

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS  
  
THE  
COMPREHENSIVE  
ALABAMA  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM**

*Alabama A&M University  
Auburn University  
Tuskegee University*

FISCAL YEAR 2001

**CERTIFICATION**

The Alabama Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results has been reviewed and approved by the 1862 Extension Director - Auburn University, the 1890 Administrator - Alabama A&M University, and the 1890 Administrator - Tuskegee University. By separate correspondence, the Administrator and CSREES has been notified that the Alabama Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results has been electronically transmitted by a duly sanctioned designee (Ronald L. Williams, Extension Head, Program Planning and Development). As such, and consistent with the stated guidelines, no signatures are required.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act's (AREERA) Annual Report of Accomplishment and Results from the state of Alabama reflects the program accomplishments of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) and of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program. This AREERA Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results provides detailed information that documents outcomes and impacts that result from the Cooperative Extension programs in the state of Alabama. The programs and related outcomes and impacts, as contained in this report, reflect the positive and mutually supportive program-planning interface among the three institutions. Where appropriate, institutional identification associated with specific outcomes is noted. Given that the three institutions (Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, and Tuskegee University) cooperated fully in the development and implementation of the AREERA Plan of Work, the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results is by definition, evidence of inter-institutional program planning, implementation, and accountability.

The Alabama Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results reflects the Cooperative Extension programs funded by the Federal agricultural Extension formula funds and any required matching funds. In addition, it should be noted that many of these same programs are subject to the benefits of fiscal inputs leveraged from other sources, to include additional state appropriations and a significant amount of entrepreneurial dollars.

This Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results is consistent with the design and format of the AREERA Plan of Work from the state of Alabama. Alabama remains appreciative of the flexibility allowed in the design of our AREERA Plan of Work. Such flexibility of design was beneficial in that it allowed the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to produce a program plan that was foremost in addressing the critical needs of our citizens and that also met the stated needs of our Federal partner. In response to CSREES' review comments concerning the 2000 Annual Report, some reorganization of the contents has occurred; the most significant of which is to more closely align planned programs with the National Goals.

This Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results incorporates significant improvements over the 2000 report in both design and content, and addresses the comments in the CSREES letter of approval for the 2000 Report. Consistent with the guidance issued by CSREES, the Alabama Annual Report will be more closely aligned with the five (5) National Goals and will include impact data for each included program. Further, as in the 2000 Report, this document will address the stated components of Planned Programs, Stakeholder Input Process, Program Review Process, and Evaluation of the Success of Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and

Extension Activities. The stated request for brevity and concise reporting has been noted.

CSREES will recognize that this Annual Report of Accomplishments is centered on the National Goals. For each Goal there is a set of accomplishment reports. Each report defines project intent, methods, and related impacts. The listed activities are representative of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), programs that address the National Goals. A complete list of all Extension Team Projects is included for each goal. However, not all listed projects will have accomplishment reports for 2001.

## **PLANNING AND REPORTING REFINEMENTS**

As the ACES program management system continues to evolve, the areas of work for 2002 are organized under twenty-four (24) “**Statewide Major Programs**” (SMPs) that have emerged from our six base program areas. The SMPs are the broadly defined areas in which the System conducts educational programs, provides research-based information and carries out all of its activities. There are a total of 59 “**Extension Team Projects**” (ETPs) under the 24 SMPs. An ETP is defined as a combination of clearly related, preplanned educational activities that occur over a specified period of time (usually several years), over a specific geographic area (usually statewide), and that involve several Extension-funded employees working together to accomplish specific, highly-focused, measurable results based on the organization’s objectives and goals. Each of the 59 ETPs are all linked to one or more of the five National Goals.

To better facilitate the collection of data necessary to report measurable results, in 2002 ACES will implement a more rigorous and useful online reporting system that will allow it document program accomplishments and impacts in addition to providing the traditional contacts and days worked data. For each of the 59 ETPs there will be a unique set of quantitative and qualitative questions developed by the ETP leader. Each agent and/or specialist who has signed up days to work under each ETP<sup>1</sup> will be required to provide responses to these quantitative and qualitative questions so the ETP leader will have the data necessary to conduct a thorough project evaluation and to produce a comprehensive report reflecting all of the full-time equivalents (FTEs) devoted to the project and explaining the measurable results.

The online reporting system will also allow for narrative success stories for both SMPs and ETPs. Each agent and full-time specialist is required to submit at least three (3) success stories per year. These stories are stored as online electronic files, are keyword searchable, and may also include pictures. These success stories are screened by the district extension coordinators and state program leaders. Only the best stories are selected for inclusion in our Annual Report to constituents as well as for direct mailing to legislators and congressmen.

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<sup>1</sup> Agents are required to allocate at least 50% of their workdays to one or more ETPs and specialists are required to allocate 100% of their time to either ETPs or SMPs.

In addition to the ETP reports and success stories for both ETPs and SMPs, the new online reporting system also serves as the mechanism for agents to provide feedback and suggestions for future activities and improvements to the ETPs.

The online reporting system also allows us to track the exact cost (salary, travel, etc.) and FTE allocation for each ETP as well as for the SMPs. However, this data is not tracked by source of funding. The new reporting system also provides a mechanism for tracking participation in multistate and integrated research-Extension activities.

## NATIONAL GOALS PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Goal 1: An agricultural system that is highly competitive in the global economy. Through research and education, empower the agricultural system with knowledge that will improve competitiveness in domestic production, processing, and marketing.**

**(Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of FTEs, costs and contacts for each National Goal.)**

2001 ETP's for Goal 1	This ETP is linked to National Goal
210 Alabama Agribusiness Development	1
211 Agricultural Business Profitability	1
212 Managing Change in Agriculture	1
221A Livestock Performance Programs to Enhance Profitability	1
221D Alternative Strategies for Independent Pork Producers	1
221E Dairy Profitability	1
221F Equine Management and Production	1
221G Youth Animal Science	1
227 Enhancing Small Ruminant Animal Health Care Delivery Services	1
229 A Systems Approach to Commercial Poultry Production and Marketing	1
230 Aquaculture	1
240 Economic Peanut Management for Alabama Producers	1
241 Cotton Production and Management	1
242 Grain & Soybean Production and Precision in Alabama	1
243 Forage Crop Management	1
250A Commercial and Home Horticulture: Nursery/Greenhouse/Christmas Trees all 250 on 1 disk	1
250B Commercial and Home Horticulture: Fruits/Nuts	1
250C Commercial and Home Horticulture: Vegetables/Shiitake Mushrooms	1
250D Commercial and Home Horticulture: Home & Commercial Landscape & Gardening	1

250E Commercial and Home Horticulture: Master Gardener	1
250F Commercial and Home Horticulture: Urban Pest Management	1
270 Assisting Small Farmers Manage Change in Agriculture	1
271 Pelletizing Wildland Kudzu	1

## **PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **1. ETP 211 AGRICULTURAL (BUSINESS) PROFITABILITY**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Of the approximately 45,000 farms in Alabama, about 4,900 are commercial farms with gross receipts over \$100,000. These commercial farms depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In addition, there are numerous agribusinesses that depend on the success of these commercial farms and these agribusinesses contribute significantly to Alabama's economy. Commercial farmers and agribusinesses recognize their need for ongoing education to enable them to improve decision-making skills, adopt new technologies, and participate in the changing world and domestic markets. Farmers, in partnership with ACES, have formed five (5) non-profit farm analysis associations to address the above needs in business management and decision-making.

#### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

The five non-profit farm analysis associations provide annual grants to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System of approximately \$100,000 to support the educational efforts of Extension Economists affiliated with the Regional Research and Extension Centers. Following are major accomplishments achieved:

\* Educational Materials Developed: One of the tools used in the farm analysis program compares the costs and returns for an individual farm to the average farms of the same type. It illustrates an individual farm's strengths and weaknesses. This comparison has been used often in the past for research and Extension publications, but it could not be easily shared with the public because it contained personal information of the individual farmers. It was also limited to a single year, so trends and changes could not be easily tracked. These limitations have been overcome with the publication of the annual Alabama Farm Analysis Associations Summary Report. These annual summaries illustrate five years of detailed costs and returns, as well as short-term and long-term profitability for each of the major types of Alabama farms. Both participating and non-participating commercial farmers use these annual summaries as they review their business performance and develop their business plans. Agricultural lenders, agricultural leaders, and agricultural policy makers also use the summaries.

Agricultural Policy Makers: The 1998 Annual Five-Year Summary was presented by request to the Public Listening Session, 21st Century Commission on Commercial Agriculture, September 1999, as well as to the US House Ag Committee Regional Farm Policy Field Hearing, March 2000. The 2000 Annual Five-Year Summary was presented by request to the Federal Crop Insurance program to quantify cost and returns for use in developing a new crop insurance pilot program, August 2001. In addition, the Annual Summary is also used by the State Farmers Federation and major commodity groups to

present actual farm business conditions to members of Congress as they make decisions on the next Ag Appropriations bill.

\* Benefits to Individual Farm Analysis Participants: Participants improved skills in record-keeping, interpreting individual business record summaries, business management and decision-making skills, awareness of alternative enterprise opportunities and marketing alternatives and strategies. Participants have better understanding of tax laws and the tax consequences of business decisions. Participants are better prepared to communicate their business plan through the accurate preparation of accrual basis profit-loss statements, cash flow statements, and net-worth statements.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Partners include: Alabama Farm Analysis Association, Central Alabama Farm Analysis Association, Gulf Coast Farm Analysis Association, Northeast Alabama Farm Analysis Association, Wiregrass Farm Analysis Association, Alabama Bankers Association, Alabama Cattleman's Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Peanuts Producers Association, and the First South Production Credit Association.

#### **5. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

This farm analysis program is offered in six counties in Florida (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington) by ACES through a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. Data generated from the participating farm businesses are shared with researchers in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Auburn University. Numerous research papers and articles have resulted from this collaboration.

### **1. ETP 10a: ALABAMA GRAZING SCHOOL (GRAZING)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

In recent years, there has been greatly increased interest in grazing management by livestock producers. Reasons for this include: (1) economic pressures that have given producers incentive to increase profitability by reducing requirements for expensive stored feed; (2) there are increasing environmental concerns associated with poor grazing management; and (3) advances in electric fencing and water supply technology has made use of advanced grazing management techniques much more feasible.

Grazing management is a complex topic that involves forage physiology and management; animal management; soil fertility and economics. To adequately discuss the interrelationships of these factors it is necessary to provide intensive training that includes both classroom and field instruction. This program was initiated to fill the need that livestock producers have to learn.

#### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

To address this need, an intensive training titled the Alabama Grazing School was developed. The objective was to offer this course to livestock producers and others who



need this type of instruction, as it is not available elsewhere in Alabama. The primary objective was to make producers aware of the impacts that grazing management can have on pasture dry matter yield, forage quality, nutrient recycling, animal performance, and environmental soundness of a livestock operation. Once a producer understands the basic principles, they can be applied to his or her own farm in a manner consistent with their resources, type of operation, and objectives.

During 2001, two 2-day Alabama Grazing Schools were conducted at the Black Belt Research and Extension Center that were attended by a total of 81 persons. The total number of participants in the six schools that have been conducted since 1999 is 230 persons. Evidence of the popularity of, and interest in the program is provided by the fact that these participants have come from all parts of Alabama and from six other states. Most participants have been livestock producers, although a number of Extension agents and other agency personnel have also enrolled.

Because the participants pay a registration fee, this school has cost ACES relatively little. The time of the instructors and travel expenses associated with conducting the schools are the only costs incurred by ACES. The participants received a great deal for their money, however, including a notebook filled with proceedings articles prepared by the instructors, several valuable reference publications, as well as the knowledge they took home with them after listening to the presentations.

The School is filled to capacity each time it's offered. Feedback from the program, which included written evaluations completed by the participants at the end of the session, has been extremely positive. A number of participants have stated that it was the most valuable agricultural training they have ever received.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Partners include the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

#### **5. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

This program was designed with Alabamians in mind, but 17 people from six other states have enrolled and participated.

### **1. ETP 221D: ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES FOR INDEPENDENT PORK PRODUCERS (NICHE MARKETING)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

##### **Define the problem.**

Traditional markets for independent pork producers have been greatly reduced, and are no longer available for many small producers

**Define the target audience.**

Pork producers, especially small producers with little or no production or market contracts.

**Why did Extension get involved?**

Niche marketing has been a major emphasis of the National Swine Extension Educators group. Examples of possibilities were available from other states. The Alabama Pork Producers Association also requested Extension's involvement.

**Intended outcome from Extension program efforts?**

Viable options for pork producers willing to adapt to change.

**3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

**What has been done to address the issue?**

Marketing alternatives were identified and recommended to producers as they "fit". During most months, 500 to 1000 pigs are shipped to individuals or processors outside of Alabama for specific markets.

**Were the stated goals/objectives met?**

Yes, but more questions and opportunities evolved.

**Answer the question 'So what?'**

There are now options for selling small numbers of pigs at least 8 to 10 months each year.

**Who was most affected (target audience) by this the program?**

To date, small-scale pork producers farrowing 200 sows or less per year.

**What resources were used?**

Materials provided by the Alabama Pork Producers and National Pork Board through producer check-off funds, grant funds from Ann Upchurch Endowment, and resources of the AU Swine Research and Education Complex.

**Define the program outputs.**

Personal contacts with pork producers, individually and in small groups.

**Define the positive difference the program made in people's lives.**

By identifying market alternatives, small-scale producers are more likely to remain sustainable.

**Define, in measurable terms, program outcomes.**

Four alternative markets for pigs have been identified.

**Define the economic value/improved efficiency, environmental quality enhancements, and/or social/community and individual well-being**

**impact(s) (changes) that resulted from Extension program efforts.**

This program was proposed for three years. Actual long-term impacts are currently being assessed.

**4. PARTNERS**

Partners include the Alabama Pork Producers and the National Pork Board.

**1. ETP 221E Dairy Profitability (BIOTERRORISM)**

**2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Biosecurity is an ever increasing concern in the livestock sector during the past few years. The Foot and Mouth outbreak in the United Kingdom and the threat of intentional spread of anthrax or other diseases, especially since the September 11 tragedy, have intensified concerns about farm biosecurity. Key security precautions taken to minimize risk for such major tragedies can also thwart old threats such as Johne's Disease, hairy heel warts, staph aureus mastitis and other diseases. Livestock diseases, regardless of whether spread intentionally or by "natural" causes, can wrack economic devastation on farm operations, producers' livelihood and the nation's welfare.

Dairy producers are the first line of defense against on-farm catastrophes in the dairy industry. Veterinarians, regulatory personnel, Department of Public Health staff and others involved with advising livestock producers and protecting society's food sources are vitally involved with this issue in order to protect the health and economic well being of individuals and society.

Extension programs were developed so dairy producers and others would: become fully aware of major problems, reduce current problems (e.g., Johne's disease, hairy heel warts, mastitis) and develop prudent measures for routine health concerns as well as those of deadly diseases.

**3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

Biosecurity needs and issues were addressed at three statewide meetings through publications and with individual producers. Dairy producers, allied industry personnel and Department of Public Health personnel were the predominate audience, but consumers and others were also addressed. Producers are more aware of the problems and 70% of producers have instigated two or more biosecurity measures (e.g., testing of animals, milk sampling, limited access of visitors, isolation of new incoming animals, cleaning of trucks, boot washes) on their farms.

Educational programs were funded through ACES, dairy organizations and allied dairy industries. Individual producers have funded their own biosecurity programs.

Biosecurity related practices do not provide an immediate economic return and it is difficult to determine a realistic price tag for incorporating practices into management. Incorporating biosecurity measures is somewhat like an insurance premium in that benefits may be intangible but provide a peace of mind. However, eliminating Johnes Disease or reducing the impact of hairy heel warts in a herd can determine whether a herd survives economically. Prevention or limiting the spread of Foot and Mouth disease or anthrax impacts the nation's welfare. In the short run, society may perceive some biosecurity practices (e.g., controlled access to farms) in a negative light, but with time and educational programs, they may realize that such measures are for the common good.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Collaborators with ACES included: Alabama Public Health Service, Milk Inspection Division, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Department of Agriculture, Alabama Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Incorporated-Alabama Division, Alabama Jersey Cattle Club, Alabama Holstein Association, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine Faculty, and veterinarians in private practice.

### **1. ETP 221F: EQUINE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION (RANGELAND/PASTURE MANAGEMENT – ANIMAL PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

It is estimated that there are over 200,000 horses in Alabama, and utilization of horses for both recreational purposes and as an agricultural commodity is increasing. Horse ownership is a relatively costly endeavor for many people. A 1989 study estimated that pleasure horse owners in Alabama spent an average of \$3,000.00 per horse per year on horse maintenance. With this large monetary investment, most horse owners want to ensure the health and productivity of their animals. However for many of these horse owners, the horse may be their first, and only, contact with a large livestock species. They often have little basic agricultural knowledge or horse management expertise and need assistance making correct management decisions to protect the usefulness and productivity of their horses.

#### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

Scientifically correct horse management and care techniques have been presented to horse owners through a variety of methods in 2001. Twelve small group meetings (less than 60 people) were held throughout the state in 2001. The 2001 Alabama Horse Fair drew over 4000 people and it is estimated that all of these people attended at least one educational seminar while at the Fair. Approximately, 240 individual telephone questions were answered and 280 mail or email contacts were

made. Several written articles were prepared for distribution. It is expected that approximately half of these contacts modified their horse management procedures to utilize new knowledge or technologies presented to them. These modifications result in a reduction in time and money spent on horse maintenance, freeing owners to either utilize their animals more fully or direct the energy and finances normally given to horse maintenance into other areas. Horse owners with one to ten horses are the largest audience affected by this program. However, many people running small horse-related businesses (breeding, lessons, boarding, tack shops, etc.) also benefited through this program.

#### **4. SUCCESS STORY**

##### **Alabama Horse Fair**

ACES has assisted and mentored the Alabama Horse Council in hosting its annual educational event/trade show, the Alabama Horse Fair since 1998. Approximately 300 people attended horse care, training and management lectures and visited with approximately 30 vendors of horse related goods and services at the first Horse Fair held in 1998. With continued support from the ACES, the Alabama Horse Fair has grown to a 2-day educational and trade show event with over 100 vendors and an attendance of over 6,000 people. The Alabama Horse Fair serves the horse industry through providing both education and service to the Alabama Horse Industry and by generating a source of funds for the Alabama Horse Council to utilize in their mission to promote and protect the horse industry.

#### **1. ETP Number 240: Economic Peanut Management for Alabama Producers (PLANT PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY/PLANT HEALTH)**

##### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Peanut growers in Alabama continue to experience economic trials as a result of several years of poor weather combined with low commodity prices. Growers are looking for ways to optimize their production management program for peanuts in an effort to survive. Increased problems with tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) in recent years and continued high input costs place an increased burden on peanut growers to achieve high yields and return a decent profit.

##### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

One of the primary goals of ETP 240 is to demonstrate the principle of integrating several pest management tools into a total management program for TSWV.

One of the best examples of rapid adoption of recommended IPM practices to manage a peanut pest is the Extension team's focus on TSWV control. Creating an awareness for the need of an integrated approach for control TSWV included selecting resistant peanut cultivars (Georgia Green), establishing a good plant population of a least four plants per foot of row, moving the planting date from mid-April to early May to avoid heavy thrips damage and subsequent TSV, increased plantings of strip-till and

twin row peanuts, and the use of phorate for thrips control. The adoption of these combined management practices into a single IPM system has had dramatic and immediate effects on the incidence of TSV and increased yields.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Partners include the Alabama Peanut Producers Association, Alabama Crop Improvement Association, and the Wiregrass Substation.

#### **5. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

The Multistate component of the program is that the leaders of this ETP are involved in 19 multistate research projects that are funded by the National Peanut Board.

#### **6. SUCCESS STORY**

The field tours of on-farm demonstrations and research trials conducted on peanuts in the Wiregrass counties over the last several seasons have helped make growers aware of the recommended integrated approach to managing this major peanut pest. Growers have increased plantings of the resistant cultivars, Georgia Green, ViruGard, and C99R to 95% of the 197,000 acres planted in 2001. Growers have increased seeding rates to acquire at least four plants per foot of row plant population on over 80% of the planted acreage. Growers have made a conscious effort to avoid unusually early planting and the majority of peanut acreage in 2001 was planted from May 1 to May 25 to avoid heavy thrips damage. As a result, TSWV was reduced to less than 1% average infection in 2001 as compared to 30% in 1997. Based upon research results, this level of TSW reduction in Alabama peanuts increased yields 400-500 pounds per acre, providing growers an estimated \$13.5 million in increased income.

### **1. ETP 221G: Youth Animal Science (YOUTH DEVELOPMENT/4H/LEADERSHIP TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

##### **Define the problem**

How best to utilize the Youth Animal Science programs, especially livestock shows, to equip Alabama Youth with the skills to become contributing members of society.

##### **Explain the significance of the endeavor?**

The longstanding tradition of 4H/Youth being involved in the show-ring competition of animals has led to the development of many leaders, not only in Alabama Agriculture, but in all walks of life in this state and nationally.

##### **Define the target audience and why issue is important to them.**

Principally, youthful citizens and their families, in production agriculture, and those families having a desire for their children to have some of the same experiences

the parents had as 4H/youth participants in competitive livestock events.

**Why did Extension get involved?**

Stayed involved because of tradition and success of past in developing contributing members of society as well as leaders, especially in Agriculture.

**Intended outcome from Extension program efforts?**

To raise the awareness that 4H and other youth animal science programs are principal flagships of Extension that can produce contributing members of society.

**3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

**What has been done to address the issue?**

Provide various youth-oriented events, including livestock shows and other educational opportunities.

**Were the stated goals/objectives met?**

Yes, a well-rounded venue of events was provided that recognized the youngsters, not the animals, as well as encouraged youth who do not own animals, to become involved in the hands-on, minds-on activities of the Youth Animal Science Programs, i.e., judging, agri-knowledge, quiz bowls and various other forms of artistic expressions.

**Answer the question 'So what?'**

These experiences have equipped the youth with life-skills necessary to become contributing member of society.

**Who was most affected (target audience) by this the program?**

The youth involved that have a desire to compete, participate and learn.

**What resources were used?**

Resources utilized included, but are not limited to, ACES personnel and the facilities of the Alabama State Fairgrounds (Birmingham), Garrett Coliseum (Montgomery), the Cullman Co Ag Center, and the Houston Co Ag Center.

**Define the program outputs.**

Life-skills needed to become contributing members of society; \$23,000 of scholarships for 43 youth in 19 counties; enrollment at institutions of higher education to further their education; plus a 46% increase in funding of premium monies presented as a result of competing with animals in livestock shows. Awarded funding increased from \$47,759 in 2000 to \$70,136 in 2001.

**Define the positive difference the program made in people's lives.**

Differences included improved decision-making skills, exposure to teamwork

concepts, financial rewards, and educational enhancement opportunities. For those who were members of award-winning 4H teams, the opportunity to travel and represent Alabama in National/Regional competition, and to experience the diversity and culture of other regions of the United States.

**Define the economic value/improved efficiency, environmental quality enhancements, and/or social/community and individual well being impact(s) (changes) that resulted from Extension program efforts.**

There was an increase of premium funds to youth exhibiting animals from \$47,759 (Year 2000) to \$70,136 in 2001. Forty-three youth from 19 countries received funding totaling \$23,000.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

List collaborations and program partners: Alabama Dept of Agriculture & Industries, Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Cattlemen's Foundation, Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama National Fair (Montgomery), Alabama State Dept of Education, Greater Alabama Fair & Festival (Birmingham), North Alabama Junior Beef Expo (Cullman), Southeastern Livestock Expo (Montgomery), Tri-States Beef Cattle Show & Sale (Dothan), and the West Central Alabama Junior Beef Expo (Montgomery).

#### **5. SUCCESS STORIES**

The Tuscaloosa County 4-H Meats Judging team won First Place at the National Western 4-H Round-Up Meats Judging Contest, Denver, CO. One team member scored a perfect score in meat identification.

#### **AGRICULTURE**

##### **Master Gardeners: 20 Years of Excellence**

The next time you pass a beautified town square, nursing home, or tree-lined park, you may have a Master Gardener to thank. Master Gardeners serve as the right hand of the Extension System's horticultural outreach throughout the state.

Alabama Extension agents estimate that between 75 and 80 percent of inquiries from the general public concern horticulture and horticulture-related topics. Since the program began in Alabama in 1981, more than 6,000 volunteers in 42 counties have been certified to help Extension meet the horticultural education needs of the public. In fact, the primary aim of the Master Gardener program is to recruit a core group of volunteers to assist Extension agents in disseminating horticultural knowledge to a segment of the population that previously had little contact with Extension.

Becoming a certified Master Gardener requires volunteers to invest at least 40 hours of service within their first year. They are also encouraged to commit at least 20 hours every year thereafter. However, many of the most committed Master Gardeners throughout the state far exceed this total, offering their time and talents freely to a vast array of projects – projects that



have added immeasurably to the beauty of Alabama landscapes and to the well-being of Alabama communities.

### **Green Thumbs, Caring Hearts**

Susie Franklin could not have imagined how much her life and the lives of troubled youth would be touched by her involvement with Master Gardeners.

In 1996, Extension Agent David West developed a horticultural therapy project for troubled youth at the Coosa Valley Attention Center in Anniston. After securing five acres of land and building a greenhouse and nursery near the center, West turned the project over to Susie, her husband Curtis, and other local volunteers – a tall order for a handful of newly minted Master Gardeners. Fortunately for them, Hayes Jackson, an Extension urban environmental agent, spends 20 hours a week helping with the project.

“We initially expected to put in 40 hours of volunteer work the first year,” Franklin recalls. “By the time we finished, we had put in 258 hours. It’s been that way ever since, year after year,” she adds.

Working in the greenhouse every Wednesday enables the youth to gain hands-on classroom experience in horticulture, earning credit toward their high-school diplomas. But as Franklin discovered, the learning goes much deeper than that.

“We’ve found we serve something like a grandparent role,” she says. “We encourage them, hug them, pat them on the back. Some of them are astonished, because they always thought you had to do something to earn this kind of affection. They’re just taken aback when they discover we think so much of them we give freely of our time and money.”

Word of the project’s success is spreading. The Alabama Legislature recently appropriated \$30,000 to support the project. In addition, Susie and Curtis were selected as National Master Gardeners of the Year in 2001, the only recipients to receive standing ovations for their efforts.

