

## **Shelby County Extension Office 2008 Annual Report**

The Shelby County Extension Office as well as Regional Staff recorded greater than 254,859 (26,000 face to face) county contacts during 2007. Each contact assisted a Shelby County resident in some manner.

Shelby County has 12 Regional Agents in addition to 3 county based staff serving client needs.

The mission of Extension is to provide university based educational resources and assistance to all citizens in the following Extension Program Areas:

Agronomic Crops

Animal Science and Forages

Aquaculture and Recreational Pond Management

Poultry

Family and Child Development

Community Resource Development

Consumer Science and Personal Financial Management

Farm Management and Agricultural Enterprise Analysis

Food Safety, Preparation, and Preservation

Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resource Management

Commercial Horticulture

Home Grounds, Gardens, and Home Pests

Human Nutrition and Health

4-H and Youth Development

EFNEP(Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)

## **Program Highlights for 2008**

### **Agronomic Crops:**

-Completed Cotton Variety Trial of 11 Round-up Ready and 13 Stoneville varieties for area producers.

### **Animal Science and Forages**

- Conducted on-farm BVD Workshop.
- Hosted Drought Management meeting for local Beef Producer.
- Hosted Fall Nutrition Series Workshops for Beef Producers.
- Assisted Beef Producers with marketing opportunities.
- Assisted Cattlemen with Beef Cattle Improvement Association data collection.

### **Community Resource Development**

- During 2007 Shelby County Extension assisted in securing RC&D and Rural Alabama Initiative grants totaling \$51,000.
- Grants for the Environmental Training Center at the North Shelby County Library totaled \$93,000 and \$57,500 in kind donations.
- Worked with local Cattlemen and Civic Clubs to promote County Fair and Rodeo
- Provided a public awareness campaign for the negative health effects of Radon.

### **Consumer Sciences and Personal Financial Management**

- Conducted 2 "Reality Check" programs for county youth. (4-H Center and Kings Ranch)
- Serve on the curriculum development committee for the Shelby County Children's Policy Council.

### **Family and Child Development**

- Work with local schools and counselors with parenting information.
- Conducted program for Shelby County Juvenile Detention Center.
- Presented program for Kids First Shelby County Housing Authority..
- Served as presenter for 2007 Wellness Meeting for Shelby County Schools.
- Recorded radio segment for seniors and community related issues WBYE.
- Presented family program at Alabama Homemakers and Community Leaders Annual Conference.
- Served on county's RX wellness advisory board.

### **Food Safety, Preparation and Preservation**

- Conducted 2 ServSafe classes for restaurant workers.
- Conducted 3 House of Horrible Germs programs at Shelby County Schools.
- Conducted 4 Food Preservation Programs with 4-H and other youth groups.
- Answered many questions regarding safe canning and preserving methods.
- Provided free pressure canning testing to the general public.
- Served as Regional Team member to plan Multi County Caregivers program. where 50 people attended three sessions. Several were from Shelby County.
- Worked with Shelby County Youth Leadership to apply for CaWaCo RC&D Grant, was awarded \$5,000.

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### **Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources**

Attended twelve Greater Birmingham Association of Landscape Professionals meeting as their Education Advisor.

Presented 2 programs for various Civic Clubs and Homeowner Associations (Approximately 80 people attended).

Wrote weekly articles in the Saturday Birmingham News and some reprinted for Shelby Reporter on Urban Forestry, Wildlife, Natural Resource, and Horticulture subjects. Several other weekly newspapers in my region and other counties use the article also.

Continued Assisting Oak Mountain State park in Deer Culling project and new Lake management project.

Put together two planning meetings for Alabama Urban Forestry Association to arrange educational programming for 2007.

Made approximately 53 site visits in the Wildlife Natural Resource, Forestry and Urban Forestry areas (ponds, erosion, storm runoff , street trees, commercial landscape, homeowner, etc.)

Answered approximately 150 Urban Forestry and horticulture calls from the Birmingham Metro and Clanton/Upper Coastal Plains Region.

Served on the Environmental Training Center Board of Directors. Buildout project is in its final stages.

Served as Education liaison for AUFA statewide, attended twelve board meetings and many planning meeting during the year.

Wildlife and Natural Resource Shortcourse and Tradeshow at the ETC – 45 people attended

### **Commercial Horticulture**

- Promoted numerous area meetings including sod, peaches and nursery and greenhouse crops.
- Worked w/Joe Smith in planning for CAWACO grant for greenhouse vegetable production project at Chelsea High School.
- Worked with the City of Columbiana on organic fruit and vegetable production.
- Worked with Local Vineyards, Sod farms and Nurseries to address problems, expand marketing and develop agricultural tourism.
- Worked with Indian Springs School to develop hydroponic/greenhouse vegetable production demonstration.

-Assisted numerous producers with management decisions utilizing farm visits and phone call thought out the year.

-Area Peach Meeting, Area Plasticulture Vegetable Production, Area Fruit Tour, Greater Birmingham Area Landscaping Professionals Conference, Growing Grapes in Alabama, and Sustainable Landscaping Conference.

### **Home Grounds**

-Assisted clients in a wide range of areas including soil fertilizer, weed, disease, insect control, plant I.D. and lawns and landscapes maintenance.

-Hosted and completed Master Gardener Training program.

-Conducted the following programs : Regional Landscape Conference(Sustainable Landscaping-Southern Style).

### **4H and Youth Development**

-346 youth enrolled in 27 Clubs (22 volunteer led).

-Local 4-H'ers competed in County, District and State 4-H Congress.

-Shelby County 4-H'er attended 4-H Camp, Mid-Winter Teen Leadership Retreat and Natural Science Camp. .

-4-H teams competed in Shooting Sports, Wildlife and Livestock, Judging activities, along with exhibiting in Beef Cattle, Horse, Meat Goat and Dairy Goat events.

-Organized and conducted Shelby County 4-H Pet Show.

-Conducted Volunteer Leader training for county volunteers.

-Conducted Shelby County 4-H awards Banquet.

-The Shelby County Extension Office is dedicated to serving county residents and improving their quality of life.

We thank you for your support and look forward to the challenges ahead.