

behavior throughout their summer vacations, months when they were away from their regular routine of school schedules.

For over 100 years, Extension work has been built on the premise of providing unbiased, research-based information to people in the county. Citizens, volunteers and clients who use our services depend on that. Longtime volunteer and current advisory board member Betty Garris agrees. A participant in nutrition and physical activity classes, 4-H Volunteer Leader, and Extension Community Association at-large member, Betty knows first-hand the opportunities that Cooperative Extension offers.

Betty writes, “Anson County Cooperative Extension is the place I go for the latest fact based information on a variety of programs, services and training that I use in my daily life. Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less taught me how to make smarter choices about healthy eating, smart cooking, watching fat, salt and sugar, reading food labels and increasing physical activity. The grant program, 4-H Youth Promise, is valuable in that it serves at-risk youth by providing after school programming and community service and restitution services.

Youth Development is also important to me, and Extension not only has programs that support our youth, but also the adults that work with youth. From summer camps to workshops, projects, specialized events, community service and one-on-one training, 4-H is the place to go. ECA (Extension and Community Association) Clubs focus on the things I love to be involved in; family, home, community and service to others. Although we do not have an active club in the county, Extension gives at-large members the opportunity to be a part of the district and state programs and activities. I have gained so much knowledge from programs offered through Cooperative Extension staff. If they don't have an answer to a question, they will get the information I need.”

These stories are but a few from Cooperative Extension programs in Anson County. Our team of agents and support staff are fortunate to have been able to work with the individuals we have highlighted, and also the many others that have called on our office. We take pride in our work, and we also admire the people we work with.

Our marketing efforts may be different, and the look of our publications may change, but we will always be the Extension office that this county has turned to for so many years. We look forward to many more!

Janine Rywak
County Extension Director
Anson County Cooperative Extension

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EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE



The Anson County Cooperative Extension staff developed a new marketing plan for the office this year. Why? The usual reasons. The old one was outdated, there have been so many changes in technology that we need to incorporate, we have new team members on staff now, and the list goes on. One would think that since Cooperative Extension in Anson County has been around since 1908, everybody would know about us.

But that is not the case. As recently as yesterday, a call came into the office with recommendations of programs that we needed to organize, which were programs that we are already doing. So we have put together a plan to more efficiently share research-based information with the general public, and in general, better tell our story....because we have some really good stories to tell!

This issue of our annual Report to the People newsletter does look different. And the next one will probably look different from this! But for now, turn this page and read about some of our programs and clients. Our staff has worked with some pretty amazing people and programs. We hope you agree.

When children raise their own cherry tomatoes, green peppers, basil, and oregano, they are excited to harvest and incorporate those items into meals. So said Susie Holcombe, owner of Susie's Daycare. Horticulture Agent Aimee Colf worked with Susie to secure supplies and donated items to create a raised-bed children's garden. The garden included edible and sensory plants to engage youth in outdoor activities, and in making healthy food choices.

Aimee is following up with fun learning activities for the children to build upon their introduction to plants, soils, and the sciences. Future plans include working with other interested daycares to start similar projects. The program was so well received, that Susie hopes to expand the garden over time.

Local Foods is a broad topic that reaches both small, mid, and large scale farms. Many of these producers are so busy farming and trying to sustain a business that they do not have time to attend conferences and seminars to enhance their knowledge and business, nor do they have the finances to support the time away from the farm and cost of such events. So this past March, Local Foods Agent Dustin Adcock worked with the Rocky River Local Foods Association to organize a local conference.

About 80 individuals attended sessions offered on poultry processing laws, blueberry production, native pollinators, marketing, pest management, value-added product development, and cover cropping. Lunch of local foods was served, while attendees got to meet and hear Bob Garner, television personality and food critic. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit many local and regional vendors at the accompanying trade show. The event is scheduled to continue annually, providing opportunities to improve local food systems by reaching all active growers and producers in the region.

Katie Edwards has been an Anson County 4-H'er for 11 years. In that time, she has improved her public speaking skills, competing and winning county and district level competitions in presentations. She has also expanded her showmanship abilities by showing goats in local 4-H livestock shows and the regional circuit for nine years. Katie has developed leadership and citizenship skills by serving as a teen volunteer and attending numerous district and state conferences, not to mention many hours of community service activities.

4-H Agent Roshunda Terry has worked with Katie to help identify and secure opportunities where she can grow as a young adult. Katie credits her 4-H experiences as part of her success. "4-H means everything to me," she said. "Going new places, meeting new people, doing things I've never done and didn't know I could do. 4-H is my adventure; it's always introducing me to opportunities. 4-H means working hard to achieve, making new friends, and it pulls me out of my comfort zone."

In the Burnsville community, Jeff Lee exemplifies a hard-working farmer, dedicated to agriculture and maintaining the land. Jeff became involved in Extension programming through hosting the Tri-County Corn Variety Trial research plots in both 2015 and 2016. The research involved planting, maintaining and harvesting corn trials. And each was done six rows at a time.

Jeff has worked with Agricultural Agent Jessica Morgan through the years as an important asset for needs assessment of farmers in the county, and by hosting meetings on his farm, combining Cooperative Extension, the USDA Wildlife Services and Farm Service Agency as well as numerous local farmers. In addition, he participates in the local Feeder Calf Sale Program to market beef feeder calves, and was awarded the 2016 Anson County Farmer of the Year.

Each year, the Anson County 4-H Youth Promise Program looks to serve and best meet the needs of the county's high risk youth. The program's Community Service/Restitution Program and the After School Program have traditionally only collaborated with the Juvenile Court System to receive referrals. To better address community needs, this year the program was broadened and extended services to Anson County School's student resource officers, social workers and administration, as well as personnel from the Department of Social Services.

As a result, Program Director Sam Cole and Case Manager Quantelya Dumas have had the opportunity to impact the lives of a wider variety of youth. For example, during their annual summer camp, each week was geared towards a theme that allowed youth not only to learn, but to enjoy their summer by trying new experiences. Some of the activities organized included zip lining, eating at culturally diverse restaurants, laser tag and swimming. During this time, each participant successfully avoided delinquent



SOLVING PROBLEMS



PROVIDING SOLUTIONS



CHANGING LIVES



INSPIRING LEADERS

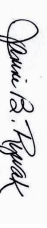
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If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter, contact me at the Extension Center or e-mail me at:
janine_lywak@ncsu.edu.
For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact me no later than five business days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

Sincerely,



Janine B. Rywak
County Extension Director



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