### **Taking the Bite Out of Propane Costs**

Propane costs are an unavoidable and often grim fact of life for poultry producers: unavoidable because propane is a staple of poultry production used to heat poultry houses; grim because the costs, if not properly managed, can devour a producer’s profits.

Several years ago, prompted by local poultry growers, Dr. Tim Reed, Franklin County Extension coordinator, undertook a study to determine what could be done to relieve producers of these high costs. The solution: Poultry producers needed some form of price protection.

Working with a large gas supplier, Reed helped establish a contracting system through which growers could lock in their prices over a 12-month period, saving them more than \$300,000 within the past few years.

“We were paying 80 cents a gallon for gas last year,” says Scott Hamilton, a Franklin county producer who serves on the local board of the Contract Growers Association. “Growers who weren’t participating paid between \$1.60 and \$1.70. Some of these growers barely squeaked by last year. I don’t know if I would even be in business without the program.”

Word of the program has spread. Working with a large propane supplier in their state, Georgia poultry growers have developed a similar program. From Georgia, the program spread to Tennessee and the Florida panhandle.

Recently, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents honored Reed for his pioneering efforts in helping Southern poultry growers make significant savings in operating costs, savings that have enabled many growers to stay in business.

### **Lean, But Effective**

“Lean, but effective” would be an accurate way to describe the Mobile-based Marine Extension and Research Center.

Comprised of only two full-time Extension specialists, the Center has nevertheless benefited hundreds of producers throughout the Gulf region, and, through them, many thousands of consumers.

Case in point: Jim Stewart, who, along with his family, runs Captain Jim’s Seafood, a crab-processing facility in Mobile. Stewart developed a method for steaming crabs that he believed would better preserve both the flavor and shelf life of the crabmeat. But there was one rub: Stewart had to prove the crabs were steamed at a high enough internal temperature to comply with state food-safety regulations. He turned to Brian Perkins, the center’s seafood technologist, for help. After considerable research and numerous trials, Perkins helped Stewart perfect a method for reaching this temperature without compromising the quality of the meat.

“If we didn’t have Brian helping us, we wouldn’t have anything,” Stewart says. “Brian can help us with things we need that people can’t find anywhere else.”

Perkins has also trained Gulf-area seafood processors in a highly effective food-safety inspection program known by its initials “HACCP” (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points).

“He worked with us to schedule training sessions during slow times of the year so we wouldn’t be shorthanded during peak periods,” says Stan Wright, a local oyster processor who also serves as mayor of Bayou la Batre. “Brian has really been an asset to the seafood industry,” Wright adds. “He’s served the primary role in making all of this possible, and whenever we have a question, he’s right on it.”

Perkins has trained 10 percent of all seafood HACCP certificate holders in the United States, reaching roughly 700 individuals in six states.

**Goal 2: A safe and secure food and fiber system. To ensure an adequate food and fiber supply and food safety through improved science based detection, surveillance, prevention, and education.**

(Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of FTEs, costs and Contacts for each National Goal.)

**ETPs for National Goal 2**

271 Pelletizing Wildland Kudzu	1
221B Alabama Master Cattle Producers Training Program	2
221C Pre & Post Harvest Food Safety Programs for Alabama Beef and Pork Producers, Meat Processors, Retailers, and Consumers	2
226 Developing & Implementing HACCP in AL-Meat Processing Plants (Beef & Pork)	2

**PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**1. ETP 221B – ALABAMA MASTER CATTLE PRODUCERS TRAINING PROGRAM (ANIMAL PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY)**

**2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

More than 25,000 individuals own and operate cattle farms in Alabama making beef production a multi-billion dollar industry. However, many cattle growers fail to make a profit because of inadequate managerial skills and poor production practices. Although cattle production should be profitable, it is also the responsibility of the grower to eliminate product defects and provide safe, wholesome beef products readily accepted by consumers. The Alabama Master cattle Producers Training Program is an educational effort designed for every Alabama cattle grower that focuses on using research-based production practices for increased returns while making producers aware that they are “food producers”. Major program implementation has been through both county and state Extension agents and specialists.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

Issues were addressed by developing program materials (slide sets, videos, publications, etc.) to use as educational tools at county/multi-county Master Cattle Producers training meetings. Agents attended in-service meetings and were certified as Master Cattle (MS) instructors. The main goal of the program has been met by providing intense training to cattle growers on state-of-the-art cattle production and beef quality assurance. Resources used to achieve this were county Extension staffs, state Extension specialists, and county and state leaders and sponsors.

Twelve Master Cattle Producers Training Programs consisting of 74 different meetings and more than 500 participants were held in 2001. This brings the total of MC graduates to more than 1,500. Beef Quality Assurance certification received during training has enabled members of alliances to provide AL-BQA certification numbers and health records to buyers of their cattle resulting in increased returns. According to NCBA audits, product defects such as injection-site lesions, hide damage, bruising and drug residues have been significantly reduced because of intense producer education.

### **4. PARTNERS**

Partners included: Extension Animal Sciences Specialist, Extension Agronomy, Extension Agricultural Economics, Extension Communications, Alabama Cattlemen's Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, and Alabama Veterinarian Association (Pfizer Animal Health, Merial Animal Health, and Alabama Farmers Cooperative).

### **5. MULTISTATE/INTERGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

Although 221B is not a multistate program, its format is being used in several states. Requests for information on the Alabama MC program have come from Oklahoma, Louisiana, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and New York. The Alabama Beef Producers Manual (ANR-1100) is being rewritten for use in South Carolina, Tennessee and Oregon. The Alabama Beef Quality Assurance Manual was edited and published for use in Kentucky.

### **6. SUCCESS STORIES**

#### **Quality Assurance, Maximum Profits**

As Autauga County producer Hank Gaines sees it, there are two ways to make a living in the cattle business.

"Either you do nothing for your cattle and sell them for what you can get, or you do it right by putting more costs into your operation and ending up with more to show for your efforts," he says. Gaines is a strong believer in the second approach.

"Like every other industry, the more you know, the better chance you have of making a living," says Perry Mobley, Gaines' Extension agent.

The Extension-sponsored Master Cattle Producers Training Program functions with just this philosophy: to teach Alabama producers everything they need to know in order to keep up

with one of the most competitive industries in agriculture. Dr. Butch Blaylock, an Extension animal scientist, supervises the program.

Becoming a Certified Master Cattle Producer requires six days of intensive training, followed by a series of exams covering the program's entire instructional manual.

"Everything was covered--nutrition, reproduction, genetics, animal vaccination and forages," recalls Mike Blake, an Autauga County producer and Master Cattle Producers alumnus. "The program does a very good job explaining everything in detail and helping growers assess their own operations and what they can do to put out the sort of product consumers demand."

Through 41 county and multi-county sessions, more than 1,450 producers have been certified through the program.

Used in tandem with other approaches, such as Beef Quality Assurance Certification and innovative marketing methods, the Master Cattle Producers Program is moving Alabama producers to the forefront of the industry.

## **1. ETP 229: A SYSTEMS APPROACH TO COMMERCIAL POULTRY PRODUCTION AND MARKETING (ANIMAL PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Broiler meat production and commercial table egg production account for over 50% of Alabama's agricultural farm gate income with annual cash receipts totaling over \$1.65 billion. Alabama currently ranks third in broiler production among the states and the size and vitality of the industry necessitates a strong interdisciplinary extension program to meet the needs of this industry. Given the importance of poultry to the state's economy, economic viability of individual poultry operations and poultry operations on the whole greatly impact the state's economic viability. Alabama's poultry management and food safety educational programs are "Peaks of Excellence Programs," and as a result have been recognized as a national model and adopted by other states facing many of the same challenges. In addition, food safety and waste management concerns are of great importance in conjunction with an industry of this size existing in Alabama.

Substantial numbers of broilers and/or commercial layers are produced in 49 of 67 Alabama counties (73%). In association with twelve broiler companies, there are approximately 3,800 contract poultry producers in Alabama. Backyard flock and game bird production is common throughout the state. This program includes cooperative linkages with the Departments of Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Agronomy and Soils, Animal and Dairy Sciences, Entomology/Plant Pathology and Horticulture to support program challenges. Educational programs and on-farm demonstrations for poultry producers will be administered by county agents and supported by extension specialists. Educational programs may include participants from other governmental agencies such as NRCS, ADEM, RC&D, State Veterinarian's Office

and Alabama Poultry and Egg Association.

The role of the county agent in poultry production has been limited due to the complexity of the industry and its vertically integrated structure. However, there exists an opportunity for county agents to interact at the producer level. There exists a need to provide information to the poultry producer that would impact his farm management objectives. The environmentally safe disposal of poultry wastes at the farm level is becoming increasingly important. The requirements for soil and manure testing need to be supported at the county level with expertise available at the specialist level. The assessment of on-farm water quality needs monitoring. Odor and fly control problems are areas that need additional concentration. These are a few examples of those issues that provide an opportunity for county-based staff to interact and meet the needs of poultry producers.

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### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

County agricultural agents were instrumental in facilitating local grower meetings that supported new technologies and new regulatory guidelines relative to the needs of the poultry producer. Agents and specialists worked with poultry producers, contract growers, and backyard flock owners to coordinate county grower meetings and to disseminate pertinent information on an as-needed basis.

Result demonstrations were initiated to answer pressing industry concerns such as the use of sand as bedding material, improvements in nutrition and nutrient usage for broilers and broiler breeders, nutritional studies for bobwhite quail, effective use of litter treatments, field service technical training programs, and the impact of coccidial immunization on live performance and yield in broilers.

Backyard poultry and game bird producers are plentiful in Alabama and growers have requested assistance in the areas of incubation, nutrition, management, and disease control. Several hundred requests are received annual at the appeal of individual clientele or through county staff.

Contacts with Alabama's poultry industry representatives and poultry producers were planned through numerous venues, which included on-site visits, workshops, meetings, and phone consultations. Printed educational and audiovisual materials were also available to support specific program objectives.

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### **4. PARTNERS**

Partners included: Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries—State Veterinarian's Office, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Alabama Department of Environmental Management Tennessee Valley Resource, Conservation and Development Council, and the US Poultry and Egg Association.

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### **5. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

**Conner, D. E. and S. F. Bilgili**—Development of Pathogen Reduction Treatments for Poultry and Beef, Hatch Project 60-010

**Blake, J. P. and J. B. Hess**—W-159: Water Quality Issues in Poultry Production and Processing, Regional Project.

**Moran, E. T., S. F. Bilgili** and D. E. Conner—S-292: The Poultry Food System: A Farm to Table Model, Regional Project.

**Eckman, M. K. and J. B. Hess**—Field Service Technical Training Program in conjunction with Eli Lilly and Company, Inc.

**Eckman, M. K. and J. B. Hess**—Planning committee participants, US Poultry and Egg Association, Hatchery/Breeder Seminar

**Bilgili, S. F.**-- Planning committee participant, US Poultry and Egg Association, Poultry Processors Seminar.

**Blake, J. P.**-- Planning committee participant, US Poultry and Egg Association, Poultry Waste Management Seminar

**Bilgili S. F., J. P. Blake, M. K. Eckman, and J. B. Hess**—Planning committee participants, Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, Broiler Servicemen's Seminar.

**Bilgili S. F., J. P. Blake, M. K. Eckman, and J. B. Hess**—Planning committee participants, Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, Hatchery and Breeder Seminar.

**Bilgili S. F.**—Planning committee participant, Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, Processor's Seminar.

## **6. SUCCESS STORIES**

Sand as a bedding material is being more widely adopted by the industry; Extension publications concerning water quality for poultry and poultry litter treatments provided valuable information to industry; Bobwhite quail research provides producers with an opportunity to cut feed costs; field service technical program was implemented; production of "Current Concepts in Broiler Production" newsletter; and the production of "WOGS" newsletter for poultry processors.

### **1. ETP 241: COTTON PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (INNOVATIVE FARMING TECHNIQUES/PLANT PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Cotton is planted and managed each year on approximately 600,000 acres in Alabama. It is the most economically important row crop in this state and is involved in over 2000 farms. Cotton produced in all regions and soils of the state, and is especially prevalent in the Tennessee River Valley of north Alabama, the Gulf Coast region, centrally located counties near Selma and Montgomery, and the Wiregrass area. Cotton management involves expertise from many diversified disciplines that are integrated into the local environments. These include but are not limited to integrated pest management, agronomic and soil interrelations, development and verification of new

production technologies, water quality protection, sustainable production, and economic survival. Cotton is the leading crop for utilizing developing technologies. This has been demonstrated recently in the area of genetically modified traits that impart insect and herbicide resistance. The low spray environment that has resulted from these technologies will provide opportunities for newer, safer pest management strategies and improved water quality and the environment. Extension specialists and agents have been able to develop production plans for local producers as a result of on-farm result demonstration efforts.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

In 2001, over 20 field result demonstrations were conducted in the following counties (with subject areas in parentheses): Colbert (cotton yield monitor demo. and nematode management), Lawrence (cotton yield monitor demo.), Limestone (cotton yield monitor, insect, nematode man), Cherokee (variety demo.), Hale (variety demo.), Talladega (variety demo.), Autauga (growth regulator, nematode man., disease man.), Elmore (disease man.), Monroe (variety, cotton yield monitor demo.), Henry (variety demo.), Houston (variety demo., stinkbug control), and Coffee (variety demo.). County agents and specialists met with primary (producers) and secondary (industry) clientele to plan implementation, evaluation, and data transfer. Results were presented to producers through face-to-face contacts, electronic transfer, county production meetings, and timely information publications. These demonstrations were tailored to local conditions and production practices so that the local agricultural economic structure was maintained or enhanced. Because of this work, county agents and specialists were able to help producers utilize the best management practices for their individual farms. Producers were then able to keep the appropriate practices that fit their needs or to restructure their decision-making process utilizing local information.

Examples of project contributions include: selection of top yielding varieties which can add as much as 50 to 100 pounds of lint cotton/acre to the harvested crop; more efficient use of growth regulators resulting in reduced boll rot and increased harvest efficiency; more effective selection use of nematode management materials which enhances overall productivity and water quality; identification of intra-field variability and development of management plans for fertilizer and lime requirements; statewide bollworm and tobacco budworm resistance monitoring which helps identify resistance to existing Bt cotton technology; identification of bollworm and tobacco budworm for proper pesticide selection (note: the potential savings for this were on the order of a \$5.00 vs. \$12.00/acre treatment applied 1.5 times to 300,000 acres for a total of \$3.15 million in savings); identification of insect management strategies which can save producers \$15 to \$50/acre, according to the pest; evaluation of thrips, plant bug, and stinkbug management systems (ie., selection of less effective thrips controls can result in excessive early season damage, stand loss, delayed maturity, and increased nematode losses; selection of low rate, inexpensive stinkbug materials can result in increasing producer profits \$35 to \$50/acre for a \$5 investment)

### **4. PARTNERS**



Program partners include local cotton producers, the Alabama Cotton Commission, Cotton Incorporated, county commissioners, local agricultural advisory boards (county), private industry representatives (ie., Monsanto, Syngenta, BASF, Aventis, Dow AgroSciences, FMC, and others), local agricultural distributorships (ie., Agro, Alabama Farmer's Co-op, Southern States, etc.), Alabama Farmer's Federation, Autauga Quality Cotton Association, Stapl Cotton marketing association, USDA-ARS Soil Dynamics, Alabama Crop Consultants.

## **5. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

This project involves collaboration between county agents and specialists in Alabama as well as Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, and North Carolina. This collaboration may be on a formal basis where multiple states actively participate (ie., statewide resistance of bollworm and tobacco budworm; aphid testing for natural population decline) or may be cross-state program development where agents and specialists from each state work on a more informal, informational basis to develop individual state programming.

## **6. SUCCESS STORIES**

### **Wiregrass cotton expo**

Until FY 2000, county agents in the southeastern counties of Alabama held location cotton production meetings for local producers. Each year, as many as eight meetings were held with varying degrees of success. However, in FY 2000, an effort was made to hold a single, multi-county cotton program that would include all eight counties and cover information for solving problems common to producers in that area. The first meeting was held in February, 2000 in Ozark, Alabama and was attended by 125 producers, industry representatives, and USDA and extension personnel. The meeting was held at the same location in January, 2001 and was attended by approximately 175 producers, industry representatives, and USDA and extension personnel. (The meeting was continued in FY 2002 in Dothan, AL and over 225 participants were in attendance.) These meetings provide a forum for discussion of problems faced by cotton producers in the southeastern counties of the state.

### **Aphid testing**

Extension personnel worked with University of Arkansas on an on-going project to test cotton aphids for a fungal disease that results in natural destruction of this pest. During the height of the production season, aphids are sampled by extension specialists and county agents and shipped to the University of Arkansas to be tested for the occurrence of the natural pathogen. When this pathogen is found, producers could then wait 48 to 72 hours on natural processes to reduce the numbers of this pest and did not have to apply insecticides for control. Since aphids are a widespread problem in all cotton fields in the state, potential savings were on the order of \$9.00/acre on 600,000 acres statewide.

### **How Transgenic Cotton Saved the Farm**

Nothing prepared Pickens County cotton producer Hugh Summerville for the onslaught of insecticide-resistant budworms that "literally destroyed the entire crop" of cotton in 1995. Desperate, he and other growers pinned their hopes on a new kind of cotton: genetically altered to resist tobacco budworms and other common predators.

Summerville had first heard about the new cotton from Dr. Ronald Smith, Extension's cotton insect expert. "I remember Ron commenting once about a day when we could farm cotton without insect control," Summerville recalls with a slight chuckle. "I thought, 'this can't be true, because we'll always have to spray for pests.'"

Still, after the budworm devastation, he was willing to try anything. But there was one big risk: the newfangled cotton hadn't yet been tested under Alabama growing conditions. He turned to Smith for advice. While acknowledging the risks, Smith advised Summerville to follow his instincts and plant the cotton. Much to his surprise, Summerville has not had to spray for any insects since planting the cotton more than five years ago. "It's almost like a miracle," he says. "Everything Ron discussed has come to pass."

Genetically altered cotton has literally saved the farm – a fact to which Summerville and hundreds of other growers can attest. The environment benefits, too. Research compiled by Smith and a colleague in Louisiana reveals that the use of genetically engineered cotton has resulted in about one million fewer pounds of insecticides being applied, thereby reducing long-term risks to soil, water, and air quality. Genetically altered cotton has also led to savings of more than 2.4 million gallons of fuel and more than 93 million gallons of water that otherwise would have been used in the application of insecticides.

**Goal 3: A healthy, well-nourished population. Through research and education on nutrition and development of more nutritious foods, enable people to make health-promoting choices.**

**(Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of FTEs, costs and contacts for each National Goal.)**

**ETP's for National Goal 3**

226 Developing & Implementing HACCP in AL-Meat Processing Plants (Beef & Pork)	2
402 Food & Society	3
403 EFNEP - Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program	3
405A Health Related Issues: Immunization Promotion (& Other Strategies for Controlling Contagious Diseases)	3
405B Health Related Issues: Teenage Pregnancy Prevention: Developing Locally Appropriate Approaches	3
405C Health Related Issues: Healthy Families, Healthy Aging: How to be Better Consumers of Health Care & Better Caretakers of our Health	3
405D Health Related Issues: Community Involvement in Health	3
407 Nutrition, Physical Activity and Wellness for a Lifetime	3
409 Nutrition Education Program (NEP)	3
413 Promoting Individual Health	3
604 A Comprehensive Breast Cancer Education Project	3
608 Health Education Initiative Impacting the Under-served Populations (HEIUP)	3

**PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**1. ETP 403: Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) (HUMAN NUTRITION)**

**2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

EFNEP began in the 1960s to assist low-income families in improving the nutritional quality of their diets. Today, EFNEP can leverage an annual federal investment in nutrition education across 50 states and six territories to improve

nutrition choices made by limited-resource families. EFNEP's cost-benefit studies performed in Virginia and Iowa provide research that demonstrates that every Federal EFNEP dollar spent on nutrition education to limited-resource families (the EFNEP audience) will avoid over ten dollars of state health care costs.

EFNEP provides county and community nutrition education addressing nutrition-related illnesses common to the limited-resource populations such as low birth-weight infants, osteoporosis, heart disease, obesity, and colon cancer. Poor diets, large numbers of children in poverty (44.6% within 200% of poverty in 1999), and the lack of sound nutritional information are the concerns of limited resource Alabama families with young children. With high teen pregnancy, low infant birth-weights (below 88 ounces), and high poverty rates; the Alabama infant mortality rate is still among the highest in the nation, reaching 10.2 per 1,000 in 1998. Research indicates that well-nourished pregnant women produce healthier infants and is a deterrent to low birth-weight, a major determinant of infant mortality. It is also well recognized that breastfeeding is the best mode of infant feeding for the first six months of life. The incidence and duration of breastfeeding increases with the presence of an individual who surrounds, interacts, and aids the mother at any time during pregnancy or within six weeks following delivery. The EFNEP program is designed to assist in these areas along with upgrading the diets of limited resource families who have the responsibility for preparing food for young children, limited resource pregnant women, and limited resource children.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

Over the past EFNEP reporting period (July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001), over 26,000 limited resource Alabamians in over 8,000 Alabama families, received nutrition education through a series of multiple curriculum lessons provided through the network of Alabama Cooperative Extension System's paraprofessional nutrition educators. Each EFNEP program targets a cross-section of the EFNEP audience comprising limited resource families who have the responsibility for preparing food for young children, limited resource pregnant women, and limited resource children.

Basic EFNEP and Food \$mart programs targeted 2,364 homemakers individually and in groups, respectively. Each Basic EFNEP or Food \$mart client is responsible for preparing food for young children and nutrition education is provided to each client through hands-on demonstration in as many as 6 to 18 different nutrition education lessons in the neighborhoods familiar to each homemaker. Timely nutrition topics on improving the nutritional quality of client family's diets are focused to address nutrition-related illnesses common to the limited resource populations.

The Today's Mom program reached 3,068 women, with pre-natal information

delivered to 1,065 women within the first trimester. Thirty-nine percent of the Today's Mom clientele were teen-age mothers. All Today's Mom clients are considered high-risk for low-birthweight infants, and 92% of the reported Today's Mom birth weights were over the 88-ounce threshold for low-birth weight infants.

The Mom's Helper program encouraged and supported 451 mothers in breastfeeding their new infants, of which 140 women had no prior experience in breastfeeding.

The 4H DOT program encouraged 2,199 youth to make better nutrition choices through a series of up to 18 different lessons over three age-specific curriculums. Basic and Supplemental DOT targeted 1,773 elementary-age youth, while Advanced DOT provided nutrition education curriculum activities and topics suitable for the 426 teenage clients.

Of the 5,858 EFNEP clients whose programs use a 24-hour food recall to measure changes in nutrition behaviors between program entry and exit, 62 percent graduated from their respective EFNEP program. Eighty-nine percent of EFNEP graduates showed positive adjustments in their daily servings of breads, fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meat food groups according to the food guide pyramid suggested servings. EFNEP program clients reported a decrease in dietary fat intake while reporting an increase of dietary fiber intake. On program exit, the average EFNEP program client spent less than \$149 per month on food. Of the 4,669 adult EFNEP clients whose programs use a behavior checklist survey at program entry and exit to measure changes in nutrition behaviors, 65% graduated from their respective EFNEP program. The average adult EFNEP graduate responded positively toward changed behaviors in planning meals, comparing food prices, running out of food, using grocery lists, keeping foods refrigerated, healthy food choices, lower sodium intake, reading nutrition labels, and eating breakfast.

**EFNEP Program Area**

**Lessons to Graduate**

**County FTEs**

		<b>Clients /% of Total Clients</b>
<b>Basic EFNEP</b>	<b>6 to 18</b> <b>20.0</b> <b>20.3</b>	<b>1,645</b>
<b>Food \$mart</b>	<b>6</b> <b>4.3</b> <b>8.9</b>	<b>719</b>
<b>Mom's Helper</b>	<b>1 or More</b> <b>2.2</b> <b>5.6</b>	<b>451</b>
<b>Today's Mom</b>	<b>6</b> <b>17.3</b>	<b>3,068</b>

	38.0	
4H DOT	6 Per Curriculum 8.0 27.2	2,199
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>8,082</b>

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Partners include: CSREES, Alabama Department of Health and Human Services, WIC, churches in local communities, and civic clubs in local communities provide support and collaboration opportunities to EFNEP paraprofessionals in each EFNEP county. ACES' EFNEP will provide educational materials to any non-EFNEP county interested in conducting nutrition programs to limited resources families.

#### **5. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

EFNEP is a multistate program that collaborates on curriculum, instruction, evaluation, and research. Quarterly conference calls are supported by ACES to aid in multistate collaboration efforts for ERS (the EFNEP reporting and evaluation tool) and the southern EFNEP region. All of the principles in the program curriculums are based on the EFNEP project that was piloted during the early 1960s. EFNEP is conducted and represented in all 50 states and six territories through the land-grant university system, including Auburn University.

#### **6. SUCCESS STORIES**

In Barbour County, the Basic EFNEP program sponsored a community garden in the Eufaula Housing Authority where residents planted, raised, harvested, and prepared garden vegetables to supplement and improve the nutrition choices in their diet.

The Marshall County Today's Mom program prepares bilingual forms, pamphlets, and brochures in both English and Spanish to accommodate the growing Hispanic population in the area. The Marshall County Homemaker Club and local Marshall County churches collaborate with the EFNEP Today's Mom program to provide baby shower baskets of baby toiletries and diapers for graduation gifts to Today's Mom clients.

The Mom's Helper program collaborates with the local WIC Clinic in Etowah County to accept second-time-around baby items for distribution to mothers in need. The Mom's Helper clients receive help in breastfeeding curriculum, lactation consulting, and obtaining needed baby items such as car seats, bassinets, and cribs.

#### **Today's Mom Touching New Lives**

Leslie Copeland was about four months pregnant when she learned about Today's Mom, which is part of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

"I enrolled in the classes after the Marshall County Health Department told me about it," says Leslie. "I never really thought about how what I ate could affect my baby."

The program's goal is to help mothers have healthy babies who weigh more than 5½ pounds at birth. Low birth weight babies are at a higher risk for disease and other health concerns.

Sue Moman, Marshall County EFNEP program assistant, says Leslie and other expectant mothers learn how to modify their diets to include more healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables.

Leslie had completed four of the six Today's Mom classes when she gave birth to Cameron, who weighed just over 7 pounds at birth. Leslie was dedicated enough to come in and take her final class after Cameron's birth—earning her certificate. Attendance at five of the six classes is necessary to receive a certificate.

