

Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities

ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Quarterly Report Madison County Office



819 Cook Avenue/Charles Stone Agriculture Building - Huntsville, Alabama 35801

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The Madison County Cooperative Extension System

BRINGING THE UNIVERSITY TO YOU!

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The Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the primary outreach organization for the land-grant mission of Alabama A&M University and Auburn University, delivers research-based educational programs that enable people to improve their quality of life and economic well-being. Extension's vision is to be a world-class educational organization providing real-life solutions to improve the lives of all Alabamians.

Our Organization is the largest, most successful informal educational organization in the world. It is a nationwide system funded and guided by a partnership of federal, state and local governments that delivers information to help people help themselves. Alabama is the first state to combine the Extension programs at its 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities. In 1995, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (formally *Service*) was created including Alabama A&M University and Auburn University, with Tuskegee University cooperating. Through the work of more than 500 Extension agents and other field-based staff, in addition to specialists in many facets of our six program areas, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is bringing the research and knowledge of the land-grant universities, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Stations, and the expertise of our many partners, to the people.

Staff members of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System who serve Madison County are committed to providing up-to-date educational programs for the citizens of Madison County. We appreciate the support of our Madison County Commission, our county advisory board, volunteers and donors. We look forward to a continued, positive partnership. We hope you enjoy reading a sampling of the activities that our agents bring to Madison County.



COUNTY COORDINATOR'S CORNER

It has been a very busy two quarters for us here at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office. We hope you survived the storms with minimal or no displacement.

Last August ACES agents convened a meeting with a group of volunteers, agency representatives, and community leaders to gather information for our 2011 'plan of work' (POW). The sharing of ideas and community needs in that meeting resulted in an overall county plan consisting of over 70 *preplanned* programs and activities. Most of these are continuing programs. In addition to our preplanned programs much of our programming efforts are reactive- such as activities held after the storm. We are often requested to present specific Extension resources and presentations at a variety of events. We hope you will find something in this issue that will help improve you and your community

We are in the process of preparing for our 2012 POW. If you would like to share in this process please contact us.

About Madison County

Madison County is Alabama's third most populated county with a per capita income second only to Shelby County, Alabama. The county covers 806 square miles. Demographic information is as follows:

Total population	334,811
Persons under 18 years old	80,020
Persons 65 years old and over	42,186.19
White	228,341
Black or African American	80,355
Asian persons	8,370.27
American Indian and Alaska Native persons	2,678.48
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	335
Persons reporting two or more races	8,370.28
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin	15,401.30
White persons not Hispanic	221,310
Foreign born persons	16,071
Language other than English spoken at home	19,754
High School graduates	294,299
Bachelor's degree or higher	126,893
Veterans	33,133
Housing Units	144,279
Homeownership rate	235,037
Housing units in multi-unit structures	72,319.17
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$147,700
Households	124,546
Persons per household	2.45
Per Capita money income in past 12 months	\$29,588
Median household income	\$57,327
Persons below poverty level	34,486

Madison County Staff

Shirley Brown, Agent Assistant; Madison County Family Life Center
Urban Nutrition Education Program

Ronald W. Britnell, County Extension Coordinator; Morgan County
Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resource Management

Emily Russell Campbell, Regional Extension Agent; Jackson County
Food Safety, Preparation and Preservation

Lloyd D. Chapman, Regional Extension Agent, Limestone County
Commercial Horticulture. Housed in Limestone County

Kenneth W. Creel, Regional Extension Agent; Madison County
Home Grounds, Gardens and Pest - Master Gardener Program Coordinator

Judy Edmond, Regional Extension Agent; Madison County
Family & Child Development

Cynarra F. Fuller, Program Assistant; Madison County Family Life Center
Family and Community Programs

Donna L. Gullatte, Urban Regional Extension Agent; Madison County Family Life Center
Family and Child Development

Walter Harris, County Extension Coordinator; Madison County
4-H and Youth Development and Economic & Community Development

Theresa Jones, Regional Extension Agent; Madison County
Consumer Science and Personal Financial Management

Elaine King, Administrative Assistant; Madison County
Administrative Assistant

Sylvia G. Oakes, Urban Regional Extension Agent; Madison County
Family and Child Development & Human nutrition, Diet and Health

Wanda J. Pharris, Regional Extension Agent; Madison County
4-H and Youth Development.

