

## **The Alabama Cooperative Extension System Jackson County Office**

Greetings from Themika L. Sims, County Extension Coordinator, Jackson County office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. This annual report is a tool that we have developed to market the programs offered by the System.

The Cooperative Extension System is a combined effort between two land grant institutions, Auburn University and Alabama A&M University. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System provides educational opportunities to enable individuals to make sound decisions about their lives, families, businesses and communities. Traditionally, those educational programs focused on rural programming, while today rural as well as urban initiatives are being delivered. The mission is to develop and strengthen the state's economy, with emphasis in agriculture-related industries and businesses, and to enable youth, adults, families and communities to develop socially and culturally.

In short, we are an organization whose central purpose is helping people to become productive citizens as it relates to agriculture and urban programs.

To contact The Jackson County Extension Office, call (256) 574-2143 or fax (256) 574-0118. Our website address is [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu). The Jackson County office is located at 27115 John T. Reid Parkway, Scottsboro, AL 35768.

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# JACKSON COUNTY

Andrew Jackson was on hand when Alabama's first state legislature created a county on December 13, 1819 and named it for him. The county seat of Scottsboro, with a 1998 population of 14,215, is the county's largest city. Scottsboro was named for Robert T. Scott who owned the land on which it was founded. Other incorporated places are Bridgeport, Dutton, Hollywood, Hytop, Langston, Paint Rock, Pisgah, Pleasant Groves, Section, Skyline, Stevenson, and Woodville.

The county population is 50,862 with 92.2 percent white, 4.7 percent black and 2.1 percent other. At least 58 percent of the county's population has earned at least a high school education. There are 39 educational outlets in the county, including 16 elementary schools, 15 middle school, seven high schools, one technical school and one two-year College.

Poultry, cattle, corn and soybeans are major agricultural crops. Cotton, vegetables and hay also are grown. Major industries include Smurfit-Stone paper mill, rug mills, and livestock production. Tourist attractions include more than 1,000 caves, Lake Guntersville, Tennessee River, Russell Cave, Unclaimed Baggage and Goosepond Colony.

The Jackson County Extension office has three county agents, one agent-in-training, one ACENEP agent, two secretaries and two farm analysis fieldmen. Agriculture and 4-H are two of the many Extension programs run in the county. More than 600 young people are involved in 4-H programs.

In addition, our quality of life will be reflected by the beautiful mountains, rivers and streams. Jackson County presently has many volunteer leaders as a resource. These include 4-H parents/teachers, Master Gardeners, Foresters, Jackson County Leadership Board, Young Farmers, Cattlemen and many other volunteers that assist the county staff with achieve its mission.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Jackson County currently has a total population of 53,926. The population has change between 1990 and 2000 by 12.8 percent

Racial composition for Jackson County has increased over the last decade; however, there has been a 3.7% percent

increase in the minority population other than blacks. The elderly population (65+) is 13.4 percent. The largest age group is from 35 to 44 years of age having 15.0 percent of total population.

The average household size is 2.47 members per home.

### INCOME

The median household income is \$37,900. The average wage per job is \$23,429. A single person household is 20.7 percent, married couple is 65.8 percent.

The number of persons below poverty, in 1997 was 14.7 percent. The state average is 16.2 percent.

### HOUSING

A family household married with children is 39 percent.

owner occupied (77.9 %) and 4,773 (22.1%) renter occupied housing units.

In Jackson County there are 2,553 (10.6%) vacant housing units and 21,615 (89.4 %) occupied housing units. Of the occupied housing units, 16,842 are

The homeowner vacancy rate (percent) is 1.5. The renter – occupied housing rate (percent) is 11.5.

### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Persons aged 35 years & older	30,847	Grad/Prof. degree	3.4%
9-12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	20.0%	Bachelor's degree	4.6%
High school grad/GED	32.0%	Associates degree	4.3%
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	19.9%	Some college/no degree	13.7%

**Source: 1990-2000 Census of Population and Housing**

## JACKSON COUNTY – ACES STAFF

### THEMIKA L SIMS



County Extension Coordinator, employed 1991

**Education Background:**

B. S. Crop Science, Alabama A & M University 1990

M.S. Horticulture, Alabama A & M University 1999

**Program Leadership:**

Staff Development; Home Horticulture, Forestry

**Affiliations:**

Alabama Cooperative Extension System Employer Organization (ACESEO)

Alpha Zeta; Agricultural Fraternity

Alabama Turf Grass Association, Alabama Master Gardener Association

### EMILY RUSSELL CAMPBELL



Regional Extension Agent, employed 1998

**Education background:**

B. S. Home Economics (Child Development), Auburn University, 1970.

M. S. Home Economics (Nutrition and Food Science) University of KY, 1984

**Program Leadership:**

Food Safety, Preparation, Preservation

**Affiliations:**

National Association of Extension 4-H Agents

## LEWIS TAPLEY



Regional Extension Agent, employed 1981

### **Educational Background:**

B.S. Agricultural Engineering, Auburn University, 1980

### **Program Leadership:**

Forestry, Wildlife, Natural Resources

### **Affiliations:**

Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents

## BETTY WITCHARD



Administrative Assistance, employed 1982

### **Educational Background:**

Northeast Community College, 1980

### **Affiliations:**

Extension Support Personnel Association (ESPA)

## Jennifer O'linger



4-H Agent Assistant I, employed September, 2005

### **Education Background:**

Associate Science, Northeast Community College, Rainsville, AL 1997

### **Program Leadership:**

4-H Youth Development

### **Affiliations:**

Alabama Association of Extension 4-H Agents

## Melodie Lambert



Agent Assistant Nutrition Education Program (NEP)  
Jackson/Dekalb Counties, employed February, 2005

### **Education Background:**

Associate Degree in Child Development, Ft. Drum, NY, 1995  
Family Development Credentialing, University of Alabama, 2002

### **Program Leadership:**

Nutrition Education Program

## JERRY PIERCE



Extension Economist-Farm Business Management, employed 1993

### **Educational Background:**

B.S., Agricultural Economics, Auburn University, 1981  
M.S., Agricultural Economics, Auburn University, 1986

### **Program Leadership:**

Farm Analysis, Farm Management, Income Tax, Estate Planning, Personal Finance

### **Affiliations:**

Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents  
National Association of Farm Business Analysis Specialist

## HOLT HARDIN



Extension Economist-Farm Business Management, employed 2000

### **Education Background:**

B.S., Accounting, University of North Alabama, 1970  
Minor in Economics

### **Program Leadership:**

Farm Analysis, Farm Management, Income Tax, Estate Planning, Personal Finance

### **Affiliations:**

Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents  
National Association of Farm Business Analysis Specialist

## **TERRY L. SHACKELFORD**



Regional Extension Agent (REA), employed 1974  
DeKalb County

### **Educational Background:**

B. S., Agriculture Education, Alabama A& M University, Normal, Alabama  
M. S., Agribusiness Education, Alabama A&M University, Normal, Alabama

### **Program Leadership:**

Regional Extension Agent --- Home Grounds, Gardens and Home Pest

## **SHIRLEY L. WHITTEN**



Regional Extension Agent, employed 1981  
Madison County

### **Education Background:**

B. S., Home Economics Education, Auburn University  
M. Ed., Home Economics Education, Alabama A & M University

### **Program Leadership:**

Human Nutrition, Diet and Health

### **Affiliations:**

National Extension Association of Family Consumer Sciences  
Epsilon Sigma Phi (Extension Professionals' Association), immediate past president

## WALTER HARRIS



Regional Extension Agent, employed 1991  
Madison County

### **Education Background:**

B.S., Agri-Business Education, Alabama A & M University, 1990  
M.S., Agri-Business Education, Alabama A & M University, 1990

### **Program Leadership:**

4-H Youth Development  
Natural Resources

### **Affiliations:**

Alapha Zeta Fraternity  
Agricultural Fraternity  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System Employer Organization (ACESEO)

## BETTY GOTTLER



Regional Extension Agent – 4-H, employed 1976  
Morgan County

### **Educational Background:**

B.S., Home Economics, University of Montevallo, 1972  
M.S., Vocational Education – emphasis in Elementary Education, 1974