"Leslie is a good example of how being committed to the program can help mothers ensure their own and their babies' good health," says Moman. "I've been involved in EFNEP for more than 28 years, and it just makes me happy to see how this program helps women bring healthy babies into this world."

Today's Mom in Marshall County is also reaching out to the growing Hispanic population. Moman and an interpreter provide classes for Hispanic women, and a number of materials have been translated into Spanish.

This year, Marshall County women who participated in Today's Mom had infants whose average weight was 7 pounds 3 ounces, well above the 5½ pound goal.

## **1. ETP 604: A Comprehensive Breast Cancer Education Project (HUMAN HEALTH)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

**Define the problem. Explain the significance of the endeavor?  
Define the target audience and why issue is important to them.**

Underserved populations. Breast cancer is second only to lung cancer in cancer-related deaths, and currently is the leading cause of cancer death for African American women. Breast cancer mortality rates among African American women have been increasing at a modest rate for many years. According to preliminary data, between 1989 and 1993, the age-adjusted breast cancer mortality rates declined 6% among white women and rose 1% among African Americans. Only 58% of African American women age 40 and over have ever received a mammogram. Alabama ranks 14th out of all states in the prevalence of cancers.

**Why did Extension get involved?**

To address healthcare needs of underserved populations for all ages.

**Intended outcome from Extension program efforts?**

Increase the number of women engaging in early detection strategies.

Increase the number of women who know how to correctly administer breast self-examinations.

Increase public awareness of the nature of the disease, steps to prevent mortality from the disease and how to live quality lives even with the disease present.

Increase teen awareness of the disease and how to engage in early detection strategies.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

#### **What has been done to address the issue?**

Activities conducted monthly, quarterly, yearly by the Extension agents, specialists, volunteers, and other health agencies include: Relay for Life Campaigns, awareness workshops & seminars, radio and television presentations, newspaper articles, participation in professional conferences, focus groups, videos, and health fairs, Tell-A-Friend training and programs (PurpleTea's); distributed educational materials (hope bead necklaces, brochures, pamphlets, cards, sachets (potpourri), fact sheets, and bookmarks through exhibits (displays/flyers/magazines, and mail), special days at local churches and schools, and lunch and learn programs (breast self-examinations).

**Were the stated goals/objectives met?** Yes.

**Answer the question 'So what?'**

More awareness campaigns are needed to show significant reduction of death from breast cancer.

**Who was most affected (target audience) by this the program?**

Women 40 years and older

**What resources were used?**

Continued community coalitions and partnerships with city, county, and state leaders, in addition, have create a closer alliance with health agencies, such as, the Alabama Partnership for Cancer Control in the Underserved Populations, American Cancer Society, Alabama Department, Public Health, National Cancer Institute, UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, and other health agencies.

**Define the program outputs**

Conducted a one-day in-service training for 16 agents, three (3) specialists, and four (4) guests at the 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL.

County Extension Coordinators and County Extension Agents in 32 counties are involved in coalitions and/or are working collaboratively with county health councils. Agents and leaders of these groups have trained over 600 volunteers to assist with breast cancer awareness programs, workshops, seminars, and health fairs, etc.

In cooperation with the American Cancer Society, agents embarked on "Tell-A-Friends" campaigns to increase the number of women, especially older and minority



women getting mammograms.

Agents and specialists are actively involved with the Alabama Partnership for Cancer Control in the Underserved Populations. This coalition is composed of the Alabama Public Health, National Cancer Institute, UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, Tuskegee Clinical Trials Group, American Cancer Society, USA Cancer Control, Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Comprehensive Breast Cancer Education Project, and other health agencies.

**Define the positive difference the program made in people's lives.**

In Pike County 20 women were referred to Cervical and Breast Cancer Project service.

**Define, in measurable terms, program outcomes.**

Define the economic value/improved efficiency, environmental quality enhancements, and/or social/community and individual well-being impact(s) (changes) that resulted from Extension program efforts.

**4. PARTNERS**

Collaborative and program partners include: American Cancer Society - pamphlets, brochures, bookmarks, shower cards, speakers, breast self-examination video, breast models, surveys (pre & post); Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Program speakers and referral for clientele; Alabama Public Health Department – speakers and financial support; National Cancer Institute - pamphlets, brochures, speakers; Women Center Huntsville Hospital - speakers, brochures, pamphlets, etc.; Alabama A&M university – Research and development Office and Faculty; Auburn University- Research and Development Offices; and others, including public housing, local churches, farmers markets, and grocery stores.

**5. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

Is this ETP a Multistate and/ or Integrated Research and Extension program? If so, define the multistate and/or integrated component.

Yes. To reach further Alabama and Mississippi have joined forces in a multistate agreement. The first multistate newsletter is available.

**6. SUCCESS STORIES**

In Chambers County, County Extension Coordinator Brenda Jones will receive the Cancer Control Life Saver Award.

In Jefferson County, Cynthia Whittaker conducted focus groups and rap sessions with youth.

American women provided increased awareness for this age group.

In Mobile, J. Elizabeth Phillips, County Extension Agent, received the American Cancer society' Regional Life Savers Award in April 2001.

## **1. ETP 409 – NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (HUMAN NUTRITION)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

The state of Alabama continues to struggle with issues of poverty. According to the 1997 census data, Alabama had 16.2% of its population living below the federally defined poverty level. The situation is even graver for the children of this state with 23.8% living below the federal poverty guideline.

One of the major problems facing people living in poverty is poor nutrition. General nutrition problems of the poor as reported by health professionals and social workers are: 1) lack of variety of food choices, 2) high consumption of low nutrient-dense foods, 3) limited food preparation skills, 4) limited knowledge of food and kitchen safety practices, 5) sporadic food supply in the home, 6) high intake of high fat/high cholesterol foods, 7) limited use of fresh fruits and vegetables, 8) unplanned meals, and 9) food used for reward and comfort rather than good health. Numerous studies now depict the grim picture related to poor nutrient intake and poor eating habits. Detriments include chronic diseases, childhood and adult obesity, and abundant health problems.

Based on these critical problems affecting health and lifestyle, the Nutrition Education Program (NEP) has been established. This program is designed to work with food stamp recipients or those eligible to receive food stamps. Education is provided primarily to young children in a public school setting. Schools qualifying to receive education include those schools having a free and/or reduced lunch rate of 50% or more. The primary goal for the program is to improve the nutrition knowledge and behavior of all people participating in NEP.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

For the last reporting year (October 1 – September 30), 124,111 people participated in the Nutrition Education Program. Of these 124,111 people, 19,783 participated in series programming, 34,942 participated in a single program, 10,202 participated in a food demonstration, and 59,184 participated in an exhibit. Further program data have been collected on all participants of series programs. Demographic data collected on series program participants show 60% were females and 40% were males with 54% being African-American, 44% being white, and 2% representing other nationalities. Of these 19,783 individuals, 82% were served in rural areas and 18% were served in urban locales.

Pre- and post-assessment instruments were used to collect impact data for teenagers and young children. In programs serving teenagers, data were collected for 468 individuals. Results were found to be statistically significant for both knowledge and behavior changes. Statistically, significant changes were found for 14 out of 15 knowledge items. Additionally, positive nutrition behavior change was found for nine out

of 16 items. Nutrition concepts showing the greatest improvement in both knowledge and behavior gain included calcium, label reading, fat, fast food, weight and exercise, and Food Guide Pyramid.

In programs serving pre-kindergarten through second graders, impact data were collected for 2,372 individuals. Knowledge gain only was assessed for this age group. An overall statistically significant gain in knowledge was found using a 12-item assessment tool. These children showed a 76% understanding of the concepts at pre-assessment and a 95% understanding at post-assessment.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

The Nutrition Education Program is the result of a collaborative agreement between the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Alabama Department of Human Resources, and the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This program contains a sub-contract component and maintains agreements with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Mobile County Department of Public Health. Additionally, this program operates through local collaborations with school systems, nutrition sites, libraries, and other agencies involved in providing programming to the limited-resource population of Alabama.

#### **5. SUCCESS STORIES**

“My name is Jasmine Jones. I just left the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Swift [nutrition educator] told us about healthy food and how your body reacts to different kinds of food. At Edgewood School she is a legend and a queen of foods. Thank you Ms. Swift for a great year!”

“The Nutrition Education Program is an excellent program because it is teaching concepts about nutrition students will use for a lifetime since so many of my students do not get them at home. The students enjoyed all the hands-on learning activities.” Carolyn Blair, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Marshall Middle School, Conecuh County.

“This is a wonderful program. I wish you could stay longer.” Statement made to a NEP educator from a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Tuscaloosa County.

### **1. ETP 608: Health Education Initiative Impacting the Underserved Populations (HUMAN HEALTH)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

##### **Define the problem.**

In Alabama, the leading causes of deaths are cardiovascular disease and cancer. Cardiovascular death reflects 40% (17,054) of death in the state (1996 Alabama Heart Facts, American Heart Association, 1997). Direct and indirect factors (dietary intake, lifestyle, social habits, and physical inactivity) are linked to the high prevalence of CVD, cancer, diabetes, and other chronic diseases.

##### **Explain the significance of the endeavor.**

This project addresses healthcare needs of the underserved populations of all ages focusing on prevention and intervention. The program teaches nutrition and health education, healthy eating habits, behavior modification, and physical activities with

specific emphasis on reducing risk factors for cardiovascular disease, cancer, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, and diabetes.

**Define the target audience and why issue is important to them.**

In minority populations (African-Americans, Asian or Pacific Islanders, Hispanic, Native Americans) the prevalence of these diseases is extremely high.

**Why did Extension get involved?**

To address healthcare needs of underserved populations for all ages. Major outreach efforts were geared to improve the nutrition knowledge and lifestyle activities of all ages.

**3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

**What has been done to address the issue?**

Health education was provided through workshops, seminars, flyer, newsletter, newspaper articles, and health fairs to equip clients with the knowledge needed to control and or prevent certain health conditions. Communities were encouraged to become more proactive in counteracting preventable chronic diseases.

**Were the stated goals/objectives met?**

**Answer the question 'So what?'**

**Who was most affected (target audience) by this the program?**

All ages, especially youth and seniors citizens.

**What resources were used?**

Physicians in private practice – materials and speakers  
American Cancer Society - pamphlets, brochures, bookmarks, shower cards, speakers, breast self examination video, breast models, surveys (pre & post)  
Alabama Department of Public Health - speakers  
National Cancer Institute - pamphlets, brochures  
Huntsville Hospital Women Center - speakers, brochures, pamphlets, etc.  
American Heart Association – brochures, pamphlets, poster, and flyer  
Arthritis Foundation – pamphlets, brochures and flyers  
Alzheimer's Association, speaker, brochures  
Osteoporosis's Association - speakers, brochures

Alabama A&M University – Research and Development Office  
State Department of Public Health

**Define the program outputs.**

Conducted a two-day in-service training for 14 county agents and two specialists.

Increased collaboration between county and community leaders. Continual interaction with the school systems and local health agencies: Health Council Boards, Head Start Advisory Board, County Health Council, Senior Citizens groups, and Day

Care and Community Centers.

Purchased, upgraded, and modified resource and training materials.  
Continued funded projects: food safety education for food handlers in elder care facilities, nutrition education for youth 10-16 years, and tobacco education youths in Montgomery County.

Agents worked cooperatively with healthcare professionals and community leaders in co-sponsoring: health fairs, workshops and seminars, fitness, health and healthy eating workshop for youth, stress management, healthy lifestyle and weight control. Managed two (2) funded projects and assisted with another.

Grant 1: Received stipend to attend the Food and Nutrition Summit in Accra, Ghana and to present an international focused nutrition proposal.

Grant 2: Urban Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program 2002 – funded \$129,809

Grant 3: Germ City - \$50,000 (to be used over a three-year period) Multistate Project: Alabama, Washington, West Virginia, Idhola, and Hawaii

**Define the positive difference the program made in people's lives.**

Mobile's Nutrition Education and Health focus activities with the underserved youth. Diabetic clientele voiced better control.

**Define, in measurable terms, program outcomes.**

Define the economic value/improved efficiency, environmental quality enhancements, and/or social/community and individual well being impact(s) (changes) that resulted from Extension program efforts.

**4. SUCCESS STORIES**

Success story – Lauderdale County- remarkable improvement in blood pressure.

**Goal 4: Greater harmony between agriculture and the environment. Enhance the quality of the environment through better understanding of and building on agriculture's and forestry's complex links with soil, water, air, and biotic resources.**

**(Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of FTEs, costs and contacts for each National Goal.)**

**ETP's for National Goal 4**

608 Health Education Initiative Impacting the Under-served Populations (HEIIUP)	3
102 Fostering Youth Environmental Stewardship	4
105 Biotechnology Education Program for Youth	4
220 Animal and Poultry Waste, Nutrient, and By-product Management	4
251 Public Television & Radio Programming (Yard & Garden)	4
260 Alabama Integrated Pest Management	4
261 Pesticide Education & Regulation, Pest Identification & Plant Diagnostic Services	4
262 Pesticide Impact Assessment Program for Alabama	4
263 Alabama Weekly Pest Update System	4
501 Indoor Air Quality Training Program for Zone One Counties	4
502A Stewardship and Sustainable Development	4
502B Collaboration for Sustainable Development: Activists, Agents, and Academics in Alabama	4
502C Forest Regeneration Through Quality Seedling Production and Plantation Establishment	4
502D Professional Logger Education and Training Program	4
502E Education and Training for Municipal Leaders & Tree Boards	4
502F Environmental Awareness for the General Public	4
502G Private Landowner Education and Technical Support	4
509 Marine Fisheries, Seafood, and Coastal Issues	4
510 Water Quality Education and Pollution Prevention	4
512 Alabama Wildlife Project	4
513 Fisheries and Aquatic Environments	4
514 Youth Education in Natural Resources	4
515 Straight from the Tap	4

## **PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **1. ETP 502E: Education and Training for Municipal Leaders and Tree Boards (FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Alabama's Urban Forest is a remarkable resource. The state's climate and geography make it a haven for almost 200 native tree species to thrive. It is also suitable for a live number of natural and exotic tree species, as well as many varieties. Compared to the other 49 states, Alabama has the second highest urban tree population and the fourth highest urban tree cover. Alabama's urban trees are working to give our state a healthier environment, a stronger economy and more vibrant social fabric. Through its continued research and other studies, we are learning that trees in our Alabama communities are a valuable resource and benefits all citizens.

In 1999, Extension, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and the Alabama Urban Forestry Association came together to form a partnership to maximize efforts to improve and capitalize on the benefits of Alabama's urban and community forests. As a result, a number of projects have begun to include:

Bibb County Career Technical Center Arboricultural Unit that was initiated to provide high school students in arboricultural curriculum with practical hands-on training at the Bibb County Career Technical Center. Bibb County is a heavily forested county in an impoverished part of the state.

A constant problem in Alabama's tree service industry is the small hiring pool for qualifying arborists. An instructor at the Bibb County Career Technical Center and Extension saw an opportunity to create a vocational curriculum that would prepare high school students to enter the arboricultural profession. They have secured equipment and personnel support from ASPLUNDG Tree Expert Company and started the program.

The program is a 2-year specialized agri-science course for high school students. General forestry unit such as tree identification, tree physiology, soils, and forest management are part of the curriculum. In addition, more specialized units in arboricultural such as ropes, planting, pruning, and tree maintenance are taught. The program has an over all "in-field" placement rate of 80% for students who complete the program. Approximately, one-half of the placements have found jobs in the tree care industry.

Another project was developed to mitigate the cost of storms and other natural disasters through the management of Alabama's urban forests. The incidents of storms and disaster declarations are high in Alabama. This combined with a large of urban forests presents a safety and economic concern for citizens and government alike. When storms happen, urban trees tend to be a problem. They can increase the cost and damage that results. They can also lengthen the time needed to restore services and normal routines. Cities that have well organized and well funded urban forestry programs tend to sustain these calls better than those cities who don't participate in these urban forestry programs. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System approached the Alabama Emergency Management Agency in 1999 to explore the possibility of coordinating educational activities that would promote urban forest management as a means of mitigating storm damage.

As a result, Extension has carried out the following:

Organized a steering committee consisting of emergency management representatives, urban forestry experts, and educators. The Committee was helpful in validating the problem, clarifying the educational message, and identifying the target audiences.

Secured \$85,000 from USDA to fund the project.

Developed educational exhibits that demonstrate to thousands of people the value of managing the urban forest as a means of mitigating storm damage.

Developed presentations for policymakers and officials.

Developed a publication that is being used by local governmental officials and emergency management agencies throughout the state in mitigating storm damage.

Another project implemented under this ETP is the creation of a regional non-profit organization that is dedicated to the promotion, advocacy and implementation of urban forestry in a 12 county region, including Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Chilton, Cullman, Etowah, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, and Walker counties.

Over a four-year period, citizens in this 12-county area took part in a visioning process to identify shared ideas about the region's future. One idea that emerged was to create a non-profit organization that would plant and protect trees, and advocate urban forest and Green Space. Trees for Alabama became a reality in August 2000 and now represents the original 12 "Region 2020" counties that include and surround the Birmingham metropolitan area. This non-profit organization has grown to more than 150 members and received "501(C)3501C" "3" status in 2001. A grass-roots group will concentrate its efforts on planting trees, tree canopy studies, education, green space preservation, and hosting an annual tree summit.

As a result of this organization's work this past year in planting 2000 trees in Birmingham's Third District, held First Trees For Alabama's Summit, used urban and



community forestry financial awards to start urban forestry library, formed partnership with Storm Water Management Authority to support tree canopy study at Jefferson county, and published tree planting fact sheets for volunteers.

In Calhoun County, Extension initiated a program to provide horticultural therapy to troubled youth. Alabama was one of the first states to cooperate with a National Tree Trust. In 1992 volunteers planted over 20,000 donated hardwood seedlings in 16 communities. Two years later telephone pioneer volunteers planted over 50,000 tree seedlings at the Alabama Forestry Commission in Autaugville. These trees were distributed to communities statewide. Recognizing the need for stable and inexpensive source of small container trees, the prototype "growing center" was moved to the Coosa Valley Youth Services Facility in Anniston, Alabama. The county agent in Calhoun County spearheaded a local effort to construct a tree nursery capable of potting and growing up to 30,000 tree seedlings a year. Using Auburn University nursery expertise, grant funding and local support, a modern tree nursery was built on a 3.5-acre site adjacent to a state facility for troubled youth. Under the mentoring of the Calhoun County Extension Agents and its Master Gardeners "At Risk" youth are supervised in the management and production of ornamental plants and trees. In 2001, the National Tree Trust cited this regional growing center as a model and will continue to provide containers, seedlings and a growing media subsidy. They also provided funds to improve irrigation systems and replace worn equipment.

## **1. ETP 261, Pesticide Education & Regulation, Pest Identification & Plant Diagnostic Services (PESTICIDE APPLICATION)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

**Alabama has nearly 10 million acres of land in farms. Of this, 1.6 million acres are tilled and 4.5 million acres are pastures. The remainder is forest land, business properties, and home residences. Pest problems affect each of these areas and many times pesticides must be used to control economically damaging pest problems. The first step in a pest management program is correct pest identification. The Plant Diagnostic Laboratories at Auburn University and at Birmingham provide plant disease or problem diagnosis services and control recommendations. In addition, the Auburn Plant Diagnostic Lab provides soil nematode analyses with control or management recommendations. Some insect and weed samples are processed at the Auburn Lab and then forwarded on to the appropriate Entomology or Weed Scientist for final evaluation and recommendations. Clients, which include county agents, growers, homeowners, consultants, Extension specialists, researchers, and state department of agriculture inspectors, are provided with diagnoses, analysis of results, or identifications and timely control recommendations. Recommendations, based on research information, usually include cultural, chemical, biological and/or genetic (resistance) manipulations.**

The use of pesticides is often blamed for environmental problems. It is vitally important to agriculture and the welfare of all of the citizens in Alabama that pesticides are used in a safe and proper manner. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) mandates that Extension conduct training in the safe and proper use of pesticides to private and commercial applicators. Currently, there are over 12,000 private applicators and 3000 commercial pesticide applicators in the state of Alabama. County Agents are charged with the responsibility to train private applicators. The training consists of approximately 3 hours of classroom training and the administration of the test. An optional take-home exam is available for private applicators. This ETP is a statewide educational project.

### 3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS

#### *Pesticide activities included the following:*

Private Applicator Training (PAT) Meetings: County Extension Agents and Specialist conducted 27, 2-hour hour training sessions that included: pest control, labeling, safety, environmental concerns, personal protective equipment, calibration, laws, and regulations. PAT tests were administered at the conclusion of each presentation.

Commercial Applicator Training and Commodity Meetings: CEA and specialist participated in 12 area-wide meetings on various pesticide issues.

Master Gardener Meetings: CEAs and specialists conducted 16 meetings covering general entomology, ornamental and turf insects and pesticide safety.

Restricted Use Pesticide Dealer Meetings: Specialists planned, organized, and implemented area-wide educational meeting at three locations in state. Total attendance was 207.

#### **Training by category:**

a. Private applicators trained:	2,112
b. Commercial applicators trained:	563
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,675</b>

#### **Plant Diagnostic Services at Auburn and Birmingham included the following:**

Diagnostic Samples Processed: A total of 3668 diagnostic samples were processed. The Auburn Plant Diagnostic Lab received 1164 plant samples, 1412 soil samples for nematode analysis, and 330 insects for identification. The Birmingham Plant Diagnostic Lab received a total of 762 plant samples. Problems identified on the plant samples included fungal, bacterial, virus, and nematode diseases; insect damage; chemical damage; damage from weather; crop management errors; air pollution; animal damage; also, weed problems were identified.

Electronic Image Samples Sent for Diagnostic Evaluations: 99 electronic image samples were processed for the presence of disease or other problems.

Phone Inquiries Requesting Diagnosis of Described Plant Problems: 940 phone calls requesting diagnostic expertise and evaluations were answered.

In Total, the Plant Diagnostic Services processed 4707 inquiries.

#### **Insect and Weed Pest Identifications**

Samples Processed: a total of 452 insects and 1930 weeds were processed for identification.

Electronic Image Samples Sent for Identification: 120 insect image samples and 91 weed image samples were examined and replies were made.

Phone or Email Inquiries Requesting Assistance with Identifications: 610 phone or e-

mail inquiries were received requesting assistance with insect identifications; 3020 phone or email inquiries were received requesting assistance with weed identifications.

#### **4. SUCCESS STORIES**

##### **Pesticide Education**

**There are 295 pesticide dealers certified to sell restricted use pesticides in Alabama. Pesticide dealers are an essential link to ensuring proper sale and documentation of restricted use pesticides (RUP) to over 12,000 certified Private Applicators in the state. Each employee that handles pesticide sales are required to be certified by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and must be re-certified every three years. As outlined in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Extension is the lead agency is conducting pesticide education.**

Dealers are many times called upon by farmers to answer pesticide related questions. Without proper training and certification of the pesticide dealer, farmers can obtain improper information or even the wrong pesticide. Dealers are **required to keep detailed records on each RUP sold. Training of these individuals is vitally important in the link from manufacture to the consumer.**

Extension in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries planned, organized, and implemented the 2001 Restricted Use Pesticide Dealer Meetings which were held in Cullman, Headland, and Montgomery. Specialists from ACES covered up-to-date information on pesticides. Over 200 people representing pesticide dealers, county Extension agents, Experiment Station personnel, and other certified pesticide applicators attended these meetings.

##### **Plant Diagnostic Services**

For each of the 4707 samples and inquiries processed, there were 4707 responses made to clients. These responses usually consisted of the problem identification and when possible, control or management recommendations were given. Most all of the responses given provided the client information on the nature of the problem. Even when control methods were not available, the information provided would have assisted the client in understanding the problem and remedy options available. A successful diagnostic service is one that can provide the client with information on the cause and nature of the problem and options for remedy or management of the problem. From this perspective, most of the problems diagnosed could be considered success stories.

Last year, our diagnostic service identified especially damaging disease problems on cotton, wheat, peaches, and St. Augustine grass. Cercospora and Alternaria leaf spot diseases on cotton in west Alabama caused an approximate 25-30% loss in some fields. Tan spot of wheat, caused by the fungus *Drechslera tritici-repentis*, caused a leaf blight in northern sections of the state. The disease developed early in the season and caused severe damage in many fields, resulting in an estimated crop loss of 10-20% across wheat areas of northern Alabama. The common peach disease brown rot, caused by the fungus *Monilinia fructicola*, was especially damaging last year. St. Augustine grass lawns in the state showed a higher level of take-all patch disease (*Gaeumannomyces graminis* pv. *graminis*) incidence last year, as documented by sample receipts in our two diagnostic labs. There were two diseases noted last year as new

reports in the state. *Microdocium* sp. (anamorph of *Plectosporium cucumerina*; recently renamed *Plectosporium* sp.; also known as *Fusarium tabacinum*) blight was identified as a new disease report on pumpkin in Alabama. Also, daylily rust (*Puccinia hemerocallidis*), first reported in the United States in 2000 at sites in Georgia, Alabama (Mobile), Florida, and South Carolina, was noted in 2001 at commercial and homeowner sites in Blount, Jefferson, Lee, Limestone, and Walker counties and again in Mobile County.

### **Insect and Weed Pest Identifications**

As with the samples and inquiries sent to Plant Diagnostic Services, each inquiry for an insect or weed identification was followed by a response. A total 1182 contacts were made to answer the insect samples and inquiries, and the 5036 weed samples and inquiries were also followed by 5036 contacts.

## **1. ETP 601: GREENSPACE MILE (URBAN GARDENING)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Many low-income citizens in Lauderdale County do not include sufficient fresh fruits and vegetables in their diet because of the cost and access to good quality fresh produce. The purpose of the Farmers' Market Nutrition Plan (FMNP) is to encourage the purchase of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables directly from farmers in Lauderdale County. It encourages health and agriculture agencies, communities, farmers and recipients to be active partners in a common effort to support the local economy and improve the health of families. Coupons were given to low-income women and children to redeem for fresh produce at a local farmers' market. The County Extension Agent (Urban), Farmers Market Authority, and State of Alabama Health Department worked together to distribute coupons to 8,610 clientele, many of which are WIC Voucher Recipients

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

Coupons were given to low-income women and children to redeem for fresh produce at a local farmers' market. The County Extension Agent (Urban), Farmers Market Authority, and State of Alabama Health Department worked together to distribute coupons to 8,610 clientele, many of which are WIC Voucher Recipients.

