

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

- County producers received the results of the regional on-farm corn variety tests. One test had yield differences of 21 bushels between two varieties, resulting in an **economic difference of \$94 per acre**.
- County producers also received soybean regional on-farm variety test results. Yield differences of 11 bushels between two varieties resulted in an **economic difference of \$154 per acre**.
- Home Grown programs **increased participants' knowledge of gardening** 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

- The Perry County Sustainable Youth Leadership program graduates nearly 20 students annually. The program emphasizes civic and community engagement and **overcoming socioeconomic barriers**.
- 40 senior citizens participated in Boosting Broadband educational sessions. As a result, many are now aware of the **benefits of using the Internet to retrieve and access vital information**.

## Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs

- Small ruminant producers **increased their profit, meat quality, marketing, and herd management** through workshops focused on management, reproduction, nutrition, and health.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

- 900 young people participated in an **infectious disease control program**.
- 14 food service personnel received **ServSafe Food Safety Certification** training.
- Extension nutrition efforts helped 91 percent of program participants improve one or more nutrition behaviors, such as making healthy food choices, reading nutrition labels, planning meals, and feeding children breakfast. These changes ultimately **improved participants' health and quality of life**.

## 4-H and Youth Development

- 257 Perry County young people have participated in 4-H in-school enrichment programs, Junior Master Gardener, and 4-H Innovators. Young people gained insight and techniques to **promote healthy lifestyles and goal setting**.