



# Alabama Cooperative Extension System

## Clay County Newsletter



Jan.—Feb. 2012

Vol. 2, Issue 1

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### Friends of Extension

Welcome to 2012! As we begin a new year, many of us will make “resolutions” to do various things; loose weight, eat better, be a better steward of our money. While these are all worthy ambitions, we sometimes set ourselves up for quick failure. We are right to set goals for ourselves, but we should not just “give up” if we falter or get off track. We can make a conscious effort to work toward those goals and keep in mind that we are human and “things happen”.



With those thoughts, have a Happy, and productive, New Year!

### Spring 2012 Master Gardner Class Now Forming

The Randolph County Extension Office is now taking applications for Master Gardener class for Randolph and surrounding counties. The class will meet each Friday from 9 am until 3 pm tentatively scheduled to begin on February 17 and lasting 13 weeks. This class will be held in Wedowee, location to be determined. The course cost is \$125 per person and \$160 per couple and includes all study materials and textbook. Couples will receive one textbook.

Master Gardeners are given more than 50 hours of instruction and materials on topics such as soils, landscape design, turfgrasses, plant pathology, vegetable gardening, entomology, fruit production, weed control, tree care, and plant physiology. They are required to assist the Alabama Cooperative Extension System with 50 hours of volunteer time. Volunteer time might include answering horticultural questions, helping with 4-H youth programs, or assisting with other Extension approved projects.

The class has a minimum of 15 members and a maximum of 30 members. If you are interested in attending the Master Gardener class contact the Randolph County Extension Office at 256-357-2841. You will be asked to fill out an application, which is available at the Extension Office or online at <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1155/ANR-1155.pdf>. Completed applications, including background check forms, and non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required to hold your class membership is due to the Extension Office by Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made out to the Randolph County Extension Office and mailed to Randolph County Extension Office, PO Box 227, Wedowee, AL 36278.

For more information about the Master Gardener Program, you may contact either the Extension Office or East Central Alabama Master Gardener Association President Laura Gasser at 404-213-7586.





### Take Action in January

EPA has designated January as National Radon Action Month. To browse activities that took place in your area and view results during the 2011 National Radon Action Month; read more about Radon Leaders Saving Lives. If you would like to organize an event in your neighborhood, see the Event Planning Kit to get started.

### Four Things You Can Do During National Radon Action Month

1. **Test your home** - EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing is easy and inexpensive. Learn more about testing your home, including how to obtain an easy-to-use test kit.
2. **Attend a National Radon Action Month event in your area** - Look for radon events in your community. Contact your state radon program for more information about local radon activities.
3. **Spread the word**  
- spend time during National Radon Action Month encouraging others to learn about radon and test their homes.

Tell your family and friends about the health risk of radon. Encourage them to test their homes. Plan an activity in your community to help raise awareness. Use EPA's National Radon Action Month Event Planning Kit as a guide.

Attract media attention by working with a local official to get a radon proclamation. View tips and a sample proclamation from EPA's National Radon Action Month Event Planning Kit.

4. **Buy a radon-resistant home** - If you are considering buying a new home, look for builders who use radon-resistant new construction. Read more about radon-resistant new construction, "Building Radon Out: A Step-by-Step Guide to Build Radon-Resistant Homes".

Contact your state radon program for information about radon testing, mitigation, and radon-resistant new construction in your area.



Need to test your home for RADON?

Purchase your RADON Test Kit in our office!

93 Co. Rd. 31, Ashland or call 256-354-5976

Need More RADON Information call toll free

1-855-ALRADON

# A Safer, More Comfortable Home Using Universal Design Features



The family home is the place where we want to live out our lives. Sometimes the home we bought in our youth doesn't meet our needs as we age. By choosing to purchase a home in our 20's and 30's with many universal design features, we may be able to live longer in our homes safely and at a more comfortable level. Universal design features such as:

- An entrance without any steps
- Lighted entry and motion detection lights
- An open floor plan
- Variable height work surfaces (mechanically adjustable)
- Curbless shower
- Door is 42" wide

However, if we are in a home that doesn't have many of the features described above we may want to invest in making some small changes that might be a beginning to improving the safety and comfort of our family home.

- Single-lever water controls on bathroom and kitchen fixtures
- Kitchen ranges with front mounted controls (no reaching over hot burners)
- Lever hardware on doors
- Easy touch rocker switches

During the Holiday gifting season adding universal design features might be ideal gifts for that family member that seems to have everything.

For more information about Universal Design features visit Iowa State University's Universal Design Labs web site at <http://www.hdfs.hs.iastate.edu/centers/udll/livingroom.php>.

