

# 2013 Extension Impacts in Blount 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 5.72 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Blount 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

- 75 Blount County Master Gardeners and 15 Master Gardener interns volunteered **5,710 hours of community service worth \$102,780** for ACES and the Blount County community.
- Soybean producers in Blount County **saved \$31,200** after being trained to properly scout and identify economic thresholds for a relatively new pest, the kudzu bug.
- Many vegetable producers have purchased high tunnel or greenhouse structures to extend production in the spring and fall. More than 108 producers attended an Extension training workshop to **learn more about high tunnel production** practices.

## Economic & Community Development

- 126 people in Blount County participated in Extension broadband programs, including E-Home, E-Workforce, Broadband 101, and E-Commerce, stimulating **increased use and request for broadband availability**.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

- Extension has responded to the mandate for food service workers to attend food safety certification training. All 39 individuals who participated in the county's ServSafe Food Safety Certification program **scored 85 percent or above and received certificates**.

## 4-H and Youth Development

- Approximately **500 young people** participated in Blount County 4-H and Youth Development projects, including the 4-H /FFA Steer and Heifer Show, in-school clubs, 4-H Chick-Chain Show and Auction, community clubs, 4-H summer camp, and others.