

2013 Extension Impacts in Russell 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 4.25 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Russell 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

- 80 landowners attended a **forest management program** presented by Extension.
- Extension presented a local cable station TV program, Vegetable Gardening Procedures. The presentation ran several times to a **viewership of more than 40,000 each time**.

Economic and Community Development

- With assistance from Extension, the Russell County Farmers Market increased participation from 3 to 6 producers, bringing **more fresh fruits and vegetables to local consumers**.
- Seven broadband classes teaching use of the Internet were presented in underserved areas in the county. Participants also learned about **broadband applications and technologies** as well as online safety and security.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- 60 participated in hands-on canning classes, learning the value of **homegrown food preservation and dollars saved**. The effort helps participants and their families enjoy in-season fruits and vegetables throughout the year.
- Extension hosted farmers market sellers training in Russell County. **Proceeds increased 55 percent** from previous years, and sellers learned better food handling procedures to ensure safe foods for consumers.

4-H and Youth Development

- 4-H Junior Master Gardener was introduced in five schools, teaching students the art of vegetable gardening and its **relationship to health and wellness**.
- Russell County increased 4-H clubs in schools from zero to five in 2013. Clubs, including Junior Master Gardener, are teaching **leadership, community service, public speaking, woodworking, and more**.
- 150 Russell County 4-H's learned the importance of **environmental stewardship and forest management** in the Classroom in the Forest/Forest in the Classroom program.