### **Program Leadership:**

4-H Youth Development

### **Affiliations:**

National Association of Extension 4-H Agents  
Alabama Association of Extension 4-H Agents  
Alabama Association of Family and Consumer Science

## **DAVID DERRICK**



Regional Extension Agent, employed 1978  
Cherokee County

### **Education Background:**

B. S., Agronomy and Soils, Auburn University, 1978

### **Program Leadership:**

Agronomy – Row Crops Northeast Alabama

### **Affiliations:**

County Agents Association (ACAAS)

## **JUDY EDMOND**



Regional Extension Agent, employed 1995  
Madison County

### **Educational Background:**

B. S., Home Economics Education, Alabama A & M University

M. S., Nutrition and Hospitality Management, Alabama A & M University

### **Program Leadership:**

Child Development and Family

### **Affiliations:**

Member Voices for Alabama Children

Alabama Cooperative Extension System Employer Organization (ACESEO)

## LIVESTOCK OVERVIEW

Livestock	Production	State Ranking	Income
All Cattle	35,000 head	8 <sup>th</sup>	
Beef Cows	20,000 head	7 <sup>th</sup>	12.2 million
Milk Cows	500 head	10 <sup>th</sup>	1.0 million
Hogs & Pigs	10,000 head	5 <sup>th</sup>	1.8 million
Egg Production	53.3 million eggs	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.0 million
Broilers	25,443 birds	13 <sup>th</sup>	53.6 million
Hay	24,600 acres	7 <sup>th</sup>	.9 million

## AGRONOMIC CROPS OVERVIEW

Crops	Acres	State Ranked	Income
Cotton	5,050	21	.9 million
Soybean	21,000	3	3.2 million
Corn	21,000	1 <sup>st</sup>	3.3 million
Potatoes	600	1 <sup>st</sup>	2.4 million
Other Veg	1,200		
Fruit	100		

Number of Farms	Land in Farms (acres)	Average Farm Size (acres)
1,375	229,435	167

Total Cash Receipts: 97.5 Millions

## **Themika L. Sims**

Jackson County Extension Coordinator

### **Two Grants awarded to Jackson County MG Projects**

At the state MG Convention in March, two Jackson County Projects were selected to receive \$1,000.00 grants.

Moriah Christian Children's Home is one of the recipients. When completed the home will provide a safe, loving home environment for those children who are in abused, neglected or abandoned situations through no fault of their own. The grant will be used in landscaping the brand new home.

The other project is Armstrong Park which is located at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nebraska Streets in Stevenson. The lot was donated to the city of Stevenson for use as a park and they have already installed sidewalks, two gazebos, lighting, a flagpole area and two monuments (one naming the Armstrong



family and the other a dedication to military personnel from the area). The grant money will be used for plants that will add color each season of the year. We will also plant trees for shade and an Alberta spruce to be decorated at Christmas. There will be evergreen shrubbery, bulbs and pansies.

### **Jackson County Master Gardeners Award First Annual Scholarship**

The Jackson County Master Gardeners Association has awarded its first annual scholarship this spring to a high school senior in Jackson County/Scottsboro.

This year's recipient is Kyle Paris, a senior at Woodville High School. Kyle plans to study botany at Auburn University, Northeast Alabama Community College or the University of

Georgia. As an active member and officer in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) for four years, Kyle has attended the FFA National Convention in Kentucky and participated in Outdoor Seminars and the Sunbelt Expo in Georgia. He was also a member of the Soil Judging Team that won both second- and third-place awards.

Kyle says that he enjoys the outdoors, as well as gardening and tending to his many houseplants. In commenting on his planned major, Kyle says “I love learning and working with plants of all species.” Kyle is the son of Lee and Charlesa Paris of Woodville.

current transcript, ACT/SAT scores, and three character reference forms.

The \$500 scholarship is to be applied toward costs of tuition and books at the recipient’s choice of college or technical school. Members serving on the Scholarship Committee are Nancine DeHaan, Donna Hawkins, Burma Boyd, Betty Knight, and Elaine Brookshire.