Alicia Refer, 4-H Agent Assistant; Madison County
Madison County 4-H Program

Walter Rodgers, Urban Regional Extension Agent; Madison County
Community Resource Development

Eric Schavey, Regional Extension Agent; Tennessee Valley Regional Research and Extension Center, Belle Mina, Alabama.
Agronomic Crops

Donna Shanklin, Regional Extension Agent; Cullman County
Human Nutrition, Diet and Health

Patricia Smith, Regional Extension Agent; Lauderdale County
Radon Education Program

Gerald L. Thompson, Regional Extension Agent; Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center, Belle Mina, Alabama.
Animal Science and Forages

Shirley L. Whitten, Regional Extension Agent; Madison County
Human Nutrition, Diet and Health

Agronomic Crops



Eric T. Schavey, Regional Extension Agent

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

Colbert County, Franklin County, Lauderdale County, Lawrence County, Limestone County, Madison County, Morgan County

Contact Information

Office Telephone: (256) 353-8702

Mobile: (256) 230-5727

Office Fax: (256) 353-8883

Email: ets0003@aces.edu

Program Objectives

- Increased adaption of sustainable and efficient production practices for food, feed, fiber, and energy.
- Improve soil quality for crop production.
- Increase level of knowledge of field and stored grain IPM.

Program Implementation

Production Meetings

Result Demonstrations

Maintain Ag websites

Distant Learning Programs

Timely Information Sheets

Extension Circulars

Develop soil quality index based on soil testing.

Increase use of soil testing services.

Animal Science & Forages (Livestock)



Gerald L. Thompson

Geographic Area of Responsibility:

North Alabama

Contact Information:

P.O. Box 159

Belle Mina, AL 35615

Office Telephone: (256) 353-8702

Mobile: (256) 520-2020

Office Fax: (256) 353-8883

Email: thompgl@aces.edu

Program Objectives

Forage Systems—Increase farmer and rancher knowledge and expertise in various value added marketing options.

Program Implementation

Grazing Schools, Statewide Forage conference, Stocker Conference, soil and forage analysis, use of precision agriculture, pasture livestock production training.

Other program areas include: Food Animal Quality Assurance Programs (Beef and Pork Quality Assurance (BQA; PQA, BEEFU and DAIRYU); Opportunities for Value-Added Livestock Marketing.

Commercial Horticulture



Lloyd D. Chapman
Regional Extension Agent

Geographic Area of Responsibility:
*Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone,
Madison, Marion, Morgan, Walker and Winston
Counties*

Contact Information

*Office Telephone: (256) 232-5510
Mobile: (256) 262-2703
Office Fax: (256) 230-0015
Email: chapmld@aces.edu*

Program Objective

Provide research based answers to production related issues in commercial horticulture.

Program Implementation

Production up-date meetings
Field and office visits with producers
Demonstrations
Problem diagnostics and recommendations
Timely information Fact Sheets

Pecans have historically been grown along the Gulf Coast and other Southern parts of Alabama. Recent hurricanes and the pressure from diseases and insects have convinced some growers to seek more protected inland areas to plant new pecan groves. The release by the United States Department of Agriculture of several early maturing varieties of pecans have opened the possibility of commercial pecan production in North Alabama. Several experimental orchards have been established in North Alabama to test these early maturing varieties including one orchard in Madison County Alabama. These new varieties offer the possibility of 2-3 weeks earlier harvest from traditional varieties.





Theresa Jones, Regional Extension Agent
Geographic Area of Responsibility:
*Northeast Region 2 (Jackson, Marshall, Morgan,
Madison, Etowah, Cherokee, DeKalb, Limestone)*

Contact Information

Office Telephone: (256) 532-1578 Ext. 12
Mobile: (256) 509-5908
Office Fax: (256) 532-1581
Email: rosscth@aces.edu

Program Objective

Campaign to promote increased saving and spending reduction.

