More SC youth are turning to 4-H to stoke their interests in science, new data show. Participation increased 12% last year for SC 4-H, the youth-development arm of Clemson University Cooperative Extension. That follows growth of nearly 10% percent a year ago. Programs cover animal science, agriculture, science, engineering, natural resources, healthy living, leadership and much more.

Clemson Extension has proactively expanded 4-H programming and hired more 4-H agents throughout the state as part of a five-year strategic plan focused on strengthening communities. Participants in 4-H are twice as likely to be civically active, live healthier and participate in science, engineering and computer technology programs in schools, according to a study by Tufts University.

SC 4-H has hired 9 new agents in the past two years, with 2 more joining the team this summer. In addition to the work of agents, 4-H is buoyed by the support of nearly 4,000 volunteers across the state.

More than 104,400 young people in kindergarten through 12th grades participated in 4-H programming last year. Roughly 53% of 4-H participants are white; 39% are African-American and 7% are Hispanic, figures that closely mirror SC population demographics, Ardern said.

“That is very significant. We work hard to ensure 4-H programming is available to all children in South Carolina,” Ardern said.

New 4-H programs and clubs are added each year. A new Honey Bee project is helping young people to become junior beekeepers, teaching them the basics of entomology and the role pollinators play in the global food supply. Last year, the inaugural 4-H Clementa Pinckney Leadership Conference brought young people from across the state to Clemson’s campus to participate in numerous activities designed to promote teamwork, leadership and citizenship. The weeklong leadership camp returns to Clemson this summer with sessions June 18-24 and July 23-29. This is just one of many 4-H camps offered during the summer. SC 4-H also has added new programs to teach financial management as well programs with a focus on STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics.)

“We have really increased our number of programs within the schools,” Ardern said. SC 4-H is also working to connect its 4-H alumni. Register as a 4-H alumnus online here.

And in case you are wondering, Newberry County 4-H has increased our numbers as well, now reaching over 25% of eligible youth in Newberry County!

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**Yogurt Fruit Salad**
(from In the Kitchen Camp)

**Ingredients:**
- Fresh Strawberries, hulled and halved
- Seedless Grapes
- Mandarin Oranges
- Maraschino Cherries, drained
- Pineapple Chunks, drained
- Blueberries
- Walnut Pieces, opt.
- Yogurt Dressing
  (2 cups vanilla yogurt)
  (1/2 cup honey)

**Directions:**
1. Toss fruit in bowl
2. Make dressing.
3. Pour dressing over fruit and toss to coat.
4. Toss with sugar and lemon juice to coat.
5. Chill.
On Wednesday, June 7, Newberry County 4-H kicked off summer with the first of many fun opportunities: Clovers in the Kitchen Day Camp. Twelve youth spent the day at the Clemson Extension Office learning kitchen safety, food groups, and cooking skills. They made their own chef hats, cooked their own lunch, and participated in a blind folded taste test. If you missed out of the fun, there are other opportunities still available, including more cooking camps. Contact us at 803-276-1091 x11 or awillin@clemson.edu or visit the Newberry County 4-H website at www.clemson.edu/extension/newberry/4h/index.html. Other opportunities include sewing, up-cycling, camping, and more. Try the recipe page one for a taste of what our cooking camps make.

Want a say so in the things Newberry County 4-H offers? Take our stakeholder questionnaire to leave your opinion. It only takes a few minutes. Thanks for your input!
Join us for

4-H Day with the Fireflies!

4-H Day with the Columbia Fireflies is Sunday, July 30 at 5:05 vs. August Greenjackets at Spirit Communications Park. Tickets are $9 each, with $2 benefiting Newberry County 4-H when you use our order form. Events include on-field games and contests, run the bases, and post-game autograph session. Wear your 4-H shirt. Don't have one? Order from the 4-H Mall. See ya there!

4-H Birthday Corner

June: Ady Ashmore, Luke Davis, Savanna Jimenez, Jessi Pitts, Jason Ruch

July: Cameron Hawkins, Carter Hendrix, Ryan Hyatt, Hope Lindner, Meredith Mills, Noah Mills, Paula Mills, Reuben Sutton, Claire Wooten

August: Clarissa Haltiwanger, Brynn Harrison, Caleb Jones, Jennifer McDonald, Julian Senn, Thomas Timms, Joesph Voest

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If you wish to be removed from the 4-H mailing list, please email awillin@clemson.edu or call 803-276-1091 x11.