

# Report to the People

Anson County Center

September, 2010

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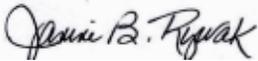
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If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter, contact me at the Extension Center or e-mail me at [janine\\_rywak@ncsu.edu](mailto:janine_rywak@ncsu.edu). For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact me no later than five business days before the event.

Sincerely,



Janine B. Rywak  
County Extension Director

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## From the Director

Greetings from the staff at your local Cooperative Extension Center. We are pleased to share this annual report on our areas of work. Each year brings new opportunities, as well as challenges. Our team has had our share, and with your support, we have continued to do our best to deliver quality programs and timely information. Cooperative Extension has buckled down and weathered the budget crunch with our county and state partners. We anticipate another year of tight resources, but plan to fulfill our responsibilities with hard work and dedication.

We are still down one staff member from a vacant position, which puts a strain on the team. Program requests and information needs in the community are sometimes almost more than we can juggle, but we dig in to get it all done. The enclosed program highlights are designed to update you on how we have accomplished that, and everything else our staff has been up to in the past months.

As we enter the fall season, with harvests coming in and festivals all around, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to live and work in a rural county. Nothing beats small town life, the land, or the people. And nothing beats being in Anson County. Only by interacting with the people in this county can you truly appreciate that. Thank you for allowing us to serve you. It is a privilege.

## 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.

## Anson Cooperative Extension Staff - from left to right:

Janine Rywak  
Erin Dempsey,  
Betty Garris,  
Richard Goforth,  
Roshunda Blount,  
Ruth Ann Pope,  
Aimee Marshall,  
Yolanda Wilson and  
Pam Layfield.



**NC** State University  
A&T State University  
**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**

Empowering People · Providing Solutions

## 4-H & Youth

*Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent*

With the summer programs winding down and school beginning to start, Anson County 4-H youth and volunteers are catching their second wind and gearing up for the fall. Early this spring, youth were preparing for 4-H presentations and making garments and other non-garment items in the talent and fashion shows. Five youth went on to present their presentations at district competition in Lee County. Youth and volunteer leaders have also attended and assisted with chicken plate fundraisers, teen training, NC 4-H Citizenship Focus, summer residential camp and day camps, NC 4-H Electric Congress, NC 4-H Congress, NC SPIN youth panel, and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Youth Summit. A total of 37 enrolled 4-H'ers have been really busy this summer, which in turn has kept their 4-H Agent on her toes! Non-traditional programs have not fallen by the wayside. This year over 700 youth participated in school enrichment programs on environmental education, soils, water quality, forestry and embryology. Next up for Anson County 4-H is organizing activities for National 4-H Week, implementing the statewide community service initiative "Hungry to Help," hosting Volunteer Leaders District Fall Day, special interests programs in the schools, and of course, the county youth livestock show.



*Anson County 4-H'er Katie Edwards (second from left), participates in archery classes at Junior 4-H Camp this summer.*

## Horticulture

*Aimee Marshall, Agricultural Agent*



*Aimee Marshall, and Anson beekeepers Dallas Ratliff & H.L. Carpenter (shown) speak to more than 600 children about honey bees in agriculture and challenges for local beekeepers.*

Summer is always a flurry of activity and this summer, bee programs have been popular. 711 youth were reached through Pollinator Day programs. Children learned about the role of honeybees in agriculture, bee biology, and the basics of hobby beekeeping through demonstrations, dissections, an observation hive, and sampling honey. Other programs included a workshop for a local church group, focusing on water conservation practices. The 17-member group learned how to modify a basic 55 gallon plastic barrel to harvest roof-water runoff to irrigate vegetable and landscape beds. Rain barrels reduce potable water use and, potentially, monthly water bills. The group found that the completed project cost 1/4 the price of a store bought rain barrel and worked just as well. In total, over 1,500 clients have attended programs or received assistance in commercial/consumer horticulture, or received forestry management plans since the spring. Extension also continues to develop programs and collaborate with other local groups and agencies to meet concurrent goals in these program areas.

