

N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County 2021 Annual Report to the People

With increases in income, cost savings and fiscal resources brought into the county of \$5,107,654, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County returned a phenomenal \$17.11 per dollar invested by Surry County government to the citizens of the county.

291 volunteers contributed 11,339 hours to help expand Extension outreach. Calculated at \$15 per hour that's a value of \$170,085.

215 individuals utilized 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 \$276,000.

\$151,921 in outside fiscal resources were garnered for educational opportunities for county citizens.

2,104 direct youth contacts through special interest meetings and 45 educational events were offered in 2021. Programs have been done in conjunction with school systems, Summer Fun activities and with other Extension Agents and staff.

Special programs on Goal Setting, Time Management, Communication and other critical soft skills were offered by the 4-H Agent at Gentry Middle School with evaluations from students and teachers being extremely positive.

The Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) programs, both adult and youth, have been helping limited resource families learn strategies of how to feed their families healthy meals on a limited budget and increase their physical activity. This is helping hundreds of families lower their risk of many chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This is saving County residents thousands of dollars per year in medical, prescription costs, and loss of productivity.



A statewide Bee Protection Enclosure Test Plot was held and is ongoing after garnering grant funds of \$21,311 for "*Field Testing of Potential Effects on Survival and Colony Strength of Honeybees from a Beehive Enclosure Used to Prevent Exposure of Bees During Pesticide Application*".

NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteers developed Demonstration Gardens at the Historic Courthouse. These gardens are designed to be different and to educate the public when they visit the Courthouse. Master Gardeners donated volunteer hours that total over \$36,000 in value.

A new Horticultural Lunch and Learn series reached 304 people with participant evaluations indicating changes made to increase productivity and a dollar value of \$7,600.

GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) Certification Training allowed growers to market commercial produce crops with a value of \$1,900,000.

Farm income was increased by over \$1,599,248 for livestock producers due to the adoption of Extension recommended Best Management Practices for livestock production. Horticulture and Field Crop production saw an increase of \$2,734,618 for a total of \$4,333,866.

Farmland Protection and Preservation saw 1,117 acres enrolled in the Voluntary Agricultural Districting Program with a minimum of \$200/acre value in this protection to farmers for an impact of \$223,400.

\$111,930 was garnered to monitor, track and scientifically (blood) test for *Theileria*, a tick-borne disease spread by the Asian Longhorned Tick, an invasive species that has killed animals and reduced reproductive performance of beef herds in Surry over the last 2 years. This has resulted in a USDA funded multi-state research grant managed by Virginia Tech's School of Veterinary Medicine.



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 1,494 pounds of unwanted pesticides and 20,366 lbs. of Household Hazardous Waste at a savings of a conservative value of \$218,600.

COVID-19 has impacted all facets of life and has caused social and economic difficulties from which agriculture is not immune. Agriculture has also been deemed a critical need industry due to its necessity to be a consistent food, feed and fiber supplier. Within agriculture, much of the necessary work is performed by farmworkers. Therefore, we have a great need to protect farmworkers from disabling illnesses such as COVID. With that in mind, NC DHHS convened a statewide program to offer COVID vaccines to any farmworker who desired one. Farmworkers aren't always easily identified, and they are difficult to track. DHHS reached out to NC State Extension to help manage this program on the local level because Extension has a proven and respected history within the agricultural community. Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin Extension offices banded together. Health Departments in Surry, and Yadkin, along with Surry Medical Ministries were invaluable resources to make farmworker vaccinations happen. **ALL** farmworkers who were interested in receiving the vaccine were vaccinated as a result of this program.

N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County is an educational partnership between NC State University, NC A&T State University and Surry County. Our mission is to help individuals, families, and communities put research-based knowledge to work for economic prosperity, environmental stewardship and an improved quality of life. Extension meets people's needs, supplies decision makers with unbiased data and helps individuals, families, farms and communities succeed. 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. In Surry County, this relationship has been beneficial and outstanding for many years. We look forward to this continued partnership to better the lives of citizens of Surry County.

