

2013 Extension Impacts in Cullman County



ACES

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.

Close to Home

Our commitment is solidified in our ongoing support of offices in all 67 counties. These offices assure our connection to the local needs and issues of all citizens.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System funds 6.62 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Cullman County**. These professionals deliver educational programs throughout the year. Programs are developed statewide and delivered locally in each county. Extension regularly partners with the people of Alabama to assess the educational needs in all walks of life.

Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources

- 45 beginning or transitioning farmers attended an 8-week Farmer 101 series. 92 percent gained confidence in developing and implementing a new or improved farm plan; 81 percent expect to increase profitability; 89 percent expect **an increase in profitability averaging 39.2 percent**.

Economic and Community Development

- Extension initiated the first annual Farm Y'all celebration of the county's ranking as the top agriculture producing county in the state. More than 3,000 people attended the event at the local farmers market. **Fruit and vegetable producers increased sales** dramatically on an otherwise slow late-summer date.
- Cullman County Extension partnered with the Farm City Week committee to host the first Farm to Fork Dinner with all 112 seats selling quickly. 46 Master Gardeners and other volunteers were involved in the effort, which **promotes and celebrates agriculture**.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- **County inmates received job training** in a program made possible through an ACES-funded grant and presented by Cullman County Extension in partnership with The Link of Cullman.

4-H and Youth Development

- 900 young people participated in a STEM-related activity called Suspension Bridge Construction improving their understanding of **the practical application of engineering**.
- The Cullman County senior **Wildlife Habitat Judging Team** won first place in the state, and 3 young people attended the national contest in Indiana.