

2013 Extension Impacts in Choctaw 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 5.75 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Choctaw 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

- Each year fifth grade students at every school in Choctaw County **learn the importance of forest management** and environmental stewardship through Choctaw County's Forest in the Classroom/Classroom in the Forest programs.
- County producers received the regional on-farm cotton variety test results. Lint yield differences of 253 pounds between two varieties resulted in **difference of more than \$230 per acre**.

Economic and Community Development

- Choctaw County is currently hosting its seventh class of **Leadership Choctaw** with approximately 15 to 18 graduates each year who learn to positively influence community development through the program.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Food-borne illness, hospitalization, and deaths from **food-borne illness were reduced by 21 percent** as a result of a Cook4Safety food handler's course in Choctaw County.
- In Choctaw County, 66 heads of households from the county's most vulnerable population, completed six weeks of nutrition education in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. As a result, 100 percent showed a positive change toward increasing fruits, vegetables, whole grains, protein foods, and dairy while decreasing oils, solid fats, and sugars **to help guard against chronic diseases and to encourage healthy food choices**.
- At the annual Choctaw County Health Fair, 79 county residents registered for the Yellow Dot Program, which assists Alabama citizens and first responders in the event of an automobile crash or other medical emergency by **providing detailed medical information** that can be crucial following a crash.

4-H and Youth Development

- Approximately 1,000 students each year develop **leadership and citizenship skills** through Choctaw County 4-H in-school clubs, special interest clubs, T.G.I.F., and 4-H events.