

# 2013 Extension Impacts in Franklin 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 6.26 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Franklin 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

- 22 farmers in Franklin County netted an **additional \$10 per acre on corn and cotton** by following Extension pest management recommendations.
- Pecan growers in the Tennessee Valley region saved close to \$15,000 through Extension efforts to propagate improved pecan cultivars. Growers collectively **saved \$30,000 by following Extension recommendations**.
- The Shoals Master Gardeners contributed **13,364 hours valued at \$240,552**.

## Economic and Community Development

- Extension workshops and publications helped 80 farmers market vendors **keep food dollars in Franklin County**.
- 450 senior citizens without access to computers registered to receive farmers market vouchers to **buy fresh produce, learn about food safety and preservation**, and support local agriculture.
- 10,400 young people and adults learned through the Farm City Education Program about food and forest production and **how agriculture fuels local economic growth and job creation**.
- 15,000 Franklin County residents **learned about the benefits of high-speed Internet** in connecting businesses and providing social, educational, and economic benefits.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

- Healthy relationship classes helped **empower 338 individuals to improve health and strengthen families** by improving communication, managing stress, and learning conflict resolution skills.
- 187 individuals **learned about food preparation and preservation** in eight classes while 20-plus restaurants were helped by the ServSafe Food Safety Certification program.
- 54 participants in the Eat Healthy, Be Active program **learned to change eating habits, become more active**, order healthier choices in restaurants, and plan meals. The Dining with Diabetes program helped individuals become more aware of **healthy food choices and preparation**.
- Extension is **helping reduce the risk of chronic disease** by promoting healthy eating and physical activity through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. 92 percent of participants in various programs showed improvement in nutrition behavior.

## 4-H and Youth Development

- More than 100 Russellville City School students learned about **health, relationships, and leadership** through Urban Youth Programs including GermCity, Health Rocks!, and Teens Making Impact.
- 842 students in Franklin County and Russellville City Schools enrolled in the 4-H program that **develops young people into resourceful citizens and responsible leaders**.