Program Implementation

- **Conduct activities and distribute educational materials to encourage saving.**
- **Observe Alabama Saves Week**
- **Dissemination of information through mass media and website.**
- **Enroll savers in Alabama Saves.**

Northeast Alabama Region 2 Spotlights Alabama Saves Week

Statistics indicates that there is a low rate of saving in the US with Alabama ranking 6th in the number of citizens without bank accounts. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System serves as the lead agency partnered with agencies across the State of Alabama to emphasize the importance of saving. Nationally, America Saves Week is a week set aside by the America Saves Initiative to encourage citizens all across the country to increase savings and reduce debt. America Saves is a broad based coalition of non-profit, government agencies, financial institutions and grass roots organizations that promote savings for but not limited to, low to moderate-income households.

During the week of February 20 – 27, 2011, Regional Extension Agent – Theresa Jones conducted several activities and programs with the assistance of Regions Bank representatives in Northeast Alabama Region 2 that focused on financial literacy and savings in Etowah, Jackson, Limestone and Madison counties. Over 300 youth and adults enrolled as Alabama Saver, exceeding the goal of signing up at least 200 savers during this week in this region. Youth made up 69% of the

new savers and adults accounted for 31%. All enrollees will receive a monthly newsletter that contains strategies, as well as, information to assist them in staying on track and reaching their saving goals.

Overall, in all the counties mentioned above, there were a total of three Savings/Budgeting workshops, and six Piggy Bank Pageants. Regions Bank provided judges for the piggy bank pageants and savings bonds totaling \$1,200.00 as prizes for this region. Below are some pictures showing some of the activities that took place in Northeast Alabama Region 2 during Alabama America Saves Week.





Judy Edmond, Regional Extension Agent
Geographic Area of Responsibility:
*Northeast Region 2 (Jackson, Marshall, Morgan,
Madison, Etowah, Cherokee, DeKalb, Limestone)*

Contact Information

Office Telephone: (256) 532-1578 Ext. 29
Mobile: (256) 503-8021
Office Fax: (256) 532-1581
Email: edmonjj@aces.edu

Program Objective

To empower caregivers to improve the well-being of patient and caregiver.

Program Implementation

Conduct curriculum guided (Parenting the Second Time Around) support groups, conferences and workshops.

“Caring for Caregivers” Training Workshop

There is a growing need for home caregivers due to the increase in cost for health care in hospitals and nursing homes; people are living longer; and, nursing homes are already filled with older people causing waiting list to grow even longer. Therefore, more people have to turn to family and friends for help. Sick or elderly people may be discharged from the hospital and needing nursing assistance or help with day to day task.

The U.S. Census Bureau and National Council on Aging are predicting that the U.S. businesses will lose approximately \$33.6 billion a year as family members are moving to the role as Caregivers thereby increasing the need for training of the home caregiver.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Auburn University’s School of Nursing in Partnership with J.F. Drake State Technical College Health Sciences Technology Division offered a series of free, hands-on training sessions for caregivers. The sessions were 4 hours each day, one day per week over a three week period.

Sessions covered basic care of sick, disabled and older people. Participants were taught the many elements of caregiving; the stages of aging; how to care for patients with chronic disease, and Alzheimer’s; home maintenance and emergency preparedness; and, body mechanics and patient monitoring. Attorney Glass from the Elder Law Firm discussed the legal issues relative to caregiving. Other areas covered were: grief, end of life issues and preplanning.

Twenty-four people enrolled for the training. Twenty-two participants completed all three sessions.





Madison County 4-H and Youth Development



*Alicia Refer, 4-H Agent Assistant
Geographic Area of Responsibility:
Madison County*

Contact Information
*Office Telephone: (256) 532-1578 Ext. 11
Office Fax: (256) 532-1581
Email: alr0029@aces.edu*

With over 6 million youth members across the United States, 4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization. According to a study done by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, 4-H’ers are twice as likely to get better grades in school and to attend college. Perhaps this could be because 4-H supports its members from an early age, elementary school all the way through high school. The 4-H program primarily focuses on encouraging youth to engage in hands-on learning activities with an emphasis in citizenship, healthy living and science. No matter what a youth’s interests may be, there is a 4-H program that will interest them. All of the 4-H program areas strive to create leadership skills that will aid in the success of future careers by building a strong foundation early on, Alabama 4-H has been creating the leaders of tomorrow for over 100 years. Youth are encouraged to choose their project areas and then work closely with adult volunteers to set and achieve their goals.



