

# CLEMSON<sup>®</sup>

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## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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CLEMSON UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

# Fairfield County 2008-2009

An Annual Report



## Putting Knowledge to Work

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

## Where is the Fairfield County Extension Office?

The Fairfield Extension Service is located in the J.B. Floyd County Services Building, located at  
96 US HWY 321 S  
Winnsboro, SC 29180

Phone: (803) 635-4722  
Fax: (803) 635-4918

[www.clemson.edu/fairfield](http://www.clemson.edu/fairfield)



**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
8:00am—4:30pm

## Who is in the Fairfield County Extension Office?

### Office Staff:

**Deon Legette**, Lead Agent,  
Food Safety and Nutrition, FCL Advisor  
Area Agent for (Fairfield & Kershaw)  
[dlgtt@clermson.edu](mailto:dlgtt@clermson.edu)

**Brian Beer**, Area Livestock Agent  
Area Agent for (Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Chester)  
[bbeer@clermson.edu](mailto:bbeer@clermson.edu)

**Timothy S. Davis**, Ph.D., Invasive Species Specialist,  
Area Agent for (Fairfield & Richland)  
[tdvs@clermson.edu](mailto:tdvs@clermson.edu)

**Vicky Bertagnolli-Heller**, Consumer Horticulture Extension Agent  
Area Agent for (Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland)  
[vbtag@clermson.edu](mailto:vbtag@clermson.edu)

**Monica Miller**, Community Development Agent  
Area Agent for (Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland)  
[mmlr@clermson.edu](mailto:mmlr@clermson.edu)

**Michelle Holmes**, Administrative Assistant  
[holmesh@clermson.edu](mailto:holmesh@clermson.edu)

## Mission:

The mission of the Cooperative Extension Service is to provide researched based education for the adults and youth of South Carolina.

The Cooperative Extension Service is a cooperative program financed by federal, state and county governments.

The Extension Agent's job is informal education, helping people to help themselves. This unique educational achievement is a catalyst for change.

## Public Service Activity Goals:

- \*Agrisystems Productivity and Profitability
- \*Economic and Community Development
  - \*Environmental Conservation
  - \*Food Safety and Nutrition
  - \*Youth Development and Families

## Fairfield County Program Statistics

- Number of educational programs conducted —88
- Number of people participating in programs and/or workshops—1082
- Number of people reporting knowledge gained through programs and/or workshops—986
- Total contacts through direct and indirect methods—1332
- Volunteer service hours—1,769



Head

Heart

# Kids In The Kitchen

Hands

Health



The Clemson Extension Service held a Kids In The Kitchen workshop for 15 youth, led by Deon S. Legette, County Extension Agent. In the workshop, youth learned about the following topics: kitchen safety, kitchen utensils, pyramid, measuring dry and liquid ingre- Other activities included games, identi- food preparation.



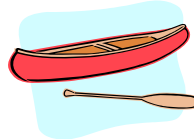
workshop, youth learned about the following proper hand washing, food safety, the food diets, reading recipes and general nutrition. fying various fruits and vegetables, and daily



# 4-H2O Environmental Camp



Fifteen Fairfield County students enjoyed the weeklong 4-H2O day camp that was held in July. This is annual day camp co-sponsored by Keep Fairfield Beautiful, Inc. and hosted by Director and 4-H volunteer, Mary Urias. The goal of the 4-H2O program is to educate youth about water quality, the importance of conservation, and stewardship through a variety of hands-on activities. Campers visited the local water treatment and history of the Winnsboro Reservoir, scope, learned of our watersheds, entations of jobs that surround water. among the many added fun things to do. Keep Fairfield Beautiful was awarded a Plum Creek Foundation matching grant of \$5000 to purchase "Community Canoes for Conservation" to be utilized in next year's 4-H2O camp. The canoes will also be offered throughout the year to groups who organize a "Clean Up!" in Fairfield County. Keep Fairfield Beautiful is currently accepting donations for this matching grant.



waste water treatment plants, explored the studied the reservoir through the micro-learned fishing techniques and various pres-Crafts, fishing, swimming and canoeing were



# 4-H Dixie Horse Club



# 4-H Afterschool Clubs



Deon Legette, County Extension Agent has worked with the Chameleon Inspirations Learning Center, Inc. to organize 8 new community clubs. There are over 80 students enrolled in Chameleon Inspirations Learning Center afterschool program. Members in grades K-6 are involved in various club projects such as natural resources, nutrition/fitness, gardening, agriculture and community service.

