

Title: Reducing Pest for Food Safety

Leslee D. Spivey, lspvy@clermson.edu
County Extension Agent, Retired

David Gunter, dgunter@clermson.edu
County Extension Agent

Lana Tietjen, lttjn@clermson.edu
Area EFNEP Coordinator

Justification: According to The South Carolina Community profile more families live in poverty in the Pee Dee Region than on the state average. People living below the poverty level often live in substandard housing and have no knowledge of pest management except chemical control. Pest infestation in homes is not only a health issue, but can be an important economic issue. When food is contaminated by pest, and must be discarded, it is a financial hardship on some families to replace the food that was lost.

This grant provided training on Integrated Pest management Practices for 8 para- professionals with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program. Nutrition Educator Assistants were then to teach pest management practices to their clients. Each client was given a pretest, taught four lessons and then given a post test. The lessons were on the following topics: Controlling Pantry Pest, Food Storage, Controlling kitchen Pest, A Simple Cleaning Schedule.

Pretest/Post-test The following questions were asked before and after the lessons. Improvements were seen in each category. The following are the surveys completed by the EFNEP para- professionals. Some clients did not answer all questions.

1. Kitchen counters free of left over food?

Pre/T: 115 yes: 44 no Post/T 143 yes: 10 no

2. Kitchen floor swept and free of food particles?

Pre/T: 132 yes: 26 no Post/T 151 yes: 4 no

3. Food stored in proper containers?

Pre/T 128 yes: 30 no Post/T 149 yes: 6 no

4. Food is put away after each meal?

Pre/T 129 yes: 28 no Post/T 145 yes: 10 no

5. There are signs of pest (roaches, ants, flies) in the kitchen?

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| | Pre/T 59 yes: 96 no | Post/T 34 yes: 121 no |
| 6. Food Storage areas are clean? | Pre/T 135 yes: 20 no | Post/T 145 yes: 7 no |
| 7. Cracks and crevices in house are calked? | Pre/T 95 yes; 59 no | Post /T 119 yes, 35 no |
| 8. Bug spray is found in the kitchen? | Pre/T 92 yes: 64 no | Post/T 56 yes, 98 no |
| 9. Pest infested food has been found by homemaker? | Pre/T 51 yes: 102 no | Post/T 47 yes, 107 no |
| 10. Kitchen pipes are free of leaks? | Pre/T 117 yes: 38 no | Post/T 135 yes, 20 no |
| 11. Large stacks of newspapers found near kitchen? | Pre/T 47 yes: 109 no | Post/T 15 yes, 139 no |
| 12. Pantry floor and shelves clean? | Pre/T 136 yes; 22 no | Post/T 149yes, 5 no, |

Impact.

Proper food safety habits such as putting food away after each meal, and keeping food preparation area clean can be an important factor in reducing pest problems.