

2008 Annual Report Lamar County

On behalf of the Lamar County Extension Staff, Regional Extension Agents, local volunteers and program participants, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Lamar County Commission for your continued support of our educational programs conducted during 2008. Your support has allowed our success in reaching the citizens of Lamar County.

Extension is proud to serve all of Lamar County through our 4-H and Youth Programs, Agricultural and Natural Resource Programs, Family & Consumer Science Programs, Expanded Foods & Nutrition Educational Programs and Community Resource Development Programs.

The Cooperative Extension System is a combined effort between two great institutions, Alabama A & M University and Auburn University. The system provides educational opportunities to enable individuals to make sound decisions about their lives, families, businesses and communities. The mission is to develop and strengthen the state's economy, with emphasis in agricultural related industries and businesses. We also want 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 community programs.

As we move into the next year, we ask for your continued support and input into our programs. Please consider yourself our invited guest to visit our office at 281 Columbus Avenue or any of our many programs offered throughout the county.

Mac D. Washington
CEC
Lamar County

Lamar County Facts

- **Population is more than 17,500 with 87% of the population being white.**
- **There are three K-12 educational outlets in the county.**
- **The major agricultural crops in Lamar County include: Forestry and Beef Cattle.**
- **The county's industrial base is limited. The major industries include: Trucking, Marathon Equipment Co., NACCO, and Weyerhaeuser.**

Lamar County Extension Staff

Mac D. Washington, County Coordinator

Wayne Robinson, REA Dairy Cattle

Mary E. Rogers, Agent Assistant – NEP

Cindy Foster, Administrative Secretary

Regional Extension Agents serving Lamar County:

Karen Softley, Human Nutrition, Diet & Health, Colbert County

April Hill, Food Safety, Winston County

Lelia Wissert, Money Management, Lauderdale County

**Iilana Stover, Beef Cattle, Upper Coastal Plains Experiment
State, Winfield, AL**

Jack Tatum, Beef Cattle, Shelby County

Warren Griffith, Agronomy Crops, Fayette County

Melanie Allen, Family & Child Development, Colbert County

Lamar County Extension Highlights

- **Home Horticulture receives the most client calls and inquiries than any other program. The Extension Office coordinates the Master Gardening Program every two years.**
- **The goal of the Home Horticulture Program is to teach home owners and gardeners how to apply research based information and knowledge to solve problems in their homes, lawns and gardens.**
- **Lamar County received a \$7,500.00 REAL 4-H Grant in 2007. We were one of 22 counties to receive the grant nationwide and the e only county in Alabama. The grant was awarded through the National 4-H Council and the Coca-Cola Foundation. Our project was based on community beautification and litter abatement.**
- **The Lamar County 4-H program serves about 650 youth, providing basic information for skills and leadership training. Clubs are divided into traditional in-school clubs, special interest clubs and community clubs.**
- **Nutrition Education Program helps you learn to take charge of your health by cutting fat, eating more fruits and vegetables and exercising. These programs are taught in Lamar & Fayette Counties Department of Human Resources and 2-4 grades in each county school.**

2008

Economic & Community Development

I assisted in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the seventh annual Relay-For-Life program in Lamar County. Our goal was to raise \$80,000. We raised \$77,000. I served on the executive committee and co-chair of the logistics committee.

Helped plan and implement the Job Shadowing program for all 9th grade students in Lamar County. I facilitated workshops for the Job Shadowing participants interested in agriculture, forestry and wildlife management. We had speakers from the Alabama Forestry Commission, ASCS, SCS, Fire Department and Alabama Game & Fish Department. Nine students participated in the program.

I assisted in the planning and implementation of the annual Lamar County Health Fair. I recruited sponsors, wrote news articles, contacted exhibitors and negotiated the price charge for tests.

I worked with the county, the Cities of Vernon, Sulligent and Millport Economic Development Committees in trying to recruit industry to Lamar County. Open house was held at the new steel dust recycling plant, located in Millport, AL. We now have electricity and water at the County Industrial Park and working on getting a Spec building.

I coordinated and facilitated six workshops for loggers, homeowners, land owners and foresters. They were presented by Chris Irvin and his staff at Auburn University and the Alabama Forestry Commission. The programs were on: Road Building, Wildlife Management, Ascetics, Stream Management, Site Preparation, and Fertilization.

I coordinated the Lamar County Farmers Market program. The market is open each Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. Producers from Lamar, Marion, Fayette and Pickens counties sold produce at the market.

I have been in contact with the Lamar County Advisory Council, in person, and by phone and we had a cookout on July 29 to talk about programs and activities conducted and planned.

The Whatley Health Care Services held its grand opening ceremony in January for its general practice office in Vernon, AL. They are in the process now of hiring a dentist and adding a van and driver for pickup and delivery service.

I meet quarterly with the West Alabama Economic Development commission that includes the eleven counties in West Alabama. We are gathering data from all the counties about buildings and structures located in the counties.

I meet quarterly with the West Alabama Rural Action Commission. We are compiling data on health care facilities in all the counties and are compiling this data into a directory. We are writing a grant to make T-1 or a compatible internet service in and throughout all the counties.

