

# 2013 Extension Impacts in Calhoun 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 14.32 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Calhoun 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

- The Sustainability Education Program provided 1,427 students education experiences, including Camp Cane Creek, while promoting the **development of future stewards of the environment**.
- Farmers market growers received production and records training. Good production practices and financial records provide the basis for production and planning that can **save farmers thousands of dollars each year**.

## Economic and Community Development

- Cane Creek Community Gardens expanded to 64 raised gardening beds. CCCG welcomed 2,000 unique visitors to McClellan for **training and community development exercises**, adding a Legacy 4-H Wildlife Room.
- Master Gardener volunteers gave more than **7,086 hours in service (valued at \$156,884)**, providing training classes and community outreach programs and developing venues such as Cane Creek Community Gardens, Longleaf Botanical Gardens, and Ladiga Trail Park.

## Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs

- In 2013, program volunteers accrued 3,423 hours, which translates to **\$68,460 in-kind services** in Calhoun County.
- SNAP-Ed programs and CHAMPION (Community Health Aerobic Motivational Program Initiating Optimal Nutrition) efforts reached more than 1,000 students, reinforcing the importance of choosing foods from the **USDA'S MyPlate recommendations** focusing on a diet high in fruits and vegetables.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

- 330 young people participated in the Kids in the Kitchen and CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) programs. 90 percent increased their abilities to make healthy food choices, **aiding in the fight against childhood obesity**.
- NEP's Body Quest: Food of the Warrior program graduated almost 200 students in Calhoun County. The students learned about the **health benefits of eating more fruits and vegetables**.

## 4-H and Youth Development

- In 2012-2013, a total of 152 4-H **volunteers donated 2,149 hours valued at \$47,578**, and more than 1,600 young people participated in 4-H activities each month.
- More than 60 4-H students participated in whitewater kayak trips. Older **4-H'ers were trained to help lead younger ones** through the 4-H mentoring program.