To learn about the Principles of Universal Design and access-related publication visit North Carolina State University web site at <http://www.ncsu.edu/project/design-projects/udi/publications/recommended-archive-articles/>

Donna R. Shanklin, Regional Extension Agent – Health, [drs00009@aces.edu](mailto:drs00009@aces.edu), 256-737-9386

**2012 Money  
Management Calendars  
Are Here!**  
Pick one up at  
Clay County Extension office



**Chip East**  
Regional Extension Agent  
Commercial Horticulture  
eastwil@aces.edu



## Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Grower Association Conference~ February 10-11, 2012

This year's conference has been extended to a full two days. We have some interesting sessions planned for Friday, including a Small Farm/Beginning Farm educational program with a hands-on workshop at the Old Agronomy Farm. The Friday night BBQ supper was such a hit last year that we are doing it again this year. Bring your family members to the BBQ for an additional \$5 each.

We already have several vendors who will have displays, including Atlas Manufacturing, Irrigation-Mart, Kelly Seed, and Siegers Seed. Several more have expressed interest. PLEASE contact the vendors you personally work with and encourage them to participate in our conference either as exhibitors or sponsors. You can find forms on our website at <http://www.aces.edu/afvga>.

Please mail your registration form and fees to:

**Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association**  
**P.O. Box 2081**  
**Auburn, AL 36831-2081**



**February 10-11, 2012**

**Location: Ham Wilson Livestock Area, Donahue Dr., Auburn University**

### Home Garden Questions?

Call the **Master Gardener Helpline**  
Toll free **1-877-252-GROW (4769)**  
(choose option 2 for Clay Co.)

**Open: Mon.—Thurs.**  
**9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**



### Alabama Cooperative Extension System Clay County Office

93 County Road 31  
Ashland, AL 36251  
Phone: (256) 354-5976  
Fax: (256) 354-7787  
Email: [tomlita@aces.edu](mailto:tomlita@aces.edu)

# Dairy U at AU!



DAIRY U will be held on May 5th at the Beef Teaching Unit. For those who have not attended, DAIRY U ( Dairy Awareness Introductory Resource for Youth U) is an educational hands-on workshop for youth to introduce them to various aspects of the Dairy industry. Some of the topics in the past have been: Repro Instruction, Butter Making, Producer Marketing Issues, Ice Cream For All, Sexing Semen, Composition of Milk, The New Flavor of Milk, Marketing Dairy Products, Cheese Making, Showing Dairy Cattle, Bottling Milk For Sale, Making A Commercial For Dairy Products and everyone favorite Making Dipping Dots. Classes are made age appropriate.

For more information please contact:  
Boyd Brady, Extension Specialist-Dairy  
Phone: 334-844-1562  
Cell: 334-321-8826  
Boyd Brady <bradybo@auburn.edu>

**We're on the Web!**  
**Check Us Out At**  
[www.aces.edu/Clay](http://www.aces.edu/Clay)

Want to get our newsletter electronically?  
Send an email to [tomlita@aces.edu](mailto:tomlita@aces.edu)  
with **Newsletter** in the subject line!  
We will add you to our email list!



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Be sure to “like” us on Facebook to keep up with upcoming events and to find more great information!

**Clay County**  
**Extension**



Happy New Year from Operation: Military Kids! We hope you have had a nice relaxing holiday. We have a lot of great events coming up in 2012 and can't wait for the fun to begin!

Be sure to visit our website: [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org) and the 4-H website: [www.alabama4h.com](http://www.alabama4h.com) to stay updated on all the opportunities and events coming up.

**BE PREPARED!!** We plan to post the registration forms for our 2012 Speak Out for Military Kids event, our Month of the Military Child Ball, and our Camp ASCCA Weekend for Special Needs youth on February 1, 2012.

We will be postponing the release of our OMK Camp and week-long Camp ASCCA due to a delay in the approval of proposals for the 2012 Camp year. We will keep you all posted on the status of their approval as we get it.

Also, we are very grateful to announce that Nick Saban's foundation Nick's Kids donated \$250 in funding to Operation: Military Kids to go back to our Alabama Military Youth.

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## Don't Forget to SAVE these DATES!

**April 28—30, 2012** will be our first Speak Out for Military Kids event **open to 13—18 year olds** with a military family member currently or recently deployed and will be in the Montgomery area. Registration is required, and will go out February 1, 2012.

**May 5, 2012** Month of the Military Child Ball! for youth ages 14-18.

Registration required. Registration will go out February 1, 2012.

