

# The Power of Extension

November 22, 2023

## AN INSIDE GLANCE INTO COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

North Carolina Cooperative Extension focuses on three main areas: Agriculture, Food, and Youth. Locally, that means we have three main departments: Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development. Providing research-based and relevant educational opportunities for citizens in Robeson County is our highest priority. **The Power of Extension Newsletter** provides a snapshot of the educational programs conducted by N.C. Cooperative Extension, Robeson County Center, which impact the lives of Robeson County citizens. In this edition, you will find some recent highlights of programs conducted throughout the year. We continue to find ways to be the model of excellence in non-formal, research-based education that advances agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, youth, and communities, while creating prosperity for all. We invite you to be part of our growing programs and experience the power of Extension!

Inside This Issue	
<b>4-H Youth Development</b>	
Become a Leader.....	1
Embryology.....	2
<b>Agriculture</b>	
Summer Extravaganza.....	2
Risk Management Workshops Helps Small Farmers Manage Risks.....	3
Goat and Sheep Workshop.....	3
Keeping Unwanted Pesticides Out of the Environment.....	3 - 4
<b>Upcoming Events</b> .....	5



Mac Malloy  
County Extension Director



## 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



**Become a Leader** -- There are limited volunteer opportunities for teens to teach experiential learning and leadership skills to younger youth in a structured, safe, and caring environment with adult supervision. Studies show teens engage youth more effectively in some areas than adults. Younger youth look up to teens and see them as role models. To help build self-confidence and support youth in fostering leadership skills, Robeson County's 4-H Program offered older teens the opportunity to be in leadership roles while serving as a Summer Fun volunteer. Six teenage volunteers assisted with camps throughout the summer. Through observation and parental feedback, the teens showed self-confidence and exhibited excellent leadership skills, which they learned in 4-H. Also, about 20 percent of youth participating in the program expressed their desire to be a teen volunteer when they are older. The Robeson County 4-H staff will continue to offer leadership opportunities to our youth.



**Wendy Maynor, Extension 4-H Program Associate**



**Embryology** -- Right before our second round of embryology was supposed to start in 36 classrooms, the State Veterinarian had to shut down all poultry-related activities in the state due to avian influenza. With less than a week to regroup, we looked at other curricula on life cycles to substitute for embryology and came up with butterflies. We also included a plant-science lesson, as well as seeds for the classroom to grow milkweed. After we switched curricula, 30 of the 36 teachers who registered for embryology decided to stick with us and use the butterfly curriculum. The City of Lumberton spontaneously gave us a donation of the exact amount we needed to purchase butterfly farms for each of the classrooms. Although the teachers were disappointed in not being able to

hatch chickens, they utilized the hybrid learning opportunity for their classrooms. In a written evaluation, teachers reported 100 percent of their students increased their knowledge of life cycles. Teachers also stated their students increased their knowledge about science as a result of this project. Teachers also planted milkweed plants at the school or in the community, which will help support our pollinators and the awareness of their importance. Due to the success of this program, we plan to offer both butterflies and embryology in the classroom in the future.

**Shea Ann DeJarnette, Extension 4-H Youth Development Agent**

## AGRICULTURE



**Summer Extravaganza** -- While there are a plethora of roadside stands and farms across Robeson County, the Robeson County Farmers Market is a sorely underutilized option for purchasing fresh produce. The Farmers Market, open from May through November, is a one-stop-shop for in-season produce and other value-added items, such as jam and jellies. In an effort to bring new patrons and vendors to the farmers market and encourage all patrons to try new, healthy recipes, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Robeson County Center, hosts the annual Summer Extravaganza. Family and Consumer Sciences and Horticultural agents work together to provide

samples of recipes using local ingredients that can be purchased at the market. This event also provides an excellent opportunity to invite potential new vendors to attend the market to discover a possible new outlet for their product. Each year new recipes are featured, as well as one or two fan favorites. The recipes for this year's event included Blueberry Corn Salsa, Fire and Ice Salad, Pico de Gallo, and Roasted Zucchini and Corn Salad. A cooking demo featuring Simple Stir Fry also took place that encouraged the use of herbs and spices to add flavor instead of salt. Market attendance was good; North Carolina Cooperative Extension had over 50 attendants signing in for the free samples, with several visiting the farmers market for the first time. One of the vendors sold out of product, and the farmers market president stated, "It was a really good day for the market." Although numbers were down from past years' Summer Extravaganza event, the event was a success, and Extension plans to hold the event again in 2023.