Criteria for the scholarship include (1) a plan to enter a college/technical school major in horticulture, landscape design, or related field; (2) submission of a complete application, including most

### **Jackson County Master Gardeners Association**

Active Master Gardeners	Total Volunteer Hours	Total Project Completed	Total Contacts	Total Miles Traveled
45	1456	262	1867	3,817

## **Lewis Tapley**

Regional Extension Agent  
Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources  
Sand Mountain Region

Program assignment: Wildlife Management, Wildlife Pests, Forestry, Recreational Pond Management, Natural Resources.

Counties assigned: Jackson, Dekalb, Cherokee, Marshall, Etowah, Cullman, Blount and St Clair

**At right a Secchi disk is being used to demonstrate when to fertilize a fish pond.**



### **Activities Conducted or Offered in Jackson County**

- The Master Wildlifer training was offered. This is a series of classes conducted over seven weeks that provides in-depth training in managing all species of wildlife.
- The Jackson County Forestry Planning Committee was revived and is now making plans to provide educational opportunities for Jackson County Landowners.
- A Forestry Tour was planned and conducted on the Little Nashville Farm of Jack McQuinn. The tour was attended by participants attending the Annual Alabama Tree Farm Committee Convention. (65 attended)
- Interest in managing recreational fish ponds has really grown the past few years. Forty visits and phone calls were conducted to assist pond owners with weed control, stocking and fertilizing.
- Fifty two contacts were made in the area of Wildlife Management. Request came from individuals, hunting clubs and wildlife preserves.
- The growing population of man brings us closer into the home range of wildlife. Along with this come encounters with wildlife that most homeowners need help with to solve. Request range from skunks under the house to bats at the Heritage Center.
- Conduct a basic introduction to rifles program for (80) club scouts.

## **Emily Russell Campbell**

Regional Extension Agent

Food Safety, Preparation and Preservation Program Area

Northeast Region 2

(Jackson, Marshall, Morgan, Madison, Etowah, Cherokee, DeKalb, Limestone)

### **All program areas are offered on a Regional basis.**

Objective: Provide food safety, preparation and preservation education. The major curricula that are employed are the nationally accredited “ServSafe” (SS) training for food service workers, primarily in restaurant settings, through-out the state and the “Serving It Safe” (SIS) training for child nutrition (school lunchroom) workers in the state. In addition, food preservation training is provided to individuals and food processing assistance is offered to the food industry, with special emphasis on the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) method of quality assurance. HACCP training is also offered to child nutrition workers in the state. Food preparation and preservation assistance is offered through workshops and as needed for clientele through telephone, direct mail and electronic means.

- Since October 2004, Emily Russell Campbell has been trained and certified to teach and proctor exams in both the SS and SIS curricula. SIS training has been conducted in six cities statewide, and was open to all Child Nutrition Program managers and Directors statewide, including the Jackson County. As measured by Pre- and Post- tests administered to lunchroom managers onsite at Serving It Safe training, average scores of knowledge on food safety guidelines improved 44% after the training.
- Conducted one Servsafe training for Jackson County
- Training for school lunchroom workers in a workshop & two more trainings scheduled for 2005-06.
- Over 10,000 publications on Food Safety & Preservation distributed at Crow Mt. Orchard.
- Approximately 400 people viewed and received consultation at an educational booth on Thanksgiving turkey thawing and preparation at Farm City Banquet in November
- Hosted booth on Food Science at Scottsboro High School Career Fair in fall of 2005
- Conducted workshop on preserving Sugar-free Jams and Jellies
- Monthly newspaper articles and weekly radio broadcast have centered on food safety and health.
- Canner lid pressure gauges free and available on demand.
- Hundreds of food preservation questions answered by phone, cell-phone while traveling & email.

**“Clueless in the Kitchen” is an original interactive play for kids written and performed by Emily Campbell, REA.**



Newspaper articles are issued periodically and consultation on food preservation, preparation and preservation is ongoing through phone and cell phone contact as well as email. Presentations to groups are available upon request

## **Sandra Sporman**

4-H Agent Assistant I  
Jackson County

### **JACKSON COUNTY 4-H 2005**

The 4-H program in Jackson County was already a dynamic entity before I arrived to take the position as Agent Assistant in November 2004. As I contacted county school principals to set up meetings, I repeatedly heard from principals and teacher/ sponsors how important the continuation of the 4-H program was to students in Jackson County. The most frequent comment was: "This is the only extracurricular activity which promotes leadership, good citizenship, and civic responsibility as well as positive social interaction available to most of our students. Our students, generally, do not have time or money for activities available in urban areas and most parents are not able to transport them to activities after school hours."