## **1. ETP 601: GREENSPACE MILE (URBAN GARDENING)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

The Vegetable gardens in Birmingham City Schools, Birmingham Urban Garden Society (B.U.G.S.) is a grass roots organization seeking to

benefit the lives of people through community vegetable gardens. The first year was dedicated to working, planning, organizing volunteers, promoting, etc. - to make this organization strong and impactful in teaching leadership and eventually pulling neighbors together to address needs far beyond vegetable gardening logistics. Objective: To build sense of community ownership, abate malnutrition, and facilitating outdoor hands-on learning and leadership skills through school vegetable gardens.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

A trip to Atlanta for the board and supporters was organized in the spring to learn from Bobby Wilson, Atlanta Area Extension Agent, who oversees and assists over 200 community gardens. Two other similar training sessions were conducted locally for the board and supporters at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Besides B.U.G.S. efforts in schools, we have sought to assist and train eight neighborhoods in establishing and maintaining community gardens. Several have been very successful in pulling the community together. The garden at J.J. Freedom Center in West End is the greatest community success story. Their youth and adults at this faith based organization grew a fabulous garden together and distributed produce regularly around their neighborhood, which is probably one of the roughest areas of town.

#### **Program Activities**

Building raised bed vegetable gardens (2 - 5' x 12' beds/school), along with vermin-composting bins, watering setup, etc., for 10 Birmingham City Elementary schools and 3 City Middle schools (by Spring we plan to work in 12 more schools). All in low income areas. Also, through grant money, supplying tools, seed/plants, soil, etc.

Gardening and environmental programs in these and other minority schools. This includes the actual work regarding the gardens themselves, done by the children, under my direction.

Partnership with the Birmingham Board of Education Science Curriculum Director, Spencer Horn, in facilitating the outdoor classroom component, through B.U.G.S., of an exciting new science curriculum, called GLOBE that about 25 Birmingham City Schools have adopted so far. This gives support and accountability to our garden efforts that helps assure success in the face of a very traditional classroom mindset amongst many teachers. Our outdoor efforts are now a part of their curriculum.

Training sessions for GLOBE trained teachers in regard to the value of outdoor learning to supplement classroom learning.

Impact: Opening urban children's minds to the value of nature, and life lessons and peaceful camaraderie found in the garden. Another enduring impact will be on the teachers and principals to continue to combine hands-on outdoor learning with the traditional classroom learning, and continue to raise test scores and life preparation of Birmingham City School students.

Number of clientele served. 450 students (predominantly African American), and 30 school staff at nontraditional underserved schools.

#### **4. PARTNERSHIPS**

The Birmingham Urban Garden Society (B.U.G.S.) is a partnership between individuals representing many different groups with different strengths. These include Miles College, Keep Birmingham Beautiful Commission, J.J. Freedom Center, USDA - Natural Resource and Conservation Service, Cawaco RC & D Council, Birmingham City - Horticulture and Urban Forestry, the Birmingham Botanical Society, Jefferson County Water Works Board, Birmingham Board of Education, Hands-on Birmingham, and Alabama Power. This Board of Directors meets monthly to move our community vegetable garden efforts forward. Some of these agencies provide volunteer support. Others provide financial support. Still others chair or serve on different committees, such as coordinating our yearly Harvest Festival. Pretty much all of us are assigned to specific gardens to assist and oversee efforts there.

Funding: (For all of B.U.G.S. activities, in which I am involved, not just school gardens)

##### **Cash**

<b>\$300</b>	<b>Home Garden Club</b>
<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>Millennium Green (USDA)</b>
<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>Cawaco RC&amp;D Council</b>
<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>Heifer Project International (\$15K/yr. for 3 yrs.)</b>

##### **Non-Cash**

<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>Corporation for National Service, VISTA (value of one VISTA Volunteer for 32hr./wk for 52 weeks)</b>
<b>\$21,500</b>	<b>Earth Team Volunteers (1/2 of value of volunteer labor credited to B.U.G.S. through the Cawaco RC&amp;D Council for the period 10/1/00 to 8/31/01).</b>

Also free meeting space for our 12 Board of Directors meetings, donated soil and compost for gardens, use of tractors, tillers, sprayers, and dump trucks from Horticulture and Urban Forestry at no cost.

New or Nontraditional Audience. The efforts of this programming are focused exclusively on Birmingham City Schools, which are all urban; of course, predominantly African-American, and many are from low-income backgrounds. I, through B.U.G.S., also focus on community gardens in neighborhoods, government housing, and nursing homes in Birmingham.

#### **5. SUCCESS STORIES**

##### **FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

##### **Dog River Clearwater Revival**

Several years ago, the City of Mobile decided to use the last vestiges of the Wragg Swamp wetland as the site for a baseball park. A group of local citizens were outraged, arguing that the wetland helped filter the Dog River. Without it, the river would be at best unclean and at worst, downright dangerous.

A group known as the Dog River Clearwater Revival (DRCR) was born in the controversy. Though it lost that battle, it is still working to keep the river clean. DRCR president Mimi Fearn says the group depends on help from Extension to keep going.

Fearn and Jody Scanlan, an Extension watershed project coordinator with the Auburn Marine Extension and Research Center in Mobile, recently created the Clear Water Guardian Program, a reward system for contractors who “do the job right.”

“In the beginning, the membership was emphatic that we go after the bad guys,” Fearn said. “But that just doesn’t work. We decided to use a reward system—we recognize contractors who do the job right.” The group has given two awards so far, including posting a sign on the award-winner’s construction site.

“It wouldn’t have happened without Extension,” Fearn says. “We’re all volunteers. I have a full-time job, and although I devote a lot of time to this, I can’t do it all day. Having Jody Scanlan paid by a grant to work on this at least part-time has really made it possible. Extension has never turned us down for anything we needed.”

### **All’s Well with the Well**

Duane Godwin and his family discovered a problem with the water soon after building their new home in Houston County. Besides having a metallic taste, the water was causing blue-green stains in sinks and tubs. Godwin, a Dothan firefighter and a part-time farmer, contacted the Houston County Extension office for help.

Godwin began working with agents Ricky Hudson and Phillip Carter. After having the water tested, Godwin discovered the water problems were caused by highly acidic well water running through copper pipes. “While the copper is not that dangerous, lead from the pipe solder can be,” Carter said.

The Extension agents told Godwin he had several options: abandon the well and connect to the county’s water supply; buy expensive equipment to connect to the well pump to fix the problem; or build his own filtering system to neutralize the well water.

Being a man who “likes a challenge,” Godwin believed he could build and maintain the system himself.

Extension Water Quality Scientist Jim Hairston provided building plans, calling for pipes, limestone chips, stainless steel grids, and replaceable paper filters. So far, it’s working great. Godwin hopes soon to add a third pipe to his two-pipe system.

“This water quality project has been a real education for me,” Godwin said. “I really appreciate the help and guidance Extension has given and continues to give me. They could have told me to connect to county water and been done with me, but they stuck with me even though I picked the option requiring more work.”

## **Model Behavior**

When Extension began working to increase public awareness of radon in 15 high-risk counties in North Alabama, no one knew the program would be such a huge success. Last November, Alabama's radon program was recognized nationally by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its creativity and productivity in reaching communities and promoting environmental stewardship.

One success of the program is the newly dedicated Morgan County Agricultural Service Center, the first public service building in Alabama constructed with radon-resistant features. Extension is the "educational branch of the Agriculture Service Center," said Extension Coordinator Julie Dutton, "and modeling behavior is one of the best teaching tools we have. By constructing the building with radon-resistant features, our commissioners helped us model some of the things we teach."

"It took planning, cooperation, and guts to do some of the innovative things incorporated into the building," County Commission Chairman Larry Bennich said at the building's dedication in September.

"Julie talked with me about what it would take to add radon-resistant features into the construction of the building," said Commission Don Stisher, who was assigned to oversee the construction. The features, though innovative, cost less than \$500.

"We are proud of our new Agriculture Service Center and appreciate Extension's and the other agencies' input into making it a beautiful and useful facility," said Stisher. "We're grateful for the outstanding jobs they do as they serve the people of Morgan County."

## **Ruffner Mountain Ozone Study**

Until the 1950s, Ruffner Mountain provided raw materials for Birmingham's early mining and timber industries. When development threatened the area in the 70s, a group of individuals, corporations, foundations, and public and private agencies raised \$2 million to purchase the land.

Today, the mountain, located near downtown Birmingham, is the last undeveloped portion of Birmingham's Red Mountain Ridge. It is also the second largest urban nature preserve in the nation. The 1,000+ acres provide a critical habitat for many native species of plants and animals and include a Nature Center and a 10-mile network of woodland trails.

"Extension, the USDA Forest Service, Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center are studying how pollution is affecting the forest on Ruffner Mountain," says Brenda Allen, Extension Urban Forester. "We're also developing a management plan and a monitoring system for the urban forest."

The effects of ozone pollution are evident on Ruffner Mountain trees and plants. Leaves that are usually bright green have chestnut brown mottling due to ozone harming the photosynthesis of the plants. Scientists say it's too early to know how much damage the pollution is causing, but they will examine tree growth, health, and other factors and compare results each year. They also will compare the Ruffner results to those of studies in other Southeastern forests.

"The study will have a long-term impact," says Cory Thomas, Executive Director of the Ruffner Mountain Coalition. "We welcome the chance to be a part of this unique educational and scientific pursuit and to



collaborate with the premier forestry program in the South."

**Goal 5: Enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans. Empower people and communities, through research-based information and education, to address economic and social challenges facing our youth, families, and communities.**

**(Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of FTEs, costs and contacts for each National Goal.)**

**ETP's for National Goal 5**

601 Greenspace Mile	4
101 4-H Programs to Enrich Schools and Empower Youth	5
103 Character Counts	5
104 Volunteerism	5
106 Helping Youth Build Life Skills	5
107 Preparing Youth for Leadership Roles in Tomorrow's Society	5
108A Preparing Youth for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Workplace -	5
108B Career Awareness - Textiles & Apparel Industries	5
108C Youth Entrepreneurship	5
108D Improving Literacy in Science & Technology	5
108E Youth Empowerment/Health Life Styles and Career Choices	5
109 TGIF (Teens Getting Involved for the Future)	5
111 Leadership Development in 4-H & Youth	5
301A Leadership: Building & Promoting Youth Leadership Programs in Alabama	5
301B Leadership: Building Community Team Leadership- A System's Approach	5
302 Leadership Development	5
304A Economic Development: Auburn Industrial Extension Service Program	5
304B Economic Development: Through Tourism & Retiree Attraction	5
304C Economic Development: Start Tapping Economic Potential (STEP)	5
304D Economic Development: Employment Life Skills for Textile & Apparel	5
304E Economic Development: Starting A Food Business in Alabama	5
305 Community Strategic Planning	5

306 Land Use Planning	5
307 Enhancing Citizens Capacity to Improve Their Communities	5
308 Macon County Leadership Development Program for Economic Development	5
309 Youth and Adults Entrepreneurship	5
401 Educating Alabama Consumers Competing in the Global Community	5
404 Financial Freedom: Money 2000	5
406 Beginning Education Early: Strengthening Rural Alabama Families	5
408 Enhancing the Financial Aspects of the Quality of Life for Older Alabamians	5
410 Welfare to Work	5
411 Creative Effective Parenting	5
412 Down to Earth Budgeting	5
414 Principles of Parenting	5
602 Trapped in Poverty, Trapped by Abuse & Trapped by Poor Health	5
605 Valuing Differences and Managing Diversity	5
606 Workforce Preparation: Finding and Securing Employment	5
609 Fostering Achievement Through Mentoring Education (FAME)	5
610A An Urban Family Network: Families and Communities Partnering in Progress - Extension Resources for Urban Families	5
610B An Urban Family Network: Families and Communities Partnering in Progress - Family Resources Management & Senior Lifestyles	5
610C An Urban Family Network: Families and Communities Partnering in Progress - Parenting, Family Diversity & Child Care	5
610D An Urban Family Network: Families and Communities Partnering in Progress - Family, Public Policy and Community Environments	5
611A Two "C" Programs: Citizens as Change Agents (Yes I Can)	5
611B Two "C" Programs: Community Service and Volunteerism (SPACE)	5
612 Dogs As Companions: Physiological and Psychological Benefits	5

## **PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **1. ETP 406: BEGINNING EDUCATION EARLY: STRENGTHENING RURAL ALABAMA FAMILIES (CHILD CARE/DEPENDENT CARE/PARENTING)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

The quality of parental care and involvement in the first five years is critical to the development of the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual skills children will need in order to succeed in domains outside the family, such as in the school setting. However, many counties in Alabama are characterized by the low educational achievement of its adults as well as high family poverty levels, two risk factors associated with poor child development outcomes. For example, in 51 Alabama counties fewer than 67% (the state average) of the adults over 25 had finished high school, while over 25% of Alabama's children under six year of age live in families whose income falls below the poverty line (according to 1995 statistics published by the Center for Demographic and Cultural Research at AUM).

Access to research-based information and programming efforts that support effective parenting and early childhood development is critical for families in which the adults caring for young children lack the knowledge and skills necessary to help them develop basic life skills and learning competencies. Therefore, the target audience is comprised of primarily limited resource, rural adults and their 2-5 year-old children living in five (5) west Alabama counties.

Extension became involved due to (1) increasing awareness of the importance of the first five years of a child's life and their influence on school readiness skills; (2) requests from parents for information about what they could do to get their children ready for school; and (3) the ability to successfully write for external funding of an innovative parent education program model.

Intended outcomes include increased parental knowledge about (1) appropriate child guidance, (2) appropriate support for their children, (3) skills that children need in order to be ready for school, and (4) increased parental awareness of their role in children's development.

#### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

BEE educators work with geographically isolated, limited-resource families with at least one child age 0-5. Participants are enrolled for a minimum of 10 individualized, one-hour sessions. Participants attend their sessions at their homes or aboard a van, renovated to be a classroom-on-wheels. With adults, educators use the Principles of Parenting and

“Basic Parenting” and/or “Building Strong Families” or “Parents as Teachers” curricula. With children, educators use either an original, developmentally appropriate early childhood curriculum, or the “Parents as Teachers” curriculum. The parent is with the parent educator and the child is with the child educator for the first 50 minutes of each session. The educators bring the parent and child together for the final 10 minutes of the session to discuss the child’s activity and its impact on child development and school readiness. The educators also use this time to provide additional activities the parent and child can do at home.

Objectives are being met.

Changes in reports of parental knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors have occurred, positively affecting the local pool of knowledge about the importance of early childhood experience in school readiness and other positive child outcomes.

Parents were the key target audience and reported nearly unanimously that they felt their relationships with their children had been positively affected and that they knew how to be a better teacher to their young children.

Across the five counties, there were nine paraprofessional educators paid through funds from USDA and Children’s Trust Fund of Alabama.

**Define, in measurable terms, program outcomes.**

BEE program evaluation strategies consist of a quarterly document review of program records and parental self-reports of pre- and post-program knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. Outcomes for the 256 families completing the program:

In open-ended questions, 89% of parents were able to identify specific ways in which their relationships with their children had been positively influenced by the program, for example, in terms of increased involvement, attention, or affection (39%); understanding (16%), the use of positive discipline (9%), self-reflection (12%) and increased interest and activity in their children’s learning (18%).

The four items assessing parental knowledge and attitudes about the use of guidance strategies showed increases from an average frequency (across items) of 71% to 83% responding correctly to statements about the use of positive discipline techniques.

After completing the program, more parents described school-readying behaviors that went beyond teaching basic facts: reports of language-related behaviors increased from 48% to 56%; reports of self-control-related behaviors increased from 9% to 27%; reports of social skills-related behaviors increased from 32% to 63%; and reports of behaviors motivating children to learn (such as doing special projects together and creating special places for learning in the home) increased from 17% to 31%.

Children have been exposed to books and activities, as well as other parents and children through visits with former BEE families. Families participated in make-and-take activities and sharing

ideas for summer fun and learning. Changes in the behavior of children in the BEE program have been seen in their cognitive, social, and verbal communication skills. Children are better able to socialize more with other people, and their attitude is more positive.

The principal from one county elementary school and several teachers have reported informally that they can tell which children (and parents) have been in the BEE program, because the parent is tends to be more involved in their children's school experiences.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Children's Trust Fund of Alabama, Alabama Power Foundation, Alabama Civil Justice, Foundation, Voices for Alabama's Children, Alabama Department of Human Resources, Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Department of Mental Health, Georgia Pacific, Weyerhaeuser Foundation, TDS Telecom, Inc., CSREES - Children Youth and Families At Risk Initiative (CYFAR)

#### **5. SUCCESS STORIES**

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Because of the good reputation the BEE program has developed, two new programs have taken off with great success, extending the reach of programming to more parents. Baby BEE expands the parenting education component to parents' with infants and toddlers. It uses the Parents as Teachers curriculum and one educator to visit parent and child in their homes. The "BEEing Dads" program offers activities-based parenting education to non-custodial fathers and their children ages 0-12. One non-custodial father said he never had done anything with his children when he got them. They just watched TV. After being enrolled in the Beeing Dads program, he no longer does that.

#### **BEEing Better Dads**

Watching the grin spread across Jerry Carter's face as his daughter, Jurnee, wraps her tiny hand around daddy's finger, you would think this is an ordinary moment for the pair.

These days, it is. Earlier in Jurnee's life, it was not the case. Jerry is a non-custodial father and did not always recognize the impact he could have in his daughter's life.

Now, thanks to the BEEing Dads program in Choctaw County, he's learned how to take an active role in his daughter's life.

"It just makes me happy being a part of her life," says Carter. "I'm being the kind of dad she deserves."

The BEEing Dads program, funded by a grant from the Children's Trust Fund, is at work in Choctaw and Wilcox counties. It's an offshoot of the Begin Education Early program.

Non-custodial fathers improve their parenting skills by working with Extension program assistants using research-based parenting curricula. Fathers receive books and games they can use to build a relationship with their children. They also go on field trips, attend family workshops, and enjoy birthday parties for the children whose dads are enrolled in the program.

Sarah Spear, the Choctaw County program assistant, says she has seen Carter and the other 26 dads involved make great strides in the program.

"They recognize how their children need them and they have the skills now to develop a close and loving relationship with their children," says Spear.

Research shows that having an involved father helps children avoid a variety of destructive behaviors, including early sexual activity.

But you don't need research to see the benefits of the program as you watch Jerry Carter scoop up his daughter in a bear hug and hear her giggle as he plants a kiss on the top of her head.

## **1. ETP 304B: Economic Development: Through Tourism and Retiree Attraction (TOURISM)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Alabama is a state rich with natural resources and a relatively unspoiled environment. However, Alabama is a state that suffers from disadvantages in creating jobs through traditional manufacturing means, particularly, in its rural areas. In 1995, Extension Agents in two geographic areas of the state came together to explore ways that they may be able to generate more income for their citizens through retiree attraction and tourism development. Agents in 12 counties in East Central Alabama created a multi-county tourism development organization with the express of purpose of attracting visitors to their community that would be visiting the Southeast to participate in the 1996 Olympics. This organization called the Alabama Sunrise Region developed a marketing plan that put visitors' materials in Alabama visitors' centers at the Georgia-Alabama line on the Interstates. This consisted of materials and magazines that would be marketed in the Atlanta region, and other prominent places in the Southeast. A magazine was developed called the "Alabama Sunrise Region" that highlights opportunities to visit and the quality of life in the Sunrise Region.

Accomplishments and Impacts included increase in visitation from outside visitors in the 7 county area by at least 10%. The organization stayed together as an organization and is facilitating other multi-county activities in advance.

Partners for this endeavor included the Alabama Gas Company, Alabama Power Company, and county and city governments in the region.

## **1. ETP 602: Trapped in Poverty, Trapped by Abuse and Trapped by Poor Health! (CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AT RISK)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

The Trapped program continued as a viable outreach service to statewide communities to address issues of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a community problem that impacts the entire nation, crossing all races, social and economic backgrounds, cultures and religions.

Domestic violence is most corrosive in homes where poverty, abuse and poor health form an interlocking circle.

Over 19% of Alabama's population is poor compared to 14% of the overall US population.

Much of the poverty is concentrated in about a quarter of the counties in the state, which tend to have high unemployment rates.

One in three Alabama children live in poverty-the second highest rate in the USA.

Nearly 2 out of 5 Alabama children went without health insurance in 1996-98.

In 1995, there were 59 domestic homicides; 177 domestic rapes; 4,102 domestic aggravated assaults; and 20,996 domestic simple assaults in Alabama.

At least 75% of all welfare recipients in Alabama have suffered chronic episodes of abuse, including battering by a spouse or boyfriend.

A woman is abused every nine seconds in the United States by her husband or intimate partner.

Domestic violence results in more injuries that need medical treatment than burglary, accidents, muggings or other physical crimes combined.

Up to 40% of all battering starts during pregnancy.

Violence occurs at least once in 2/3 of all marriages.

According to the National Violence Against Women Survey 2000, an estimated 1.5 million women in the United States are assaulted by their partners every year.



Alabama reflects the national statistics with thousands of reported cases of victimized women and men. The intended outcome of this effort were:

Designing and implementing ten media outreach programs.

Using ten mass media outlets to heighten awareness of programs, services and solutions available to domestic violence victims.

Providing educational training on anger management, conflict resolution, power and control issues, welfare reform and domestic violence and resiliency paradigms to over 25 agencies.

Partnering with five other state and private agencies to form coalitions and networks with national poverty and abuse centers to identify and use current best practice data to support family empowerment through public education.

Developing two innovative, nontraditional domestic violence programs.

Enlisting 500,000 Alabama citizens in the efforts to end domestic violence through public policy reform, advocacy programs, model training activities, organizing work, multistate agreements, and prevention campaigns.

Mobilizing 6,000 concerned individuals, primary and allied health professionals, children's groups, and other social justice organizations.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

Prior to 1998, Extension had no coordinated projects to combat the family issues associated with domestic violence and child abuse. Yet, over the past three years, the Trapped project leader and participating county Extension agents have been instrumental in getting agencies and community leaders to address this growing issue. The Trapped project was put in place to provide educational training and to heighten awareness of community services and solutions on anger management, conflict resolution, power and control issues, welfare reform, domestic violence, and resiliency. The success of the program is reflected in the growing county involvement. During the past year, 12 of the state's 67 counties were extensively involved in designing programs and structuring coalitions to offer supportive services to families and communities affected by domestic violence.

To summarize, ETP 602 is submitting its last annual report as an autonomous extension team project. Over the past three years, this ETP has made tremendous strides in promoting Extension's campaign against domestic violence. It is the only initiative in the System that addresses this family problem, both at the urban and rural level. Prior to 1998, no agent or county had a coordinated program to combat the family issues associated with domestic violence and child abuse. Since 1998 county agents have joined existing domestic violence task forces in their respective areas, or have been

instrumental in facilitating the development of task forces. Houston County serves on shelter board of directors. Agents in Fayette, Lauderdale and Lawrence counties have co-spearheaded grassroots efforts to incorporate domestic violence task forces in their respective areas. This is a significant performance-based outcome of ETP 602: agents across the urban/rural dichotomy have utilized ETP 602 in-service trainings or ETP 602 information to structure in their local plan-of-work a domestic violence component. The outcome has been an mushrooming of agent involvement with county domestic violence task forces, creative programming efforts, such as “Brushing With Violence” in Montgomery County or “Talks ‘N Teddies” in Hale County, and facilitation of significant public educational efforts, particularly with law enforcement.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Southern Center for Urban Forestry Information & Research, USDA Forest Service provided research and related information on social well-being and urban forestry, identified contacts and grant opportunities, and assisted with in-service training. Las Vegas City Planning Department provided information, training and on-site orientation to desert landscaping, community development and social well-being/urban forestry development. Las Vegas Water District has desert landscaping displays and exhibits and their connection to social well-being. Collaborated and toured East Las Vegas Community Outreach Development, a Hispanic CDC neighborhood, involved in community development and desert landscaping. Westside New Pioneers Community Development Corporation is a comprehensive community development initiative engaged in housing revitalization, new housing starts, money management education, job development, and family well being efforts.

North Alabama Cosmetology Association-agreed to adopt a domestic violence initiative as their organization’s service project.

Collaborated with Dr. Brenda Allen, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences in the development of a \$75,000 proposal to the Alabama Urban Forestry Association to address the research-based issue of the link between urban forestry development and social well-being, including domestic violence.

### **1. ETP 606: WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (WORKFORCE PREPARATION//YOUTH-ADULT)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

**Define the problem. Explain the significance of the endeavor?**

The problem is many people who are able to work are not “job ready”. They need job preparation development to present themselves ready for employment. The significance of the endeavor is that without these people being ready in an already shrinking workforce pool, companies are having to seek foreign workers, or make decisions to relocate to a foreign country. If the company cannot reach its fullest potential, in the end, it will diminish its productivity goals and the revenues that could keep the company competitive in a global market. All of these projections serve to diminish the tax base of the economy.

**Define the target audience and why issue is important to them.**

The target audiences are individuals who are under employed, unemployed, and hard to reach. Many are without high school diplomas, unskilled, newly hired, incarcerated, etc. Others are high schools students without future career choices or understanding of the decision making process about life or financial planning.

**Why did Extension get involved?**

Extension got involved because of its mission. It is poised to teach and train the target audience with research-based training and educational programs designed to assist them improve their quality of life. Many of these programs are retrofitted to meet the needs of specific clients

**Intended outcome from Extension program efforts?**

They are designed to initiate survival skills programs to prepare citizens to responds to and function in environments of stress and change.

**3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

**What has been done to address the issue?**

Education and training intervention programs have been and are being used to prepare citizens for the workforce. Such programs are delivered in group settings, at company’s requests, in schools, information brochures and handbooks, via the Internet, etc.

**Were the stated goals/objectives met?**

Yes, the goals were met in each type of program intervention.

**Answer the question 'So what?'**

Many problems identified by each professional using job-readiness programs, were confident that they had reached the stated goals, because their impact were quantifiable in such terms as

Several programs prepare citizens of all ages with workforce preparation skills. Some are ongoing over time (a three-year period), with such results as specific Job Readiness programs. Other program, such as one held in one of the counties: Out of 118 adults in the project overtime,

90 became employed, thereby relieving the state and other public assistance obligations, become self-reliant, taxpayers and assets to themselves, community, etc. Others are training and other life experience programs, such as the partnership with local businesses, preparing incarcerated inmates for re-entry into communities.

