

# Report to the People

Anson County Center

May, 2010

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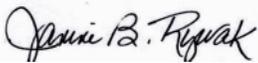
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If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter, contact me at the Extension Center or e-mail me at [janine\\_rywak@ncsu.edu](mailto:janine_rywak@ncsu.edu). For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact me 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 your local Cooperative Extension Center. As part of our annual reporting process, we are proud to share a few of our success stories from the last year in this brief newsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading some of the work that is highlighted in each story from our agents.

From an administrative perspective, although county and state budget outlooks are still bleak, there is now a bit of light at the end of the roller coaster tunnel we have been in. Currently in the budget process, how our programs will fare is anyone's guess. But on the bright side, we are on schedule to hire a new ag agent this spring to fill the livestock and row crop responsibilities. Hooray! And Extension programs have continued to plug on.

In a single snapshot of a day, on Thursday of this week alone, here is what you would see if you visited our office: school groups interacting with nature during the Anson County 4-H Environmental Field Days classes; participants weighing in for the noon Eat Smart Move More Weigh Less program; teens arriving for after-school programs in 4-H Youth Promise; farm and home visits to meet with landowners and investigate a few horticulture problems; sending off soil and waste samples for analysis; attending a training session via the internet; preparation for a district meeting to be hosted the next day; and an evening planning meeting for this fall's Anson Ag Expo and Fair. Never a dull moment!

We enjoy the work we do, and are proud to be able to serve the citizens of Anson County. Through this past year's financially uneasy times, thank you for supporting us and Extension programs. We hope to continue to provide quality work for you and for our county.

### Horticulture – *Aimee Marshall, Agricultural Agent*

A commercial produce grower in Wadesboro noticed some disease pressure in his four-acre collard field around Thanksgiving. He attempted cultural control for one month before consulting the Anson Cooperative Extension Service for pathogen identification and chemical control recommendations. Within 3 business days of digital picture submission to the Plant Disease and Insect Clinic, we were able to provide a positive diagnosis and 4 fungicide options to the grower. This service was at no cost to the grower. Positive disease ID and proper chemical control will allow him to extend the harvest of his collards through the end of February and recover the \$6000 value of the crop.

### *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.**

**NC** State University  
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EXTENSION**

*Empowering People · Providing Solutions*

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

According to the 2009 Anson County Profile by the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, land developed per capita increased from 1996 to 2006 by 115%. The number of developed acres per person in Anson increased rapidly from 1976 to 2006, and is projected to double from 2006 to 2030. Efforts must be made now to identify and preserve agricultural lands from non-farm development. Working with the Anson Ag Advisory Board, Cooperative Extension is administering the county's Voluntary and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts Ordinance with over 4300 acres currently enrolled in the program. In addition, Extension was awarded an \$8500 grant through the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to implement the ordinance, including landowner sign design and creation, educational programs, and marketing the program. Goals are to preserve county rural and working farmlands, maintain an agricultural economic base and protect the county's natural areas.



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



With an economic downfall and an unemployment rate of 15% in Anson County, financial support from local funding agencies has diminished. In an effort to boost the awareness of the centennial of North Carolina 4-H and raise additional funds for county programming, Anson County 4-H organized its annual social and dance, The Clover Crawl. More than 40 volunteers, community sponsors, and staff worked together to present the one night event that drew a crowd of 142. Of the \$12,000+ raised, over \$8,300 was made in profit to help further programming for Anson County 4-H. Since March, there has been nothing but positive feedback about the event, and the community is looking forward to next year's Clover Crawl.

**Poultry – Richard Goforth, Area Poultry Agent**

Darkling beetles are a major concern for poultry producers. They reduce performance by eating feed meant for the birds and are major vectors for diseases. In addition beetles destroy insulating materials that are being used to control heating cost as houses are sealed tighter. Beetles are also becoming harder to control in houses because of the favorable environment made by closing the houses. Coupled with resistance to several pesticides and the loss of labels for several others, this has made proper understanding of treatment controls more critical. Cooperative Extension in Anson, Cabarrus, Montgomery, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly, and Union Counties has worked with Entomology specialists from NCSU and Pesticide Inspectors from the NCDA&CS to provide training for growers on the best strategies for beetle control, as well as allow them to earn 32 hours of required recertification credits to maintain pesticide licenses that allow broader access to treatment options.



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

In a mindfulness effort, Anson 4-H Youth Promise conducted a community service project for Lillie Bennett Nursing Home. Due to after-school lessons on service to your community and respecting your elders, staff and youth of 4-H Youth Promise felt this project would be a great opportunity to learn by doing. Six youth involved in the program constructed hand made crafts to deliver to the residences of the nursing home. From helping with this event participants learned to give back to the community that they and their families call 'home'. The nursing home residences also enjoyed the crafts and visits from community youth. Youth are eager to learn about other community events in which they can lend a helping hand.

