

A New Generation – The family of the Cooperative Extension staff grew this fall. Aimee Colf, Horticulture Agent, welcomed a baby boy. Sterling Seamus Colf was born on August 19. Quan Dumas Johnson, Case Manager for 4-H Youth Promise, welcomed a baby girl this year. Lyra Noel Johnson was born on October 2. All are healthy and happy and we wish them well.

A New Program – Anson County 4-H became part of an exciting new grant-funded program this year. The CYFAR (Children, Youth and Families at Risk) Program works to improve the quality and quantity of community-based programs for at-risk youth and families. Anson is part of a 4-county, 2-state initiative. As part of the project, Kristy Burja has been hired to administer the program. She will be in the Anson County office weekly.

A New Experience – The Extension Center welcomed a new face this fall as Brooke Stovall began visiting weekly in a job shadowing program through the Anson Early College. With an interest in agriculture and livestock, she will be mentored by Jessica Morgan, Agricultural Agent through December.

A New Start – As some of you know, Pam Layfield, Administrative Secretary for the Extension Center, had another scare from lung cancer this year. She underwent surgery in October, and will be out for some time recuperating. Please remember Pam as she works to regain her strength and start out again on the road to recovery.

A New Face – While so many staff members have been out, the Extension Center was fortunate enough to use some lapsed salary funds to hire temporary assistance. Many of you may have talked to her already. Amy McLaurin of Peachland has been helping out answering phones and receiving the public. We were able to have her with us for six weeks, and her last day was November 3.

A New Opportunity – It is with sadness but the best of wishes that we announce we are losing Jessica Morgan, Agricultural Agent, from the Anson Cooperative Extension team. After 6½ years, Jessica has accepted a position as Livestock Agent in Wilson County. She will begin her duties there after the first of the year. Although we all want her to stay here in Anson, we also want what is best for her professionally. So, she leaves with our blessings.

A New Role – Since June, Janine Rywak has been filling an extra role in Cooperative Extension. With the vacancy of the Union County Extension Director, she has been acting as Interim Director in Union also. But that will soon come to an end. As County Extension Director in Anson County for the past 15 years, and 4-H Agent for the 15 years before that, Janine will be taking on a new role as of January 1, that of retiree. September ended 30 years of service with the system, and Janine will be taking a break. But plan to see her sometime next year as a loyal volunteer.

ABOUT N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

North Carolina Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership comprising NC State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA-NIFA, and 101 local governments statewide. Extension professionals in all 100 counties and with the Eastern Band of the Cherokee translate research-based education and technology from NC State and N.C. A&T into everyday solutions that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolinians. Extension specializes in agriculture, youth, communities, food, health and the environment.

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Report to the People

A publication of Anson County Cooperative Extension

November, 2017

An Anson County Extension Update

Janine Rywak, County Extension Director



The 2017 Anson Ag Expo & Fair featured a Family Fall Fest at Circle G Arena in Lilesville. Approximately 250 children and families came out for this first-ever event to enjoy games, music and celebrate the beginning of fall. Above, one of three sets of youth searched through hay bales for a key, redeemable for a gift card. Other games included egg toss, pie eating, ring toss, duckie races, dizzy bat and much more. The fun of old-fashioned games was almost as good as watching young people have fun without a cell phone!

Seasons change, systems change, and people change. N.C. Cooperative Extension, Anson County Center has experienced quite a few changes this year. From the new brand that identifies us that the public sees, to the internal management and operations that the public does not see, the Extension team in Anson County has adapted to many new things this year. Through it all, a very talented and determined staff has continued to serve this county with quality educational programs, personal development opportunities, and projects to enrich and enhance our community. This edition of our Report to the People newsletter shares some of those programs and projects, as well as the changes that have been, and those that are coming. We hope our work to make our community a bit better has had a positive effect on others and on you. Thank you for making our jobs worthwhile.

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NC Cooperative Extension - Anson County Center

501 McLaurin Street
P.O. Box 633
Wadesboro, NC 28170

Phone: 704.694.2415
Fax: 704.694.2248
anson.ces.ncsu.edu



Janine Rywak
County Extension Director
janine_rywak@ncsu.edu



Our Mission—NC State Extension helps create prosperity for North Carolina through programs and partnerships focused on agriculture and food, health and nutrition, and 4-H youth development .

