

**REPORT TO THE
PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 2005**

INTRODUCTION

What is Extension?

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is the combined efforts of the state's two land-grant universities, Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities, to provide the latest researched based information to the citizens of Alabama to improve their quality of life; Tuskegee University is a cooperating partner of the Extension System.

With an original base in agricultural programs, Extension outreach efforts have been helping Alabamians for almost 90 years. Today, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System serves the people Alabama through six program areas:

- ◆ Agriculture
- ◆ Forestry and Natural Resources
- ◆ Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs
- ◆ Family and Individual Well-Being
- ◆ Community and Economic Development
- ◆ 4-H and Youth Development.

The Perry County Extension Office serves as a resource center for the implementation of programs and providing direct assistance to the citizens of Heibeger, Marion, Sprott, Uniontown, Newbern, Woodlawn, North Perry and the surrounding communities. In the past, agents were assigned a broad caseload; however, today the agents have been re-assigned to one specific area, which supports our new motto, *Your Experts for Life*. The Perry County Extension Office

of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System has transitioned from a county-based agent program to a regional-based agent program. With this transition, we have been able to position highly qualified agents with an area of expertise to better assist the citizens of Perry County. To follow, is a list of regional agents who serve the Perry County community and their area of expertise.

This report is designed to give you, our funding agency, an overview of how we have accomplished the goals and objectives of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System here in Perry County this past year.

The staff of the Perry County Extension Office is committed to serving the citizens of Perry County and with your continued support we will be able to continue to improve the quality of life of the citizens.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



PREFACE

The Perry County Extension Office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System wishes to express our appreciation the Perry County Commissioners for your support, financial and in-kind, throughout the years. The mission of Cooperative Extension is to apply researched information to significant societal issues and concerns, thus improving the quality of life of the citizens.

In 1862, Congress passed a law granting land to each state for "agricultural and mechanical" institutions of higher learning. In 1890, Congress granted land to institutions educating Black citizens. In the late 1800s, the school that is now Tuskegee University began using a mule-drawn wagon as a "school on wheels" to teach rural people better ways to grow crops and feed their families.

The land-grant mission and teaching outside the classroom gave rise in 1914 to the national Cooperative Extension Service, whose mission was to "take the university to the people."

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 was formally created, including Alabama A&M University and Auburn University, with Tuskegee University cooperating.

Over the years, Extension's knowledge base and capacity have expanded through partnerships with hundreds of organizations—all the way from local to international groups. 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 and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, and the expertise of our many partners, to the people.

Reorganization

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System transformed itself from a primarily county delivered program into one in which programs are delivered by expert agents on a regional basis. Changing demographics and funding issues are two of the main factors driving these changes.

Programs will continue to be delivered by trained experts in collaboration with our many partners for the citizens of our county.

Extension agents serve as catalysts, facilitators and technical advisors in working with citizen groups, local governments and the business community. A synopsis of the program areas are listed below.

Agriculture

Today there are roughly 45,000 farms in Alabama. Extension helps Alabama's farmers create and maintain healthy, profitable, and environmentally sustainable operations. Regional Research and Extension Centers in the Tennessee Valley, the Black Belt, the Wiregrass, the Gulf Coast, Sand Mountain, and Chilton area address the specific needs of each region. Home gardening and urban horticulture are also major Extension priorities.

Forestry and Natural Resources

Alabama is rich in natural resources. Almost two-thirds of the state is covered in forests, and our water resources are the envy of the nation. Forestry, fisheries, and wildlife bring billions of dollars into the state's economy and greatly enhance quality of life. Extension is committed to helping people safeguard and develop these resources.

Urban and Nontraditional Programs

Two-thirds of Alabamians live in urban areas, and the Extension mission of taking the university to the people includes them as well as rural citizens. Programs include the urban family network, workforce preparation, domestic violence prevention, teen leadership, health issues, and nontraditional agriculture. Eight urban centers and two satellite offices help bring Extension education to the state's city dwellers.

Family and Individual Well-Being

One of Extension's key roles is helping families and individuals improve their quality of life through food safety, proper nutrition, parenting, family financial management, and community health. Flagship programs include the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), begun in Alabama more than 30 years ago and since adopted by all other states, and the federally mandated Nutrition Education Program (NEP), which focuses on educating food stamp recipients.

Community and Economic Development

Extension plays a leading role in revitalizing Alabama communities, especially where declining farm populations have resulted in such problems as dwindling revenue bases and youth flight. Extension programs focus on economic and leadership development, environmental quality and community health, and public policy and strategic planning.