Ms. Vanessa Hollins, Executive Director of Chameleon Inspirations Learning Center, and her 4 staff members serve as the club leaders. The 4-H curriculum was included in the enrichment portion of the 21st Century grant awarded by the SC Department of Education.



## South Carolina Beef Cattle Marketing Schools – Round 2

Brian Beer, Area Livestock Agent

Marketing strategies and new marketing ideas rank near the top educational needs for most farmers in South Carolina, beef cattle farmers included. The fact that most beef cattle farms are small, part-time operation leads most to believe that their marketing options are limited. To address this need Clemson Extension hosted one day Beef Cattle Marketing Schools in Gaffney and Marion during 2008 and Abbeville and Blackville in 2009.

Utilizing grant funds Risk Management Education coordinated four beef cattle 2009 focusing on strategies Extension Livestock Econo-marketing strategies, tools decisions that affect prod-outlook for the beef market. beef cattle farmers and Extension Agents.



awarded from the Southern Region Center, Clemson Extension Agents marketing school sessions in 2008 and available to small producers. Expert mists from the southeast presented for price predictions, management uct value, direct marketing and an The schools were attended by 79

The use of pre and post tests showed that those in attendance had a 30% increase in beef cattle marketing knowledge. Several participants stated that they learned about tools and strategies that will help them make informed marketing decisions on their cattle operations.

### Area Cattlemen Utilize Alternative Marketing to Improve Profitability

Cattle producers in the Lancaster/Chester/York area are always seeking methods to enhance profitability of their cattle operations. One method is to market cattle in uniform truckload lots of properly vaccinated, preconditioned cattle. Calves marketed using this method sell at higher prices compared to calves sold through traditional marketing venues.

The area livestock agent coordinated an area feeder calf sale of preconditioned truckload lots. Area cattle producers consigned cattle which were screened and uniform loads of similar breed, frame size and muscling were complied. Seventeen producers marketed 1271 calves in truckload lots. All calves were vaccinated for respiratory disease, preconditioned for a minimum of 45 days and were source and age verified through USDA Process Verified Program (PVP).

# Fire Ant Decapitating Flies

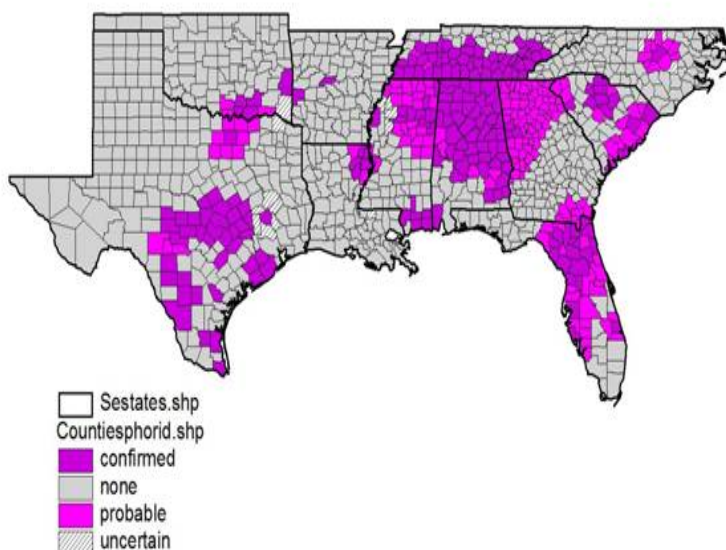
Timothy Davis, Ph.D., Invasive Species Specialist

In 2001 Dr. Tim Davis released Fire Ant Decapitating Flies in the Great Falls area of Fairfield County. These flies have established and spread throughout the county and have been found as far away as Charlotte North Carolina. Decapitating flies are not a silver bullet for fire ant control, but they are a piece of the puzzle.