**Mack Johnson, Extension Horticultural Agent**

**Risk Management Workshop Helps Small Farmers Manage Risks** -- Small farmers are faced with many challenges as they attempt to manage risks associated with farming. These challenges include high input and energy costs, fewer off-farm employment opportunities, increased financial and marketing risks, and weather. During the first half of 2022, Cooperative Extension hosted a series of Risk Management Workshops to address some of these challenges. The workshops were held in partnership with the Southern Risk Management Center and National Crop Insurance Services. A team of Extension agents assisted in recruiting potential participants and making follow-up contact with participants. The objective of the program was to teach farmers how to understand and implement farm-business-planning principles for successful risk management decision-making. In Robeson County, a total of 23 farmers registered for the workshop. All of the workshops were held on Zoom with the exception of the final workshop, which was in person. Farmers learned new risk-management tools and services with those already established. Each person received a graduation certificate at the final workshop. Farmers are now completing their personal risk-management and marketing plans. An indirect benefit of attending the workshops was the networks that farmers established with local resource persons and each other. With these tools, local farmers can build the confidence they need to deal with risks and exciting opportunities in the future.



**Nelson Brownlee, Extension Area Farm Management Agent**



**Beginning Sheep and Goat Workshop** -- The demand for sheep and goat production has steadily increased in the past couple of years in North Carolina. In an effort to help area producers, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Robeson County Center's, Livestock Agent put together a beginning sheep and goat workshop focused on topics including nutrition, reproduction, health, fencing, and marketing. There were 15 participants who attended the workshop. An evaluation was given, and 12 participants completed the evaluation. The evaluation showed that 100 percent of participants were very satisfied with the relevance of information to their needs, subject matter knowledge of instructors, and overall quality of the workshop. One hundred percent of participants learned new ideas on nutrition, health, marketing, and

reproduction, and 98 percent learned new ideas on fencing. None of the participants that attended had sheep and goats, but they all reported the workshop was a good introduction to the basics of the sheep and goat business and were looking forward to a hands-on component. Plans are underway for a hands-on day to demonstrate topics learned.

**Taylor Chavis, Extension Livestock Agent**

**Keeping Unwanted Pesticides Out of the Environment** -- Inventories of unwanted pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides) by pesticide applicators, including homeowners, need to be properly disposed of to prevent health and environmental hazards. Inventories of such products occur by accumulating partially used pesticides in storage from previous years, applicators retiring or no longer in business, or from individuals who acquire property with pesticides left in outbuildings. These individuals are burdened with finding ways to properly dispose of unwanted chemicals.



Based on this need, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Robeson County Center, in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program, held a one-day pesticide disposal collection event. A certified contractor weighed and counted each container of pesticide as it was delivered the day of the collection event. As a result of the free amnesty event, the certified contractor collected 173 containers, totaling 3,005 pounds, of unwanted pesticides for proper disposal. Disposal of unwanted pesticides by private individuals would cost, on average, \$7 per pound. The combined savings for

all participants was \$21,035. Since 2012, this free program has saved county participants over \$95,000. Proper pesticide disposal contributes to the improvement of environmental and public health by keeping pesticides out of the environment and reducing the risk of pesticide exposure to all citizens.

**Mac Malloy, Extension Field Crops Agent**

## 2022 Upcoming Events

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CALL TO REGISTER
December 3, 2022 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	A Very Merry Holiday Festival	455 Caton Road, Lumberton	Mack Johnson 910-671-3276
January 31, 2023 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Beginning Beekeeper School <b>1/31, 2/7, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14</b>	455 Caton Road, Lumberton	Nelson Brownlee 910-671-3276
February 6, 2023	N.C. Farm School Series <b>2/20, 3/6, 4/3, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15</b>	450 Smith Cir #N8 Elizabethtown, NC	Agriculture Staff 910-671-3276
February 9, 2023	Cotton Production Meeting	455 Caton Road, Lumberton	Mac Malloy
February 17, 2023	Soil Biology and Microbiomes	455 Caton Road, Lumberton	Mac Malloy
February 23, 2023	Corn and Soybean Production Meeting	455 Caton Road, Lumberton	Mac Malloy 910-671-3276
March 27, 2023	Small Farms Week Kickoff Event	455 Caton Road, Lumberton	Nelson Brownlee 910-671-3276

For more information, please check the Events Section on our website at <http://robson.ces.ncsu.edu> and our Facebook page **NC Cooperative Extension, Robeson County Center** at <https://www.facebook.com/RobesonCooperativeExtension/> for added new events.



### ABOUT N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

N.C. Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of NC State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA), and local governments statewide. Extension professionals in all 100 counties and with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians connect millions of North Carolinians with research-based information and technology from NC State and N.C. A&T. Educational programs specialize in agriculture, food and nutrition, 4-H youth development, community development and the environment.