4-H and Youth Development

Alabama's 4-H program offers young people opportunities to develop their interests and expand their awareness of our world. Extension educators, volunteers, and the young people themselves work together to provide a wide range of hands-on, minds-on experiences that develop each individual's four H's—head, heart, hands, and health.

PERRY COUNTY STAFF
In-house

Daniel Jones, M.S.

County Extension Coordinator

Area of Responsibility: 80% Horticulture, Home Grounds, 10% Community Resource Development and 10% Office Administration

Katrina Easley, Associate of Science

Administrative Assistant

Area of Responsibility: 100% Office Administration and secretarial support

Lenora Evans, B.S.

Agent Assistant, I

Area of Responsibility: Begin Education Early 50% School Readiness, 50% Healthy Relationships

Pearlie Swift (Position currently vacant)

Agent Assistant, I

Area of Responsibility: 100% Nutrition Education Program (NEP)

Lashonda Griffin (Position currently vacant)

Agent Assistant, I

Area of Responsibility: 100% Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

Catherine Brady

Fill-in Secretary

Regional Extension Agents with Assignments in Perry County

Agriculture, Home Horticulture and Wildlife and Natural Resources

Willie Datcher, M.S.

Area of Responsibility: Home Grounds, Gardening and Home Pest

Michael Davis, M.S.

Area of Responsibility: Agronomist – Forage Crops

Jonathan Gladney, B.S.

Area of Responsibility: Animal Science and Forage Crops

Brenda Glover, B.S.

Area of Responsibility: Animal Science and Forage Crops

Gary Gray, M.S.

Area of Responsibility: Commercial Horticulture

Tommie Teacher, M.S.

Area of Responsibility: Animal Science and Small Ruminants

John Ollison, B.S.

Area of Responsibility: Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resource Management

Rudy Yates, M.S.

Area of Responsibility: Agronomic Crops

Family and Community Programs

Valerie Conner, M.S.

Area of Responsibility: Human Nutrition, Diet and Health

Sharon Gilbert, B.S.

Area of Responsibility: Consumer Science and Personal Financial Management

Janice Hall, M.S.

Area of Responsibility: Food Safety, Preparation and Preservation

Sallie Hooker, M.S.

Area of Responsibility: Family and Child Development

4-H and Youth Development

Esther Jackson, M.S.

Area of Responsibility: 4-H and Youth Development

James Shropshire, B.S.

Area of Responsibility: 4-H and Youth Development



Daniel Jones
County Extension Coordinator (CEC)
Home Grounds

As the CEC of Perry County, Daniel Jones has been entrusted with overseeing Extension program implementation in the county as well as serving as supervisor for county staff. During the 2004-2005 fiscal year, Daniel participated in and assisted with organizing the following:

- ❖ 4-H Round-up competition, county and district
- ❖ Pesticide Education training
- ❖ Recreation Pond Management
- ❖ Rural Economic Prosperity Summit
- ❖ Perry County Health Fair
- ❖ Emergency Preparedness
- ❖ B.E.E. Program (Begin Education Early)
- ❖ CRD-Financing Alabama's Future
- ❖ Master Gardening
- ❖ Fruit & Vegetable Production
- ❖ Perry County Farmer's Market
- ❖ EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)
- ❖ ACENEP (Nutrition Education Program)
- ❖ Body Love Radio Broadcast

Because of the specializing of all Extension agents, Daniel was able to focus primarily on assisting local producers with their crops. A lot of time was spent visiting farm sites, analyzing pest and growth problems, and conducting soil samples. Local farmers welcomed the assistance and the attention given to them and their crops.



Lenora Evans, B.S.
Agent Assistant, I
Begin Education Early
B.E.E.

The Begin Education Early Program brings parenting information and early childhood education to rural, underserved families with young children. These families have limited resources consisting of at least one adult caretaker and child(ren) between the ages of 3 to 5 years.

In the classroom-on-wheels, parents learn to prepare their children for school while the pre-school aged child(ren) take part in hands-on, structural activities to improve their language, social and cognitive skills.

A total of 19 families are currently being served by the B.E.E. program. The program consist of two additional modules

- ◆ B.E.E.ing Healthy (You and Your Health Care)
- ◆ Building a Healthy Relationship



Valerie Conner
Regional Extension Agent
Human Nutrition, Diet & Health

Valerie Conner is the Regional Extension Agent in Human Nutrition, Diet and Health for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family Consumer Science with focus on Foods and Nutrition and Child Development. She has a Masters Degree in Adult Education.