Sixteen schools participated in the 4-H program this year. Meetings were held from January to May with an average of 325 contacts per month.

Students enthusiastically participated in club projects and programs which always included an educational component designed to help students with current interests and concerns. Many students said they were often responsible for tending to younger siblings. Some of the older students were beginning to earn spending money by working as babysitters. Programs were presented on home safety and poison control.

Each program involved some sort of hands-on learning experience as well as a short verbal report on the selected topic. Both students and teachers were interested in the material presented and expressed a desire to have more information about child development, childcare, and responsible family interaction during the upcoming school year.



Out of the ten students who participated on the local level, four attended the Regional Congress at Alabama A&M University. Two of these students placed at Regional Congress. They were Meghan Breland from Collins School, Michael Sharp from Skyline, Kyle Cornelison from Skyline, and clubs and community based clubs Cody O'Linger from Scottsboro. Meghan Breland won first place in Junior Informative Public

Speaking and Michael Sharp won second place with his Plant and Soil Science Exhibit.

Jackson County should share the enthusiasm of all those who participate in the 4-H program. The reputation of the program as a positive influence preceded my arrival on the scene. There has been a steady influx of calls in the last three months requesting information about special interest which would operate outside the schools with parent volunteer leaders. The possibility of expansion is enormous, and with expansion of the 4-H program, all the positive benefits of 4-H would be multiplied.

The students, parents, teacher /sponsors and county school principals who work with the Jackson County 4-H program are valuable members of their communities.



The students involved are the source of future community leaders who over time will return to Jackson County much more than they received from the program. Not only will they implement positive change and action-they will be the catalyst for increasing interest and participation in programs and activities which emphasize clear and compassionate thinking, public service, personal and community responsibility, and leadership in areas vital to community growth and pride.

The Jackson County 4-H program genuinely reflects the philosophical definition of 4-H as stated in the 4-H Handbook-a group of students...learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.”

Through this learning experience, they will contribute to the goal of all 4-H programs, “...to make the best better” by using, “... their heads for clearer thinking, their hearts for greater loyalty, their hands for greater service, and their health to better living for their clubs, their communities, their country and their world” \*

\*Paraphrase: The 4-H Pledge.

## Walter Harris

Regional Extension Agent

4-H Program

Cherokee, DeKalb, Jackson, Madison, & Marshall Counties

As a 4-H Regional Extension Agent I work collaboratively with county-based field staff, state specialists, and clientele to assess and implement programs based on clientele needs within the mission of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Program implementation includes, but not limited to:

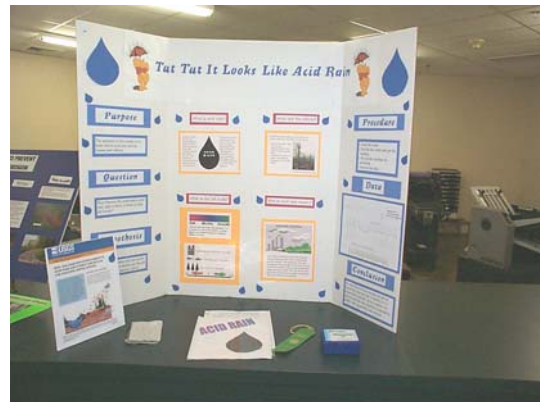
- volunteer training
- assist with county program planning
- Conduct County workshops (as needed)
- fund development in the form of grants, sponsors, donors, partnerships, and coalitions to enhance and expand programming
- conduct regional programs and
- maintain regional advisory council

With the leadership of the Jackson County staff our goal is to certify each 4-H volunteer and school club leader.

The Regional 4-H Congress is one program which the regional team is responsible for implementing. Along with the other regional team members, the North Alabama Region 1&2 4-H Congress was planned and conducted at Alabama A&M on June 14, 2005. One hundred-Seventy Five 4-H'ers and over 300 parents, volunteers and siblings participated in the largest regional congress in the state. Four-H'ers participated in numerous competitive events including Public Speaking, Food Demonstrations & Exhibits, Wood Science and Electric Energy Demonstration, etc.. Many of those 4-H'ers advanced to the State 4-H Congress on July 11-13, 2005.