Only about the size of an ant's head. The flies lay an egg in the fire ant's thorax. The larvae hatches and moved into the head of the fire ant where the larva continues to develop and pupate. The fire ant's head falls off and serves as a puparium for the new fly. Each fly can lay about 150 - 200 eggs. The entire life cycle takes between 30 and 40 days depending upon temperature. For more information about decapitating flies visit <http://www.ars.usda.gov/fireant/>



curvatus -- 2008



Fire ant decapitating flies are very small. In this picture you can see the ant's bodies on the outer ring. The heads are next and the flies are positioned in the middle.

## Urban Tree Management

Tree management is a neglected subject in the field of horticulture. Mismanaged older over story trees are victims of constant abuse by utility companies, municipalities, and homeowners. Planting larger species of trees in the wrong place, pruning, and removing older trees is costly and requires a great deal of biological understanding of how a tree grows. Educational efforts are needed to supply the expertise to better manage trees.

Mark J. Talbert, Retired County Extension Agent provided two consecutive years of Urban Tree Management to a target audience of Master Gardeners and to the general public. Twelve Master Gardeners were trained so that they could respond to tree management questions. They received three continuing educational hours needed to comply with Master Gardener annual certification requirements.

All participants reported 100% increased knowledge gained. There is now a body of volunteers whom can competently answer tree management questions in Fairfield County.

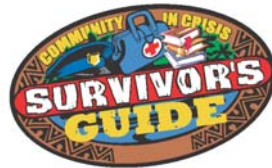


# Community and Economic Development

Monica Miller, Area Community Development Agent

In the fall of 2008, Economic And Community Development Agent, Monica Miller met with Sheriff Young of Fairfield County and asked him to identify the potential needs in the Fairfield County community. As this is an economically depressed area, present. Sheriff Young identified them as a paramount issue. With committee was quickly built to

The coalition was named GAT Winnsboro Public Safety, Fair-expert Carole Gehret (California), mer ( SCE&G), Keep Fairfield Commerce. In October the first "Got Gangs" Forum was held for which WLTX covered and played on the eleven O'clock news. Approximately 75 people attended. The group decided to hold these continuing education events quarterly. The second forum held in January of 2009 was co sponsored by the Fairfield County School District with nearly 100 people present. Specifically, this was aimed at school involvement and promoting uniforms to eradicate gang colors in schools. Seven groups have been reached including an in service for teachers. These smaller group outreach efforts are ongoing.



all problems associated with poverty were gang activity and the crimes surrounding the support of colleague Mark Talbert, a address all issues of gang life.

(Gang Action Task-force), comprised of field County Sheriff's Department, Gang SLED, Fairfield County Council, V.C. Sum-Beautiful, and the Winnsboro Chamber of



The *GAT* approach has a **three pronged extension**. The **educational outreach and marketing** is the first. The **second** approach would involve securing resources and collaborative partners, and the **third**, job creation for high risk youth.

In December of 2008 a grant application was submitted for an EPA grant posed to create jobs specifically in green pesticide training. Keep Fairfield Beautiful *GAT* member Mary Urias also applied for a United Way grant for the group.

In a County where minimum wage jobs are being consumed by adults, youth turn to gangs for a source of income. Gang life also substitutes for family structure. A meeting with Allen Torres who is overseeing the creation of two more nuclear units was arranged to discuss their potential partnership. Communication continued with SCE&G regarding their offer to implement a pilot program to train to twenty selected high risk youth. Allen Torres offered training, timelines, and an inside track on deadlines and contacts with Shaw construction. Outreach representatives of the VC Summer Nuclear Station agreed that they would aid in training. They fully support this pilot with their collective resources including providing mentors under the direction of volunteer *GAT* member Carole Gehret.