Valerie began her Extension career 23 years ago and has worked in many counties around the state. Her regional position covers Autauga, Bibb, Butler, Chilton, Dallas, Lowndes, Perry and Wilcox. Her office is located in Autauga County at the Agricultural Center in Autaugaville.

Program areas include educational programs in Indoor Air Quality, Asthma, Dietary Guidelines, Child Nutrition, Diabetes Prevention, Cardiovascular Health Nutrition and Cancer, and Arthritis.



Willie Datcher
Regional Extension Agent (REA)
Home Grounds, Gardens & Pest Management

The REA for home grounds, home pests and home horticulture conducted a Regional Master Gardening program in Dallas County which included residents from Perry County. The class consisted of 21 adults. The participants were educated in gardening on several topics. Classes met for ten weeks which consisted of four hours per week. Topics covered were Pesticide Safety, Plant Physiology, Soils and Fertility, Vegetable Gardening, Composting, Butterfly Gardening, Fruit Production, Turfgrass, Annual and Perennials, Plant Pathology and Landscape Design.

Telephone calls were answered and on-site visits were made to offer homeowners assistance with their home grounds, gardening and pest problems. The REA has answered several calls from homeowners within the Perry County area and has made several personal visits

Brenda Glover
Regional Extension Agent
Animal Science and Forages

Brenda was born and raised in Tennessee on a Jersey dairy farm. She received her B.S. degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a degree in Agriculture with an emphasis on Animal Science.

She has worked as a representative for the American Guernsey Association and a marketing specialist for the American Jersey Cattle Association. Since marrying and moving to Alabama, she worked with her husband at their Jersey dairy until 1997 and their beef stocker operation. She taught school and began her Extension career as an EFNEP Agent Assistant. Brenda also worked as a NEP Agent Assistant in Hale County and was recently promoted as a REA to serve the citizens of Perry County.



John Ollison
Regional Extension Agent
Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources

John's contributions to Perry County the past year includes:

- Reactivated the Perry County Forestry Planning Committee
- Recreational Fish Pond Management Program
- Answered questions and made personal home visits to assess problems
- Discussed tree health with clients
- Submitted newsletters clients



Janice Hall
Regional Extension Agent
Food Safety, Preservation and Preparation
Summary of Accomplishments

ARTICLES SUBMITTED:

Food Safety for the Holidays – Thanksgiving and Christmas
Beware of Food Poisoning
National Food Safety Month
Donor Food Guidelines – For Emergency Preparedness in Natural Disasters
Don't Get Bugged Keep It Safe to Eat
Hamburger Patty Food Recall

PROGRAMS DELIVERED:

Serving It Safe Training

SERVING IT SAFE TRAINING

This training was presented to all of the Child Nutrition Program District Directors and Managers in the Perry County School System and to all of the workers in the Perry County School System. The participants received 10 hours of training on Food Safety & Sanitation and guidelines on USDA mandated (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) HACCP plan effective July 1, 2005. A total of 26 were trained.

The following schools participated, Managers and Workers were trained:

Albert Turner Sr. Elementary
Uniontown Elementary
Marion High School
Robert C. Hatch High School

Sharon Gilbert
Regional Extension Agent
Consumer Science & Personal Financial Management

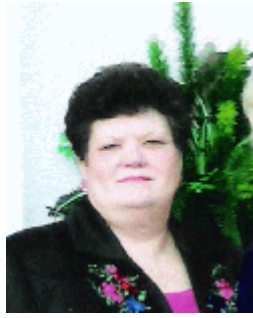
The following educational programs have been conducted in Perry County:

Job Skills training:

- Get That Job
- Making A Job Change
- Being The Best You Can Be
- Changing Jobs? Looking For A Job?
- What Jobs Are Available
- Dress For Success
- Filling Out An Application
- How To Have A Successful Interview
- So You Got The Job, Now What?
- Understanding Work Schedules
- Getting Along With People On The Job
- Meeting The Public
- Work Relationships

Perry County Extension and the Perry County Department of Human Resources partnered to facilitate these workshops. There were a minimum of 8 families represented at each workshop. Participants completed pre-tests and post-tests to determine knowledge prior to the workshops and knowledge after the workshops. Evaluations revealed that all participants gained knowledge about job skills that they did not have before attending the workshops. Also, comments were made indicating a desire to modify current behaviors as well as implementing new ones.

