

2013 Extension Impacts in Mobile 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 13.51 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Mobile 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

- The Oyster Gardening Program trained 100 volunteer gardeners who raised more than 40,000 oysters on 47 sites in Mobile Bay and then released them on a 2-acre oyster reef in the Mississippi Sound as an effective method in recruiting native oyster spat, thus **increasing commercial and recreational production opportunities** in the Mobile Bay area.
- Mobile County Master Gardeners **taught horticultural practices** using the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden. Fruit and vegetables were shared with the program participants and extras were donated to area food banks and Haven of Hope.

Economic and Community Development

- 172 shrimpers in Mobile County completed the Shrimp Trade Adjustment Assistance program to develop business plans providing an **economic impact of more than \$3,107,542**.
- Extension partnered with Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation to present the Groundwater Festival where more than 800 fourth graders learned simple lessons on how to make a difference in **caring for waterways and recreational streams, lakes, and bays**.

Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs

- Promoting Readiness for Employment Possibilities (PREP) trained 197 young adults in **job readiness skills**.
- Mobile County Urban Electronic Waste Institute partnered with Keep Mobile Beautiful to conduct a community electronic recycling event that collected **more than 600,000 pounds of e-waste**.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- 287 food service employees received **ServSafe Food Safety Certification** training.
- 25 local vegetable producers **learned to keep produce safe from field to the market**.

4-H and Youth Development

- More than 3,000 students each year learn the importance of **forest management and environmental stewardship** when more than 600 volunteers present the Forest in the Classroom/Classroom in the Forest program.
- **1,179 young people participated** in the Junior Master Gardener program.