Becoming a 4-H member is a great opportunity for youth. Every September youth in grades 4-8 have the opportunity to join 4-H through their schools. If a child does not hear about 4-H in school, is in high school or is home schooled and wishes to join 4-H, simply contact the Madison County Extension Office and we will be more than happy to provide you with the 4-H enrollment forms, a list of projects, camps or trips, and any other information you would like. Adults interested in becoming leaders are a very important part of what makes 4-H a successful program not only across the state of Alabama but also across the country. 4-H leaders work with youth anywhere between the ages of 5 and 18. These leaders encourage youth to learn by doing, develop creative thinking and decision making skills, and help 4-H’ers set reasonable goals. Leaders also listen to the 4-H members, guide them with their personal development, and give them sincere recognition. Any adults interested in becoming a 4-H leader should contact the Madison County Extension Office for an application and more information. Basically, the 4-H program strives to provide educational experiences that will stimulate young people to gain knowledge, develop life skills and form positive attitudes to prepare them to become responsible adults all while having fun and making new friends.



Regional 4-H and Youth Development



Wanda J. Pharris, Regional Extension Agent
Geographic Area of Responsibility:
Jackson County, Madison County



Contact Information
Office Telephone: (256) 532-1578 ext.. 15
Office Fax: (256) 532-1581
Email: wjp0005@aces.edu

4-H Twilight Tour at Birmingham Zoo

The Northeast 4-H Regional Council conducted their Innovation Spring trip April 23, 2011 to Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Vulcan and the Birmingham Zoo. The purpose of the Innovation Spring trip is to raise awareness of 4-H among youth the ages 12-14. This was the third year the Northeast 4-H Regional Council has planned, organized and implemented the Innovation Spring trip to attract youth to the fun and educational program 4-H provides. The 4-H Regional Council members conduct all the research, create a budget, design the flyer and t-shirt for the trip. This year's trip took 49 participants 42 youth and 7 adults. The youth traveled to Birmingham via motor coach bus. The youth learned about horticulture at the Botanical Gardens visiting the various rose gardens, azalea trails and learned about the honey bees pollination process. At Vulcan the youth learned of Birmingham's natural resources through the study of geology and geography, they also discovered Birmingham is rich in iron ore, limestone and coal the three main ingredients necessary to produce iron. Lastly the Birmingham zoo was amazing, the youth had a hands on experience and learned about the Hayacinth McCaw Parrot from Brazil and met a Chincilla from the Andes Mountain of South Africa and lastly we had an encountered with a Ball Python snake. The day ended with a night time carousel ride. The evaluation tool revealed the youth learned about horticulture, natural resources and wild animals this was a unique learning experience for the youth involved the youth gained an education in an outdoor hands on classroom.



Family Life Center



*Donna Gullatte, Urban Extension Agent
Huntsville Urban Extension Region*

Contact Information

Office Telephone: (256) 536-4779
Mobile: (256) 541-3580 Fax: (256) 536-4180
Email: jonesdl@aces.edu

*Cynarra Fuller, Agent Assistant
Family and Community Programs*

Contact Information

Office Telephone: (256) 536-4779
Office Fax: (256) 536-4180
Email: moorecf@aces.edu



Program Objective

Reduce youth risk behaviors that impact future earning and employment opportunities, help youth build life skills which lead to healthy lifestyle choices. Engage youth to build connections.

Program Implementation

- Day camps
- After-school and in-school programs
- Homeschool programs
- Partnership with other youth serving organizations

“Smoking, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs”...Sounds like a movie? No-It’s “HEALTH ROCKS”!!! Health Rocks is a Program targeting Youth ages 8-14. It’s not your average Say No To Drugs campaign, it literally gives you background information on a lot of different drugs, some of which are prescription and puts it all in an easy to understand format for anyone to understand. Health Rocks is a Grant Program funded through the National 4-H Council. Health Rocks is implemented throughout the State of Alabama as well as other parts of the United States.