4-H'ers attend summer camp at the State 4-H Center on Lay Lake.



Plant Science Exhibit at Regional Congress.

## Mel Lambert

Agent Assistant  
Nutrition Education Program  
Jackson County / DeKalb County

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP) is a collaborative effort between the Alabama Department of Human Resources and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and has been in existence for approximately 10 years. In the fall of 2004 NEP took on a new look changing from a school based focus to one focusing on adult Food Stamp recipients and/or applicants. By March of 2005, there were 23 Nutrition Educators offering service in 46 Alabama County Food Stamp Offices.

Nutrition education is provided to Food Stamp recipients and/or applicants two days a week in Jackson County. A brief easy to understand educational message is presented directly to persons in the lobby of the Food Stamp office. Each person is presented with a simple educational message and offered the opportunity to receive further information on nutrition in the form of handouts, demonstrations, one to one educational opportunities or a personalized mailing of nutritional information.



**Jackson County DHR Food Stamp Social workers Pat Bergman & Rhonda Dennis check out the “Why Milk?” information and sample a snack of low-fat cheeses.**

During the 4 month period from March to June, NEP has provided the following programs:

- **“5-A-Day”**: promoting eating 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day
- **“Quick and Easy Snacking”**: promoting healthy and economical snack choices
- **“Are you at risk!”**: offering information on osteoporosis and its prevention.
- **“Why Milk?”**: June is National Dairy Month, provided information on dairy products and their benefits.

NEP had a total of 3230 direct and indirect contacts for the 4 month period from March to June

- **2393 face to face contacts**
- **837 indirect contacts**
- **Approximately 1400 pieces of literature distributed to residents of Jackson County.**

The Jackson County Department of Human Resources Food Stamp Office graciously provided an office space and welcomed my presence into their lobby. The Food Stamp social workers and office assistants have offered support to the program and often refer clients to me. The working partnership between the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Jackson County played a major role in the successful start up of this new program initiative. It is due to this cooperative working relationship that at the present time, Jackson County is one of the larger programs in terms of direct client contact for the Nutrition Education Program.

Date	FSP Participant Contacts	Non-FSP Participant Contacts		Total Contacts	Gender		Race White, Black, Hispanic, American Indian /Alaskan Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, Other				
		Adult	Youth Under 18		Male	Female	W	B	H	AI / AN	API
Mar	501	37	65	<b>603</b>	193	410	468	134	1	0	0
Apr	528	121	92	<b>741</b>	216	525	638	68	35	0	0
May	291	26	51	<b>368</b>	100	268	324	44	0	0	0
Jun	473	64	144	<b>681</b>	221	460	620	49	10	0	2
<b>TOTAL SERVED</b>	1793	248	352	<b>2393</b>	730	1663	2050	295	46	0	2

## **Judy Edmond**

Child Development & Family Programs

Regional Extension Agent

Madison County

### **Program Implementation for Jackson County**

Today a growing number of grandparents and/or other relatives find themselves in parenting roles the second time around. These caregivers function as parents or guardians in all socioeconomic levels and ethnic groups. The major contributing factors are:

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Teen pregnancy
- Divorce
- Child abuse and neglect
- Incarceration
- AIDS
- Death

Regardless of the circumstances, grandparents and relatives want to provide a stable, nurturing environment for the children.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System partners with other community service organizations to offer the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP).

RAPP is an educational and support program that offers emotional assistance through support groups to let grandparents/relatives know that they are not alone.

