

2013 Extension Impacts in Houston 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 6.51 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in **Houston 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

- 48 vegetable producers learned methods of **water conservation and proper water usage** at a water conservation and demonstration workshop, helping them overcome the hurdles of plasticulture and subsurface irrigation.

Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs

- 120 senior citizens with diabetes attended the five-week CHAMPION (Community Health Aerobic Motivational Program Initiating Optimal Nutrition) class. Extension also offered the CHAMPION Diabetes Cooking School. A follow-up meeting with all participants showed a combined total of **125 pounds lost as a result of this program**.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- A variety of Extension **money management programs** helped families learn to budget, manage credit and debt wisely, and save to reach financial goals. The results of surveys completed by 100 participants indicate that knowledge of resources for managing finances increased 82 percent.
- 50 young people in Houston County increased by 78.9 percent their understanding of the importance of **making smart money decisions** through Reality Check, a financial education simulation program that allows youth to experience the realities of budgeting in an interactive and enjoyable way.

4-H and Youth Development

- The 4-H Poultry Project provides a low-cost animal care project for young people. Through our largest 4-H community club, Cluck A Lot 4-H, **young people have an opportunity for hands-on learning**.
- With the help of volunteer leaders and members, the Peanut Festival show has grown to more than 100 bird entries and 30 young people in showmanship. Several of these members have been recruited to participate in the state Chick-Chain program, which **teaches management practices for growing and raising chickens**.