

2013 Extension Impacts in Lauderdale 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 7.09 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Lauderdale 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

- Master Gardeners contributed 13,364 hours to the Lauderdale Extension office with an **estimated value of \$240,552** and in the areas of gardening, 4-H projects, and special interest clubs.
- The Florence Community Garden Project was created with \$7,000 in local and regional support. It provides more than 50 raised beds **for individuals to grow their own produce**.
- **Growers saved \$15,000** planting new cultivars that require less spraying, ripen earlier than older cultivars, and will receive a better price than later maturing cultivars.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Through community partnerships, Extension seminars improved **workforce development and financial management skills** of more than 1,000 adults.
- Healthy relationship classes empowered 740 individuals to **improve health and well-being and strengthen their families** by improving communication, stress management, and conflict resolution skills.
- All participants in the Eat Healthy, Be Active community workshops indicated that they would **make changes to their health habits**.
- 500 people **learned the dangers of radon**, and 121 radon test kits were distributed.

Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs

- 90 percent of the 418 senior citizens from Colbert and Lauderdale counties attending the Annual Successful Aging Initiative conference rated it either good or excellent and plan to attend next year to **learn more about wellness and resource management programs** and other issues related to aging.
- 64 special needs participants completed the 10-week Community Health Aerobic Motivational Program Initiating Optimal Nutrition (CHAMPION) **to improve overall health**.

Economic and Community Development

- More than **1,800 young people each year learn about jobs** at the Eighth Grade Career Fair and Reality Check program, and 800 eleventh graders participate in the Career Fair and Job Skills seminars.

4-H and Youth Development

- **More than 1,720 young people** are enrolled in 4-H programs including in-school clubs, special interest clubs, and one homeschool group. 4-H volunteers contributed 644.5 hours worth \$14,269 to the Lauderdale County 4-H Club program.
- The 4-H Innovators program taught more than 80 fourth grade students to better understand **science, technology, engineering, and math**.