RAPP's main goals are to:

- Provide technical assistance for establishing and facilitating support groups.
- Conduct informational sessions.
- Identify community resources for grandparents and other relatives
- IMPACT Learning Center provides meeting for the support group.
- Partners with Scottsboro City School System

## **Shirley Whitten**

Regional Extension Agent

North Alabama Region 2

(Limestone, Madison, Morgan, Marshall,  
Jackson, Dekalb, Etowah, & Cherokee Counties)

### **Jackson County Activities**

**October 1, 2004-July 8, 2005**

- Conducted regional program on Nutrition for Young Children for child care providers in February. Providers received credit toward state certification requirement in the area of Health and Safety. (96 participants)
- Write two newspaper articles per month on health and nutrition and submit to County Extension Coordinator for use in the Daily Sentinel.
- Provide information to clients as requested on diet, nutrition and health.
- Conducted program on “Women and Heart Disease” as part of a promotion called National Wear Red Day, planned to encourage women to make lifestyle changes to reduce their risk of heart disease.
- Participated in statewide conference for the Family Child Care Partnership which was attended by approximately 225 child care providers. Provided information on Children and Asthma, Sun Protection for Children, and Nutrition for Young Children.



## **Theresa Ross-Carter**

REA Region Extension Agent  
Consumer Science & Personal Financial Management

### Counties Covered

(Madison, Limestone, Morgan, Marshall, Jackson, Etowah, Cherokee, Dekalb)  
Madison Co. Summary Report

My program covers three major areas. These areas are Personal Financial Management, Consumer Science, and Employment/Career Development. The objectives are but not limited to, providing programs that are designed to teach youth, adults, and senior citizens how to manage financial resources wisely and to make wise consumer decisions regarding purchases, budgeting, managing money, credit and debt management, saving, investing, retirement planning, and estate management. The consumer education programs focus on identity theft, fraud & scams, and LifeSmarts (a consumer education program for teens). Lastly, the employment and career development programs address the need for individuals to provide their financial needs through employment. This involves job search and career planning issues which are used to increase career awareness among youth. All age groups are provided with the knowledge and skills to access and utilize labor market and career information to make effective employment and career decisions.

Affiliations: Alabama Cooperative Extension System Employee Organization (ACESEO)

News Article Submitted: Tips on How to Spend and Save Money During Your Holiday Bliss

Grant(s) Approved: Estate Planning Conference (7,500.00) in Huntsville & Montgomery, Alabama in September, 2005.

Below are some pictures from programs delivered in Jackson Co. followed by a list of meeting, group names and number of participants on the following page.



## **Dan Porch**

REA Commercial Horticulture, Sand Mountain Region

(Blount, Cullman, Etowah, Calhoun, Cherokee, DeKalb,  
St. Clair, Marshall, Jackson Counties)

All programming efforts are provided on a Regional basis

### **Accomplishments and Contacts for Jackson County for 2005**

A Regional Vegetable Production Meeting was conducted in Blount County on March 31, 2005. All Extension Coordinators in the Sand Mountain Region were notified of the meeting and request was made for them to notify growers in their area utilizing various media to publicize the meeting. Topics at the production meeting included the following: Greenhouse Tomato Production by Mr. Jimmy Witt, Triple J Nursery, Cucurbit Production, Dr. Joe Kemble, Extension Horticulturist, Auburn University, Diseases of Cucurbits, Dr. Ed Sikora, Extension Plant Pathologist, Auburn University, Update on new Vegetable Varieties, Mr. Joe Potter, Wax Seed Company and Mr. Jack Stuckey, Kelly Seed Company. This meeting was open to anyone with an interest in commercial vegetable production.

A Regional Small Fruit Production meeting was conducted in Cullman Co. on March 29, 2005. All Extension Coordinators in the Sand Mountain Region were notified of the meeting and request was made that they notify producers utilizing mailings or media of their choice. Topics discussed at the meeting included Blueberry Production,

Blackberry Production and Grape Production, by Dr. Dave Lockwood, Extension Horticulturist, University of Tennessee. Mr. Bobby Boozer, Extension Fruit Specialist covered Strawberry Production at the meeting.

Three regional training sessions for participation in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program were held. Training sessions were held in Marshall County on March 15 and May 3. One session was conducted in Blount County on March 15. All Extension County Coordinators were notified and ask to notify producers needing to certify for this program utilizing media of choice. About thirty-five individuals from various counties attended these certification meetings and now participate in the FMNP.