The Agent presented a "Mock Job Fair," as an culminating activity, which was attended by business representatives, who thought inmate-participants more "polished" than college students and offered inmates job opportunities on site. Many inmate-participants are now working taxpayers, productive citizens and contributors to society. Over 400 participants went through the job readiness programs.

Then there are the type programs that offer mostly students an activity that helps them to identify career choices, make decisions, and role play as an adult, these programs were successfully offered to over 6,300 individuals.

There are job preparation and information delivery programs, developed by Workforce Specialists through a multistate agreement between Alabama Extension and West Virginia State College Land-Grant Programs that are offered on the Internet. This Web-based program offers information on employment, education and training, entrepreneurship and financial planning, and has harvested over 2000 users.

**Who was most affected (target audience) by this the program?**

Affected by this program were: Adults in job preparation programs, youth going through career choice and decision-making programs, Internet users looking for job opportunities, education resources and other employment-related information, incarcerated individuals seeking post prison opportunities.

**What resources were used?**

Job Readiness programs, Welcome to the Real World Activity, Youth Career Summits, Job Fairs, and the WECAN4U Internet information Web site.

**Define the program outputs.**

Program outputs used were: partnership development between public and private entities, such as city and state representatives, community volunteers, Land-Grant College outreach, multistate agreements, etc.

**Define the positive difference the program made in people's lives.**

The positive difference made in the lives of the youth going through Welcome to the Real World activity is that they were better able to deciding on career choices and life decision making processes, in addition the youth were able identify weaknesses, and develop critical thinking skills. Adults going through the job readiness programs received a large measure of positive self-esteem, self-knowledge, work skills development, personal development, and other job preparation skills that assisted them in preparing for the workforce, etc.

**Define, in measurable terms, program outcomes.**

Workforce preparation and job readiness programs: Delivered 450 individuals ready to apply for work. Over 6,300 students, mostly from high schools, are now ready to make wise choices about careers, they are able to see pitfalls in foolish decisions about life, and they are also now equipped to handle personal financial decisions. Youth Summits have offered over 400 youth the opportunity to seek many untapped opportunities in the technical, allied health, and related fields. Two thousand people, especially those individuals with little computer skills are now able to get current and up to date information on employment related information at the behest of Alabama Cooperative Extension System and West Virginia State College University Land-Grant Program.

**Define the economic value/improved efficiency, environmental quality, enhancements, and/or social/community and individual well-being.**

The economic value to all of these programs is that the participant is assisted in workforce preparation, or better decision-making and are poised to take advantage of employment related opportunities. They become productive citizens and a significant partner in the overall economic development of a community, because they are better equipped to seize opportunities that improves their quality of life, thereby becoming better citizens, productive members of society and tax payers.

**4. PARTNERS**

List collaborations and program partners: All workforce preparation programs some form of partnership as an input to increase their outreach and viability. Some use partnerships of community leaders, companies, volunteers, City and County Schools systems, while other use collaborations with community advocacy programs, state, city and/or county public private partnerships, community organizations, etc.

**5. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

Is this ETP a Multistate and/ or Integrated Research and Extension program? If so, define the Multistate and/or Integrated component. West Virginia State Land-Grant College and Alabama Cooperative Extension System are involved in a Multistate Partnership.

**6. SUCCESS STORIES**

**(This story has been paired down somewhat by Auburn's Communications Department and is available)**

Cerene, a young single mother of a boy (5) and a girl (21 mos), has lived in Huntsville for approximately seven years. She is a native of St. Thomas, Virgin Island. After the death of her mother, she was reared by her hard working grandmother, who instilled hard work ethics in Cerene and her seven children and three grandchildren. When Cerene came to the states to further her education, life did not go as she had planned, and she fell on hard times and ended up in public housing. During that period, it seemed that Cerene could get anywhere in life. One day, Mr. Dinatto, a New Futures coordinator, told her about the Workforce Preparation classes being taught by Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs of Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Although, Cerene was volunteering at the Oscar Mason Community Center

Library, and the Boys and Girls Clubs, to get work experience, she needed a paying job. She decided to sign up for Extension's Workforce Preparation job readiness classes.

New Futures, the agency that Mr. Donatto represents, is in partnership with the Huntsville Housing Authority. The program is designed to guarantee employment for participants in the Workforce Preparation program. It stipulates that each participant work 20 hours a week, do four hours of community service, and another four hours of classes each semester leading up to a degree.

While Cerene worked in the 20 hours a week job at the Community Center library, she was attending the Workforce Preparation classes that helped her to assess her skills. She learned how to prepare a resume and apply for a job, which came in real handy when her supervisor told her about a fulltime position at the main public library. She applied for the position, using the resume that she had prepared in class, and the confidence that the class had instilled. She got the job.

She is looking forward to celebrating her anniversary next year. Although the work that she had done previously had been in the clerical field, working in the library has made her realize how much she likes working with children, and how she should keep that in mind when planning a career.

Cerene is thankful for the Extension program and tells everyone she meets that needs help with a job, about the Workforce Preparation program with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Cerene tells everyone " . . . it {Extension} has very good programs for anyone that really wants to help himself or herself. The Extension System was there with the help that I needed.

## **1. ETP 609: Forefronting Youth Initiative (LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Addressing the needs of the state's growing urban youth population remained a priority for Extension's urban youth development educators during the 2001 programmatic year. Through the *Teen Leadership Connections (TLC)* curriculum, Extension made great strides in recruiting and involving youth in community service and making valuable leadership connections. *TLC* was developed by Prairie View University as a comprehensive, prevention-based, experiential, interactive, and community-oriented youth development program. The *TLC* curriculum teaches important intellectual and social development skills including critical thinking, decision making, goal setting, moral reasoning, problem solving, scientific exploration and values clarification.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

Leadership development efforts begun at the local level culminated at a statewide Service Expo that was co-hosted on the campuses of Alabama A&M University and the University of Alabama at Huntsville. Recognizing that youth leadership programs

provide great opportunities for youth and communities, UANNP partnered with several local agencies, including the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Madison County District Six to sponsor the first annual Youth Leadership and Community Service Expo.

Involving over 200 youth and volunteer leaders from across the state, the Expo provided opportunities for youth to showcase leadership skills acquired through involvement in various leadership and community service activities in their respective counties.

The knowledge gained and the spirit of service and leadership were evidenced through the competitive service projects that were researched, planned and implemented by youth-lead teams. Jefferson County's youth conducted a "White Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy." Colbert County youth focused on activities in the area of cultural diversity. Houston County youth provided assistance and leadership to a "Hispanic/Latino Youth Festival."

During the programmatic year, a variety of other youth development programs were offered to meet the needs of a diverse youth population. The **Fostering Achievement Through Mentoring Education Project (FAME)** worked with mentor mom programs targeting at-risk youth and young mothers. The program experienced notable success in the Huntsville and Montgomery metro areas.

The FAME project educators partnered with Girls Inc, public housing facilities and community churches to reach over 1600 youth with life skills, personal development and career education using mentoring approaches.

In Houston County, a youth entrepreneurship program was initiated to promote self-esteem and a better quality of life for youth who reside in public housing facilities. Participants learned basic entrepreneurial skills, including developing a business plan. They also gained valuable resource management, leadership and organizational skills through practical business exercises.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Collaborative partners included local and county agencies such as the Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce, the Madison County Commission District 6 office; educational institutions including the University of Alabama in Huntsville; Youth Agencies, including the Madison County Boys and Girls Club, the Girls Club, Inc.; established coalitions designed to address teen issues; and local churches.

#### **5. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

The curriculum used primarily for the Forefronting Urban Youth initiative, the Teen Leadership Connection (TLC) was originally designed for youth in inner city Houston, Texas, but was adapted for usage in the State of Alabama. Through a cooperative agreement with Prairie View A&M University, several states, including, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama, were trained to conduct and implement the TLC

curriculum. The multistate training initiative was coordinated by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and held on the campus of Alabama A&M University.

## **1. ETP 610: URBAN FAMILY NETWORK (PARENTING/FAMILY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

To strengthen the resiliency of citizens in Alabama's urban communities by enhancing the coping and survival skills of individual's, youth and families; to implement family dynamics training to teach urban families how to identify and respond to forces that impact their lives; to establish an urban and new nontraditional program resource "outreach" laboratory; and to initiate survival skills programs to prepare citizens to respond to and function in environments of stress and change programs were developed to address the following issues:

Parenting (Long Distance Parenting), Families in Divorce Transition, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and the Family Life Center.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

#### **Parenting**

Heartfelt Parenting: Using Positive Approaches- a booklet with and accompanying power point presentation on diskette was given to each ETP participant (parenting teaching tool).

Parenting Long Distance curriculum packet was developed. The packet contained three programs/curricula. Mrs. Mary Hurt developed a name for the Parenting Long Distance program, Parenting Long Distance Sharing (PALS). PALS contains: 1) Parenting Apart: A Guide for Separated and Divorced Parents. The curriculum was purchased from the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System. 2) Share My World. A long distance parenting tool that can be used by parents, grand parents or other relatives separated from children. The curriculum focus is writing a journal of daily or weekly activities and they are exchanged between the child and adult. Each participating agent was given a copy. The specialist assembled the Story Time packet. The sample packet contained a storybook, a story/coloring book, crayons and an audiocassette. The purpose of the Story-Time packet is to encourage agents to work with groups and organizations to help incarcerated parents stay in touch with their children. The agents implement the program by finding sponsors for the project. The sponsors help defray the cost of tape recorders, cassettes, books, crayons, and postage for families. The incarcerated parent reads a story that is recorded, the audiocassette of the story and the storybook is then sent to the child.

#### **Families in Divorce Transition**



The program area "Families in Divorce Transition" is being addressed primarily through two programs, Parents Forever and RAINBOWS. One county agent is continuing her work with Family Court Judges using the Parents Forever curriculum and the County Baptist Ministers Association. She remains in contact with these two groups with a positive out look for implementing the program for Morgan County families.

One state specialist and two county ages are Registered Directors for the RAINBOWS program, a grief program designed to help children cope with loss because of death or divorce. As a Registered Director of the RAINBOWS Program the county agents have conducted training sessions and formed partnerships.

One County Agent formed a partnership/collaboration with Brookville Elementary School West Jefferson County Community project to implement the RAINBOWS curriculum as a pilot program for 2001-2002 fiscal year. The implementation of this project will allow the County Extension/ Urban Center to partner with UAB and train graduate and undergraduates to serve as RAINBOWS facilitators. The students will be allowed to earn credits for the training they receive and facilitating the groups.

#### **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren:**

As a result of participating in a national satellite conference on grandparents raising grandchildren a local work group was formed. The group is working to address the needs of grandparents and relatives raising children. Their efforts are primarily focused on establishing support groups and informing the public that assistance and support is available. A community information meeting was held (a State Senator participated) to inform the general public of the issues and concerns grandparents and other relatives face while serving as the primary parent of their relatives' children and to form support groups for the grandparents and other relatives.

One county agent who attended the national satellite conference, along with interested county participants, formed a local workgroup in their county as well. Their group has conducted several community meetings (one with a State Representative) and formed support groups.

#### **The Family Life Center**

The Family Life Center was established through a partnership with the Huntsville Housing Authority. The Center provides educational programs for public housing residents. The 2001 Center programs continued to address diverse educational needs in parenting, nutrition & health, money management, and workforce preparation.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Huntsville Housing Authority, Department of Human Resources, AARP, Area Agency on Aging, and Morgan County PACT (Parents & Children Together).

# **1. ETP 611: TWO “C” PROGRAM: CITIZENS AS CHANGE AGENTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)**

## **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Strong communities need competent citizens who are willing to take on roles and responsibilities that will help them to change their own lives and the environment in which they live. Leadership development and service to community are high priority issues in our growing metropolitan areas. The Two “C” program has a two-fold purpose: 1) to educate and prepare citizens to function as change agents in their respective communities, and 2) to promote volunteerism and service by recruiting from relatively untapped community sources.

Specific program objectives are to: 1) Capitalize on underused volunteer potential audiences (i.e. students at universities, technical community, junior colleges and high schools) to provide support to volunteer programs designed to improve the quality of life of children, youth, families and adults. 2) Provide educational training to promote personal development, citizenship, life-skills and character development among customers and potential community leaders. 3) Provide innovative program delivery approaches to reach the hard-to-reach and nontraditional audiences.

The mission of the Two “C” Program is met through curricular, activities and community linkages which support mentoring, tutoring and nurturing through volunteerism. SPACE, a student volunteerism program; and *Yes I Can!*, a youth development curriculum, are examples of successful program models.

## **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

### **Impact of the Citizenship Component of this Program**

Using the *Yes I Can!* Curriculum as a primary training resource, more than 2000 youth, teens and juveniles participated in educational workshops and classes focusing on personal development, enhancing literacy and study skills, building citizenship and character, anger management, job preparedness skills, goal setting/decision making, self-esteem, conflict resolution, healthy lifestyles and legal education.

A specific example of impact is evidenced through the intense program that is implemented in Madison County in collaboration with the Juvenile Court and District 6 County Commission Office. The lead Extension Specialist for the Two “C” Program, along with the Juvenile Probation Officer, directs a class in personal development using the *YES I CAN!* Curriculum (and other mandated resources). This collaboration has been ongoing for nine years. According to evaluations and follow-up on youth participating in this training, of the 72 first time juvenile offenders channeled through the program in 2000-2001 only 21% returned to court.

### **Impact of the Volunteerism Component of this Program**

During 2000-2001, the Students Promoting Action: Community Education Program (SPACE) recruited five program/site managers/volunteer leaders and trained a total of 97 student community service volunteers at the post-secondary/secondary and community college levels. The 97 college student volunteers/teens collaborated with 20 community agencies, generating more than 1,239 volunteer hours and reaching a grand total of 3,432 customers (infants, youth, teens and adults)

## **4. PARTNERS**

Examples of collaborating agencies working with components of the Two “C” program include Madison and Mobile County’s Juvenile Court Systems, Madison County District Attorney’s Office, Madison County Commission District Six, Ed White Middle School, Upward Bound (AAMU), Meadow Hill Initiatives, Boys and Girls Club, Middle/Junior High and Senior High Schools, churches, Seldon Adult Learning Center, Huntsville City School System, J.O. Johnson Creative Parenting Lab, Housing Authorities, Calhoun Community College, Alabama State University, SafePlace, State Department of Education, AIM/Julia Tutwiler Prison, Boys and Girls Club.

## **5. SUCCESS STORIES**

Since the inception of the *Yes / Can!* Program Extension Specialists have nurtured and served as mentors for youth who were a part of the original pilot program (1991). The following success story is from one of those participants who graduated from Alabama A&M University in May, 2001 with a BS degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

"I am Lashonda Mosley, age 23. I was one of the first pilot participants of the Yes I Can! Program sponsored by Alabama A&M University's Cooperative Extension program in April 1991. Mrs. Mary Hurt conducted the *Yes / Can!* program (for ten weeks) at the Northwood Public Housing Community. While in the program, I learned many valuable skills such as overcoming peer pressure, having good self-esteem, study skills, work ethics and citizenship qualities. While growing up in public housing and living in a single parent household, I faced many day-to-day challenges. Through the mentoring of the *Yes / Can!* Program from 4<sup>th</sup> grade through my college education, I was able to overcome many of the daily challenges. Since the inception of the program, I have been able to graduate from high school and to be the first in my family to obtain a BS degree in Family and Consumer Sciences, Alabama A&M University (May 2001). As a result of me having a mentor, I have also decided to become a mentor to my two wonderful nephews (Antwon and Dominique). They are presently living in the same conditions that I had as a child.

In closing, I would like to say that the *Yes / Can!* Program has taught me many valuable skills that I can now apply to my day-to-day life. If it weren't for caring programs like this one, some children would feel lost, unloved and would take the wrong path in life. I am glad to have had the opportunity to participate in this great program because it has made a real difference in my life."

## **1. ETP 612: Dogs as Companions: Physiological and Psychological Benefits (HUMAN HEALTH)**

### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Industrialization and urbanization have partly been the cause of increased stress and health challenges in the American society. Many people in many disciplines with the object of helping to restore health to communities everywhere are vigorously addressing this unhealthy state of affairs. Recently, scientific research has lend credibility to the centuries-old belief that the close relationship between humans and animals contributes to the overall health improvement and well being of society. In addition to assisting people with physical disabilities, clinical observations have shown that association with dogs may contribute to reduction in stress, blood pressure, feelings of loneliness, and fear of being a victim of crime. Furthermore, it has also been shown that dog companionship increases recreational walks, self-esteem involvement in sports and clubs, and family happiness and fun. However, since a dog will live from 10 to 20 years, depending on its breed, people must be prepared to provide the dog with a home for that duration. This means making sure that the dog is properly nourished, in good health, and well behaved. The latter is of ought most importance to prevent the dog from becoming a nuisance or a menace to the community. Besides a well-behaved dog

makes a much more pleasant companion, and can be more easily a part of the family life. Therefore, the objectives of this ETP were to educate the public in the subjects of dog nutrition, management, behavior, training, and responsible ownership.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

Extension Specialists and Partners developed and distributed both electronically- based and printed materials containing detailed information on the benefits of dogs as companion animals, dog-assisted therapy programs, and selection, nutrition, health, and training of dogs.

On Thursday, December 7, 2000 at 2:00 pm, a 45-minute Breakout Session was conducted at the Extension State Conference in Birmingham to discuss with participating Extension System personnel the educational activities to be conducted.

A two-day in-service training was conducted on April 11 and 12, 2001 at the Alabama Youth Development Center in Columbiana. Agents participated in seminars on The Role of Companion Animals in our Society; Dog Breeds and Purposes; Canine Feeding and Nutrition; Dog Care and Management; Dog Behavior and Behavior Problems; Ownership; and Animal Cruelty. Furthermore, agents had the opportunity participate in demonstrations on Obedience Training and Dog Therapy.

Extension Agents from Baldwin, Jefferson, Morgan, and Tuscaloosa counties conducted activities such as lessons in Dog Obedience Training, and seminars in Animal Cruelty and Dog Care and Management. In addition, they were involved in the coordination of Pet Fairs.

Our Partners from the Greater Birmingham Humane Society continued their outstanding work providing education and assistance to families, animals, and communities. The Madison County Veterinary Medical Association working with the Greater Huntsville Humane Society conducted a campaign called "All About Neutering Your Pet", and offered a Surgical Assistance Program.

Ninety (90) percent of a prototype ring binder entitled "Dogs As Companion Animals... Educational Resources Manual has been completed. This binder contains all Alabama Cooperative Extension System publications, a rough draft on training, state and local laws and ordinances, and a pamphlet on neutering and health prepared by the Madison County Veterinary Medical Association. The purpose of this binder is to have printed educational materials regarding dog companionship, selection, nutrition, training, health, and responsible ownership readily available to Extension County Agents and the people of Alabama.

Objectives were met, but only in those counties where extension system personnel and our partners conducted program activities. In other words, we were not able to entirely expose people and healthcare givers in Alabama Metropolitan communities to all the educational activities the project had to offer.

The major impacts of all the previously mentioned activities are an increased awareness of the health benefits of dog companionship, increased knowledge of proper dog nutrition, training, and health, and increased understanding of the laws and ordinances regarding dog ownership. It is estimated that the previously mentioned activities may have impacted many thousands of Alabamians.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Our Partners from the Greater Birmingham Humane Society contributed by participating in the in-service training, and by providing education and assistance to families, animals, and communities.

The Madison County Veterinary Medical Association working with the Greater Huntsville Humane Society contributed with a pamphlet called "All About Neutering Your Pet", and offered a Surgical Assistance Program as part of a community service.

The local American Kennel Club contributed by offering the Canine Good Citizen Test to owners and dogs that participated in lessons on Dog Obedience Training conducted in Baldwin County.

#### **5. SUCCESS STORIES**

The project is still on going, and has been resubmitted for the year 2002 under its new title "Dogs As Companion Animals".

#### **OTHER SUCCESS STORIES - URBAN AFFAIRS AND NEW NONTRADITIONAL PROGRAMS**

##### **Fit and Fine**

"Your blood pressure is at 188/102. Stroke level! Have this prescription filled and take your medicine." These were the last words Dianne Webster Madyun, a tall black woman in her very young-looking early 50's, expected to hear. Sure, she had some symptoms. But a stroke? No way.

Dianne decided to take control of her own health. "I grew up in a home where Extension is a household word. I knew from my parents that whenever I have a need for information, I should call my county Extension agent," said Dianne. And call she did.

Mary Andrews, County Extension Agent in the Shoals Urban Center, has been working closely with Dianne for the past several months, using information developed through Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs on the campus of Alabama A&M University. Mary has plenty of experience working with people with a variety of health problems, including arthritis, diabetes, and Alzheimer's disease, as well as hypertension.

"Mary has given me the personal attention that no doctor ever could. She's been there for me and offered encouragement when I didn't feel I could go on," says Dianne.

With Mary's guidance, Dianne has lost 10 pounds and increased her energy level beyond what it's ever been. She walks about three miles a day and works out at the gym for 45 minutes to an hour, six days a week. Dianne has started limiting some foods and has added more fruits, vegetables, and water to her diet. With a lot of hard work and these lifestyle changes, she has lowered her blood pressure to 110/70—a success story for Dianne and Mary both.

### **Helping Herself**

When she came to Alabama seven years ago from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Cerene Prince planned on furthering her education. She never planned on being a single mother of two young children, living in public housing, going nowhere.

In an effort to improve herself and get work experience, Prince began volunteering at the Oscar Mason Community Center Library and at the Boys and Girls Club. But volunteering doesn't pay the bills. When she heard about the Workforce Preparation classes being taught by Extension's Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs, she decided to sign up.

Prince enrolled in a program that guarantees employment for Workforce Preparation participants. She worked the 20 hours a week required by the program at the Community Center Library. She also attended the Workforce Preparation classes, where she learned how to prepare a resume and apply for a job. This all came in handy when her supervisor told her about a full-time position at the main public library. Prince applied for the position, using the resume she prepared in class, and got the job.

She now promotes the classes to others who "really want to help themselves." She is grateful that "Extension was there with the help I needed."

Prince is one of more than 10,000 people who have received information and assistance in job preparation from the Workforce Preparation program this year. In addition, the program has reached approximately 580,000 people through media outreach. Extension Specialist Rosalie Lane, the program's coordinator, says she is "proud of our efforts to help people help themselves."

### **On Her Way**

Gwanda Wiggins, a young single mother of two, participated in Extension's Welfare to Work program in 1997. In her program evaluation, she expressed a desire to take charge of her life and get a job. Unfortunately, Wiggins got sidetracked for the next several years.

Then last year Cynarra Moore, a Program Assistant with Extension's Family Life Center in Huntsville, saw a picture of Wiggins taken during the Welfare to Work program. Moore contacted Wiggins and gave her an inspirational poem. The encouragement was just the boost Wiggins needed, and she decided to keep that promise she had made to herself. Soon afterward, Wiggins called Moore and said, "Guess what—I have a job!"

This is the first job Wiggins has had since high school. She loves her job and looks forward to going to work each day. And now, with something to do with herself, the days don't seem as long. Her children are proud of their mom too.

Wanting to continue her goal to take charge of her life, Wiggins has now been approved for a home loan and is looking forward to moving out of public housing. Wiggins recently told Extension Agent Judy Edmond, who is in charge of the Family Life Center, "I have come a long way and I'm going to win. I'm on my way!"

### **Smart and Prepared**

Twelve students from Hayden High School participated in the online competition of **LifeSmarts**, a national consumer education program that teaches teens to be responsible citizens and consumers. All three teams scored high enough to be invited to the state competition at Extension's Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit on the campus of Alabama A&M University.

State competitions were tough, but **The Hayden Shoppers** (Colene Burns, Blake Cummings, Beth Gibbs, and Aaron Bowen, captain) became the state winners for Alabama. Their correct response to "To what temperature do you need to cook chicken?" (180 degrees) cinched first place.

Originally, the Attorney General's office was going to sponsor the winners' trip to the national competition in San Diego, but proration of the State education budget intervened, and they had to raise their own money for the trip. Their families and the community pitched in to help. One local business donated the t-shirts to be worn in San Diego. The slogan on the shirts read "Some people have Book Smarts, Some people have Street Smarts, But we have... Life Smarts! They loved their experience in San Diego, and the city will never be the same! Although they didn't win the national competition, just getting there was a major accomplishment. And they are going to try again in 2002. The Shoppers will stay together as a team, and will pass on what they have learned to the rest of the Hayden teams. "Be prepared" is their recommendation to other contestants. And "Look out—we're coming back" is their dream.

Dr. Bernice B. Wilson, LifeSmarts coordinator and Extension Urban Specialist in resource management, is pleased with the response throughout the state. "Last year was our first year with LifeSmarts, and interest continues to grow. I'm looking forward to the turnout in 2002."

### **Tithing Time**

A mother of five with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Adelle Jones was enjoying her retirement. But 31 years as an LPN left Jones with a continuing desire to help people. Although she already was a volunteer with several Extension programs, she still felt something was missing. Then she attended an Extension leadership workshop and found her calling: she became an activist in her community.

Judy Edmond, County Extension Agent at the Extension Urban Family Center in Huntsville, says, "Ms. Jones really inspires the people in her community. She's always telling them about the benefits one can gain by volunteering with Extension."

"Oh yes," added Jones, "I visit all my neighbors and encourage them to become more involved in the community. 'Tithe of your time, not just your money!' is what I tell them."

Jones tells of the 77-year-old woman she helped register to vote. “This lady voted for the first time ever in the last election!” Jones also sees a new neighborhood pride in the way the residents look out for each other and improve their surroundings.

Jones has added yet another activity to her life. She is a college student in a general education degree program that will help her as she volunteers in schools.

“What Extension needs is more volunteers like Adelle,” says Judy. “We’ve seen a growth of interest in this neighborhood like never before since she’s been on the Resident Council. People who once sat in their homes are now coming forward to participate. I’ve never known anyone who can inspire others to do their best like Adelle Jones can!”

### **TLC Works Wonders**

“Getting Down & Dirty in the Community” allowed the Mobile County Teen Leadership Connection (TLC) members to clean up at the **2001 Alabama Youth Leadership Expo**. As winners of the community service project display competition, these teens not only served their community through hours spent cleaning up the AIDS Memorial Garden behind the Mobile AIDS Support Services Office, they also spent weekends handing out informational brochures at local malls, and served at the AIDS Memorial Tea.