### Extension Secretaries Stay involved

Support staff for Anson Cooperative Extension programs maintain their professional development by being involved in their district association. Ruth Ann Pope (right), Administrative Secretary, was installed as President of the South Central District Extension Secretary's Association in August. Pam Layfield (left), Extension Secretary, serves on the Membership Committee for the district. Their involvement enhances their professionalism and enables them to deliver even higher quality assistance to the citizens in the county.



**Family Consumer Sciences/Community Rural Dev.     Janine Rywak, County Extension Director**

Local needs drive programs in Family & Consumer Sciences and Community & Rural Development. Major issues identified by advisory committees include health problems attributed to overweight/obesity and farmland preservation. In response, Cooperative Extension programs this past year have included Eat Smart Move More

Weigh Less, a 15-week program designed to encourage healthier lifestyles by eating mindfully and getting active. Of the 21 participants that enrolled, 12 lost a total of 150 pounds, in addition to lowering blood pressure and other health indicators. Cooperative Extension has also been the lead agency in implementing the county's Voluntary and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts program. Working with the county appointed Anson Ag Advisory Board, 4511 acres have been enrolled, representing 56 tracts and 20 landowners. Plans are underway to write for an additional grant to secure funding in developing the Anson County Farmland Preservation Plan, a document that will identify and guide promotion of agricultural assets in the county. Finally, planning is in progress for the annual celebration of agriculture in the county, the Farm-City Week banquet on September 21 and the Anson Ag Expo & Fair, to be held September 24-25.

**ANSON**  
**Ag EXPO**     *Save the dates!*  
**10** & FAIR  
Friday-Saturday, September 24-25

Youth Livestock Show and Expo at  
South Piedmont Community College

Annual Ag Fair at  
Anson Cooperative Extension Center  
with....  
Farm-City Week Banquet  
Tuesday, September 21  
Lockhart-Taylor at SPCC

**Poultry Education**

**Richard Goforth, Area Poultry Agent**

Working with representatives of WindTronics, Inc., a local poultry farm has been used to place and study the power generating capacity of unique wind turbines to capture the wind created by exhaust fans. Some recent research indicates that it may not be as economical as originally hoped, but many still believe there is a lot of potential, as well as questions, that only can be revealed through actually testing. Work also continues with commercial growers on waste management plans and training, and six new and revised plans have been completed since the spring for Anson County farms. In addition, work is still in progress with integrators to provide training and plan reviews in conjunction with their grower meetings, answering questions on waste planning, and record keeping. There has been an increased interest in small scale production and in response, regional classes have been offered on poultry diseases and backyard production, while planning has begun for a small scale/home processing class for the fall.



*Rear exhaust fan area of local poultry houses are the potential site of wind turbine placement.*

**Anson Represented on State Advisory Council**



One of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension State Advisory Council's newest members is Anson County volunteer, Sharon Edwards. Appointed and approved by Executive Council this summer, Sharon will serve a 3-year term representing Anson, Richmond and Union Counties. Sharon has been an Extension volunteer for 14 years, starting with the Homeschool Pioneers 4-H Club, now chairing the Anson County Advisory Board, and annually coordinating the Ag Fair. Sharon will serve on the board with 33 other volunteers from across the state. Anson is proud to be represented by such a great advocate on the state level.

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

Through two components of 4-H Youth Promise, the after school program and the community service/restitution program, and helping with various traditional 4-H programs, there is never a dull moment for participants or staff. Youth have been participating in structured after school, completing community service hours, attending summer camps and enjoying outreach projects. This summer alone, youth completed 228 community service hours at our various worksite locations. Staff has been overseeing after school, organizing summer camps, supervising community service workers; assisting with school enrichment programming, grant writing, and keeping up with necessary reports. 4-H Youth Promise was awarded \$25,000 from the Federal Government to conduct a county gang assessment. With help from various partners such as the Department of Juvenile Justice, Anson County Government and Anson County Schools, this should be completed by September. As school starts back in August, after school programs will be back in full force, along with more community service hours to be completed.



*4-H Youth Promise participants deliver hand-made paper flowers to Heritage Hills Living Center as part of their service projects.*



**North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
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**Official Business**

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