Participants learned about several risk factors involved with late summer treatments from exorbitant pesticide costs to lowered dissolved oxygen levels and fish kills. None of the participants realized how much easier, cheaper, and safer pond weed control would be in spring. The posttest indicated that all pond managers would use time between fall and spring to properly identify weeds, and take solution samples to check alkalinity and water hardness as it relates to rates for copper compounds. They would also choose a product compatible to pond use, and establish a long term strategy among those discussed in class to regularly scout, manage, and ultimately eradicate pond weed issues. Based on pond size and the weed type participants were trying to manage, it is estimated that the 18 participants saved \$6000 in pesticide and grass carp purchases, plus the value of recreational fisheries lost to fish kills.

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

4-H Youth Promise has had one of their busiest years this spring and summer. Clients have completed over 1,000 community service hours at various community worksites. On-going projects for the schools and nursing homes have continued. Various summer camp days included new activities such as woodworking, and had a higher number of participants than in the past. Since January, the after school component has served 37 youth and community service/restitution has served 41 youth. Grants for FY 2014-2015 were awarded and increased by \$1,500. Staff has been busy with trainings on the new program evaluation system that started in July, as well as assisting with traditional 4-H program activities. A new school year has begun which means that after school is in full swing again, four days a week, picking up youth from four different schools.



After school youth soldering 4-H electric kit.

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



Extension Centennial birthday cake, May 8 2014.

In addition to traditional programs, Anson County Cooperative Extension has celebrated its centennial this year with a birthday party in May, a State of Anson Ag breakfast in June, and wrap-up celebration as part of this year's Farm-City Week observances. Another change this year has been moving some of the annual Anson Ag Expo & Fair events to the Taste of the Pee Dee Festival in October. Progress has also started on the new Anson Agri-Civic Center. The local capital campaign kicked off, and already \$450,000 has been given and pledged over the next 10 years. The facilities committee will begin the process of selecting architectural and engineering services in the spring.



Volunteers load produce boxes into a Farm Fresh Ventures contracted delivery truck.

Local Foods – Dustin Adcock, Area Ag Agent

In the area of local foods, Anson County has benefited greatly from the second year of operation of Farm Fresh Ventures Cooperative. A total of 2666 boxes were packed with a total of \$53,320 in economic impact. That comes to a conservative estimate of 40,000 pounds of fresh produce sold directly from the farm to the consumer. When surveyed, 60% of participants stated they would be more likely to buy local foods in the future. Also this year, co-hosting a pruning workshop for Anson citizens offered eight participants the opportunity to learn proper fruit tree, vine, and bramble technique. Currently, two growers in the county are working to begin the process of Federal GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices) certification in order to solidify a deal with a major grocer in the region. In addition, there has been much work with many new landowners and beginning farmers to guide them in business planning, growing of crops, and marketing. In 2015, Anson agents will be working alongside agents in the region to offer the very first Southern Piedmont Farm School which is directed at developing new farmers, and new ventures for experienced farmers, through business education, marketing, and farm visits.

Cooperative Extension's Mission –

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



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

Official Business