Amanda Outlaw, County Extension Agent, Mobile Urban Center, was pleased with the job done by the youth. “The Memorial Garden looked like a jungle when we started. I was afraid we’d never get through,” she said. But the group persevered, and John Gordon, director of Mobile AIDS Support Services noted, “Even though we all got hot and messy, I truly enjoyed working with such determined young people.”

The Leadership Expo involved more than 200 Alabama youth and volunteer leaders from across the state, and was a collaborative effort of several agencies including the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce and the Madison County District 6 Commission.

“This event was very successful in providing youth participants with a broad range of educational opportunities designed to build and enhance leadership skills,” says Expo Coordinator, Edna Coleman. “In order to meet the challenge of leading in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, youth leaders must be engaged in development training and be involved in community service activities.”

### **Family and Individual Well-Being Identity Regained**

Tracy Gissendanner, a single mom with twins, wanted to buy a home. But she was turned down because of bad credit—just as she was turned down for a car loan.

Tracy couldn’t understand how she had bad credit. She always paid her bills on time. In her mid-20s and without reading skills, Tracy didn’t know where to turn. Then someone suggested she talk with Dale County Extension Coordinator Teresa Williams.



Williams helped Tracy obtain a copy of her credit report. That report showed that someone had stolen her identity to get credit cards when Tracy was only 12. The person had run up sizable bills and never paid them, ruining Tracy's credit.

"We talked to all three credit bureaus," says Williams. "We worked afternoons after Tracy got off work. She had to be present to authorize the credit bureaus and creditors to talk with me. We had to dispute each charge."

It was a daunting challenge for Tracy, who could not read.

"Mrs. Williams would read every letter to me and explain what we needed to do. Then we would talk about what we needed to say in our letter. Mrs. Williams would write the letter and read it to me to be sure I understood. Then I would sign it," says Tracy.

For more than two years, the pair worked together, often several times a week.

Finally, the last charges attributed to Tracy were cleared from her credit report.

Thanks to a clean credit report, Tracy was able to buy a home for herself and her children. She's working for the city of Ozark and improving her reading skills.

Her advice to others—safeguard your Social Security number and other important papers.

"Now I keep everything like that in a safe deposit box at the bank."

### **Creating Better Eaters Today**

Across Alabama, the moms and dads of more than 34,000 children and teens are hearing much less of "I don't like that" and "I don't want to taste it," thanks to the Nutrition Education Program (NEP) and its fun and friendly nutrition lessons.

NEP educators use a variety of techniques to reach young people with nutrition information. The key—make it fun.

In DeKalb County, a puppet, Chef Combo, took children on tasting adventures via his magic carpet, while in Dallas County, students and Janey Junkfood learned more about healthy food choices. The Germ Inspector helped St. Clair County children spot glowing germs on their hands and fingers.

While having fun, children learn nutrition lessons that carry over into their lives. A number of creative and interactive assessment tools are used to evaluate children's knowledge before and after lessons. For younger children, there are sticker activities, and for teens a game show format quiz.

The best indication of the program's effectiveness comes from the words of participants.

"I have been eating a good breakfast at home." —a 4<sup>th</sup> grader in St. Clair County

"My daughter only ate five or six things before the program and wouldn't try new foods before Chef Combo. Now she's still trying new foods." —a parent in Lawrence County

"An excellent program that teaches concepts about nutrition students will use for a lifetime since so many of my students don't get them at home. My students enjoyed all of the hands-on learning activities."—a teacher in Conecuh County

"I drank my milk yesterday."—a student in Tuscaloosa County

"Thank you for teaching us to have healthy bodies."—a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in Tallapoosa County.

## **Community Economic Development Helping Alabamians Connect to the Future**

The greatest obstacle to modernization, according a study by the Auburn University College of Engineering, is the inability to attract technically capable workers and to retrain current workers. Between 25 and 35 percent of Alabama citizens lack a high school education, and about half of the population function at a level below that expected of a high school graduate. An even higher percentage are not qualified for jobs requiring math, science, computer, and higher level reasoning skills. Workforce development is essential in helping people move from low-skill to high-skill jobs.

In response, Extension's Community Resource Development program works with communities, designing programs that build a high quality workforce. Extension is also increasing the capacity of local leaders, organizations, and schools to create, recruit, and retain businesses and industries.

Other programs help individuals learn how to find jobs, stay employed, or start their own cottage industries or small businesses. Extension also supports the efforts of schools and businesses as they work together to provide career exploration opportunities for young people preparing to enter the workforce.

For example, "Building Alabama's Workforce (One Community at a Time)" is a series of two- to four-hour Extension workshops that include School-to-Career: A How-to Guide for Life Beyond High School; What to Do? How to Start a Business; New Beginnings: Life After Job Loss; and The Art of Finding (and Keeping) a Job.

"Vitalizing Communities: Building on Assets and Mobilizing for Action" is a program that helps communities identify their assets and build strong relationships among individuals, associations, institutions, and businesses in the community.

With the help of these and many other Extension programs, Alabama's communities are developing an economy that will be competitive and sustainable in the global marketplace.

## **4-H and Youth Development Best Innovative Program for Youth**

A new Extension program is coming to the aid of at-risk students in Geneva County. STEP-UP (Students, Tutors, Educators, and Parents--United Partners), which began in January 2001, is an after-school tutoring and 4-H enrichment program for students at risk of academic failure.

The Alabama Juvenile Probation Officers Association named the program Best Innovative Program for Youth.

"STEP-UP proved to be very successful during the last school year when 62 of 67 students in the program passed. This year we are dealing with students who have already been retained. We are hoping to help them find some academic success. This program offers them one-on-one assistance and encouragement in an out-of-school setting so they may succeed in the classroom," Alayna W. Beckham, Extension Agent Assistant, said.

Another component of the STEP-UP program is 4-H enrichment.

"This year our focus is on art enrichment. Art is another way for these students to experience success. In addition to academics and sports, many people find a measure of success in the arts, yet many have no exposure to it. Art enrichment can be another form of expression for these students," Beckham said.

STEP-UP is an alliance of community agencies. This partnership includes the Extension System's Geneva County Office, Geneva City Schools, Geneva County Schools, and the Juvenile Court of Geneva County.

#### **4-H Experiences Lead to Career**

Seven years ago, Jessica Kelley met the challenge of participating in not one but two national 4-H judging competitions. Today, she takes the skills she learned from that experience to her job as a forester for the Florida Division of Forestry.

Like so many 4-H'ers, Jessica's choice of a college major and eventual career is rooted in 4-H.

"Four-H had a big impact on my career choice. I enjoyed the forestry and wildlife judging so much that I wanted to continue it through college and in my career," said Jessica, who earned a degree in forestry this year from Auburn University.

"We have kids in 4-H who start competing in the fourth grade. As they get more involved, they build confidence and often discover a career interest," Roger Vines, Coosa County Extension Agent, said. "One valuable lesson the kids have learned is that things don't always come easy—most often you have to work for them," Vines commented.

"Participating in the judging competitions taught me leadership skills. This was especially true as I got older and the high schoolers began to help the younger kids," Jessica said.

Four-H took me to a lot of places. I got to travel and learn how big the world is. I also made lasting friendships," Jessica commented.

Four-H and forestry run in the Kelley family. Jessica's younger sister Meagan also participated in national forestry and wildlife judging competitions. Their father is a forester with the Alabama Forestry Commission.

#### **4-H Leaders Promote Character Education**

Alabama 4-H leaders have put lesson plans for character education into the hands of our state's teachers. Alabama legislators have mandated that character education be taught in each school for 10 minutes a day.

"Alabama 4-H is committed to helping the state's schools, businesses, civic organizations, and individuals encourage character development and safeguard our future," Molly Gregg, Extension Specialist, 4-H and Youth Development, said.

Extension has 100 people statewide involved in a character education program that focuses on six "pillars of character": trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. In 2001, the program reached its goal of having a trainer in every county.

Cynthia Knowlton, Monroe County Extension Agent-in-Training, uses the program in her 4-H school enrichment. A recent experience brought home to Knowlton the impact of her work.

"Before I deliver the program, I apologize to the students and teacher because I tell them that I'll be stepping over the line and sharing examples—real ones. I tell them that I don't mean to hurt feelings or accuse, but what I'm about to say is reality and it's happening in our schools.

"At the end of a recent session, the teacher told me it was about time that someone spoke up because she had just realized that she was guilty of many of the things I had shared, and no one had ever held her accountable," Knowlton said.

### **Donation of Life**

Alabama 4-H'ers are young men and women of action. They see and respond to needs in their communities. After learning at the fall retreat about the critical importance of organ and tissue donation, the State 4-H Council adopted the organ donation card program for its 2001 community service project.

"As 4-H'ers we realize the importance of getting the word out that we, as a state and a nation, need more people to agree to donate their organs so if something unfortunate happens to them and there is no chance of survival, someone else may have another chance at life," said Virginia Mathews, a member of the State 4-H Council.

"It's important for people to realize that after they choose to sign a donation card, they need to talk to their families so they will know, understand, and agree with their decision," Mathews said.

Kickoff for the project was during the 2001 Auburn homecoming weekend. Four-H State Council members are now taking their message into Alabama's classrooms.

This project has attracted the attention of the state's highest leadership.

"We received a letter of support from Governor Siegelman. He is committed to presenting every 4-H'er who registers 250 or more new organ donors with a Governor's Service Award and will join each winner for a photo opportunity sometime next summer," said Molly Gregg, Extension Specialist, 4-H and Youth Development.

The numbers tell the story of the importance of the project the State 4-H Council has undertaken: more than 78,000 men, women, and children nationwide currently await lifesaving transplants. Every 13 minutes another name is added to the list. In Alabama, 1,850 people await organ transplants.

### **4-H Forges Leaders**

Virginia Mathews is a young woman on the move, and she gives 4-H a lot of the credit. "Four-H showed me I have leadership skills. Before I became active in 4-H, I thought I was shy, but 4-H helped me open up and express feelings and be assertive," she said.

The daughter of Jake and Debby Mathews, Virginia is president of the Cleburne County 4-H Club and a representative on the State 4-H Council. Her mother is the Cleburne County Extension Coordinator.

"I became active in 4-H in the seventh grade. Before that, I had been in a private school that didn't have a 4-H program, but since my mother was a 4-H agent I knew about it and took part in some of the events, Mathews said.

"Four-H helped me learn what it means to be a good leader and a good citizen. Basically, being a leader means making the best of what you have and applying it to your everyday life," she explained.

Virginia has been involved in 4-H public speaking programs, participating on both the district and state levels. She has also been involved in the clothing judging competitions.

"The skills I have acquired in 4-H have also led to my interest in journalism," Virginia, who was a delegate to Girls' State last summer, said. "In college, I am interested in studying journalism as well as political science. I may even want a career in political science and, after college, I think I might run for political office."

### **It's The Kids, Not The Goats**

More Alabama youngsters had an opportunity to compete in youth livestock competitions in 2001, thanks to the efforts of 4-H and the Alabama National Fair in Montgomery. A new category, meat goats, was added to the four existing Supreme Competitor awards.

At the 2001 fair, 4-H'ers took home \$4,100 in savings bonds, with \$600 of that total being awarded in the new Meat Goat Supreme Competitor category. The Supreme Competitor category was started in 1998 with beef cattle, dairy cattle, and sheep. Hogs were added the next year.

"It's less expensive to get involved in the showing of meat goats because it requires less cash outlay. This makes the competition available to more youngsters," said Extension Animal Scientist Bob Ebert.

"Several years ago, we recognized that a shift had taken place in the 4-H livestock shows," Ebert said. "Too much emphasis was being placed on the winning animals and not enough on the skills of the youngsters showing the animals. After all, the purpose of youth livestock shows is to develop youngsters, not prize-winning animals.

"The show ring helps kids develop life skills including decision making, responsibility, dedication, animal care and well being, and, in some cases, oral communication," Ebert said. "That's where we need to keep the emphasis."

In the Supreme Competitor competition, 70 percent of the points come from a youngster's knowledge or ability to work with animals (showmanship) as opposed to coming from the animal itself.

"Without a doubt, this new competition has been successful," Ebert said. "We are rewarding and recognizing what youngsters know and can do rather than the conformation and quality of the animal."

## **Agent Support Bolsters 4-H Volunteer**

When Wanda Pharris started looking into 4-H for her daughter, Extension agents in Madison County quickly convinced her to participate herself.

"When my daughter Tiphonie was 11 years old, she wanted to get involved in 4-H, and I knew nothing about it," Pharris said. She talked to Extension Agent Sylvia Oakes, who encouraged her to become a volunteer leader.

After several Saturday mornings in 4-H leadership training, I started a community-based 4-H club called STARS (Striving Toward Achieving Responsible Standards) for youngsters in the Huntsville schools," Pharris, a victim service officer with the Madison County district attorney's office, said.

"Our club has done voter registration drives and distributed breast cancer awareness information. We visited the Alabama State Legislature and traveled to Washington, D.C., for the National Stand for Children rally and for Citizenship Washington Focus," she explained.

Pharris also developed a career-based retreat held each year during spring break and the Urban Youth Farm Day.

Pharris offers this advice to anyone interested in 4-H volunteering: "Speak with your county Extension agents. Form a group and include the parents and children in the decision making. Get the parents involved and the professionals will pitch in and work with you.

"The Extension agents taught me what I needed to know and gave me support. Four-H volunteering is very much a collaborative effort," Pharris said.

Tiphonie and her mother have come a long way through 4-H. Wanda Pharris is 2001 Alabama Volunteer Leader Association president, and Tiphonie, a freshman at Morris Brown College in Atlanta, has been named a Gates Millennium Scholar, an honor that carries a full, four-year scholarship.

## **A PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE: THE CLUB DRUG PHENOMENON**

Partnership for a Drug-Free Community received a grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2001. The goals of the grant were to expand existing drug prevention programs, enhance collaborative efforts and develop a law enforcement coalition. A vital component of this grant is to effectively evaluate this program. A 'partnership' with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System has been central to this effort. Ronald L. Williams, Extension Head, Program Planning & Development / Law Enforcement Programs, contributed a considerable amount of time to develop proper evaluation forms and other raw materials for this grant. Effective evaluation and documentation is a vital component of this drug prevention effort and is essential to the success of Partnership programs and for continuation of funding.

Williams, who has considerable law enforcement experience, represents the Alabama Cooperative Extension System on the Law Enforcement Coalition. In this capacity he developed a "Club Drugs" power point presentation for use as a teaching tool for Law Enforcement Coalition members. The data provided by Williams targeted club drugs including, rohypnol, ecstasy, GHB, LSD, Meth, oxycontin, ketamine, and other illicit drugs. The presentation was first used to ensure that Coalition members had a common format for their teaching efforts and was pre-tested with the various law enforcement agencies represented in the

Coalition. Distributed on CD, Coalition members have used the presentation in educational programs for youth in area schools, with teachers and parents, church groups, and other adults groups.

Specific to the law enforcement community, the Club Drugs CD has been utilized to train participants from the Huntsville Police Department, the Madison County Sheriff's Department, Alabama A & M University Department of Public Safety, Huntsville Emergency Medical Services, Drug Enforcement Agency, civic and business leaders.

Working closely with Sgt. Jim Winn, head of the Organized Crime & Drug Unit (Huntsville Police Department) further refinements were made to the presentation for 'Law Enforcement only' audiences. In this iteration, detailed information concerning past and current drug cases, club drug related deaths, methods of illegal drug manufacture and smuggling, arrest tactics and procedures, and crime scene specifics were included. In this revised format, the Club Drugs CD has been used to train many 'drug unit' personnel from across the state.

Law enforcement and civic groups from other Alabama counties requested training based on this CD as the problem of club drugs spread throughout North Alabama. Williams, working in a team teaching mode with law enforcement -drug enforcement specialists - provided specialized in-service training to over 150 Alabama law enforcement officers. The Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission granted APOST credits to participating officers.

Key impacts that result from this training include:

- Many police officers, like the general public, were acutely unaware of the club drug phenomena. As a result of this training participating officers are more knowledgeable about the appearance and use of Club Drugs and are better able to identify Club Drugs when they encounter them on the street.
- School Resource Officers have reported that they are now better prepared to identify suspicious substances and to more accurately assess student behaviors likely associated with the use of club drugs.
- Police officers and emergency medical personnel are better prepared to identify subjects suspected of being under the influence of club drugs. This is critical given that proper protocols are necessary to try and prevent serious mental and physical impairment and / or death.
- Police officers are aware of officer safety issues associated with suspected club drugs. This is especially critical when attempting arrest of persons under the influence of some of the club drugs, handling suspicious substances and in dealing with potentially volatile and dangerous situations such as Meth labs.
- Officers from many small police agencies with limited training budgets were able to receive club drug training.
- Networks were established among law enforcement agencies. These networks were designed to allow for improved sharing of information about club drug activity.

The Madison County Law Enforcement Coalition presented programs to over 725 students in local high schools. As a result of this program, the student's knowledge increased by 47%.

Williams's evaluation forms were designed and used for the following programs:

Kelly Bear to the Rescue: This program was taught to 420 preschoolers in 15 different preschools in Huntsville. Pre/post tests show a 65% increase in the children's knowledge.

Don't Huff This Stuff: This program reached 715 Huntsville youth through collaboration with organizations such as Girls, Inc. and Boys & Girls Clubs.

Smoke, Choke, Eventually Croak: This program reached 715 Huntsville youth through collaboration with organizations such as Girls, Inc. and Boys and Girls Clubs.

Think! Don't Drink: This program reached 715 Huntsville youth through collaboration with organizations such as Girls, Inc. and Boys and Girls Clubs.

Pre/post tests for these three programs show a 40% increase in knowledge.

As a result of effective evaluations, Partnership for a Drug-Free Community received a 2002 continuance grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Mr. William's technical expertise proved to be invaluable for this agency. We look forward to a continued 'partnership' with Ron and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in this critical effort to prevent substance abuse.

## **CULTURAL DIVERSITY ISSUES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

For several years the Alabama Cooperative Extension System has provided educational programs on cultural diversity for Alabama Law Enforcement agencies / personnel. The training is conducted by Ronald L. Williams, Extension Head, Program Planning and Development / Law Enforcement Programs, and was originally initiated at the request of the Huntsville, Alabama Police Department. These programs reflect an attempt by the law enforcement community to more effectively provide police services to existing and/or emerging minority audiences within the respective jurisdictions. It further represents a realization that it is essential for police agencies to generate a proactive and positive interface with existing minority populations and the rapidly changing demographics of the state. Last, these programs also address the obvious lack of diversity within many law enforcement agencies.

Cultural diversity programming for law enforcement was initially designed to provide existing police officers and police academy cadets an overview of the multicultural dynamics occurring in American society and to delineate the relationship of factors associated with increasing societal diversity to the optimal performance of police services by sworn personnel. Objectives of the in-service training are:

- 1) To define diversity, pluralism, culture, and related concepts, and examine their relevance within the context of the provision of law enforcement services.
- 2) To illustrate reasons for the focus on diversity, examine critical forces that are shaping the nature of our society, and create an awareness of the implications of such changes for law enforcement professionals.
- 3) To assist police officers in becoming culturally competent, thereby reducing the potential for multicultural conflicts between law enforcement professionals and diverse populations.
- 4) To provide effective strategies to enable law enforcement professionals to effectively communicate with culturally diverse audiences within their jurisdictions.

This training, which is sanctioned by the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (APOST), is expanded in scope and focus and is directed toward law enforcement professionals working in a variety of law enforcement fields. Specific audience categories include: federal law enforcement



agencies; state police agencies; county police / sheriff agencies; municipal and other local police departments; jail and other corrections personnel; specialty police units (airport, campus, railroad, public school, etc.); security agencies; academy cadets; and private police / security personnel. In addition, administrative and supervisory law enforcement personnel receive the same training *and* undergo detailed debriefing following training of agency personnel. A minimum of four (4) hours of classroom instruction is required for this training.

Cooperative Extension has partnered with a variety of agencies in the conduct of law enforcement related programs including the FBI, municipal police agencies, county (sheriff) agencies, airport and campus police agencies.

Major accomplishments in the area of cultural diversity training include:

- Cultural Diversity training is now a part of the core academy curriculum of the Huntsville Police Department and for Huntsville corrections officers. This was required training for existing police / correctional officers. Department academy instructors report that the majority of officers have reported increased understanding the diversity within the jurisdiction and are better able to effectively provide police services to diverse audiences.
- Other area police agencies have expressed an interest in this program as required in-service training for all officers.
- This course is an integral part of the HPD academy training for cadets. Cadets must not only take the class but must also successfully pass an examination on the subject matter.
- It is anticipated by departmental administration that negative incidents between police officers and diverse elements in the community will be significantly reduced. Antidotal evidence already indicated that this training, combined with departmental emphasis on community policing strategies, has led to better police community relations and cooperation.
- A recognition by officers of the benefits of a positive relationship with the diverse audiences within their jurisdictions.
- Willingness by law enforcement administrators to sanction community oriented police programs that target specific segments of the population. For example, basic Spanish for police officers has greatly enhanced the capacity of officers to communicate with the increasing Hispanic population in Alabama. Specific training that familiarizes officers with unique aspects of Hispanic (and other) audiences had led to greater capacity to provide effective police services.
- APOST approved Racial Profiling in-service training for police officers was conducted on the campus of Alabama A&M University. As a result of this training officers from across the state are now better informed on officer actions that constitute racial profiling and legal issues associated with the practice of racial profiling. During the training, distinctions were made between legitimate use of 'profiles' (by police and other professionals) and the illegal use profiles based solely on race.
- Public forums on racial profiling were held involving meaningful dialogue between law enforcement professionals and community residents. As a result of the dialogue citizens were more aware of police policy and procedures concerning racial profiling and police representatives were better able to understand public concerns and able to establish that the practice was not sanctioned.
- Recruitment, hiring, and promotional practices were closely examined and revised by the Huntsville Police Department. The Chief formed a task force, consisting of community leaders from diverse segments of the community (Hispanic, Black, Asian, Jewish, female, etc.) to critically examine existing policy and procedures and to suggest methods to generate more minority applicants and successful candidates. The task force also had the charge to examine existing promotional procedures and identify barriers to advancement by minority and female officers. As a result of the work of the task force some recruitment, retention, and promotional policy and procedures have been modified. The department, mayor, and council

- have a stated commitment to work to ensure that HPD have a body of officers that reflect the cultural diversity within the community.
- Recent academy classes have had increased minority and female representation among the cadets.

## **ALLOCATION OF FISCAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

The following represents a composite allocation of fiscal and human resources for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University only). In most cases this data has not changed significantly since the development of the AREERA Plan of Work. These numbers include both AAMU and AU fiscal resources from all sources. The FTE's exclude secretarial, clerical and other non-academic positions; they also do not include FTE's allocated to administration or program support.

<b>PRGM AREA</b>	<b>\$ ALLOCATION</b>	<b>FTEs</b>
4H&YD	\$ 5,737,393	56.68
AG	\$ 13,638,043	119.99
C&ED	\$ 1,420,085	11.76
F&IWB	\$ 13,942,668	159.83
UU&NNTP	\$ 3,975,441	28.42
F&NR	\$ 2,405,853	20.47
EFNEP	\$ 1,912,385	66.55

## **STAKEHOLDER INPUT**

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has a very comprehensive stakeholder input process. The foundation of this process is the statewide network of sixty-seven County Extension Advisory Boards (CEABs) and the hundreds of county and state-level program advisory committees. Also within the state, Alabama Cooperative Extension System has five regional Agricultural Research and Extension Centers. Each of these centers has an advisory committee to provide direction for the research and extension programs at the centers. The eight Urban Extension Centers utilize the Urban Task Force as the mechanism for stakeholder input.

In addition, the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program is also heavily dependent upon the input of stakeholders. The Alabama AREERA Plan of Work describes in detail the stakeholder input process for both the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

### **The following actions were taken to seek stakeholder input and to encourage stakeholder participation.**

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has a very comprehensive stakeholder input process. The foundation of this process is the statewide network of sixty-seven county extension advisory boards (CEABs) and the hundreds of county and state-level program advisory committees. Each county has a CEAB. The County Extension Advisory Board is an organized group of ten to fifteen respected, influential, and knowledgeable community leaders. Board members are progressive thinkers who believe that researched-based knowledge available through the county Extension office can be applied to help solve a wide variety of local problems. They understand how Extension education can be used in many different areas to improve the economic, physical, and social well being of all county residents.

The Board's primary mission is to assist the local Extension staff in the following manner:

By identifying issues of widespread public concern within the county.

By helping the local staff decide which of these issues should be addressed through Extension educational programs.

By helping the staff establish priorities and plan a well-balanced, total Extension program.

The CEABs meet as needed during January through April of each year to carry out their mission and develop its report as outlined in the Extension Advisory Board section of this Handbook.

On April 1 of each year the County Extension Advisory Board Chairperson submits report to County Extension Coordinator. These reports are forwarded through the respective district coordinators to the System Staff Development and Community Programs Educator for analysis. The Staff Development and Community Programs Educator forwards compiled Advisory Board Reports to Associate Directors for Programs who distribute Advisory Board Reports to the state program leaders. The state program leaders insure that the System's programs adequately address the priorities identified by the CEABs.

**The following highlights the process used by the recipient institution to identify individuals and groups who are stakeholders and to collect input from them.**

In addition to the CEABs each agent has several program advisory committees, which assist in developing specific educational programs and in promoting these programs. There is also an Alabama Extension System State Advisory Committee (ESSAC) which meets several times each year to review the overall System plan of work.

The objectives and priorities identified by the CEABs, PACs and ESSAC are reflected in this plan of work and implemented through numerous Extension Team Projects (ETPs). Each ETP is chaired by one or more Extension specialists who have responsibility for the specific subject matter area(s) addressed within the ETPs. Each ETP also has an advisory committee consisting of agents and clientele.

Within the state we also have five regional Agricultural Research and Extension Centers and each of these centers also has an advisory committee to provide direction for the research and extension programs at the respective centers.

In addition to the many standing advisory committees and boards, the System has recently contracted with the Institute for Communicative Research at the University of Alabama to survey the various publics within the state to determine which programs to accentuate, which to modify, and which to eliminate. The longer-term objectives of this survey are to provide a basis for future planning, staffing and programming based on sound clientele/market research. This effort included extensive surveying of statistically valid samples of current and potential Extension clientele, as well as current System employees. Surveys were sent to all of the System's professional employees and 8,000 current and/or potential clientele (including 1,800 agricultural producers from the 1997 Alabama Census of Agriculture). The clientele sample was stratified by the current System program priority areas of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources, Family, Urban, Community and Economic Development, and Youth. The state's Senators and congressional representatives, state legislators, and county commissioners were surveyed as separate populations to determine their feelings about which programs should be prioritized and which should be eliminated.

