

2013 Extension Impacts in Tuscaloosa 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 10.05 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Tuscaloosa 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

- As a result of Extension programming, more than **400 trees were planted** in the Holt community to replace those destroyed by the tornado of April 27, 2011.
- Extension worked with city officials to **bring a farmers market to the Tuscaloosa River Walk**. The market not only sells fruits and vegetables but also USDA-certified beef, pork, and shrimp.
- County producers received the regional on-farm soybean variety test results. Yield differences of 11 bushels between two varieties resulted in an **\$154 per acre increase**.

Economic and Community Development

- Extension was instrumental in the creation and promotion of the West Alabama Birding Trail. Three gateway sites hosted four launches **to promote tourism to the sites**.
- 450 students and parents participated in hands-on **educational birding experiences** featuring the Extension Raptor Trek presentation. Birding is a popular activity with people spending more money on it than on hunting and fishing combined.

Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs

- 1,100 urban young people participated in the National 4-H Council-funded Health Rocks! program with 9 of 10 indicating that **they will say no to drugs and alcohol**.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- 128 volunteers at 6 schools assisted in the Extension career simulation Reality Check that helped 1,180 students **learn the realities of budgeting**. An unexpected result was improved attendance due to the excitement surrounding the program.
- With the goal of **preventing childhood obesity**, 180 young people graduated from the Extension nutrition education series. 80 percent increased their abilities to choose healthy foods.

4-H and Youth Development

- Originating in Tuscaloosa, Extension's teen pregnancy prevention program, 4-H Teens Getting Involved for the Future (4-H TGIF) funded 17 jobs and served 6,550 youth using 567 teen mentors for a **value of \$686,925**.
- 17 screened and trained 4-H volunteers completed 948 volunteer hours, which translates into **\$20,989 worth of time** given to the Tuscaloosa County 4-H program.