

Bobby Wallace  
County Extension Coordinator  
Marion County  
January 1 - December 31, 2004

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR 2005**

### **Program Planning**

Several things were planned for 2005.

The County Cattlemen's Association presidents, serving as a PAC for the Regional Extension Agent, met on February 7, 2005, in Fayette, to discuss some possible plans for educational programs for cattle producers in 2005.

The Row Crops PAC met on December 2, 2004 to discuss possible programs for 2005. This was in cooperation with REA for row crops agronomy, Warren Griffith.

I had planned to have an advisory board meeting in April, but was advised not to have it, since we had no new information to share with them about the role of the Extension Advisory Board. The Advisory Board was re-formed and met on November 30, 2005.

### **Program Implementation**

#### PPA 10 Agronomic Crops

- Radio programs on WERH and WKXM radio stations on: soil testing (2), there is a combined potential listening audience of approximately 40,000.
- Thirty minute TV programs (3) were recorded and broadcast, with Warren Griffith, REA for Agronomy, and local farmers. Topics were corn production, soybean production, and cotton production. These were recorded and broadcast by TV8, a local cable TV channel. The broadcast area includes Hamilton, Winfield, and Fayette, for a potential audience of approximately 15,000 people.
- Several farm visits were made to farmers on the subjects of row crops, weed control, and disease control.
- A cotton production meeting was held with specialists, industry representatives, farmers, and Warren Griffith. The meeting was held in Marion County for area farmers.
- A corn and soybean meeting was held in Fayette with specialists, farmers, and Warren Griffith. This was an informational meeting for area producers in west Alabama.

## PPA 11 Animal Science and Forages

- Several things were accomplished in this area, some of which will be discussed under specific ETPs. Forages are very important in Marion County. A lot of work is done in this area, talking with producers about various kinds of forages, soil testing and interpreting soil test results, testing forages, and putting up hay at the proper stage, and storing and feeding hay to prevent hay loss. A TV program was recorded and broadcast, with a producer, on his hay production practices. This broadcast had a potential audience of approximately 15,000 people.
- Radio programs were recorded and broadcast on both WERH and WKXM, with a combined potential audience of approximately 40,000 people. Topics included: Buying Hay (4); Extending the Grazing Season (4); Applying Nitrogen to Forages (6); Soil Test for Forages (4); Role of Different Plant Nutrients (4); Using Clover in Pastures (2); Crabgrass as a Forage (2); Cutting Hay at the Proper Stage (6); Storing Hay Properly (24); Preventing Hay Fires (4); Stockpiling Fescue (8); Planting Cool Season Forages (4); and Grazing instead of Cutting Hay (4).
- Two news articles were written and submitted for publication. These were titled: “Save Fertilizer with Rotational Grazing”, and “Unsolicited Telephone Sales of Agricultural Chemicals”. These had the potential to reach approximately 10,000 each when printed in the Journal Record.
- Farm visits were made on the topics of forage production, forage fertility, forage weed control, and hay harvest.
- A set of scales was donated a few years ago by a local bank. They were in need of repair this year, so the Extension office bought the repair materials, and I, along with Wayne Robinson, rebuilt them, so they could be used to weigh calves for local producers.

## ETP 11B Small Ruminant and Nontraditional Animal Production Systems

- Three discussion meetings were held with meat goat producers, with approximately 5 producers attending each meeting. One farm visit was made to a goat producer, for information purposes.
- Provided numerous handout materials to goat producers, both in meetings, and in the office, as requested.

#### ETP 11C Beef Cattle Performance Programs to Enhance Profitability

- Encouraged producers, through farm visits, phone calls, and other personal contacts, to keep records on their cattle, and enroll in the BCIA program
- Publicized the Alabama Ag-O-Rama BCIA Heifer Sale in August through four (4) radio programs.
- Cooperated with agents and specialists in West Central Alabama and East Central Mississippi in the Leading Edge educational program that is beneficial to beef producers in both states
- Worked with Ray Cattle Company and REA in organizing and conducting a Hot Topics Workshop for producers in northwest Alabama. Approximately 85 producers attended.

#### ETP 11F Alabama Master Cattle Producer Training Program

- Worked with REA, Beville State Community College officials, and Extension CTU to get the Alabama Master Cattle Producer Training Program conducted through interactive video. As a result, this was broadcast from Jasper to Hamilton, Fayette, and the Chilton Regional Research and Extension Center. This allowed the program to be in various locations, without having to have the 20 people at each site. It also cut down on the travel time for presenters, since they only had to be at one site. This method has been adopted for several other topics, as well.
- As a result of this, the equipment has now been installed at the Upper Coastal Plains Research Center near Winfield. Extension in northwest Alabama is using this equipment to a great extent.