**Statement of how collected input was considered:**

The input collected from the CEABs, ESSAC, PACs, REC Advisory Boards, and the survey of all ACES employees and 8,000 current and/or potential clientele was reviewed by the two associate directors for programs and the four state program leaders. This input was instrumental in assisting them in defining the scope and breadth of the Extension Team Projects.

## **PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS**

The program review process for the programs contained in the Alabama Cooperative Extension ARRERA Plan of Work remain essentially unchanged. Alabama continues to employ program priority area teams as a primary mechanism for program review. In Fiscal Year 2000, program priority area review team members continued the process of evaluation of the content and relevancy of Extension programs. Each team engaged a through re-examination of the Extension Team Projects associated with each of the six priority area goals. This review generated the elimination of several Extension Team Projects while others were refined / combined for greater clarity and programmatic impact, and additional projects were added.

The process of continual review and assessment of Alabama Cooperative Extension programs has also resulted in a major restructuring of the program planning, implementation, reporting evaluation and accountability processes. Modifications to the program planning and development processes began in calendar year 2001; the implementation, reporting, evaluation and accountability components will begin in January 2002. The following bullets explain the key elements of the process.

- Programs will be based on goals and objectives as defined and established in our 1998-2001 long-range plan of work that is posted on-line on the ACES Web site.
- Programs will be organized under a two-tiered system. The first tier consist of 20 to 40 “statewide major programs” (SMPs). These are the more generalized areas in which we focus our efforts. The second-tier consist of 1 to 5 more specific “Extension team projects” (ETPs) under most SMPs. The ETPs are those areas within each SMP on which we are going to focus our evaluations and ultimately our measurable benefits to society.
- We recognize that not all that we do will result in measurable impacts. Therefore, our overall target is to devote approximate one half of our total System efforts (FTEs) to Extension team projects and the other half to more general educational efforts under the respective state major program areas.
- Accountability for the work (FTEs) that is not part of a specific Extension team project will be through annual unit narrative accomplishment reports. These annual

accomplishment reports will be done at the county-level, district-level, departmental-level and ultimately at the state program leader level.

- Information for the respective unit accomplishment reports will come primarily the individual employee performance appraisal process and documentation.

The document explaining the new ACES program planning, reporting, evaluation and accountability process (i.e. the SMP/ETP process for 2002) is now online at:

[http://www.aces.edu/department/acesadm/plan/ACES\\_program\\_planning.htm](http://www.aces.edu/department/acesadm/plan/ACES_program_planning.htm)

## **INTEGRATED RESEARCH & EXTENSION AND MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES**

The Guidance from CSREES references Sections 105 and 204 of AREERA. Those sections, respectively, amended the Smith-Lever Act by requiring institutions receiving extension formula funds under sections 3(b) and (c) to expend a defined percentage of said funds for Multistate Activities and for Integrated Research and Extension Activities. This section of the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results will specifically address these requirements.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program are aware that the requirement to document Multistate Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities applies to both 1862 and 1890 institutions. However, given that AREERA does not require recipients of federal funds that derive from sections 1444 and 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to adhere to the formula provisions, the following applies primarily to Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c) funds. The Alabama AREERA Plan of Work does note planned Multistate Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities funded from sections 1444 and 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977.

When Alabama submitted its plan for Multistate Extension Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities a 'Post-waiver' request for Fiscal Year 2000 was included. That request was in response to the unfeasibility of attempting to identify and provide fiscal documentation of current multistate and integrated activities with current data collection mechanisms. A considerable amount of programmatic manipulations were necessary in order for Alabama Cooperative Extension to identify and document personnel working on multistate and integrated research and extension activities. Further, in order to provide a suitable fiscal and programmatic audit trail, as required by law, personnel and fiscal modifications had to be implemented for the identified multistate and integrated personnel. It was simply not feasible to attempt these manipulations given the very short time remaining in Fiscal Year 2000.

'Option C' was selected in the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Multistate Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities Plan. The Fiscal Year 2001 target for Multistate and Integrated Research and Extension Activities supported by Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) funds was set at 9.8% (\$638,492.00), and is the target for the remainder of the planning and reporting cycle.

Alabama is nearing completion of a second stage of refinement in our online data program planning and reporting process. These refinements will allow Alabama to more efficiently and accurately conduct program planning and reporting and will allow us to



better capture multistate and integrated program activities. Alabama Cooperative Extension continues to place additional emphasis on multistate and integrated research and extension activities as programming priorities. The prudence displayed in setting a smaller, yet realistic target for multistate and integrated programs is further justified as we continue to make program an fiscal adjustments necessary as a direct result of continued state mandated prorata decreases in operational budgets. As anticipated, these fiscal shortfalls have negatively affected our capacity to realize significant percentage increases in the amount of multistate and integrated research and extension activities. In spite of fiscal shortfalls a small increase (\$679,017.01) in the total dollar amount of Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) funds expended on Multistate and Integrated Research and Extension Activities.

Below is the SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED RESEARCH & EXTENSION AND MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2000-2001 WITHIN THE ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM, as contained in the Alabama Multistate Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities Plan. The Summary provides a detailed listing of the Multistate Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities supported by Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c) funds. The document is divided into Agronomy, Animal and Dairy Sciences, Poultry Science, Pest Management, Horticulture, Wildlife, and Agricultural Economics sections.

Consistent with the Final Guidance issued by CSREES, the portion of the Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) funds that are used by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for Integrated Research and Extension Activities are also employed to satisfy the Multistate Activities requirement.

CSREES noted excessive length as an issue that states should address. Therefore, In the interest of brevity and consistent with the most recent report preparation instructions summary information is provided by major disciplinary areas.

## **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED RESEARCH & EXTENSION AND MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2000-2001 WITHIN THE ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM**

**Agronomy: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has six state specialists on joint research-extension appointments. These specialists are involved in the following integrated research and extension activities:**

- AAES Proj. ALA-03-045 "Nutrient Management in Sustainable Agricultural Systems using continuous, Long-term Research Plots"
- "The Old Rotation" experiment (c.1896) and the "Cullars Rotation" experiment (c.1911) and 13 other long-term experiments on outlying units are frequently used for field days and visitors
  
- "Broiler Litter on Conservation Tilled Cotton" has been used for numerous extension presentations, Timely Information articles, and field days
- "New Legumes on Cotton"; "The PSNT and Broiler Litter on Corn"
- "Broiler Wood Ash as a Soil Amendment"
- S-270 Regional Project "Utilizing Potassium Buffering Capacity to Predict Cotton - - Yield Response to Potassium Fertilizer"
- SERA-IEG-6 "Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Regional Committee"
- Rates of N-P-K for Cotton (5 locations)
- Rates of N-P-K for Hybrid Bermudagrass (2 locations)
- Ultra Narrow Row (UNR) cotton response to growth regulators;
- Evaluation of cotton varieties for suitability in UNR production systems;
- Planting date evaluation of maturity group IV, V, VI, and VII soybean cultivators;
- Comparison of Roundup Ready cotton varieties under conventional and Roundup Ultra weed control systems;
- Evaluation of cotton varieties in the Black Belt region of Alabama;
- Thrips control in UNR cotton; Disease control in UNR cotton,
- Monsanto Cotton Variety Bt Evaluation
- Cotton Varieties Evaluations- 3 tests- Tennessee Valley Substation
- Cover Crops for Cotton and N fertilizer Efficiency- Tennessee Valley Substation
- Nitrogen Fertilizer Sources and Rates for Conservation Tillage Cotton- Tennessee Valley Substation,
- Tillage Longevity on Tennessee Valley Soils,
- Boron and Pix Rates on Irrigated Cotton,
- Control of Reniform Nematodes,
- Evaluation of New Cotton Strains,
- Use of Drip Irrigation-2 tests,
- Crop Rotations on Cotton Yields,
- Evaluation of UNR Cotton- Herbicides and Row Spacing,
- Evaluation of Foliar Fertilizers for Cotton- 2 tests'

- Cotton Defoliations Tests- 3 tests/yr
- Evaluation of Cotman Expert System.

**These specialists are also involved in the following multistate activities:**

- SERA-IEG-6 Soil Testing & Plant Analysis Committee,
- S-270 Regional Project "Utilizing Potassium Buffering Capacity to Predict Cotton Yield Response to Potassium Fertilizer,
- Southern Soil Fertility Conference, Memphis, TN ,
- Nutrient Management Planning (with Georgia, Tennessee, and possibly MS and SC),
- Development of a southeastern U.S. cotton journal for Alabama, Georgia, and Florida;
- National cotton specialists annual meeting (2000, 2001, 2002);
- Beltwide Cotton Conference (2000, 2001, 2002)
- Uniform Cotton Defoliation Workgroup
- IPM Implementation in a corn, soybean, wheat, cottonweed management system
- Regional IPM recommendations for Fruit Crops

**Total expenditures for both the integrated research and extension activities and multistate activities is \$170,319.00 each.**

**Animal and Dairy Sciences: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has four specialists on joint research-extension appointments. These specialists are involved in the following integrated research and extension activities:**

- Effects of diet on the fertilizer value of swine manure
- ALA-04-018 Evaluation of unconventional forages (silages) and alternate feeds for dairy cattle
- ALA-050-032 Systems for controlling air pollutant emissions and indoor environments of poultry, swine, and dairy facilities

**These specialists are also involved in the following multistate activities:**

- Participated in during 2000: Southern Dairy Conference,
- Southern Dairy Conference: Planning Committee,
- SERA-IEG Competitiveness and Sustainability of the Southern Dairy Industry: Meeting,
- Alabama Dairy Forage Field Day (13 states),
- Regional Research Project on Heat Stress: Planning Committee,
- Regional Research Project on Livestock Facilities: Meeting,
- Southern Section of American Dairy Science Association Meeting,
- Southeastern DHI Laboratory: Board Meetings. (AL, GA, FL, SC) ,
- West Alabama Dairy Meeting. (Mississippi participation),
- National 4-H Dairy Conference WI. ,
- Southeast Dairy Management Meeting (GA, FL, AL) ,
- South Alabama Dairy Meeting (Florida, Mississippi, and Georgia),
- Planned participation during remainder of 2000: American Dairy Science Association Annual Meeting
- Southeast Dairy Management Meeting: Planning Sessions

- College Dairy Feed Cooperatives Board Annual Meeting
- Alabama/Louisiana Dairy Tour
- SERA-IEG Dairy Management Workshop
- Regional Research Projects as listed above,
- National Extension Swine Educators Workgroup (preparing and coordinating Extension swine publications, meetings, curricula, and training on a regional and national basis -paid for by check-off funds from NPPC)

**Total expenditures for both the integrated research and Extension activities and multistate activities is \$122,728.00 each.**

**Poultry Science: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has two state specialists on joint research-extension appointments. These specialists are involved in the following integrated research and extension activities:**

- Broiler Carcass Quality
- Meat Yields
- Electrical Stunning
- Blood Splash Problems HACCP
- Pathogen Control Strategies
- Sand as a Litter Source
- Evaluation of Alternative Disposal Methods for Poultry Mortalities
- Systems for Controlling Air Pollutant Emissions and Indoor Environments of Poultry, Swine, and Dairy Facilities

**These specialists are also involved in the following multistate activities:**

- S-291--Systems for Controlling Air Pollutant Emissions and Indoor Environments of Poultry, Swine, and Dairy Facilities
- HACCP Training Workshops (Basic and Advanced HACCP) through U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
- Member of the Regional Project (S-292) "The Poultry Food System: A Farm to Table Model" That includes participants from 13 states
- Joint Research Agreement with USDA/ARS Athens, GA

**Total expenditures for both the integrated research and extension activities and multistate activities is \$53,837.00 each.**

**Pest Management: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has two state specialists (Kathy Flanders and James Weeks) on joint research-extension appointments. These specialists are involved in the following integrated research and extension activities:**

- Hessian fly biotype survey
- Fire ant management strategies

- Biological control of fire ants
- Barley yellow dwarf risk management
- Biological control of cereal leaf beetles
- ALA-08-012 Evaluation of Pest Management Systems in Peanuts

**These specialists are also involved in the following multistate activities:**

- SERA-IEG-7, Peanut Insects – Griffin, GA
- American Peanut Research and Education Society
- Cotton Pest Management Seminar- Destin, FL
- Research- Cooperative Evaluation of Leafhopper Thresholds on Peanuts; Georgia, Florida
- Date of Planting Study on Peanuts; Georgia, Florida, AL
- Peanut Adaptive Farm Research Project; Alabama and Georgia
- Georgia Small Grain Working Group, which meets several times a year to discuss mutual findings and plan future research. It involves researchers and extension workers from Georgia, Florida, and Alabama
- Southern small grain workers meeting, involving approximately 10 southern states
- Imported Fire Ant Conference, which involves about 15 states
- Fumigation training workshops in Georgia and Alabama
- Multistate stored grain IPM training session
- Multistate fumigation workshops in Fall 2000
- Southern region IPM grant involving Texas and the USDA/ARS, on eavesdropping on soil insects
- Southern region IPM grant on biological control of fire ants, involving about 7 states
- The University of Tennessee is the lead institution
- Collaborating with researchers from Purdue University and USDA/ARS to determine biotypes of Hessian flies in Alabama
- Fire ant in-service training. Two research and extension faculty from Texas A&M university served as instructors for the workshop
- Collaborated with David Buntin, Univ. of GA on a publication, ANR-984, Management of cereal leaf beetles: Pests of Small Grains.
- Collaborated with Steve Brown, UGA, on a publication, ANR-1154, Fumigating agricultural commodities using phosphine.

**Total expenditures for both the integrated research and extension activities and multistate activities are \$76,092.00 each.**

**Horticulture: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has two state specialists (Ken Tilt and Joseph Kembel) on joint research-extension appointments. This specialist is involved in the following integrated research and extension activities:**

- Subirrigation of containers
- Cyclic irrigation of containers
- Ground cover rose evaluation
- Halesia selection for the landscape
- Bare root production of shade trees for the landscape

- Effects of copper containers on transplant success
- Evaluation of fire hazard potential of Christmas tree cultivators
- Bank stabilization through the use of old nursery technology
- Evaluation of grafted oaks for the landscape

**This specialist is also involved in the following multistate activities:**

- Effects of cyclic irrigation on pot in pot production Louisiana, AL
- Gulf State Trade show and seminars LA, MS, and AL
- Inservice training for agents AL, MS, and LA
- Nursery Seminars GA, FL, and AL
- Field Day MS and AL
- Distance Learning Project MS, AL, and LA.

**Total expenditures for both the integrated research and extension activities and multistate activities is \$67,221.00 each.**

**Wildlife: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has two state specialists (James Armstrong and Lee Stribling) on joint research-extension appointments. These specialists are involved in the following integrated research and extension activities:**

- Control of deer damage to crops, public attitudes about wildlife management
- Actual vs. perceived coyote damage
- Public attitudes concerning nuisance Canada geese
- Public attitudes concerning black bear management in Alabama
- Bobwhite Quail Management Project

**This specialist is also involved in the following multistate activities:**

- Cooperative Research and Extension Project on Bobwhite Quail: Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina, Mississippi, Florida,
- Conducted 3 national workshops related to the 4-H wildlife habitat evaluation program.

**Total expenditures for both the integrated research and extension activities and multistate activities is \$76,657.00 each.**

**Agricultural Economics: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has two state specialists (James Novak and Walter Prevatt) on joint research-extension appointments. These specialists are involved in the following integrated research and extension activities:**

- Risk Management in Production Agricultural Economics
- Farm-Level Risk

- Farm Retirement
- Futures Marketing
- Agricultural Policy

**These specialists are also involved in the following multistate activities:**

- Agricultural Public Policy Committee
- American Agricultural Economics Association Section Board
- Southeast Risk Management Education Coordinator
- National Risk Education Conference, St. Louis
- Southern Ag. Economics Association
- Southern Extension Public Policy Affairs Committee

**Total expenditures for both the integrated research and extension activities and multistate activities are \$103,576.00 each.**

# **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2001**

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) enters its fourth year of implementing Extension Team Projects—a series of related activities that took place over a specified period of time (sometimes years), and involves one to several Extension-funded employees working together to achieve specific goals and objectives. This Extension educational process provides for diversity and measurable impacts.

Progress continues on our federal program plan of work and minor revisions of the plan of work submitted in June 2001 by TUCEP and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

The six Extension Team Projects for 2001 were: (a) Assisting Small-Scale Farmers and Landowners to Manage Change in Agriculture, (b) Macon County Leadership, (c) Enhancing Citizens' Capacity to Transform Communities, (d) Food Safety for Youth, Homes, and Small-Scale Handlers and Processors, (e) Youth Education in Natural Resources, and (f) Promoting Healthy Behavior. Agents and specialists have made significant progress in these areas during the last 12-month period.

By program area, accomplishments, results and impacts are reported. Participatory methodologies were used to achieve these accomplishments, results and impacts--group meetings, workshops, seminars, clinics, mini-conferences, major conferences, summits, visits to family homes, farms, and other Extension sites.

Professional development continues to be an important part of TUCEP. Due to the accelerated rate of change, knowledge explosion, and skills needed to function efficiently and effectively in a global society, the TUCEP Professional Development Team views learning as a continuous need and a lifelong learning process. Rapid turnover in technology, knowledge, methods, products, policies, and procedures demand that Extension employees acquire and maintain the working knowledge and skills essential for the delivery of quality programs and services to its clients. While Extension agents and specialists participated in a variety of professional development training programs within the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, TUCEP quarterly conferences focused on: (a) team building and computer technology, (b) diversity and sensitivity, and risk management education, (c) impact reporting, and (e) civil rights and the EEO counseling process.



## **TUSKEEGEE PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, RESULTS, AND IMPACTS**

**Goal 1: An agricultural system that is highly competitive in the global economy. Through research and education, empower the agricultural system with knowledge that will improve competitiveness in domestic production, processing, and marketing.**

### **1. ETP 270: ASSISTING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS TO MANAGE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE (MANAGING CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE)**

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

In Macon and Montgomery Counties, the issues are: (a) a steady decline in small producers and a trend toward an increase in large-scale farms, (b) land loss by small scale farmers has led to rural communities being left behind, (c) difficulty in organizing and maintaining small farms, (d) new marketing strategies are needed for small farms, (e) lack of exposure to the latest technology and one-on-one method demonstration, (f) information provided is not in a user friendly format for limited or small scale farmers, (g) limited supply of fresh vegetables for home use, (h) lack of exposure in physical activities for self-supporting Senior Citizens, and (i) growing concerns regarding the use of chemicals, preservation methods and food safety.

With the assistance of the Macon and Montgomery Counties' Extension Program and other agencies, guidelines for the establishment of a viable small farm organization were established. This organization, the Macon County Farmers Organization (MCFO), was established in 1994). This organization is a group effort and addresses issues affecting small farmers. The motto is: "We Help Each Other."

**Target Audience:** Small-scale farmers in the Alabama Black Belt served by Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

#### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

**Macon-Montgomery Counties:** The Macon County Farmers' Organization has grown from four members in 1994 to forty-five members in 2001 of this year. Several workshops and field days have been conducted in the community to provide hands-on experience for this group. Participants gained an awareness of the latest information on feeder calf prices, medications, castration, dehorning, vaccinations, and internal/external parasite control. Members have good records, acquired from their farm management seminars and workshops. Funds were acquired to establish a Vertical Integration Beef Finishing Project to evaluate its potentials as an alternative marketing strategy for small beef producers in Central Alabama. Recommendations and conclusions from this project were: (1) locally grown cattle can be successfully selected

and finished on locally grown feed ingredients managed in a small farm environment in Central Alabama; (2) a minimum growth performance must be obtained by the steers for success to occur; (3) feed ingredients must be of a quality to promote fast growth and good feed efficiency (feed conversion); (4) natural, hormone free beef can be grown in Alabama to yield a good quality grade (QG-Choice) and good yield grade (YG-2) by small farmers; (5) feed costs must be considered and purchase in bulk to reduce price of quality feed required to get fast growth and finish at a young age (12-15 months); and (6) the price of financial beef cattle cannot be marked or sold according to local stockyard prices, if profit is necessary. The MCFO has received its second installment in the amount of \$22,350 from Heifer International (HI). This money was given to purchase quality livestock (cattle, goats, and chickens) for limited resource farmers. Four beef livestock projects and one pass-on-gift have been established. Feed and fencing supplies at a volume discount have been purchased. MCFO has acquired from Rural Conservation Development Council (RCDC) in the amount of \$1,281 to reproduce and sell MCFO record books to other farm organizations and individuals. The MCFO and Farmers' Market formed a partnership and establish a farmers' market in Macon County. Fresh fruits and vegetables were available to meet the needs of senior citizens and significant others.

Relative to gardening, approximately one hundred home gardens were planted in Montgomery County this year, with financial support provided by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency.

### **Dallas and Perry Counties**

In Dallas and Perry counties, TUCEP created a partnership with the Dallas County Health Department and the Alabama Farmers' Market Authority to establish the Selma/Dallas County Farmers' Market. Between the two nutrition programs, \$62,000 were available to limited resource farmers for the sale of fresh fruits and vegetables at the market site. This program assisted 900 senior citizens and approximately 2,500 WIC recipients with food coupons to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the local farmers markets in Selma and Uniontown. Twenty-two commercial vegetables growers became certified to sell fruits and vegetables at the Farmers' Market. Between the Farmers' Market and other existing markets for farmers, it is estimated that these farm families' income increased on a weekly average of \$600 to \$700 during the peak growing season. A total of \$60,000 were redeemed in coupons by senior citizens and WIC participants which averaged \$8,600 for seven farm families. All of these producers increased their income from the previous years. Three of these farmers were able to increase the family income by an additional \$1,500 to \$2,000 through the sale of fruit and vegetables sold to consumers at other existing farmer markets.

One vegetable farmer in Dallas County stated that with the financial assistance from the sale of produce at the Farmers' Market, she paid most of the family farm bills without having to borrow money from the local bank for the first time in many years. A second farmer in Dallas County reported that the use of additional money earned from the sales

of produce at the Farmers' Market assisted with the family restaurant business and reduced overhead costs.

Additionally, several commercial vegetables growers were encouraged to increase and improve their fruit and vegetable production. Seven commercial vegetable growers in Dallas and Perry Counties followed Extension recommendations to venture into the practice of plastic culture. These producers put in a total of eighteen acres of plastic and drip irrigation. Three of these producers ventured into growing selected one-half acre specialty crops organically.

As a result of the improvements in production management of these producers, each producer's production was increased in peas, okra, butterbeans, squash, collards and turnips by 20, 15, 8, 32, 18, and 25 bushels per acre respectively.

The Dallas-Perry County Unit of Cooperative Extension Program assisted two row-crop producers with changing production management to increase profits. These producers were advised to plant legume clover crops on vegetable and row-crop land to increase natural nitrogen levels and to protect top soil from erosion. Additionally, producers were advised to use the "no-till method" of planting soybeans and corn crops. As a result of these management practices, farmers were able to reduce fertilizer costs by \$53 per acre.

Other accomplishments and impacts achieved in Dallas and Perry Counties this year were the upgrading of eight beef cattle producers' breeding herds with performance tested bulls or purebred bulls to improve the quality of calves sold at the market or to other beef producers. Traditionally, limited resource beef cattle producers have marketed light weight calves with poor carcass quality. Also, these calves took longer to reach a decent market weight, although many of them were under the desired market weight for producers to make decent prices for beef. These producers followed Extension recommendations to de-worm and vaccinate herds on a regular basis, and to upgrade calf management to produce more desirable calves on the market. However, with the infusion of quality blood lines in the herds, every beef producer was able to increase calf crop percentages, birth, weaning and market weights. These increases in production were due to quality breeding stock, and improved herd health and nutrition. Two limited resource beef producers were able to decrease production time for market calves by two months. These producers produced a total of forty-eight calves with an average market weights of 650 pounds, which was an increase of 168 pounds per calf, with sixty days less in production time. With decent market prices for quality calves this fall, all these producers have increased their net income in market weights for calves. On an average each producer made \$54 more per calf than was made last year.

By proper soil testing and fertilizing, these producers extended their grazing periods for brood cows and weaned calves. These four producers incorporated the use of legume crops, mostly clover into their grazing pastures in efforts to decrease fertilizer

application rates and to increase protein into the diets of the brood cows. Producers were able to reduce soil fertility costs by \$62 per acre with the use of legume crops and poultry waste to fertilize pastures and hayfields. These four producers renovated a total of two hundred and eighty-eight acres of pastures and hayfields.

In Perry County, one limited resource producer has started his own pasture feedlot operation with assistance from the Extension Service, Natural Resource, and Conservation Service. This producer qualified for funds from the county Equip-Program to renovate pastures and to improve facilities. With this different production system in the county, limited resource beef producers benefit by having an option to market lighter weight calves at a decent price than traditional cattle markets offer. This producer purchased 20 to 30 quality calves annually from other producers at a slightly higher price than the market pays for the same calves at 450-500 pounds. The calves are produced to heavier weights on pasture feedlots and supplemental feedstuffs.

When the calves reach the desired market weights, they are slaughtered and sold as fresh meat to different communities throughout several counties.

### **Lowndes and Wilcox Counties**

Lowndes and Wilcox counties contain a large number of both small and large beef cattle operations. Presenting new ideas in herd health practices and procedures are especially important to these producers. Several mini beef cattle management clinics were held. The topics included: basic herd health management practices, parasite control--external and internal, dehorning, castrating and vaccinating and pasture management. Also, a small farmers' work conference was held in Wilcox County, and several of the surrounding counties were invited to participate. The major goal of this farmers' conference was to encourage and promote traditional and alternative farming operations that small-scale producers could incorporate into their farming operations to enhance overall farm income.

Five major areas were discussed at this conference. They were rabbit production, pasture poultry production, beef production, pasture and forage grass production, and meat goat production. Forty-seven persons were in attendance at this conference.

This program was sponsored by Extension, Alabama Farmers Federation of Wilcox County and NRCS of Wilcox County. As a result from contacts through clinics, group meetings, mailing and farm visits approximately 1,148 clients were provided information to assist them in improving their beef cattle operations. Twelve families and individuals made various farm operation improvements that enhanced their farming operation.

