

# 2013 Extension Impacts in Etowah 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 7.76 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Etowah 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

- 400 residents participated in Smart Yard and Home Grown workshops. Half **extended their gardens year round**, while 79 percent now have pests identified before applying pesticides.
- 67 residents participated in Weeds and Insect Pests workshops and indicate that the economic impact they would assign to the **knowledge gained is \$46,720**.
- 108 learned about **high tunnel production**. 71 percent had never attended training on this practice, and 82 percent were highly satisfied with knowledge gained.

## Economic and Community Development

- 800 homes are reached quarterly by the Etowah County Extension Newsletter that not only educates on the most timely topics but also encourages residents to **“Grow, Shop, Listen, and Play” locally**.
- Farm accounting classes teach farmers and agribusiness owners **how to keep accurate financial records** for tax and business planning purposes.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

- 151 heads of households from the **county’s most vulnerable population** completed six weeks of nutrition education in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.
- 8 workers were trained in **ServSafe Food Safety Certification** required for food service establishments to remain open, generating revenue and serving safer food.
- Two food preservation classes, including lacto-fermentation and drying, helped 39 participants learn to **safely process food and avoid deadly botulism**.
- Six Consumer Finance and Personal Financial Management programs were conducted in Etowah County in which 35 adults and 228 young people gained a **better understanding of budgeting**, saving, record keeping, identity theft, and financial protection skills.

## 4-H and Youth Development

- 22 Etowah and Cherokee Counties 4-H’ers participated in the 4-H Pig Squeal project with all stating that they have a better understanding of what it takes to **grow a healthy source of protein** for the American consumer.
- The Etowah County 4-H program has experienced a **210 percent growth in membership** as well as project work over the last three years.