The Alabama Cooperative Extension System funds 5.51 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) in Dale 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

- 437 students learned about water quality, wildlife, tree planting, prescribed burning, and products made of wood and wood by-products by attending the Annual Dale County Forestry Field Day.

Economic and Community Development

- Local produce farmers attended the Farmers Market Food Safety Training for producers that sell at the Ozark Farmers Market. These growers learned about food safety when harvesting, storing, transporting, and handling produce while at the farmers market. In 2013, sales totaled more than $40,000.

Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs

- 75 young people attending the Health and Safety Fair at Camp Oz learned about electrical safety, dog safety, first aid, hand washing techniques, and the effects of alcohol using Fatal Vision Goggles.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Childhood obesity is one of the most pressing issues in Dale County, and children of limited resource families are at particular risk. In 2013, 115 young people participated in the Kids in the Kitchen and CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) programs. 85 percent of the youth indicated after the classes that they had increased their abilities to choose foods according to federal dietary recommendations or that they had increased their knowledge of nutrition.

4-H and Youth Development

- 533 4-H members participated in the 4-H Innovators program that helped them strengthen skills that they use daily. These include solving problems creatively, thinking critically, and working cooperatively in teams, all while strengthening their math and science skills.