In the upcoming year, plans are underway to reach even more residents of Perry County. Extension will continue to offer job skills training as well as financial literacy and entrepreneurship by partnering with school systems, financial institutions and other county and community organizations. NEFE High School Financial Planning Program, Reality Check, Life Smarts, Get That Job and Money Smart are just a few of the projects planned for the new year.



Sallie Lide-Hooker
Regional Extension Agent
Summary of Accomplishments

- Compiled a Resource Directory (including Perry County)
- Added Perry County Family and Consumer Sciences mailing list to the state FCS mailing list.
- Attended the Blackbelt Region Listening Session at the Blackbelt Experiment Station.
- Consulted organizers and committee members of 2005 FNRA banquet.
- Forwarded pertinent Shooting Spots information to volunteer leaders.
- Provided scholarships for 4-H volunteer leaders to attend training at the 4-H Center.
- Consulted with volunteer leaders re: inventory of Shooting Sports equipment.
- Attended Downlink of question/answer session regarding use of Auburn issued credit card.
- Presented Head Start Programs April 7 on main campus in Marion and on April 21 on Uniontown campus.
- Presented two Head Start in-service training programs on September 1
- Participated in Making the Older Years Golden for a group of 250 on May 26. Between 25 and 30 Perry County residents participated.
- Submitted several news articles that were published.
- Worked with volunteers re: Shooting Sports program.
- Received cost recovery from Perry County Head Start.
- Planned and facilitated two Regional Day Care Provider Trainings, one in Clanton and one in Selma. A number of Perry County residents attended both programs.

Esther Jackson
Regional Extension Agent
4-H and Youth Development

The 4-H and Youth Development Program in Perry County provided youth with educational opportunities for growth and development during 2005.

Met with all principals of the Elementary and High Schools to identify and address the needs of the youth in the county. Identified twenty-three (23) volunteer teachers, resource leaders and parents to assist and conduct 4-H club activities in Perry County schools and in the communities.

During the month of October 2004, a total of 250 youth enrolled as 4-H club members. Activities included a county-wide essay contest, Design a 4-H Tee Shirt, mini classroom program on Eating Healthy, Food Safety, Personal Hygiene and Grooming, etc.

Volunteers and teachers/leaders conducted Public Speaking eliminations at the schools. County-wide contest was conducted in Uniontown at City Hall which included Public Speaking, Tractor Driving, Foods and Chicken-Que. There were a total of twenty-eight participants in the county-wide 4-H programs. Winners from each of the contest represented Perry County at the 4-H Regional Congress at Judson College on June 21, 2005.

Conducted three after-school Special Interest Programs at Uniontown Elementary School on Dental Care, Eating Right and Personal Hygiene. There were a total of eighty youth and teachers in attendance.

The 4-H and Youth Development Program for Perry County will strive to introduce and implement new and innovative programs for the youth in the county for 2006.



Perry County Youth 4-H District Round-up



Pearlie Swift
Agent Assistant, I
NEP
(Position currently vacant)

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP) is an integral part of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

NEP provides nutrition education opportunities to Food Stamp recipients and applicants in three core areas, *Dietary Quality, Shopping Behavior/Food Resource Management, and Food Safety.*

The mission of NEP is to improve the likelihood that Food Stamp Program participants and applicants will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for American and the mypyramid.gov.

Objectives

As a result of the Nutrition Education Program, participants will:

1. Assist food stamp households to adopt healthy eating and active lifestyles that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the My pyramid.gov
2. Enhance practices related to thrifty food shopping and preparation of nutritious foods by food stamp households.
3. Improve food sta... tion and storage of food.





Rudy Yates
Regional Extension Agent
Agronomic Crops

Rudy's presence in the county was with regards to conducting a Blackbelt Soybean Production Program, providing farmers with updates on pest management, crop insurance and USDA programs. He taught the soybean producers about the different chemical options for controlling soybean rust as well as when to spray and how often.



James Shropshire
Regional Extension Agent
4-H and Youth Development

James Shropshire was raised in Oklahoma. He earned a B.S. in Animal Science with a Business option. He is a Regional Extension Agent providing 4-H volunteer training, special interest meetings, assist with 4-H county-wide eliminations, and animal science shows for Dallas, Chilton, Autauga, Lowndes, Butler and Perry Counties.