

2013 Extension Impacts in Wilcox 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 6.17 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Wilcox 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

- Regional on-farm cotton variety test results for county producers showed lint yield differences of 253 pounds between two varieties, **resulting in more than \$230 per acre**.
- Home Grown programs increased participants' knowledge by more than 50 percent. Installing drip irrigation **increased profits by more than 30 to 40 percent** for vegetable growers and small gardeners.
- Small ruminant producers participated in a series of Extension workshops on small ruminant management, reproduction, nutrition, and health. As a result, the producers have **reduced their production and overhead costs and shown an increase** in profit, quality meat, marketing, and herd management.
- Before participation in the Forest in the Classroom/Classroom in the Forest program, 50 percent of Wilcox fifth graders say you shouldn't cut trees. Afterwards, 100 percent agreed that cutting trees is a management strategy for a healthy forest.

Economic and Community Development

- Now in its seventh year, Leadership Wilcox continues to contribute to **building a better Wilcox County**. 91 public, private, and nonprofit sector leaders from many disciplines and neighborhoods participate. Leadership Wilcox embraces the diversity in our communities and encourages everyone, without exception, to contribute to its success.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- With Extension-led assistance, 165 applicants for insurance under the Affordable Care Act have been provided **fair, impartial, and accurate information assistance** in submitting the eligibility application, clarifying distinctions about qualified health plans, and helping qualified individuals make informed decisions. These practices have resulted in applicants having more choice and control over their health coverage.

4-H and Youth Development

- Extension's Ag Safety Day resulted in 129 students adopting farm safety practices, including ATV safety, fire safety, first aid, sun safety, food safety, gun safety, meth lab awareness, healthy lifestyles, equipment safety, and propane safety. These practices have resulted in **reducing farm accidents, saving lives, and saving money in medical, repair, and insurance costs**.