

# Report to the People

Anson County Center

October, 2015

## Inside This Issue

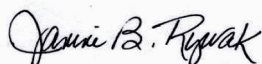
From the Director .....	1
4-H & Youth .....	2
Community Rural Development .....	2
Agriculture .....	2
Horticulture .....	3
4-H Youth Promise .....	3
Local Foods .....	3
Staff Updates .....	4

## 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

When the 2015 new year rolled around, no one in Cooperative Extension could have guessed or anticipated the depth of changes that awaited us. Since the first of the year, in Anson County alone, we –

- Successfully implemented new office hours, closing during lunch, in an effort to cover the office after losing one of our secretarial positions due to state budget cuts.
- Adjusted as two staff members resigned due to a family move, and opportunities with other employment with the schools in a nine-month position.
- Hired two new staff members to administer Anson County 4-H Youth Promise, the after-school and community-service/restitution grant-funded program housed in our office.

On the state level, NC Cooperative Extension has –

- Initiated a new strategic plan that focuses on food, youth development and agriculture.
- Planned a new branding initiative that will better reflect Extension programs within the new strategic plan.
- Wished a retiring State Extension Director well on his new journey in life, and begun the search for a new candidate.

No doubt, more changes and adjustments await us as we move forward. A motivational speaker once said, when we are not changing, we are not growing. If we take that to heart, Anson County Cooperative Extension is certainly growing in leaps and bounds! This newsletter will tell you about some of that growth, and how we have embraced the changes that have become a constant in our programs.

## Anson County Cooperative Extension Team – from left to right:

Janine Rywak, Jessica Morgan,  
Roshunda Terry, Dustin Adcock,  
Pam Layfield, Sam Cole,  
Aimee Colf and Quan Dumas.

**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.**



**NC** State University  
A&T State University  
**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**  
Empowering People • Providing Solutions

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



This summer, Anson County teen 4-H'ers were diligent in making sure that the county 4-H program was well represented on the county, district and state levels. Teen 4-H'ers were involved with the district teen retreat, district activity day, district science fair, NC 4-H Citizenship Focus, NC 4-H Electric Congress, NC 4-H Congress, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference, and also helping with summer programming. Teen 4-H'ers have learned many new skills and strategies to continue to grow as young adults, as well as created partnerships with others throughout the state. These experiences will also help them assist as leaders to younger members that are coming along through the 4-H program behind them.

*Na'La Brown, center, was one of 180 youth that attended NC 4-H Electric Congress in Wilmington, NC in July. Also pictured from left are Wayne Huddleston, Account Manager with Duke Energy, and 4-H Volunteer Leader Betty Garris.*

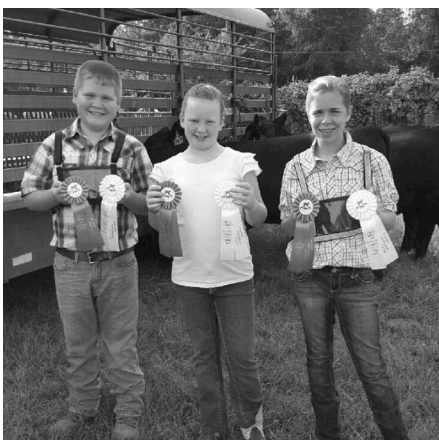
## Community Rural Development – Janine Rywak, County Extension Director

A major focus in the office has been work towards the new Anson Agri-Civic Center. As progress moves forward, we are learning new things not typical in Extension programming, including contract negotiations with architects, engineering reports, quotes for land surveys, and working with large monetary gifts. Cooperative Extension works with two separate committees to handle the array of jobs that have to be completed in this process. The Resource Development Committee is chaired by Lee Roy Lookabill and made up of 16 volunteers. With a goal to raise \$2.5M in a public/private partnership, to date \$609,500 has been secured. The Facilities Committee is made up of another 16 volunteers that represent the agencies that will be housed in the building, county resources and volunteers. This summer that group interviewed and selected an architect to design the new center, and a subset of that group is now in negotiations. In addition, bids have been approved for the site and engineering surveys of the property that will be used in the design process.