Health Rocks has a unique approach to teaching the modules. It has been proven that youth in the target age range listen and model older youth (teens). So with this study Health Rocks is presented by Teen Volunteers who have been trained in the Health Rocks Curriculum. In addition to the younger youth gaining from the program the teen leaders do as well because they gain leadership skills, Volunteer hours and it keeps them focused on positive behavior as well.

The Curriculum consists of 8 Chapters relating to 1.) All about Me 2.) What Influences Me? 3.) Taking It Beyond Me. Chances are that at least some of the 12-14 year olds have tried tobacco, alcohol, or some type of drug. Youth in this age range are definitely at a time of deciding whether to experiment with substances. They are facing new challenging social and academic situations. It may also be a time when they are exposed to drugs, especially alcohol and cigarettes. Health Rocks is a program designed to help them develop skills to resist these substances.

The modules that are taught in the Health Rocks Program are hands-on...each chapter is packed with lots of information and is laid out so that it is easy to follow and each lesson comes with several hands-on activities that can be implemented easily and without much cost. Some of the Modules include: Did You Know, The Cycle of Addiction, All Stressed Out, Making Informed Decisions, Circles of Influence, That’s How I Feel and Don’t Be Influenced, just to name a few. Each student participates in the 10 hours of instructions, completes a before and after survey about the Health Rocks Program and at the completion of the program the participants receive a certificate and a Health Rocks Cinch Bag.

Health Rocks is designed to be used in a variety of different settings and in a variety of ways. They can be used in 4-H Clubs, After-school programs, classrooms, special interest groups and summer programs. There are Health Rocks Programs going on now throughout the county at Boys and Girls Clubs, Church Summer Programs and Community Summer Programs. If you have any groups or know of any who may be interested in having Health Rocks as a part of summer or Fall Program please contact Donna Gullatte or Cynarra Fuller.

Food Safety, Preparation and Preservation



*Emily Russell Campbell, Regional Extension Agent
Geographic Area of Responsibility:
Northeast Region 2 (Jackson, Marshal, Morgan,
Madison, Etowah, Cherokee, DeKalb, Limestone)*

Contact Information

Office Telephone: : (256) 574-2143
Mobile: (256) 599-7246
Office Fax: (256) 574-0118
Email: campber@aces.edu

Program Objective

To offer Alabamians an opportunity to obtain research based information on food safety principles.

Program Implementation

Educational displays, workshops, and exhibits.

Emily provides leadership in Madison County by conducting programs in **Food Safety, Preparation and Preservation**. *All program areas are offered on a Regional basis.* The major curricula that are employed are the nationally accredited “ServSafe” (SS) training for food service workers, primarily in restaurant settings, throughout 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 has been trained and certified to teach and proctor exams in both the SS and SIS curricula.



Home Grounds, Gardens and Pests



Kenneth W. Creel, Regional Extension Agent
Geographic Area of Responsibility:
Limestone County, Madison County, Morgan County

Contact Information

Office Telephone: (256) 532-1578
Mobile: (256) 382-1554
Office Fax: (256) 532-1581
Email: creelkw@aces.edu

Program Objective

- Provide in-depth horticultural training program
- Recruit, train, and retain volunteers.
- Maintain a volunteer corp to assist in ACES educational programming.

Program Implementation

A series of 10 to 15 classes targeting adults interested in community volunteering and sharing knowledge with others. .

The area of **Home Horticulture** receives more client calls and inquiries than any other area. ***Kenneth W. Creel, Regional Extension Agent*** for Home Grounds, Gardens and Pests, is housed in Madison County and coordinates the horticulture program. The horticulture program includes community presentations, the Master Gardener Program, over 3000 annual client contacts, and numerous media contacts.

Program Highlight

Our Horticulture Therapy group of Master Gardeners works with clients who attend the Center for Adult Day Care, which is located in the Davidson Senior Center in Huntsville, Alabama. This center is available for adults, aged 18 years and older, who have special needs. One client is 96 years old. In an enclosed courtyard there are three raised beds which are handicap accessible, a perennial bed, birding interests including bird houses, feeders, and a birdbath. Along the fence are hanging baskets and **wind** chimes. On the shaded porch are large outdoor tables, benches and chairs.