Agriculture **Jessica Morgan, Agricultural Agent**

Anson County's Extension Agriculture Program has been busy in 2017! A late freeze started the wheat crop, which led to lots of questions and a shift in the Wheat Research and Demonstration Plots this spring. The field day was moved up to accommodate questions from farmers and focused on how to scout for freeze damaged wheat and calculate yield potential. The State-Graded Feeder Calf Sale program keeps growing, selling 7500+ calves this year, up 1600 calves from last year out of the Norwood Stockyard. This program continues to expand, with Extension taking the role as educator to farmers in a wide area on the sales requirements and BQA practices. Three corn research plots were conducted in the tri-county area, have been harvested, and are awaiting the final okay to release variety data for the year. The Anson County 4-H Livestock Club enjoyed a field trip to the stockyard, a practice livestock show, and a meeting on hay and forages thanks to some great volunteers!



4-H & Youth Development **Roshunda Terry, 4-H Agent**

Volunteers and 4-H youth have been busy representing Anson County in vast areas of 4-H. Youth have attended Summer Camps, NC 4-H Congress in Raleigh, were inducted into the 4-H Honor Club, and received an academic scholarship from NC 4-H. Volunteers have also attended regional conferences, district 4-H meetings, and are working on completing their state leadership portfolios. In the coming months, Anson County 4-H will be represented at National 4-H Congress in Atlanta by an outstanding 4-H'er, and first time youth will attend the State Council Leadership Conference in Raleigh. After a busy and eventful summer, program planning for fall and winter is now being developed, with more 4-H opportunities on the horizon.

Horticulture **Aimee Colf, Agricultural Agent**

The summer series of Extension forestry classes for private forest landowners was nearly completed before maternity leave for the Agent snuck in. Topics included "Forestry Markets and Future Trends" and "Selling Your Timber". A final forestry class is on the horizon for January 2018 entitled, "How Woodland Certification Relates to Timber Values ". For this last class, learn from fellow Anson Extension Advisory Board member and local forestry consultant, Jason Kiker, how certification affects production and financial return to determine if it fits your woodland management goals. Summer horticulture programs were held at Hampton Library on beekeeping and organic gardening. A future program is planned at the Wadesboro Garden Club's monthly meeting in January called, "Diagnosing Plant Problems: Biotic vs. Abiotic Diseases".

Community Rural Development **Janine Rywak, County Ext. Director**

Staff members pulled together another successful week celebrating agriculture in September, with the Anson Ag Expo & Fair, Farm-City Week, 4-H Youth Livestock Show, and a new event, the Family Fall Fest. Local organizations supported the event with \$17,000 in sponsorship funds this year. The county's Voluntary and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts program purchased new signage for members. The program now celebrates a total of 13,151 acres, 188 tracts of land and 63 landowners participating. Finally, Cooperative Extension has been invited to participate in a new project led by the Anson Economic Development Partnership. Stronger Economies Together (SET) is an initiative through USDA Rural Development to strengthen the capacity of counties in rural America to work together in developing and implementing economic development strategies that build on strengths in the region. This project will involve Anson, Stanly and Montgomery Counties.



4-H Youth Promise **Sam Cole, Program Director**

4-H Youth Promise and its three programs, which include the After School Program, the Community Service/Restitution Program, and the Anson Connecting Families Program, have been very eventful. The After School Program has been up and running since the small break youth received shortly after summer camp ended. Since school has returned, the After School youth are back to learning interpersonal skills that will assist them within the home, school, and community. These youth have also been able to utilize new computers that were purchased via discretionary grant funds this summer. The Community Service/Restitution Program has been working to complete various community service projects including "Back Pack Buddies" for Wadesboro and Morven Elementary, assisting at the local library, and helping janitors at the different schools in the county. Anson Connecting Families started its first cycle of the year on September 26th, 2017 and will run through November 14, 2017. The Anson Connecting Families Program offers parent and youth classes to referred families that emphasize strengthening familial relationships and cohesion. These classes are complemented by a warm dinner, transportation and childcare.

Anson Agri-Civic Center Update

Work towards the new Anson Agri-Civic Center continues to progress. The most frequent question from the community is "Where are we on the project?" So here is a quick update. Last fall, a professional Land Survey on the site was done. In addition, a subsurface exploration and Geotech Report was completed. In the earlier part of 2016, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was also completed. In June of this year, the County of Anson contracted with HH Architecture, Raleigh NC, for design services of the facility. HH Architecture has completed many projects for NCDA, NC State, and the new Agri-Civic Center for Wayne County in Goldsboro NC. Design meetings with HH Architecture began in June, with the first schematic designs being completed this fall.