*Janine Rywak updates members of the local Woodmen of the World chapter on the new Anson Agri-Civic Center, during a check presentation with Peg Pinkston.*

## Agriculture – Jessica Morgan, Agriculture Agent



It was a busy summer with agriculture programs in Anson County. The first Corn Variety Trial was planted in the county in over four years in the Burnsville area. The field day had 53 in attendance and the plot should provide good data to the growers in our area at harvest. Also new for this year has been the Anson County 4-H Livestock Club Skillathon Team. This three-member team has competed in a regional competition receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In the state-wide competition, they earned 5th overall in the Junior Age Division. Skillathon is a competition of livestock knowledge including breeds, meat cuts, feedstuffs, equipment and quality assurance of goats, sheep, beef cattle and swine.

*Anson County 4-H Skillathon Members show off their fifth place ribbons. From left to right: Hayden Allen, Gracie McSwain and Olivia Allen.*

---

## Horticulture – Aimee Colf, Agriculture Agent



*Anson County farmers, Gary and Kelly Sikes of Bountiful Harvest Farm, give a presentation to Sandhills Farm School participants about marketing at farmers markets, in social media, and to restaurants.*

With the number of small specialty farms on the rise, Cooperative Extension is working with beginning farmers and farmers in transition as they explore new agricultural ventures to keep their farms viable. Anson Extension participated in two Farm Schools in 2015, assisting 50 new and beginning farmers from the Sandhills and Southern Piedmont as they consider new commodities to add to their current operation. Sponsored by NC State University, five Farm Schools were held across the state: Blue Ridge, Foothills, Southern Piedmont, Sandhills, and Military Farm Schools. Led by Gary Bullen, Extension Specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at NCSU, local Extension agents, successful area farmers and participants attended seven business sessions and seven field days, over seven months. They learned about finance analysis, marketing, alternative enterprises, and business development, all while networking with each other and gaining advice from other small farmers that have established successful businesses.

## 4-H Youth Promise – Sam Cole, Program Director

The newly hired Program Director and Case Manager for 4-H Youth Promise have made a goal to build upon strengths while incorporating new ideas that will improve the functioning and lasting effects of the program. The 4-H Summer Camp programs have always been described as a “hit”, and they looked to strengthen that aspect. Zip lining, water rafting, and rock climbing were just a few of the activities 4-H Youth Promise participated in this summer. A few new ideas were incorporated to ensure that all youth involved in the program were able to capitalize on and utilize what they have learned in the program as evidenced by their improved behavior in the home, school, and community. One implementation includes increased communication between 4-H staff and the youth and their guardians beyond the program through the recidivism tracking system. From there, 4-H Youth Promise staff make sure to contact terminated youth three, six, and twelve months after their termination date. As such, they have received many positive reports from youth with several requesting that they be allowed back into the program!



*4-H Youth Promise clients catching a breather after rock climbing at the National White Water Center.*



*Broccoli trials at the Piedmont Research Station included tested varieties that are better suited and profitable for our region.*

## Local Foods – Dustin Adcock, Area Agent

As a flagship program of NC Cooperative Extension, local foods is becoming quite a busy sector of agriculture. In February, the first ever Southern Piedmont Local Foods Conference was hosted for local producers. Even though nearly snowed out, a little over 60 people were in attendance. In April and May, area growers and buyers from Harris Teeter and MDI met to discuss possible marketing options and GAP certification. Since that time, one Anson county producer and one multi-county producer have secured selling opportunities with a large retailer. January through March, a new series of business-based courses was offered due to an observed need for profitability and sustainability in small producers. This workshop was focused on marketing a small foods business, keeping records, and setting prices. An average of seven Anson producers attended all four classes.

### ***Special Staff Recognition –***

Another change we have adapted to is having only one support staff position. And Pam Layfield, Administrative Assistant, has assumed the role like a pro. With her energy, professionalism, and strong organizational skills, she has been able to handle the added responsibilities well. The whole staff chips in to help get things done, but we all agree, without a strong person like Pam in this position, we couldn't do it. So thank you Pam for the wonderful job that you do!



### **Welcome to the Team!**

We are pleased to have two new faces that make up the Anson County Cooperative Extension staff. 4-H Youth Promise, the after-school grant-funded program, has been through quite a few changes this year. And

one of the nicest surprises that resulted was the addition of two great new staff members. They are Sam Cole, Program Director and Quantelya Dumas, Case Manager. Sam came to the program after three years with Anson County Schools as a math teacher. His degree is in African-American Studies and Biology from UNC-Chapel Hill. Quan took her post straight out of Winston Salem State University with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation. Both have hit the ground running and we look forward to great things in their program. Welcome Quan and Sam!



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

**Official Business**