The goals of our Horticulture Therapy group are to involve the clients in a wide variety of gardening experiences, which include educational opportunities, socialization, verbalization, sharing, as well as digging, planting, and harvesting of vegetables, flowers, and herbs.

Our group of approximately twelve volunteers meets every other Tuesday morning from March through October. After each session with the clients, the volunteers meet for planning.

We are happy to share our ideas. Feel free to contact us.

Human Nutrition, Diet And Health



Shirley Whitten, Regional Extension Agent
Geographic Area of Responsibility
Northeast Region 2 (Jackson, Marshal, Morgan,
Madison, Etowah, Cherokee, DeKalb, Limestone)

Contact Information

Office Telephone: (256) 532-1578 Ext. 35
Mobile: (256) 508-9067
Office Fax: (256) 532-1581
Email: whittsl@aces.edu

On June 2 we said goodbye to MyPyramid and hello to MyPlate when USDA introduced MyPlate as its new healthy eating symbol. According to many consumers, it was not a moment too soon.

Replacing the MyPyramid symbol, which had proven to be too complex for Americans to follow easily, MyPlate is simply a visual reminder of what a healthy meal should include. It should be very simple for us to look at our plate of food at mealtime and see if it looks similar to the plate in the Choose MyPlate graphic.

One-half of our plate should consist of fruits and vegetables, one-fourth filled with grains and one-fourth with proteins. One serving of a low-fat dairy food should also be included. Incidentally, since the plates in contemporary dinnerware are usually very large, many of us should not fill the entire plate with food, but fit it on a nine-inch diameter inside the plate, or when using a large plate just remember that there should be space between the foods.

With last week's announcement that Alabama has the second highest obesity rate and the highest rate of type 2 diabetes in the nation, the plate planning concept is incorporated into every nutrition and health program conducted by regional agents in Madison County. The concept fits very well with our goal to teach adults and children the importance of increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables.

During July, Regional Agent Shirley Whitten conducted three sessions for participants in summer programs at Girls, Inc. in Huntsville. Students learned that healthy snacks and beverages should fit into one of the MyPlate food groups, with very few of them being "empty calorie" foods such as sodas, chips or candy. Under Whitten's guidance, students prepared a simple, no-cook snack which contained ingredients from the fruit, protein, grain, and dairy groups.

Students also learned to make healthy beverage selections by learning which are highest in sugar and caffeine content and which have citric and phosphoric acid that can damage bones and teeth if consumed too frequently.

MyPlate is based on recommendations from the recently-released 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Tips for helping Americans build healthier diets include:

Enjoy your food, but eat less.

Avoid oversized portions.

Increase consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Switch to fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk.

Make at least half your grains whole grains.

Limit foods with high sodium content by comparing sodium content in foods like soups, bread and frozen meals.

Drink water instead of sugary drinks.

Since we are bombarded with nutrition messages these days, nutrition programs are focusing on encouraging participants to prepare and eat more meals at home where they can control ingredients in the foods. MyPlate provides all the information we need to make positive changes in our eating habits. All we have to do is apply the information and put it into action in our lives.



Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Urban Affairs and New Non-Traditional Programs



Sylvia G. Oakes, Urban Regional Extension Agent
Geographic Area of Responsibility:
Madison & Limestone Metro Area.

Contact Information

Office Telephone: (256) 532-1578 Ext. 16
Mobile: (256) 503-8025
Office Fax: (256) 532-1581
Email: oakessg@aces.edu

Program Objective

Educate urban youth and adults to select and prepare foods properly, and increase physical activity to promote optimum health and wellness.

Program Implementation

Educational displays, workshops, and exhibits.

Children and Obesity

The First Lady is leading a national public awareness effort to tackle the epidemic of childhood obesity. In February, 2010, The White House Press Secretary released this statement. Across the country, childhood obesity has reached epidemic rates and, as a result, our children may live shorter lives than their parents. Nearly one third of children in America are overweight or obese a rate that has tripled in adolescents and more than doubled in younger children since 1980. One third of all individuals born in the year 2000 or later will eventually suffer from diabetes over the course of their lifetime, while too many others will face chronic obesity – related health problem such as heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity. Without effective intervention, many more children will endure serious illnesses that will put a strain on our health care system.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is committed to providing lifelong learning opportunities. In order to help reverse the trend of childhood and later consequence of chronic disease, Regional Extension



Agent Sylvia Oakes partners with the Huntsville city schools and the urban community provide an educational program called CHAMPION (Community Health and Motivational Program Initiating Optimal Nutrition). This program is designed to improve the overall health of individuals by adopting lifestyle changes through nutrition education, physical fitness and disease intervention.

