

# 2013 Extension Impacts in Chilton 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 5.39 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Chilton 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

- All twelve Chilton County Master Gardener class participants passed exams with a class average of 99 percent and volunteered to their communities **480 hours valued at \$8,640**.
- The new spotted wing drosophila spread through blueberry and blackberry crops making fruit unmarketable. Using Extension pest management recommendations, **producers saved crops valued at \$74,000**.
- 67 percent of attendees at Friday Forage Focus/Forage Insect Pests Scouting and Control Methods meetings will adopt **recommendations affecting more than 400 acres**.
- County row crop producers received the regional on-farm cotton variety test results showing lint yield differences of 253 pounds between two varieties and resulting in a **difference of more than \$230 per acre**.
- 31 Master Gardeners learned nuisance wildlife control techniques **equipping them to better handle questions from homeowners**.

## Economic and Community Development

- Chilton Food Innovation Center, an entrepreneurial food processing facility, reported 4 new food businesses and 9 new Alabama-produced foods. Newly installed processing **equipment will decrease processing times**.
- 15 Chilton Leadership class members painted the YMCA gym and conducted fund-raisers for local charitable causes. The value of the **volunteer hours, goods collected, and money raised** was more than \$5,000.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

- 22 residents **increased their knowledge of money management** by participating in Extension programs.
- 12 food service establishments are **servicing safer foods and reducing the risk of costly food-borne illnesses** as a result of the ServSafe Food Safety Certification classes.
- 24 participants attended Eat Healthy, Be Active workshops in which 18 agreed to **change their eating habits** by increasing fruits and vegetables, choosing healthier recipes, and becoming more active.
- Extension is working with the David Matthews Foundation for Civic Life to **address the issue of bullying** in the Hispanic community.

## 4-H and Youth Development

- Chilton County 4-H reached more than 500 young people in community, in-school, and special interest clubs as well as with programs and events. **32 volunteers contributed 1,213 hours valued at \$26,492**.