

## Surry County Cooperative Extension

Surry County Cooperative Extension is an educational partnership between NC State University, NC A&T State University and Surry County. Our mission is to deliver education and technology that enriches the lives, land and economy of local citizens. Cooperative Extension meets people's needs, supplies decision makers with unbiased data and helps individuals, families, farms and communities succeed. Cooperative Extension accomplishes this through one-on-one visits, training classes, telephone consultations, social media and website postings, newsletters, magazine and news articles, speaking engagements, demonstrations and other educational delivery methods.

Last year the Surry County Cooperative Extension Center had 27,842 Agricultural, 4,953 4-H and 4,539 Family and Consumer Science contacts for information. In addition, 243 educational opportunities were offered to Surry County residents. 271 volunteers contributed time to help expand Extension outreach at an estimated value of over \$170,992.

Providing families with research-based nutrition information leads to better nutrition behaviors. The EFNEP program served 2,989 limited income people with nutrition information to improve their lives.

431 individuals utilized Cooperative Extension, who coordinated the SHIP Medicare Part D program, to help select the correct prescription drug plan to save themselves money. Due to this program, these individuals saved \$1,089,643.



Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (EMGV's) are trained to help assist in the distribution of horticulture resources to the residents in the county. Twenty-five EMGVs spent 1,275 hours bringing research-based information to the public. Projects the group implemented were creating and maintaining demonstration gardens at the Dobson Historic Courthouse, educating the public on tree selection and planting at the Elkin Post Office, creating a horticulture library at the Extension Center, developing a seed library housed at the Dobson Public Library, planning a gardening symposium (cancelled due to Covid-19), constructing, marketing and selling mason bee and butterfly houses, presenting horticulture workshops and webinars for the public and maintaining a social media page with educational resources for the public. The value of their work totals \$29,155.

Farm income was increased by over \$1,093,843 for livestock producers due to the adoption of Cooperative Extension recommended Best Management Practices for Livestock Production and Farmland Protection and Preservation. Horticulture and Field Crop production saw an increase of \$2,387,436 for a total of \$3,481,279.

Cooperative Extension partnered with Surry County Public Works and the NC Department of Agriculture to host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. This annual event safely

disposed of 1,000 pounds of unwanted pesticides and 30,765 lbs. of Household Hazardous Waste at a savings of a conservative value of \$400,000.

Local farms needed PPE for the safety of their workers. Farms had difficulty ordering and purchasing enough PPE for their farm workers and families. NC Cooperative Extension, Surry Center and the NC Agromedicine Institute partnered together to bring personal protective equipment (PPE) to the agricultural community to help protect farmworkers and prevent the spread of Covid-19. Through this partnership, \$15,400 worth of PPE was distributed to farms. There were 18 farms and 714 farm workers that benefited from the distribution of PPE. Farms were given hand sanitizer, Tyvek suits, disposable masks, reusable masks, and protective eyeglasses.

\$63,838 in outside fiscal resources were garnered for educational opportunities for county citizens.

Cooperative Extension provides the training for many certification programs. These range from safe pesticide handling to safe on-farm food production to training to market tobacco. This year 2 farmers were trained in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to produce horticultural crops for human consumption. GAP training for tobacco producers (15) was also delivered. 99 pesticide applicators were trained or recertified in safe handling and application of pesticides.

Throughout 2020 Surry County 4-H offered a variety of programs including school to career topics, plant and animal science, earth science, natural resource management, sewing, cooking, and STEM development activities. With a total of 28 programs offered, Surry County 4-H was able to reach 4953 youth in programs last year.

2020 was certainly a year with many obstacles. A pandemic, remote working and a fundamental shift in how educational programs were delivered challenged Extension. In response, a new and exciting option emerged in the form of virtual and mass media programming. In 2020, 1,689,923 people viewed or participated in virtual or non-direct educational programs! There were even international participants who logged on, learned and applied knowledge that Cooperative Extension supplied.



In summary, with increases in income, cost savings and fiscal resources brought into the county of \$5,250,307, Surry County Cooperative Extension returned a phenomenal \$17.86 per dollar invested by Surry County government to the citizens of the county.

