

# 2013 Extension Impacts in Pike 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 5.17 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Pike 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

- 700 students each year **learn the importance of forest management and environmental stewardship** through Pike County's Forest in the Classroom/Classroom in the Forest Program.
- 44 Pike County residents **learned how to better manage and stock their ponds** through an Extension pond management workshop.

## Economic and Community Development

- 25 business leaders have joined to form the **Pike County Business Development Committee**, spearheaded by the Pike County Extension Office and Pike County Chamber of Commerce.
- Through a partnership of Extension and the Pike County EMA, **the community is learning how to prepare for disasters** through a newly created disaster preparedness program, which includes a youth component.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

- In 2012 and 2013, taxpayers have taken advantage of **free tax preparation services** offered at the Pike County Extension office, in partnership with Troy University. As part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, **the total savings in taxpayer preparation fees is \$40,000**—a total of **\$288,688 returned to the taxpayers** in federal and state tax refunds and 208 federal and 133 state returns filed.
- Through the Reality Check program, more than 700 young people in Pike County have learned about **the realities of budgeting, investing, entrepreneurship, personal finances**, debt, savings, wealth building, and job hunting.

## 4-H and Youth Development

- 565 juniors and seniors participated in a College and Career Fair Day, where they learned about **job offerings and careers** from industries throughout the county.
- Through the Skins 'n Skulls program in 2013, more than **500 young people learned about wildlife species native to Alabama**. Youth studied examples of skulls and learned to recognize tracks of wildlife and about camouflage and warning coloration.