

News Article  
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## Extension Offers Computer Course

In recent years computers have become widespread in businesses and in homes. The prices have gradually come down making computers more affordable. Now more and more families have a home computer. Some people love computers while others wish they had never been invented, but the fact remains, computers are here to stay.

The computer is an amazing tool. It can be used to type a document, balance a checking account, make a presentation, communicate through e-mail, find information on the internet, create publications, edit photographs, buy and sell products and the list goes on. It seems like the younger generation, who have grown up with computers, find it second nature to learn what computers can do. But for some of us, the computer may seem a little more intimidating. Rural communities often lag behind some of the more urban and suburban communities in knowledge and use of the home computer.

Recently the Coosa County Extension Office wrote a grant through the Rural Alabama Initiative Program to develop a "Computer Literacy Lab for Rural Adults". Through this grant eight computers were purchased for the purpose of educating rural families on the many uses of the home computer. So beginning in November, the Extension Office will be hosting a five week (one day per week) computer course. Thanks to the grant funding, we will be able to offer this class for a \$30 registration fee. The course will begin on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and then will run every Monday night for the next four weeks. All the classes will be taught at the Coosa County 4-H Club House in Hanover (on the hill in front of Central Elem/Middle School) from 6:00 till 8:00 p.m.

This first course is targeted towards adults who may be relatively new to computers or who may have never used one at all. We will start with the basics and walk you through some of the more common programs that most people find very useful. Since we only have eight computers, the course will be limited to the first eight people who register. This small group will also allow us to work one-on-one and provide more individual assistance. If we have more than eight people to register, we will develop a waiting list and contact these individuals when the next course is offered. We anticipate offering the course at least once per year.

Registration forms are available at the Coosa County Extension Office in Rockford (stone building behind the courthouse). If you have questions, call Roger Vines, County Extension Coordinator, at 256-377-4713. We can mail registration forms but remember the class is going to be "first come- first serve", so whoever has paid their registration fee first will be first in line. Our office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. So if you ever wanted some help with learning the computer, now is your opportunity.