**April 13—15, 2012** will be our Special Needs Weekend at Camp ASCCA. Be watching for more information!



**4-H Corner**



**Kim Good**

Regional Extension Agent  
4-H and Youth Development  
goodkim@aces.edu



**4-H DAY!**



**AU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

**Auburn vs. Ole Miss**

**Sunday, February 26, 2012, 2:30 p.m.**

**Auburn Arena, Auburn University**

**4-H members and volunteer leaders receive FREE**

**entrance to game. Tickets for family and friends in same section can be purchased on day of event (\$7 each).**

**DETAILS: :**

- **REGISTRATION** fee of \$8 per person. Registration is required for everyone.
- Registration will be online at [www.Alabama4H.com](http://www.Alabama4H.com). Registration will **OPEN** Monday, Feb. 1, 2012 and will **CLOSE** at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17, 2012.
- Auburn University's Office of Professional and Continuing Education (OPCE) will handle online registration. If you attended 4-H Football Day, use the same email address and password you created; you can reset your password if you do not remember it - OPCE CANNOT tell you your password.
- Bring \$1 donation to support ongoing Alabama Tornado Relief efforts. IN ADDITION, join AU Athletics and support their charities - bring books to benefit Pine Hills Literacy Project or non-perishable food items to benefit War on Hunger.
- Travel, parking and meals are on your own.

**Questions:** Janet McCoy, State Activities & Events Coordinator

Phone: 334/844-7690; E-mail: [mccoyjl@aces.edu](mailto:mccoyjl@aces.edu)



Each issue we will be featuring the upcoming events from the Clay County Chamber of Commerce. Be sure to check out their website [www.claycochamber.com](http://www.claycochamber.com)



## Earthfire Studios

**Teacher: Jim Gasser – Master Potter**

### January classes

registration required 256-396-5599

**Pottery Classes - Introduction to Clay -**

One - 3 hour class – \$30.00 \$25.00 will be applied to the fee of one of our regular 6 week classes if you sign up within 6 months.

**Current classes available:** 2 classes available in January

Friday Evenings of 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Class time 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Note:** We will open a class for your group of 5 or more and figure out a schedule time that works for you.

**Basic Wheel Throwing Class - 6 weeks - \$150.00** **Class starts - January 23, 2012**

Three hours on one day a week for six weeks. (Mondays)

**Hand Building - 6 weeks - \$150.00** **Class starts - January 19, 2012**

Three hours on one day a week for six weeks. (Thursdays)

## SKYWARN

*Storm Spotters Class*

*Sponsored by the National Weather Service*

*And*

*Clay County Emergency Management Agency*

*February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm*

*At the*

*Clay County Commission Courtroom*

*Located on Hwy 77 Ashland*

*Across from Tru-Wood Cabinets*

For more information please contact Clay County EMA office at 256-396-5886



*This is GREAT NEWS for Alabama and Clay County.*

Clay County has two restaurants listed on the Year of Alabama Food website and brochure. High Points Coffee and Books and Red's Catfish Cabin.

For more information about the Year of Alabama Food visit [www.yearofalabamafood.com](http://www.yearofalabamafood.com).

# Chamber News!

## R. L. Harris Tournament Trail

Presented By:



Location: R.L. Harris Reservoir Highway #48 Boat Ramp  
(Located between Lineville and Wedowee, Alabama)

\$100 per team plus \$10 Big Fish

One in Five Places Paid Back

Must place in the top 30% or fish all 11 tournaments to qualify for the Classic  
Each team is allotted three (3) drops (Only the top 8 finishes will be counted)

One time Membership fee \$20 per person

### 2012 Tournament Schedule:

February 18th (Daylight - 3pm)  
March 10th (Daylight -3pm)  
April 7th (Daylight -3pm)  
May 5th (Daylight -3pm)  
June 2nd (6pm - 1am)  
July 7th (6pm -1am)

August 4th (6pm -1am)  
September 22nd (Daylight -3pm)  
October 20th (Daylight -3pm)  
November 17th (8am—3pm)  
January 26th (8am -3pm)  
\* Classic\* February 23rd  
(Daylight -3pm)

For any questions or further information contact Jackson Bonner at  
256.343.4796 or  
e-mail at [jackson745@aol.com](mailto:jackson745@aol.com)

Clay County Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 85 Lineville, Al 36266  
256-396-2828

[www.claycochamber.com](http://www.claycochamber.com) - [claychamber@centurytel.net](mailto:claychamber@centurytel.net)



## Be sure to mark your calendars for these up-coming events!

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For more information please contact: Boyd Brady, Extension Specialist-Dairy  
Phone: 334-844-1562



**Mark your calendars! Alabama 4-H Day at  
Auburn University-Sunday, February 26, 2012, 2:30 p.m.**

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