The children in Mrs. Wiles and Payne’s class are encouraged to participate in 60 minutes or more of physical activity daily. These activities are age appropriate and enjoyable, and offer variety of techniques to enhance physical fitness. The class was taught to identify health foods from supermarkets, vendors and restaurants.

Urban Nutrition Education



Shirley Brown, UNEP Agent Assistant
Urban Nutrition Education Program

Contact Information

Office Telephone: (256) 536-4779
Mobile: (256) 541-3580
Office Fax: (256) 536-4180
Email: brownsa@aces.edu

Program Objective

The Urban Nutrition Education Program (UNEP) is a nutrition education program that is implemented through the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Alabama A&M University. The program is co-funded by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Food Stamp Division of The Alabama Department of Human Resources under the umbrella of the Food and Nutrition Service-United States Department of Agriculture.

The mission of the UNEP program is to empower limited resource families to make wise food choices, to select and prepare safe foods, and to consume a nutrient dense diet of healthy foods. UNEP is taught by Extension Agent Assistants in groups and in some instances individual sessions. UNEP targets residents of public housing facilities, youth in after school programs, and senior citizens throughout Alabama's metropolitan areas.

For the urban community, Shirley Brown taught a series of 10 classes from a curriculum called "The Power of choice" for 59 youth at the Boy's and Girl's club. Obesity is now an epidemic in Alabama. Alabama has the sixth highest rate of overweight youths (ages 10-17) at 36.1 percent. This program help youth make healthy eating and fitness decisions about themselves.



Program Implementation

The WEALTH curriculum (adults) and the Power of Choice curriculum (youth), incorporates the recommendations of the USDA's new Food Guidance System (MyPyramid and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans). There are 10 lessons in each curriculum that address topics relating to nutrition education: Nutrition, MyPyramid, Dietary Guidelines, Food Safety, Reading Food Labels, Food Preparation, the six Major Nutrients, and Food Management. This units contain an end-of-unit reflection that provides an opportunity for participants to share their perceptions relating to knowledge and skills acquired.

Community and Economic Development
(Radon Education Program)



Walter Rodgers, Urban Regional Extension Agent

*Geographic Area of Responsibility:
Huntsville Urban Extension Region*

Contact Information:

Office Telephone: (256) 532-1578 Ext. 13

Office Fax: (256) 532-1581

Cellular: (256) 541-3914

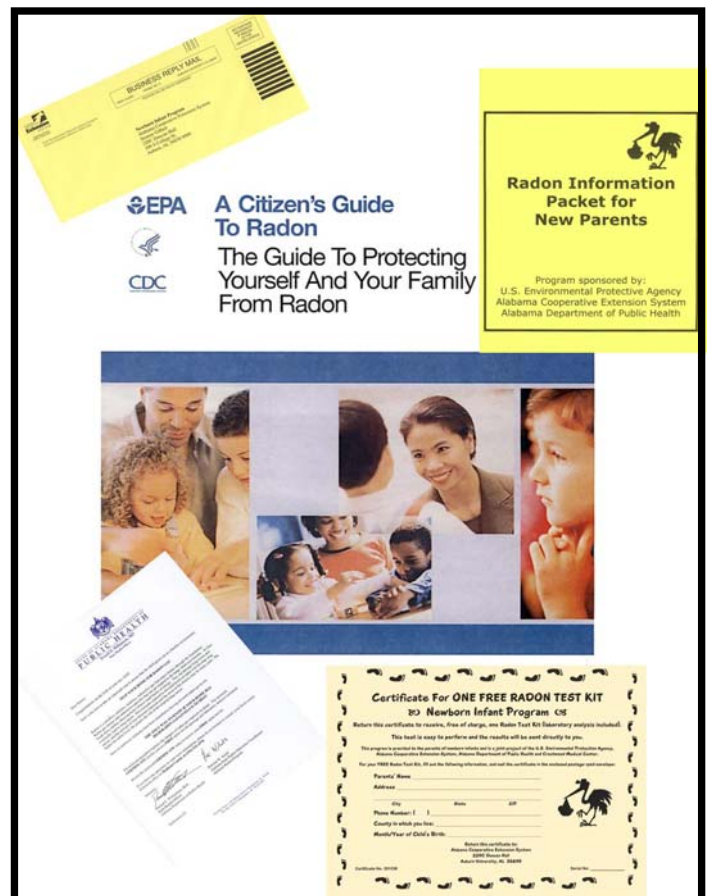
Email: rodgewa@aces.edu

In partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the U.S. EPA, the Madison County’s program objectives are:

- To understand what radon is.
- To educate the citizens about the deadly gas in their homes, schools and offices – and to inform persons on how to test for radon and the importance of fixing their homes if elevated levels of radon are found.
- To educate the home building industry about building radon-ready homes and testing homes in the real estate markets.
- To work with health care professionals in creating radon awareness.
- To encourage builders to install in new homes a passive in radon system, to make a home “radon ready.”

Educating New Mother’s About Detecting Radon in the Home

Walter Rodgers has been able to share facts about detecting Radon in the home for new Mothers and the newest members of their families. Walter has been very committed to ensuring that the Maternity Center is supplied with sufficient Radon Education packets so all new Mothers can be given this information. These packets have also been provided in Spanish to support the growing Hispanic population in the Huntsville community.



Community and Economic Development
(Radon Education Program)



Patricia Smith, Alabama State Radon Coordinator
Geographic Area of Responsibility:
North Alabama

Contact Information:

Office Telephone: (256) 766-4846
Office Fax: (256) 718-2048
Cellular: (256) 710-7712
Email: smithp7@aces.edu

“Test. Fix. Save a Life”

EPA announces January 2011 National Radon Action Month across the United States of America. As a part of supporting NRAM during January, Patricia W. Smith, Alabama State Radon Coordinator conducted several radon activities in Madison County. Madison County is one of the 15 Zone 1 counties that have been determined to have high potential levels of radon in homes. 31% of the homes tested in Madison County have elevated radon levels. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. The U.S. EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that homes with radon levels at and above 4 picocuries per liter of air (4pci/l) be fixed. To reduce radon exposure Ms. Smith educated citizens about radon and its health risks in Madison County and encouraged them to test their homes for radon. Radon test kits can be purchase at the Madison County Extension Office in Huntsville, Alabama for \$5.00 or order on line at www.aces.edu/radon .

Some of the radon activities conducted were:

TV story on WAFF 48 News Huntsville, Alabama (Madison County) featuring a story on” Experts say radon bigger threat in Alabama than Radiation”. Pat Smith speaks out on radon and its health risks in North Alabama Zone 1 counties. The story can be viewed at <http://www.waff.com/Global/story> . The station reached 80,000 households.



Patricia Smith attended and participated in the Huntsville/Madison County 23rd Annual Building and Remodeling Show March 4,5,6. During the three day show, Smith educated citizens from Madison County about radon and its health risks using the Madison County Radon Zip Code Map and other radon displays. Smith encouraged citizens who visited the radon booth to purchase radon test kits while at the show. Smith communicated with home-builders about radon-resistant new construction. Also communicated with realtors and distributed 100 Home Buyers Seller ‘s Guide to Radon. Future radon real estate classes were set up to educate new realtors about radon real estate transactions. A total of 10, 200 citizens attended the show. A total of 600 bags containing radon information were distributed

to visitors at the radon booth. In addition to the bags, 768 pieces of other literature were given out. Over 300 short term radon test kits were sold as a results of radon education by the Alabama Radon Team members.

ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

819 Cook Avenue / Charles Stone Agriculture Building Ste., 106
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Phone: 256-532-1578 * Fax: 256-532-1581
E-mail: wharris@aces.edu



The staff members of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System who serve Madison County stand ready to provide high-quality unbiased educational information. Please contact us at the office either in person , via phone or e-mail.

Please visit our website!
<http://www.aces.edu/counties/Madison/>



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