In Jackson County, I work with Loyd Brothers Farm, one of the largest vegetable production farms in Alabama. I have worked with Jackie and George for many years now, providing assistance with selection of varieties, chemicals and crops that can make them more successful. I have been on the Loyd farm on two occasions advising on commercial vegetable crop matters. I also stay in touch with Jackie by

phone. Jackie and I met with representatives of Winn Dixie and the Al. Dept. of Agriculture in February to evaluate the possibilities of putting produce into the Montgomery W.D. distribution center from their farm.



Mr. Ed Tubbs, Section, Al., expressed an interest in field grown nursery crops. He has been provided information via e-mail about tree selection, herbicide and insecticide mgt. as well as other production practices that will be utilized in such an operation.

Mr. Charles Smith, Flat Rock, Al., contacted the Extension office about greenhouse tomato production in April. I visited with Mr. Smith and advised him on production methods. He also expressed an interest in getting into commercial ornamental production and I suggested he visit some of the nurseries in the Winchester, Tn., area before he decided on just what type of production he wanted to move into.

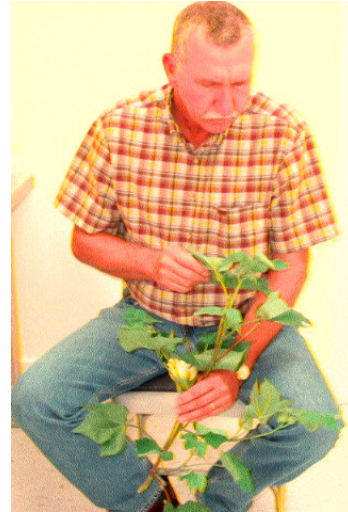
## **David Derrick**

Regional Extension Agent  
Agronomy  
Sand Mountain Region

Program assignments: Row Crops, Cotton,  
Corn, Soybeans, Small Grain

Counties assigned: Jackson, Dekalb,  
Cherokee, Calhoun, Marshall, Etowah,  
Blount, Cullman, St.Clair

All programs, meetings, field days are  
offered on a regional basis.



**Above Mr. Derrick is shown examining a cotton plant that was brought to the office.**

### **Activities offered in Jackson County**

- A Cotton Production Meeting was held in December of 2004.
- A Regional Crop Tour is planned for August of 2005.
- In June of 2005 Cotton Scout Training was conducted.
- Soybean Rust activity is monitored throughout the growing season.
- Always available for office calls  
and farm visits

## **Jerry Pierce & Holt Hardin**

### **ALABAMA'S FARM BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS PROGRAM**

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Farm Analysis Program is recognized as providing outstanding service and benefits to farmers who participate directly through maintenance of detailed business records and use of business analysis in their decision-making processes. The organization of associations also directly benefits non-participating farmers, agribusiness leaders and lenders, and provides policymakers with accurate and timely data as they make decisions affecting Alabama's agricultural industry.

The Northeast Farm Analysis Association is the local farmer-owned and directed not-for-profit association. Its purpose is to promote effective farm management practices and to provide the means for making informed management decisions. NEFAA was established in 1981 by local farmers with assistance from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and others.

The data gathered from 60 local farm families in the Farm Analysis Program was used in writing the Alabama Farm Analysis Associations Summary Report 2005 (AGEC-0615-05).

### **ALABAMA DAIRY PRODUCERS**

The number of dairy cows and dairies in Alabama has declined nearly 60% since 1990. Most banks refuse to consider lending to dairy farms. Using the Annual Summary we have shown farm lenders that dairies can be and are profitable on a consistent basis. Some of the largest lenders are reconsidering their policies toward dairies.



### **BEEF CATTLE ARTICLE**

Extension Economist Walt Prevatt worked with us and our summary data to identify what factors separate profitable cow-calf producers from all others.

### **AUBURN TAX PRACTITIONER SEMINAR**

Auburn University's Outreach Program Office conducts an annual two-day tax seminar for practitioners at various locations across the state. Statewide, 1,495 people attended in 2004. We present an added agricultural tax workshop at the Florence seminar.

### **ALABAMA A&M AG RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION**

Alabama A&M University conducts an annual Risk Management workshop for farmers and agricultural professionals. We developed and presented a module on record keeping to 68 attendants.

### **NE REGIONAL ESTATE PLANNING**

Fifty farmers and landowners met with an estate attorney and learned the fundamentals of estate planning.



*The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.*