#### ETP 14D Leadership and Economic Development

- Met with CRD Committee six times during the year – programs included a program on preventing obesity, a program on human nutrition, working to reduce calorie intake, a history of the Marion County Health Care Authority, an encouragement to participate in the Intensive Economic Development Training Program, an overview of the Medical Reserve Corps, an overview of the economic development efforts of the City of Hamilton, and election of new officers and plans for 2006. Plans for 2006 center around a tourism project, highlighting the Indian mounds on the Buttahatchee River.
- Met with elected officials as needed on economic development
- Met with Health Care Authority monthly
- Served on Marion County Health Care Authority and North Mississippi Medical Center-Hamilton Advisory Board on a monthly basis
- Mailed ACTION Newsletter to mayors and commissioners 4 times during the year.

- Mailed Pharmacy Notes to 9 pharmacists during the year
- Cooperated with CRD Committee Chairperson in planning programs for CRD meeting

#### ETP 21I Nutrition Education Program (NEP)

- Interviewed five (5) candidates for Agent Assistant for the NEP program, along with the County Extension Coordinator from Walker County. After reviewing the candidates and their interviews, we made a recommendation.
- Provided office space, telephone access, equipment, and supplies to support the Nutrition Education Program (NEP) as requested
- Informed appropriate county boards of needs for and status of NEP
- Provided an environment that ensures NEP to be an integral part of the county program
- Provided interpretation of local office policy, guidelines and procedures to personnel as needed
- Established county policies to ensure efficient, productive program
- Included NEP Agent Assistant in staff meetings when appropriate (monthly)
- Provided introductions to key leaders and agencies within the county that are appropriate for the NEP Agent Assistant.
- Used NEP Secretary according to proper percentage of time

#### PPA 22 4-H and Youth Development

- Provided financial support to 4-H Agent Assistant.
- Provided guidance to 4-H Agent assistant.
- Assisted 4-H Agent Assistant with planning program.
- Assisted 4-H Agent Assistant with conducting County Roundup
- Assisted with 4-H'ers at Regional Congress
- Worked with Agent Assistant on hours worked as she was with 4-H'ers on trips.
- Worked with 4-H volunteer who works with Horse Club.
- Did some volunteer screening
- Assisted with FAWN program, a forestry educational program for sixth graders.
- Encouraged volunteers to work with shooting sports program.

#### ADM 90 Administration

- Provided adequate office space for agents, agent assistants, and secretary
- Worked with county commission to request additional office space
- Worked with county commission and county engineer in planning for new office space.
- Worked with county commission to secure adequate funding for office
- Represented Extension to county commission and other elected officials

- Conducted appreciation luncheon for county commissioners and gave overview of Extension programs, and introduced Regional Extension Agents to commissioners.
- Represented Extension to other agencies as appropriate
- Conducted staff conferences as appropriate
- Prepared county budgets
- Worked with secretary to maintain appropriate financial records
- Ensured adequate funds are available before expenditures are made
- Monitored travel expenditures monthly
- Conducted performance appraisals as needed
- Made sure communications among workers in office are on-going and appropriate
- Attended and participated in County Extension Coordinators meetings

### **Reporting and Evaluation**

- A written report in the form of a booklet was presented to the Marion County Commission.

### **Professionalism**

- Dues paying member of the Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents and Specialists
- Attended and participated in Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents and Specialists Annual Meeting
- Member of Marion County Cattlemen's Association, which provides financial and volunteer support for some Extension programs
- Member of Marion County Farmer's Federation, which provides financial and volunteer support for some Extension programs
- Subscribes to and reads agricultural publication to stay current on agricultural situation
- Participates in as much in-service as is appropriate in assigned areas
- Have Masters Degree, and have no plans to seek another degree
- Was a member of the Marion County Community Development Foundation

## **Office Management**

- Maintains adequate amounts of publications for distribution
- When appropriate, uses on-line publications for distribution to clientele
- When necessary, uses internet to collect information on requested topics, being careful about the source of information
- Orders office supplies in a timely manner so they are available when needed
- Requested more office space from commissioners
- Works to ensure equipment is maintained and working in a satisfactory manner

## **Public Relations**

- Represents Extension with County Commissioners and other elected officials and organizations
- Maintains good working relations with media representatives so Extension continues to be able to use media outlets
- Writes “Ag Report” column for Journal Record newspaper, and submits via e-mail
- Recorded weekly radio program for WERH in Hamilton and a program five days per week for WKXM in Winfield
- Active in local church
- Serves as Secretary-Treasurer of Marion County Health Care Authority
- Serves as member of Advisory Board for North Mississippi Medical Center – Hamilton