I am enrolled in a 6 session Economic Development training program at the Bevill State Jr. College located in Fayette, AL.

I wrote a summary of the completed grant on the old Kennedy Vo-Ag Building that has been remodeled to be a community facility.

Participated in the Economic Development meeting held at the Bevill Campus in Hamilton, AL on Tier 2 and Tier 3 spin-off plants from the Toyota plant in Tupelo, MS

I assisted the Lamar County School System nurses in conducting a health fair for all K-6 grade students. I did bike safety and provided materials for the Fair.

Attended and participated in the annual meeting of ACESEO Inc., held in Selma, AL in May. I was elected as the parliamentarian of the organization.

Attended and participated in the annual meeting of AACAAAS held in Mobile in June. I was elected to the Board of Directors.

Human Science

The following programs were held for Lamar, Fayette and Marion counties by REA's in one location.

Two diabetic workshops.

One caregiver's workshop.

A program on aging.

Canner Top Demonstration, Workshop

Agriculture

I conducted two fire ant management meetings in April & May.

Set up fire ant demonstration at the Vernon City Park in May. Amdro fire ant poison was applied in the 13 acres park.

I presented programs on fire ant management and pesticide education at the Marion County Master Garden program.

I conducted a pesticide education program for farmers and landowners. They were applying for a permit or renewing their permits in Lamar & Fayette counties.

I assisted the REA's in conducting a spring gardening program.

Attended and participated in area soybean, corn and cotton meetings.

I assisted the Alabama Cattlemen Association in conducting the beef referendum in Lamar County.

I wrote news articles for local papers and PSA for the radio station.

I assisted in the Horse (REIN) program conducted at the Upper Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Winfield.

Attended Area Forage Meeting in Winfield.

Attended meeting on Alternative ways to manage beef cattle in Winfield.

4-H

Assisted REA's in identifying and recruiting and training volunteer leaders.

Conducted 4-H club meetings in 24 school clubs to all 4-6th graders in county. Programs were presented on Hygiene; Know your 4-H, Safety and Gardening.

I conducted county contest in the following programs: Bicycle, Compact Tractor, Chicken-Que, Soil Science, Electric and Bread Exhibit.

Seven 4-H'ers participated in the 4-H Regional Congress held in Cullman. Five of the 4-H'ers placed 1st and one placed 2nd.

Three Lamar County 4-H'ers participated in the State Competitive day held at the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, AL. One placed 1st and will be representing Alabama at the Eastern Regional Competition in Purdue, Indiana in September. One placed third and one placed fourth in competition.

All sixth graders participated in the Forestry Poster contest. The theme of the posters was "The Multi-Uses of the Forest". Posters were judged at each school and the top 6 at each school was judged to get the overall county winner.

I attended two Money Management (Reality Check) workshops at Beville State Community College in Fayette, AL. Youth participated from Lamar, Fayette, Pickens and Marion counties in February & June.

Youth from Lamar County participated in the Area/Regional 4-H Dairy Judging Program in June.

I participated in the State 4-H Dairy Judging program in Shorter, AL in June.

I participated in the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky in November.

I participated in the State 4-H Dairy Judging Workshop in Randolph County in May.

I participated in the Regional 4-H Dairy Show in Fayette.

I participated in the State 4-H Dairy Show in Montgomery.

Forestry Awareness Week Now (FAWN) was conducted at the Guthrie Smith Park in Fayette, AL in October. We had 220 6th graders and 20 volunteers from Lamar County. Twelve area volunteers presented the program at 8 different stations.

I participated in the Lamar County Farm City Program for Youth/Adults in November. Youth from all three Lamar County Schools participated in the following categories: K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 grades. Vernon Intermediate School had two classes that had 95 & 100% participation in the poster contest.

SUCCESS STORY FOR ETP-22B3

FAWN Programs take the Classroom to the Outdoors

By Mac D. Washington

Sixth grade students from Lamar County schools enjoyed outdoor classroom settings for the annual Forestry Awareness Week Now (FAWN) Program, held at the Guthrie Smith Park on October 27, 2008. FAWN; do natural resource professionals from Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Forestry Commission, Weyerhaeuser, and local forestry industries teach an environmental Education Program.

The Lamar County Forestry Planning Committee and the Lamar County Extension System Office sponsored the event that was designed to increase student's awareness and perception of forestry, the forestry industry and forestry practices. These groups are dedicated to the education of our youth and adults about forestry and forestry practices.

More than 210 students and teachers visited learning centers set up throughout the park on wildlife management, forestry history, tree identification, forest products, tree measurement, and other natural resource concerns.

The goal of the program was to teach youth about the importance of our natural resources, how they are used in our everyday lives and how to use them wisely.

The expenses for the program were paid for by the Alabama Forestry Commission Stewardship Education Grant and by local sponsorship. Each participant received a packet of resource materials on tree identification, tree measurements, local tree species; products made from trees, data on the forestry industry and a FAWN tee shirt.