The youth livestock program was another area of involvement. The major emphasis in youth livestock is steer and heifer projects. A major objective is to increase youth understanding and skills in sustainable agriculture systems. Steers are weighted before October 1. Youth clinics and parents are responsible for having calves halter broke and

under control by the show date. Youth clients attended county, district, and state shows. Youth clients were awarded prize money, ribbons, and trophies for various placing. This project teaches livestock management practices and responsibilities. A total of eight clients were involved in this program.

In collaboration with Agribusiness Education, Extension and private feed companies, a banquet was held for buyers, sponsors, exhibitors and parents at the county level. Future program planning will continue to emphasize and implement agricultural programs that address issues and needs of livestock producers in Lowndes and Wilcox counties.

## **1. PARTNERS**

Tuskegee University provides the leadership for this ETP in collaboration with the Dallas County Health Department, and the Alabama Farmers' Market Authority

## **Goal 2: A safe and secure food and fiber system. To ensure an adequate Food and fiber supply and food safety through improved science-based detection, surveillance, prevention, and education.**

### **1. ETP #? Food Safety for Youth, Homes, and Small-Scale Handlers and Processors (FOOD SAFETY)**

## **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Food safety and community food processing are two important factors to the health and vitality of any community. Two major activities were undertaken in this ETP for 2001. The new USDA Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS) regulations known as the **Final Rule on Pathogen Reduction and HACCP Systems** (July 1996) affected many meat and poultry processors in the Black Belt adversely. Many of these processors, especially in the State of Alabama, closed their plants, because they could not meet the regulation requirements. The small and very small meat and food processors that constitute the bulk of rural Alabama industries have limited resources. They could not afford the financial cost of going for HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) training course which they needed to comply with the regulations. The deadline for compliance was year 2000. The purpose of this Extension Team Project was to organize HACCP workshop training for this category of small-scale poor resource farmers and food processors in Alabama and nearby states at no cost to them. The USDA/CSREES provided the financial resources through a separate competitive research grant #99-41560-0798/019 to the College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health for this project. The Extension Veterinarian is a Co-Principal Investigator (CoPI) of the project.

Food processing, safety, and the health of food supply are major concerns for rural families, especially limited resource families and small gardening entrepreneurs. Gardening is considered as a valuable leisure activity as well as a means of financial stability.

Farm and non-farm clients are concerned with food-borne illnesses, insects, pest control, processing, and preserving foods. Clients place great emphasis on gardening information dealing with how to produce and how to preserve produce.

**Target Audience:** The target audiences were small scale food animal producers, processors, and local adults and youth volunteers.

**Extension Involvement:** Requests for assistance from animal producers, processors, and adults and youth volunteers were made to TUCEP specialists and agents.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

To address the issues in HACCP, Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension agents and specialists contacted as many poultry, pork, and meat processors as they could located in the area served by Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program. The objective was to provide free training in HACCP regulations and requirements. Most of these processors were African American. The processors were invited to the first workshop that was conducted at Tuskegee University on June 26-27, 2000. Those that were left out had a second opportunity to attend the second workshop on June 19-29, 2001. Hands-on interactive training in HACCP were conducted for those who attended the two workshops.

A total of ninety-two clients participated in the training, education and outreach programs. Tuskegee University collaborated with Fort Valley State University for clients residing in Georgia and South Carolina. Also, Tuskegee University collaborated with Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, to train food processors residing in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The positive difference made by the workshop training was the impact the training had on clients' life. In Alabama, three processors were able to re-open their closed plants and resume animal slaughtering and food processing and were able to provide employment for some local people. Some food processors could not re-open their packing plants, because they could not obtain loans from their banks. However, the food processors have organized cooperatives to assist them in meeting their needs. They have as their goal raising meat goats, and taking these goats to the local plants for processing in accordance with HACCP requirements. An increase in sanitation practices leads to reduction in environmental pollution.

Because of the extension program training in HACCP, there was an increase in awareness of food safety which led to drastic reduction in outbreaks of food borne

pathogens, some of which could be fatal such as *Escherichia coli* O175: H5 and *Salmonella* microorganisms.

**Food Processing:** Through a collaborative effort, Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension, local churches, youth, and adults implemented a Church-Based Food Safety Educational Program. Through Extension training, clients planted spiritual church gardens which included fruits, herbs, and vegetables of their choice. Harvested produce was taken to the church kitchens for educational demonstration techniques. The demonstrations emphasized the various hazards and risk points in harvesting foods from the garden. The demonstrations stressed kitchen safety and sanitation, personal hygiene, basic food preparation, appropriate cooling and heating of foods and ways to avoid food-borne illness and bacteria.

As a result, a total of thirty adult volunteer clients and ninety youth clients from three local churches were trained and were able to use recommended practices and understand the importance of food safety to help reduce the risk factors of food-borne illness. A total of one hundred and sixty community family members were provided with fresh vegetables from the gardens. The youth were able to gain a gardening experience and were able to troubleshoot gardening problems.

Last year with the help of church clients, volunteers, the Alabama State Department of Agriculture, Auburn University, and Tuskegee University County Agents, a one-half acre garden plot of collard greens, using plastic culture and drip irrigation, was planted. By using plastic culture and drip irrigation practices, this allowed the garden to increase its yield by 45 to 55 percent, which allowed the church garden to be able to produce collard greens for the entire community and others. The total expenditure was \$93. Through donations, the church was able to collect \$400 profit. This is an ongoing project.

## **1. CONTACT DATA**

HACCP contacted ninety-two clients and over three thousand contacts were made this year relative to food processing. One thousand five hundred and twelve were face-to-face.

### **1. PARTNERS**

HACCP partners were Fort Valley State University and Southern University. The Cooperative Extension Program and Faith-Based organizations constituted the food processing aspect of this ETP.

### **1. MULTISTATE/INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

The HACCP aspect of this project is multistate. Collaborations are with Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia, and with Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA.

**Goal 3: A healthy, well-nourished population. Through research and education on nutrition and development of more nutritious foods, enable people to make health-promoting choices.**

**1. ETP 413: PROMOTING INDIVIDUAL HEALTH (HUMAN HEALTH)**

**2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

Cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and strokes, is by far the largest killer of African Americans in the twelve Black Belt Counties in Alabama. The problem is that many African Americans and other minority population groups generally are not aware of ways to protect themselves and their families from developing cardiovascular diseases. Data show that many minorities face significant deterrents that make it difficult for them to adopt recommended lifestyle changes. In 1998, almost half of all deaths in these counties were due to cardiovascular disease (CVD). Although tremendous progress has been made in reducing mortality due to CVD, it still claims more lives from the communities of color across the State of Alabama.

African Americans have the highest overall risk of developing CVD, diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic kidney disease than whites (U. S. Department of Health and Human Services). African Americans are twice as likely as whites to have diabetes, and experience rates of hypertension, a risk factor for heart disease.

The risk factors for the high incidence of this disease include: high levels of bad cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, diets too high in saturated fats, lack of exercise, and the use of tobacco. Fortunately, there are a number of ways that people can reduce their risk of developing heart disease, strokes, and conditions that lead to these diseases.

**Target Audience:** The target audiences are African Americans, Hispanics, Asian-American, Native Americans, and other under-served minorities in Barbour, Bullock, Dallas, Perry, Macon, Greene, and other areas of Alabama. Generally, these groups do not have the financial ability to afford regular medical care, unable to discuss health concerns with a health specialist or health care provider or understand health education information.

General intended outcomes were to increase the awareness and an understanding of cardiovascular disease and its related risk factors. An objective was to educate the groups to change risky behaviors in order to reduce chronic health disorders. Specific intended outcomes were to: increase knowledge of CVD and its risk factors and behaviors that can reduce an individual's risk for developing CVD; adopt the belief that



the recommended behaviors would be personally beneficial; and share information with relatives and friends.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

To address this health issue, various outreach strategies were used to reinforce the messages and activities to increase the likelihood of achieving the objectives of this project.

*To implement the goals of this project, seven county wide health fairs were conducted, five coordinated broad-based comprehensive weight loss programs, three broad-based comprehensive programs on diabetes education, seven seminars/workshops were offered on breast cancer, diabetes, cholesterol, and hypertension, one Senior Olympic, twenty-six weekly newspaper articles, twenty-four weekly radio releases, distribution of six hundred publications, and other activities (short presentations, home and office visits, mailing information, telephone calls) were conducted in Barbour, Bullock, Dallas, Perry, Lowndes, Greene, and Macon counties.*

A mini grant was submitted to the Department of Public Health to provide culturally and linguistically relevant cancer education information and services to reduce mortality and morbidity among Asian American Women in Montgomery County, Alabama. The grant was funded in September 2001.

The goals and objectives were met by educational opportunities offered throughout the year.

In summary, approximately 775 clients were reached through the health fairs. The purpose of the health fairs was to increase general awareness on health and to detect potential disease problems at an early stage.

Through the health fair screening, 425 clients were tested for blood cholesterol. Out of the 425 clients who took part in the cholesterol testing, 25 percent were identified with a ratio of 4.5 or higher. A person who has a ratio of 4.5 or higher is more likely to have a heart attack than a person who has a ratio of 3.5 or lower. One hundred and fifty clients were identified to have high blood pressure, and 60 clients were identified with an abnormal blood sugar level. The Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) and the Eufaula Senior Circle conducted a series of health education programs to educate clients to practice healthy lifestyles.

Appropriate referrals were also made to all high risk clients. By controlling the above risk factors, a client may be able to slow down or stop hardening of arteries.

Other tests included sickle cell anemia, hearing, vision, osteoporosis, body fat analysis, blood hematocrit, depression screening, and height and weight. Further, another 350 clients participated in other tests. Follow-up classes, seminars, and referrals were also made to each client. Through the classes, clients received information and learned skill for a healthier lifestyle. *The approximate money value for all tests given and information per client would be \$220. However, by providing free screening to needy clients, the savings to the clients would be \$146,520.* An early detection of breast cancer education seminar was jointly sponsored by the Barbour County Health Committee and the TUCEP. Sixty women attended the seminar. *All clients learned the skill of proper breast self-examination.*

**Coordinated broad-based comprehensive weight loss program.** A total of fifty male and female clients were reached through five different groups. Each group attended a series of eight to ten classes. Twenty clients lost an average of five to ten pounds of extra body weight.

#### **Broad-based comprehensive programs on diabetes education**

A total of thirty-six male and female clients were reached through three different groups. Each group attended a series of ten to twelve classes on diabetes education. *All thirty-six clients learned to maintain normal blood sugar level through proper meal management. Ten clients actually maintained normal sugar level through diet management.*

In Dallas and Perry counties, three health fairs were conducted for the purpose of preventive health problems. Information gathered from three hundred seventy-nine clients showed that forty-two percent, or 159, tested for hypertension and at present are taking prescribed medication to treat the disease. Of the forty-two percent, forty-two clients were border line candidates for hypertension. Twenty-three of the clients tested had high total cholesterol, low HDL, and high overall ratios. Fifteen percent of the clients tested had diabetes, and five percent were border line with high glucose levels. From these three health fairs, 85 referrals were made to physicians in the two-county area, one hundred seventeen clients received monthly educational materials on disease prevention. Two hundred ninety-four attended nutrition education classes monthly and were actively involved in exercise classes, weight programs, and monitoring their blood pressure. Approximately, twelve hundred copies of educational materials on preventive health care have been distributed.

#### **4. CONTACT DATA**

Approximately 2500 clients were contacted for the implementation of this Extension Team Project.

#### **5. PARTNERS**

Collaborations and program partners were the local Departments of Public Health in Barbour, Bullock, Dallas, Perry, Lowndes, Greene, and Macon Counties. Also, the

State Department of Public Health, Barbour County Health Committee, the Alabama Minority Health Advisory Council, other local community organizations were involved.

**Goal 4: Greater harmony between agriculture and the environment. Enhance the quality of the environment through better understanding of and building on agriculture's and forestry's complex links with soil, water, air, and biotic resources.**

**1. ETP 515: STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP (WATER QUALITY)**

**2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

This region described as the Alabama Black Belt is one of the most diverse hydrological regions in the state of Alabama. However, this area, filled with adequate aquifers, is also the area with the largest number of active private wells used for domestic purposes.

**Target Audience**

The target audience for this ETP is as follows: the general population residing in the twelve Black Belt counties, rural and urban–agricultural clientele, forestry clientele, and community leaders and officials.

**3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

The Extension program assisted twenty-one homeowners with testing private well water systems in areas of Dallas and Perry Counties where water systems needed to be upgraded with public water systems. Results from these tests were used by the county officials to determine the need for public water systems. The water tests revealed that five home owners had contaminated water. The homeowners were able to upgrade or relocate their wells to improve their water situation.

In addition, the Extension program trained and certified or re-certified 42 farmers and landowners for restricted pesticide use during the past year. Emphasis on water resource safety was the main focus during these meetings and training sessions. Farmers and landowners improved their skills and knowledge on proper calibration of spray equipment, calculating recommended amounts of pesticide to use, proper disposal and storage of pesticides and pesticide containers.

With assistance from the local NRCS, landowners continue using the minimum till or no-till method for crop cultivation to reduce soil erosion and soil nutrient loss. Therefore, landowners and farmers were using less chemicals and fertilizers on soils. Within the last four years, all row-crop farmers that farm near the Alabama and Cahaba Rivers use the no-till method of planting in an effort to eliminate sediment contamination into the rivers. With the assistance of the Alabama Water Watch Association, more families are gaining awareness relative to water safety and conservation. During its last quarterly meeting, the Alabama Water Watch Association reported that one hundred and thirty families plus within the Cahaba River water shed have received educational materials and training concerning water quality issues for the Cahaba River and the many streams that run into the Cahaba River.

In Lowndes/Wilcox counties, clients were informed relative to what water tests are performed--lead/pH/Nitrate. Also, Extension worked with five pond owners to promote the use of cage culture fish operation. Tilapia and Catfish is being grown to supplement farm income and food consumption.

#### **4. CONTACT DATA**

During the past year, fifty-three contacts were made to landowners in Dallas and Perry Counties regarding water quality issues. Contacts were made through field demonstration, group meetings, farm and home visits, office telephone calls.

#### **5. PARTNERS**

Collaboration with this ETP is with the local NRCS.

### **Goal 5: Enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans. Empower people and communities, through research-based information and education, to address economic and social challenges facing our youth, families, and communities.**

#### **1. ETP 307: Enhancing Citizens Capacity to Transform Their Communities (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)**

*(Note: The original specialist/team leader in charge of 307 and 308 retired. ETPs 307 and 308 were modified and became components of ETP 307).*

#### **2. ISSUE STATEMENT**

This Extension Team Project has two tracks. These tracks are: (a) business plan development, and (b) leadership development. Many areas of the Alabama Black Belt lack businesses. The few individuals in these areas who do have small businesses lack the necessary skills, do not have business plans, or have not updated their business plans in years. Indeed, there are others who want to enter into business, but many

times they do not start on the right footing because of the lack of know-how. The business plan development track is intended to assist individuals and businesses with business plan preparation and also help with tools for sound business decision-making.

Additionally, there is a problem of leadership in the Black Belt. The communities need effective leadership to extricate them from their massive problems. The objectives is to enhance the leadership capability of individuals and community leaders by providing them with requisites skills in leadership.

### **Target Audience**

The target audiences are adults, agricultural clientele, non-agricultural clientele and community leaders and officials--elected and appointed. With better business skills comes better productivity. With better leadership comes better communities. The effective implementation of these tracks is expected to assist the communities to grow.

### **Extension Involvement**

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension got involved because of the constant requests for assistance in these areas.

### **Intended Outcome**

the intended outcome is to improve business and leadership skills of community residents and leaders. It is hoped that skills acquired will be applied in everyday activities.

## **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

One business development workshop has been completed (9/01-12/01) in Lowndes County. One leadership development workshop is ongoing in Barbour County. This leadership workshop began in October 2001.

The individuals most affected are adults and non-agricultural clientele. Extension personnel are being used to implement this team project. At any one workshop, there are at least two resource persons working together. Handout materials are provided to the participants. It is too soon to measure actual outcomes or impacts. A survey will be conducted in six months to a year's time to determine outcomes and impacts of these workshops.

In Dallas County, a financial planning workshop was held that provided information on financial management, record keeping, marketing strategies, operational procedures, and accounting information. Twenty-one clients attended this workshop. From that workshop, twelve classes were conducted on business plan development for five business owners seeking to revise their business plans, organizational structure, accounting skills, and diversifying business direction by becoming computerized. As a result, three business owners have begun computerizing their business, working on

revised business plans, seeking external markets, and expanding their business operations.

Another significant impact relative to this Extension Team Project was the Sixth Annual Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit. The theme for the summit this year was: **Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Strategies for Engagement in Local Communities**. This summit sought to create an educational framework and to identify critical elements, programs, and policies needed to strengthen the economic base in rural communities.

As a result of this summit, through lecture and discussions, participants learned how to: (a) strengthen human resource development for creative and appropriate entrepreneurship in predominantly African American and other rural communities, (b) learned about new businesses, contracts, and entrepreneurial ideas that had great replication potential, (c) learned about best management practices from successful economic and business programs, and (e) develop a network that can be used in business and economic development for African American and rural communities. Over 150 local, state, and business leaders attended this summit, including leaders from Faith-Based organizations. The summit was in partnership with the

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises/Entrepreneurial Development Institute (EDI) and the Conference for Elected and Appointed Officials (CEAO).

**Engagement in Economic Development: Rural Housing:** In Greene and Hale counties, families, single parent households and elderly family housing provides protection, security, and environment where individuals and families develop, socialize, and establish their values. From an economic standpoint, housing represents the largest financial investment most people will make in their lifetime. Rural areas such as Greene and Hale counties continue to have a greater percentage of inadequate housing when compared to other rural areas. In collaboration with the USDA Rural Development Office, families and individuals were assisted in the areas of home management, household budgeting, dwelling maintenance, credit and debt management and other areas relative to becoming homeowners or recipients of home repair funds and grants. The Greene-Hale County Unit of TUCEP identified eleven families to receive assistance. However, only four families qualified to become first time homeowners. They received loans in the amount of \$78,000, \$86,500, \$96,000, and \$86,000, respectively. Two elderly families qualified for 504 grants in the amount of \$7,500 per family.

### **3. CONTACT DATA**

Seventeen (Blacks not of Hispanic origin) participants were enrolled in the business development workshop, six were males and eleven were females. Eleven clients are enrolled in the leadership development workshop, three males, and eight females, Blacks not of Hispanic origin.

#### **4. PARTNERS**

Tuskegee University provides the leadership for this ETP in collaboration with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Auburn), Alabama Exchange Bank, BancorpSouth, and USDA.

#### **1. ETP 306: Land Use Planning (LAND USE)**

##### **2. Issue Statement**

The land base among minority forest land owners has been shrinking for several years as properties are broken by death, purchase, or other reasons.

##### **Target Audience**

Any landowner regardless of race, sex, color, national origin or any other factor that might hinge on discrimination. The initial audience will be middle aged and elderly minority forest landowners.

#### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

One landowner in Dallas County, assisted by Extension in timber management over the last twelve years, recently sold thirty-eight acres of prime hardwood trees. The sale of this timber increased the family income by more than **thirty thousand** dollars. Three other landowners, assisted by Extension, were able to supplement their family incomes by **one thousand six hundred, two thousand eight hundred, and five thousand** dollars, respectively, through lease fee hunting contracts on their property. Landowners' property was managed over the years for increased wildlife production. In addition, 48 landowners attended the Forestry and Wildlife Tour in Dallas County this past Spring.

Six limited resource landowners in Dallas and Perry counties made contact with the local Natural Resource and Conservation Service relative to developing natural resource management plans for timber, wildlife, and recreation on a total of three hundred and fifty two acres.

Landowners had the opportunity to improve skills and knowledge in regards to properly managing timber and wildlife production. Landowners were educated relative to calculating timber stumpage to increase knowledge in determining the value of their timber. Landowners also increased their knowledge in management to increase the crown and diameter of pine timber, and proper site selection for different species of trees being whether the timber was softwood or hardwood.

Additionally, landowners increased skills and awareness in selecting sites for good wildlife habitat to increase land value for timber, recreation and lease fee hunting rights.

Four youth from Perry County attended the Alabama Forestry Camp in Epes, Alabama, this past summer. Youths from Wilcox and Lowndes participated in the summer program. These youth spent a week learning about natural resources--tree identification, forest management, forest products, soil preservation, wildlife, water quality, and urban forestry. A total of thirty-four youth were in attendance at this summer camp.

Nineteen citizens attended the Wills and Estate Planning Meeting. Citizens improved their knowledge for developing proper and effective wills and trust documents that will be more financially beneficial to their heirs and beneficiaries.

Landowners improved their knowledge in retaining family property through developing real estate trusts and proper financial planning using funds, multi-funded annuities for short and long term financial planning for future generations.

#### **4. CONTACT DATA**

During the past year, one hundred and forty-nine contacts were made in Dallas and Perry Counties. These contacts were made through forestry and wildlife tours, youth natural resource camps, group meetings, home and farm visits.

##### **1. PARTNERS**

The collaborators for this project were: Alabama A&M University, Auburn University School of Forestry, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, University of West Alabama, and USDA Forestry Service.

#### **SUCCESS STORY-DALLAS/PERRY COUNTIES TUSKEEGEE UNIVERSITY**

The Extension Service joined efforts with the Dallas County Health Department and the Alabama Farmer's Market Authority to establish the Selma/Dallas Farmer's Market. This program assisted 900 Senior Citizens and approximately 2,500 WIC recipients with free food coupons to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the Farmer's Market. Between the two nutrition programs a total of \$60,000.00 were redeemed in coupons by Senior citizens and WIC recipients, which averaged about \$8,600.00 for seven (7) farm families. Three (3) of these farmers were able to further increase farm income by an additional \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 through the sale of fruits and vegetable through already existing markets.

However, two (2) farmers were able to pay off existing farming bills and household bills with the additional money made at the farmers market. Both of these farmers were able to maintain their farms to keep from going out of the farming business, due to the cost of production and the lack of markets for fresh fruits and vegetables. This market help to save at least two Black family farms another year or two. Another female farmer in Dallas County, stated that she was able to pay off most of the family household bills without having to borrow money from the bank and relatives for the first time in recent years.



## **ALLOCATION OF FISCAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program allocation of fiscal and human resources among program areas for 2001 are listed below. Data does not reflect FTE's for clerical and support staff or administrative support. However, these factors are reflected in the dollar amounts.

Program Area	\$Allocation	FTE's
4-H&YD	\$112,117	1.1
AG	434,842	4.6
C&ED	401,785	4.1
F& IWB	328,594	3.5
U& NNTP	\$22,781	.3

## **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY--STAKEHOLDER INPUT PROCESS**

As stated in the Plan of Work, Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program provides continuous opportunities to assure relevance and quality in Extension planning, programming, implementation, delivery, and evaluation. Beginning in 1997, TUCEP strengthened its relationships with various community and interest groups by forming six County Advisory Councils. Each council consists of representatives from the county in which agents and specialist serve. TUCEP has six units that consists of twelve counties. Membership on these councils consists of established and emerging leaders of existing and targeted clientele organizations. From this membership, an Extension State Advisory Council was selected and it includes farmers, educators, public officials, and other individuals. Various committees of the TUCEP State Advisory Council are: agricultural assistance, economic development, leadership and volunteer development, family life development and food safety, nutrition, diet, and health, water quality, environmental justice, entrepreneurial and youth development, and the legislative committee. These committees represent the five GPRA and corresponding USDA National goals for research, extension, and education. Meetings are held quarterly in an effort for council members to identify and communicate critical need areas for extension, and review State and Federal plans of work, as well as Extension Team Projects proposed by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

At the Annual State Advisory Council Meeting this year, the agenda reflects: a Report from the Governor's Committee on Distressed Communities, a Report from the Comprehensive Planning Committee, a Report from the Legislative Committee, a Report from the Agricultural Committee, and a Summary Report from Extension Team Project Specialists.

## **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS**

As state in the Plan of Work, the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, in collaboration with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, initiated the Extension Team Project Concept in 1998. Extension Team Projects involve teams of interdisciplinary specialists and Extension agents throughout the Alabama Extension Network, where each project focuses on specific related problems to be solved. During the development of each extension team project, team members collaborate and post draft documents on computer networks for review by other Extension Specialists and agent, as well as Advisory Council members. Each Tuskegee University led Extension Team Project is specialist driven, and has various evaluation and review process periods wherein team members of related Extension Team Projects serve as peer reviewers.

Additionally, the County Advisory Councils and the State Advisory Council review and comment on program during the planning and review process. The review process is made at the local Advisory Council and the State Advisory Council meetings.



## **CONTACTS**

Administrative, signature authority, and certification, for this Alabama Cooperative Extension AREERA Annual Narrative Report of Accomplishments and Results resides with the following persons:

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**APPENDIX A:  
FTE's, PROGRAM COSTS & CONTACT DATA.**

**Please see the Excel Spreadsheet "2001Costs, Contacts, and Performance Data" transmitted with this report. It contains detailed data concerning Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) program cost, FTE's, and contact data.**

## APPENDIX B

### SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

#### MULTISTATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AND INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM  
AUBURN UNIVERSITY-1862

#### MULTISTATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES (SMITH-LEVER ACT FUNDS)

**NOTE:** The programs listed below serve to address both Multistate Extension Activities and Integrated Activities. Consistent with the Final Guidance issued by CSREES, the portion of the Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) funds that are used by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for Integrated Research and Extension Activities are also employed to satisfy the Multistate Activities requirement. Therefore, only one table is included.

It should be further noted that the figures below represent only salary. The estimated fringe benefit costs related to the above salary base is an additional \$169,754.25 that is not charged to the Multistate/Integrated account.

<u>TITLE OF PLANNED PROGRAM/ACTIVITY</u>	<u>FY2001 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES</u>
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS	\$103,575.68
AGRONOMY	\$170,319.08
AQUACULTURE	\$ 8587.12
ANIMAL & DAIRY SCIENCE	\$122,728.08
HORTICULTURE	\$ 67,221.29
PEST MANAGEMENT	\$ 76,091.64
POULTRY SCIENCE	\$ 53,836.99
WILDLIFE	\$ 76,657.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 679,017.01</b>

**By separate, signed, correspondence the Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System certifies that the above cited data represents actual expenditure of Fiscal Year 2001 Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) funds in support of Multistate and Integrated Research and Extension Activities. It is further certified that the target for Multistate Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities supported by Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) funds, set at 9.8% (\$638,492.00) was achieved (exceeded) and remains the target for the remainder of the planning and reporting cycle.**