

2013 Extension Impacts in Lowndes 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 5.16 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Lowndes 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

- More than 150 fourth graders and 15 adults **learned about forestry and safety** at Lowndes County Youth Forestry and Safety Day.
- With regional on-farm soybean variety test results, county producers realized yield differences of 11 bushels between two varieties **resulting in \$154 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.

Economic and Community Development

- Working with ACCION (the largest and only nationwide micro- and small-business lending network), five local small businesses were able to get **business loans totaling more than \$25,000** to grow their businesses.
- Nine new farmers joined and helped operate the local farmers market from June until September, providing **fresh fruits and vegetables to local consumers**.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- 85 percent of adults in the Cent\$ible Nutrition and Have a Healthy Baby programs showed **improvement in nutrition behaviors**. 65 heads of vulnerable households completed six weeks of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program with 100 percent showing a positive change in healthy food choices.
- Two workshops titled Enhancing the Safety of Locally Grown Produce helped 29 participants **learn to produce safer food**.
- Of the 23 Lowndes County residents attending Eat Healthy, Be Active community workshops, 19 **agreed to change their eating habits**.
- 55 young people learned the importance of **good money management** and education by participating in youth financial management programs in Lowndes County.

4-H and Youth Development

- 92 young people participated in the National 4-H Council–funded Health Rocks! curriculum, which helps young people **build life skills that lead to healthy lifestyle choices**.
- 42 young people participated in 4-H Innovators, learning lessons in using **scientific and engineering practices to solve real-world problems**.