

# 2013 Extension Impacts in Walker 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 6.08 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Walker 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

- 19 new Master Gardener volunteers recorded more than 500 hours of **volunteer service valued at \$9,000** to the Walker County community.
- Extension trained local nursery workers to meet federal compliance with the **Worker Protection Standards Act**; 15 local farm producers will receive their **private pesticide applicator permits**.
- 75 local forest landowners learned to safely and effectively control undesirable and invasive species on private lands, thereby **improving the growth and value of their timber stands**.

## Economic and Community Development

- 220 local senior citizens signed up for farmers market vouchers **putting \$6,600 food dollars in their hands**—dollars spent with local farmers at the Walker County Farmers Market.
- Groundhog Job Shadow program in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce reached more than 900 Walker County ninth graders with **tours and career decision information**.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

- **74 food service providers were trained and certified** in four ServSafe Food Safety Certification classes to meet Alabama Department of Public Health and USDA requirements.
- Extension trained 25 farmers market participants in **safe handling procedures** for marketing fresh vegetables to consumers and did follow-up training to teach consumers safe food preservation methods for fresh fruits and vegetables.

## 4-H and Youth Development

- 750 local young people in 35 individual clubs participated in the Walker County 4-H programs **developing relationship, citizenship, responsibility, and life skills**.
- Walker County juniors were **2013 state champions** in the wildlife habitat evaluation program, and local seniors finished second in state competition.
- Extension completed a new week-long day camp program series called **4-H Summer Explorations**.