Richard Campbell who holds funds for the Fatherhood Initiative, offered assurances and backing that he could provide training, drug testing, bonding, and seed money for young men with back child support issue for this pilot. The men and women chosen for the 20 person employment pilot for high risk youth will be trained in welding, landscaping, pesticide application, and construction. With the creation of over 3000 jobs in Fairfield County through VC Summer, these youth will be hand fed the opportunities to gain a future and immediate employment.

Richard Campbell and Keith Ivey, of Fatherhood Initiative, members of the *GAT*, and representatives from VC Summers met as a collaborative team at V.C Summer Nuclear plant to organize the pilot program.

The intent of this coalition that this pilot program could lead to an ongoing generator of employment for youth 18-25 who would otherwise find themselves in the violent throws of gang life and no foreseeable future.





## What are the Fairfield County Master Gardeners Up To?

Utilizing an area that Mark Talbert had used to demonstrate a trickle drip irrigation, Master Gardener, Mary Urias participated in the Plant a Row for the Hungry program. The concept of the program was to plant vegetables in a garden to help support the community food bank and at the same time, she offered to those recipients of the food bank, ideas to grow vegetables from seeds at home.



Newly graduated Master Gardener, Katherine Doty, took on a garden project with a church youth group. She and volunteer Nancy Williams got the soil ready. That was the hard part that took about 5 hours. Then the children came another day to help plant the seeds and that only took about an hour. She can't wait to see what comes up. She said they planted peas (doubtful this late), spinach, radishes, onions, turnips and chard. The group also hopes to be able to donate it to the food bank.



# Family and Community Leaders and 4-H give back to the Community

Members of the local 4-H and Family and Community Leaders (FCL) clubs, formerly Extension Homemakers, recently partnered in a community service project to help the Fairfield County Foster Care Agency. Volunteer leaders from both organizations assisted 4-headers in sewing and assembling over 50 "care cloths" stuffed with toiletry items for children being served by Foster Care.

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. The 4-H Youth Development Program uses learn by doing approach, the involvement of caring adults, and the knowledge and resources of Clemson University and the land grant university system to empower youth to become healthy, productive, and contributing members of society.

The mission of FCL is to improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities through fellowship, education and service.

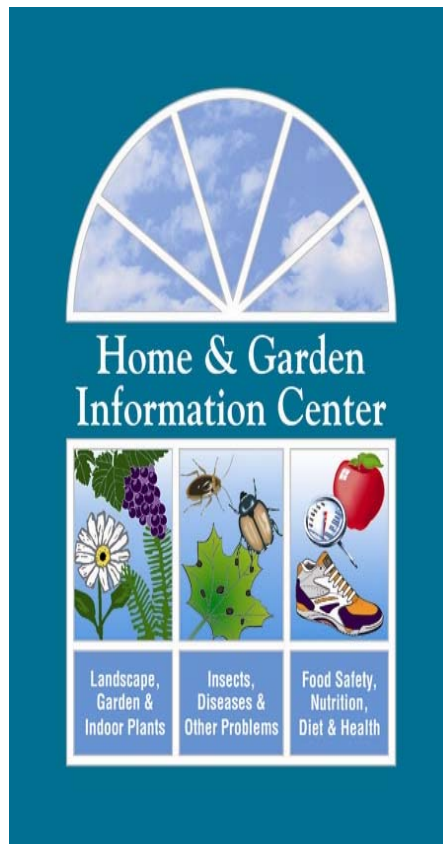


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*Putting Knowledge to Work*



The Home & Garden Information Center (HGIC) provides research-based information on landscaping, gardening, plant health, household pests, food safety & preservation, and nutrition, physical activity & health. 1-888-656-9988

(SC residents only, 9am - 1pm, M - F)

[www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic)