ANNUAL REPORT

OF

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

THE

COMPREHENSIVE

ALABAMA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Alabama A&M University
Auburn University
Tuskegee University

FISCAL YEAR 2002

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CERTIFICATION

The Alabama Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results has been reviewed and approved by the1862 Extension Director - Auburn University, the 1890 Administrator - Alabama A&M University, and the 1890 Administrator - Tuskegee University. The 2002 Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results was electronically transmitted by a duly sanctioned designee (Ronald L. Williams, Extension Head, Program Planning and Development).

By separate correspondence the required Letter of Certification for the Alabama Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results has been directed to the Administrator, CSREES.

PREFACE

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is in its second century of helping the people of Alabama improve their lives. The more than 900 members of our Extension System team have every right to be proud of their accomplishments over the past year. Cooperative Extension professionals have generated positive impacts to the lives of thousands of Alabama residents as they fulfilled Extension's mission of making the latest in university-based research, knowledge, information and technological innovation available to all Alabamians.

In response to locality relevant needs, concerns, and priorities, program content has changed greatly over the years. One element, however, has never changed—our focus on the individual. Our organization has never lost sight of the importance of helping individuals make positive changes in their lives. Program contents have expanded and program delivery methods have evolved since our beginning. Necessary improvements to our program content and delivery process will continue to evolve but at the end of the day, Extension professionals will always continue the focus on the individual Alabama residents who benefit from our services.

This year, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System launched a new initiative to carry us into the future. The strategic plan encompasses a continued vision of transformation into a world-class organization—one that is fully equipped to provide real-life solutions that improves the lives of all Alabamians. As our new motto so succinctly expresses, Extension professionals are "Your Experts for Life."

The reports and success stories that follow illustrate just how Extension is fulfilling our new slogan. Evidence will be provided to explain just how Extension touches lives from the youngest to the oldest citizens of the state. Our System looks forward to a future filled with documentation of how Extension professionals significantly, and positively, affect quality of life for our individuals, families, communities, and businesses.

INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act (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 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 planing, program implementation, and program accountability.

The Alabama Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results reflects the Cooperative Extension programs funded by 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 constructed consistent with the design and format of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act (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 Alabama Cooperative Extension 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.

This Annual Report of Accomplishments and is aligned with the five (5) National Goals and includes impact data and success stories for each included program. As in prior submissions, this document addresses 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, as noted on the AREERA web page, has been noted and is reflected in this report.

Extension work in Alabama is organized under twenty-four (24) "**Statewide Major Programs**" (SMPs) which have emerged from our six (6) 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. Under the twenty-four SMPs there exist a set of "**Extension Team Projects**" (ETPs). An ETP is defined as a combination of clearly related, preplanned educational activities which occur over a specified period of time (usually several years), and geographic area (usually statewide) and which involve several Extension-funded employees working together to accomplish specific, highly-focused, measurable results based on the organizations objectives and goals. Each of the Alabama Extension team projects are all linked to one or more of the five (5) national goals. For each Goal there is a set of Extension Team Project Reports. Each report defines project intent, methods, and related impacts. The listed activities are representative of Alabama Cooperative Extension programs that address the National Goals and which have significant impacts for the 2002 program year.

PLANNING AND REPORTING REFINEMENTS

As previously reported, for program year 2002 Alabama implemented a more rigorous and useful on-line planning and reporting system that greatly enhanced the capacity to document program accomplishments and impacts as well as capturing contacts and days worked data. For each of the ETPs there is a unique set of quantitative and qualitative questions developed by the ETP leader. Each agent and/or specialist who signed up to work under each ETP was required to provide responses to the quantitative and qualitative questions. Responses to the questions provided the ETP leader the data necessary to conduct a thorough project evaluation and to produce a comprehensive report reflecting all of the FTEs devoted to the project and explaining the measurable impacts and results.

The on-line reporting system also allowed for narrative success stories associated with both SMPs and ETPs. Each agent and full-time specialist was required to submit success stories. The stories are stored as on-line electronic files and are keyword searchable and may also include pictures. The success stories were screened by the district extension coordinators and state program leaders and then subjected to a rigorous evaluation for content and the inclusion of measurable impacts and results. Some of the exemplary success stories have been included in the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results as further documentation of program successes. In addition, the success stories were included in our annual report to constituents and were and were a part of direct mailings to legislators and congressmen.

The on-line 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 multi-state 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.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EPT 10A- THE ALABAMA GRAZING SCHOOL
Donald M. Ball

A. Description:
Pastures and forage crops are more important to Alabama than most people realize. Data provided in the 2002 Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service Bulletin shows that forage-consuming livestock (which, depending on animal type and class, typically get 60 to 80% of their lifetime nutrition from forage) are produced on more than 25,000 of Alabama's approximately 47,000 farms. The gross income from these animals to Alabama producers exceeds $400 million annually.

Pastures and forage crops are also important in crop rotations, they protect the environment by reducing erosion and improving water quality, they provide food and cover for wildlife, and they beautify rural settings. Furthermore, the scope of the acreage they encompass is impressive; it totals over 4 million acres, most of which is pasture. To put this in perspective, pasture occupies more open land in Alabama than all other crops combined.

Grazing management is a particularly important, yet often neglected, aspect of producing forage-consuming livestock. Grazing management is defined as: the manipulation of animal grazing in pursuit of defined objectives. Given this definition, three logical and practical questions that might come to mind are: (1) what are good objectives to have when pasturing livestock?; (2) what factors can be manipulated in order to accomplish the objectives chosen?; and (3) how can these factors be manipulated?

The Alabama Grazing School, which was initiated in 1999, is a two-day intensive training session for livestock producers that provide answers to these questions. The information provided is research-based and comes from many sources across the nation and the world. County Agents who sign up for this ETP are required to take this training if they have not already done so. Furthermore, they are required to spend at least 5.5 days working in this area during the fiscal year. Activities can include conducting a meeting for producers, working with individual producers, and/or using mass media, newsletters, or other means to disseminate information on the topic.

The time is right for emphasizing this area as reflected by a recent survey of County Agents in which 75% ranked the level of interest in grazing management in their counties as being either high or extremely high. In addition, 68% indicated they felt improved grazing management has good or outstanding potential for providing environmental benefits and 100% stated they feel it has good or outstanding potential for increased economic benefits for producers in their counties.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
During FY 2002, two Alabama Grazing Schools were conducted, one at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center and one at the Black Belt Research and Extension Center. The 2002 schools were publicized by County Agents and via farm magazines and were attended by a total of 109 persons. Since the Alabama Grazing School was initiated in 1999 a total of eight schools have been conducted and a total of 338 persons (including from 7 states other than Alabama) have attended.

Several valuable reference publications were provided to participants in the schools including the books Southern Forages, Fencing, Watering Systems For Grazing Livestock, and a booklet titled, Forage Crop Pocket Guide. In addition, numerous Extension and other producer-oriented publications on forage crop or grazing management topics were made available. Numerous additional copies of these publications were subsequently requested or purchased by other producers who learned about their availability from persons who attended the Alabama Grazing School. Collectively, these materials will provide much valuable information for years to come.

The "trickle-down effect" educational effect from this program is proving to be especially important. During FY 2002, County Agents sponsored nine meetings or tours in that provided a focus on grazing management. In addition, most participating agents reported having made numerous farm visits within their counties for the purpose of advising producers regarding the topic. Other means by which information was disseminated included newsletters, phone conversations, and on-farm demonstrations.

The Alabama Grazing School is a multi-organizational effort. In addition to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), organizations that have contributed in various ways are the
Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, the

Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, and Alabama Farmer's Federation.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Feedback from participants in all sessions of the Alabama Grazing School has been highly positive, and the 2002 sessions were no exception. For example, in evaluations completed and returned by participants in the two schools held in 2002, overall rankings of the school were: 37-excellent; 31-very good; 3-average; 0-fair; and 0-poor.

County Agents who participated in 2002 reported that at least 2,675 livestock producers have been reached directly by educational efforts pertaining to this ETP. It is particularly noteworthy that agents stated that in many cases livestock producers who have implemented grazing management techniques are teaching them to other producers. Agents indicated that at least 530 livestock producers are known to have improved their grazing management in 2002 because of this ETP.

In a survey conducted late in 2002, agents listed several benefits that producers in their counties are realizing by implementing better grazing management. In order of importance (as ranked by the agents) they are: better utilization of pasture forage, reduction of stored feed, better forage quality, better persistence of desirable species, fewer weed problems, more even nutrient recycling, gentler livestock, and more environmentally acceptable operations. Some agents also reported that as producers improve their grazing management they are also inspired to improve management in other aspects of their operations (i.e. soil testing and herd health practices) as well.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
The cost of the printed reference materials and miscellaneous items, refreshments for breaks, and three meals provided to participants at each Alabama Grazing School is approximately $120 per person. However, most of this cost is covered by a $100/person registration fee.

The Alabama Cattlemen's Association handled registration funds and provided bookkeeping services for the Alabama Grazing Schools conducted in 2002. The Natural Resources Conservation Service paid travel for three speakers at each session and provided a photograph of each class to the participants of that class. A grant of $2,000 was provided by the Wax Company (a commercial seed firm), plus the Alabama Farmer's Federation contributed about $500 to help defray expenses during 2002.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System expended approximately $3,300 for travel of Extension personnel to attend the sessions held during 2002. In addition, 35 ACES employees reported spending a total of 364 days on this project in 2002. The value of this professional time is approximately $62,000, so the total estimated cost to ACES for this project for 2002 was $65,300.

Calculating the increased profit associated with improving grazing management is difficult for several reasons. These reasons include: (1) animal species, breed, class,

and numbers vary on different farms; (2) forage species used vary on different farms; and (3) different producers who opt to improve grazing management implement it at different levels.

However, County Agents reported that in 2002 at least 530 Alabama livestock producers exercised better grazing management to some degree as a result of this project, and in a recent Mississippi State University publication it was estimated that in a 30-animal beef cow/calf operation, improving grazing management has the potential for increasing profit by $1,142 per year.

On average, the 530 producers who improved their grazing management in 2002 probably have at least 50 cows (or the animal equivalent thereof). Assuming that on average these 530 Alabama producers increased profit by just 20% of this amount, the increase in profit would be $201,753 per year. Thus, this means that the Alabama Grazing School is generating 3.1 times as much profit to livestock producers as the program is costing. In addition, the 530 livestock producers probably have at least 50,000 acres of pasture land. Though it is impossible to put environmental benefits in economic terms, improved grazing management on this acreage no doubt is having a significant impact with regard to reducing soil erosion and improving water quality in Alabama.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans:
Almost all County Agents involved in this program have reported that there is greatly increased interest in grazing management in their counties as a result of this program and that it is having much positive impact on livestock production. Examples of statements made on participant evaluations include "this is the best educational program I have ever been involved with," This is an excellent school," and "Very practical information."

The number of participants in each Alabama Grazing School course is limited by the size of the facility in which the indoor portion of the training is conducted and also by the need to be able to effectively provide instruction on fencing and water point construction during the outdoor part of the training. The fact that every school conducted to date has been filled to capacity makes a powerful statement regarding how well the program has been received.

Given the popularity of the training and the highly positive feedback received, we plan to continue offering the schools as long as interest remains high. During FY 2003 we plan to offer three Alabama Grazing Schools; one at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center, one at the Black Belt Research and Extension Center, and one at the Upper Coastal Plain Substation.

Many participating agents have included grazing management as a topic addressed in newsletters and in mass media, and this will continue in the future. The unquestioned success of the program will undoubtedly be used by many agents in conveying the

importance of Extension work to county commissioners. A series of at least six articles on grazing management will be published in the Alabama Cattleman magazine during FY 2003.

ETP10b. Cotton Defoliation Workshop for County Agents
Submitted by: Dale Monks, Agronomy and Soils Dep.

A. Description:
Each year, county agents in north Alabama counties must help producers make preparations early to deal with a short harvest season and potential inclement weather. Agents that serve producers growing peanuts and cotton in south Alabama counties have a very difficult task when timing defoliation and harvesting two crops. This project helped county agents and specialists address the following issues for their respective areas:

1- Harvest aid effectiveness, comparisons, and safety;
2- How over-fertilization affects defoliation;
3- Harvest aid programs for wide row and ultra-narrow row cotton;
4- How to plan harvest for optimum grades;
5- Economic considerations of "cutting costs" at harvest.

The pressing need for training in this area was clearly demonstrated by the severe harvest weather experienced by cotton producers during the fall of 2002. The total of the estimated direct economic losses due to inclement harvest weather in 2002 likely exceeded $96,000,000.

The following is a summary of estimated losses: $27.1 million from direct pre-harvest causes such as cotton blown out of bolls; $13.6 million as a result of excessive lodging of cotton plant and resultant harvest losses; $18.2 million due to additional boll rot and hard lock; $3.0 million due to cost of additional defoliation; $17.6 million from excessive harvest delays, $3.6 million in value of harvested seed; and $12.8 million as a result of poor lint quality. Estimated losses were greatest in Baldwin County, Mobile and surrounding counties at nearly $35.3 million, followed by North Alabama and the Tennessee Valley at $23.6 million. Estimated losses in Central Alabama and in the southeastern counties were less, at $16.8 and $20.1 million, respectively. Estimated losses on a per acre basis, however, were much higher in the central and southeastern counties than in the northern counties. Both total and per acre losses were highest in the southwestern counties.

A final factor in assessing the damage from the continuing rainfall is the impact that these events had on business activity in the area. The Alabama cotton industry output multiplier in the RIMS2 I-O model is 2.1286. Thus, each of dollar revenue lost to farmers is more than doubled in the larger economy. Of the above damages, only the loss due

to additional defoliation expenses (#4) would have no downstream impact on the surrounding economy. Thus, the total estimated economic impact in the state as a result of the poor harvest conditions for cotton was well over 197 million dollars.
The goal of this project was to provide county agents the necessary materials and training to aid producers in making timely harvest-aid decisions for cotton in the state.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Cotton defoliation trainings were held at the Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center and the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center on September 4, 2002 and September 10, 2002, respectively. The north Alabama training included information presented by specialists from Auburn University and the University of Tennessee. County extension agents from Alabama and central Tennessee were invited to participate. There were approximately 20 participants at the TVREC training. The south Alabama training included information presented by specialists from Auburn University, University of Florida, and the University of Georgia. County extension agents from the tri-state area were invited to participate. There were approximately 25 participants at the WREC training. The formal programs at both locations were enhanced by hands-on training through the implementation and use of in-field defoliation plots conducted by specialists and local county agents. An additional 18 defoliation trials were implemented on experiment stations and producer fields across the state.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
A survey was developed and provided to participants in ETP 10b for distribution to 424 growers across the state. The following questions were asked to producers:

1- What county do you farm in?
Out of 424 mailings, 130 were returned representing 23 Alabama counties and 1 county in Tennessee.

2- Approximately how many acres do you farm? 88,000 acres of cotton production were represented in this sample

3- Rank the following sources for defoliation information: Local distributor, Consultant, Extension, Industry, Neighbors, Internet

The sources for defoliation information ranked in order (lowest to highest) as follows: Internet, Neighbors, Industry, Extension, Consultant, and Distributor (note: the top 3 were within 17 points of each other)

4- What method do you primarily use for initiating defoliation? Calendar date, Outside advice, Nodes above cracked boll, 65% open boll, and knife cut

The methods for initiating defoliation procedures ranked in order as follows: 65% open, knife cut, NACB, Outside advice, Calendar date

5- Rank the following when designing your defoliation program: Cost, Effectiveness, East of application, Industry service, Brand name recognition, and Cotton condition and environment

Designing a defoliation program ranked (lowest to highest) as follows: Brand name recognition, Industry service, Ease of application, Cost, Cotton condition, Effectiveness

6- Rank the type of information that would help you make better decisions: Extension publications, Defoliation hotline, Internet-based information, Local on-farm demonstration, or Local workshop

The type of information that was desired ranked (lowest to highest) as follows: Internet, hotline, Extension publications, workshops, and demonstrations

7- Would you use defoliation information that is web-based (Internet)? Frequently (18%), Occasionally (53%), Never (29%)

8- Would you be interested in attending a local defoliation workshop in mid-August? Would attend (47%), Would not attend (2%), Would consider (50%)

9- Which of the following statements is true for your operation? I use the same defoliation program throughout the fall (9%); My defoliation program changes during the fall (91%)

10- What area do you consider to be the most limiting for your production, excluding price?

The responses were overwhelmingly represented by weather/irrigation followed by various other problems including nematodes, government regulations, variety selection, weeds, boll rot and others.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to the ACES Intranet ETP signup system, approximately 27 specialists and county agents participated in this project. A total of 425 days were allocated to this county agent training not including the efforts of specialists from the University of Georgia and the University of Florida. The interaction of working groups across the state lines enabled us to better share our experiences and expertise.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
County extension agents across the state produced newsletter articles for use by their producers when making harvest-aid decisions. Specialists have developed and updated defoliation and IPM spray guides for cotton harvest aids. The on-farm demonstrations were utilized in numerous county field tours early in the fall and were made available for any producer that wanted to visit on an informal basis. Specialists also participated in a

national defoliation workgroup to standardize and summarize cotton defoliation programs across the nation's cotton belt. We plan to continue our efforts to provide the most current defoliation information to the producers in the tri-state area. The information provided by the survey responses will allow us to better target our clientele with the pertinent information that they need.

ETP10C.
By Dallas

A. Description:
Peanut growers in Alabama continue to experience economic trials as a result of several years of poor weather, increased inputs cost combined with low commodity prices. Growers are looking for ways to optimize their production management program for peanuts in an effort to survive financially. Increased problems with tomato spotted wilt virus in recent years and continued high input costs for southern stem rot control also place an increased burden on peanut growers to achieve high yields and return a decent profit.
One of the goals of the peanut ETP was to demonstrate the principle of integrating several pest management tools into a total management program.
One good example of rapid adoption of Extension's Recommendations is the extension peanut team's focus on tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) control. Creating an awareness for the need of an integrated approach for control TSWV included selecting resistant peanut cultivars, establishing a good plant population of at least four plants per row foot, moving the planting date from mid-April to early May to avoid heavy thrips damage and subsequent TSWV, 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 system has had dramatic and immediate effects on the incidence of TSWV and has increased peanut yields.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Between January 1, 2002 and November 30, 2002, 1,750 peanut growers participated in educational efforts sponsored by the peanut team of ETP10C. There were 12 counties that implemented programs designed to increase peanut yields. There were 121 pod blaster demonstrations, sixteen county or multi-county peanut meetings, 45 separate newsletter mailings, 74 TV programs, 42 radio programs, 9 field days, 4 county peanut tours, 8 peanut scout training schools, 9 on-farm demonstrations, 664 farm visits, 135 agribusiness visits, and 4,044 answered telephone calls. The Alabama Peanut Producers Association and County Farmers Federations have assisted in implementing this program.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Results from sample surveys conducted by several county agents indicate the

percentage of peanuts that are planted to TSWV resistant varieties has increased from 30% to 80% in recent years. It is estimated that there has been an increase of 15% during the past year. This is estimated to generate an additional 6$ to $7 million dollars in agricultural income in this year alone.

ETP11a. Advanced Beef Cattle Nutrition
By Darrell Lee Rankins

A. Description:
Current statistics estimate that there are 750,000 beef cows in the state of Alabama and the average herd size is between 20 and 25 cows. Thus there are 30,000 plus beef cattle producers in the state. All budgets developed for beef cattle enterprises show that feeding the cow herd is the largest single cost item. The results of several surveys show a difference of $80 to $100 per cow in feed costs between the most profitable operations and the least profitable ones. Thus, educational programs that help beef producers minimize there winter feed costs have the potential of saving several million dollars for the state's beef industry.

The terrific enrollment in the Master Cattleman Program (ETP11b) has laid the groundwork for development of a more detailed program with regard to beef cattle nutrition programs and the use of commodity feeds. The goal is to be able to offer this program to all graduates of the Master Cattleman Program.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
This ETP was initiated during the calendar year of 2002. All program materials (i.e., handouts, slide sets, worksheets) were developed during January and February and then in-service training was conducted in March and May. Thirty-eight agents signed up for the ETP and 34 attended one of the three in-service trainings. After presenting the program to these agents their comments and suggestions were incorporated and the actual program was offered to beef producers beginning in the fall of 2002. During the fall, the program was offered three times; Lauderdale county, Randolph county and Winston county. These three offerings resulted in approximately 60 producers taking the course.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Each producer who took the course was asked to complete a survey indicating how they would rate the program; excellent, good, average or poor. Also, offer any specific comments. 67% ranked it as excellent and the remaining 33% ranked it as good. Some select producer comments were: "This presentation was practical and has value for all cattlemen. Excellent instructor.", "We are fortunate to have specialists and agents bring us these programs", "I would like to see this continued in the other areas of the Master Cattleman program".

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
Based on the ETP signup information, 40 ACES employees allocated a total of 318.25 days to this project in 2002.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
This program has not had a lot of visibility or exposure as of yet. As indicated earlier the first program was offered to producers in October. Visibility should increase in 2003. Future plans will be to offer the program as needed at the county level.

ETP 11C: Beef Cattle Performance Programs to Enhance Profitability
By Christy Michelle Field

A. Description:
Beef cattle producers must be able to document and interpret their production information for economically important traits in order to remain viable in today's beef cattle industry. This information is necessary to make sound genetic selection decisions to enhance herd profitability and marketing. By combining information obtained through the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement (BCIA) and Pasture to Rail programs, producers can have an excellent genetic characterization of their herd. The breeding decisions that Alabama cattle producers make will affect the American beef consumer and the image of Alabama cattle in the industry. Through the BCIA and Pasture To Rail programs, Extension agents can assist cattle producers in the following: 1) the organization and analysis of commercial beef production records from birth through harvest 2) marketing of their cattle in performance sales of purebred and commercial cattle 3) the interpretation of performance data results in educational settings. This program allows agents and producers to measure improvements in production (weaning, yearling or carcass data) and monitor the changes in production profitability of herds participating within the county and state. The BCIA and the Pasture To Rail programs can measure the change in productivity of herds incorporating performance proven cattle into the breeding system.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
The 2002 Alabama BCIA Annual Meeting and Awards Program was held on March 23, 2002 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Montgomery, AL. There were a total of 122 people in attendance. Attendees were presented with 2 keynote speakers who included Dr. William Herring from the University of Florida speaking on "The New Genetic Structure of the Beef Industry" and Mr. Mark Cowan from Camp Cooley Ranch on "How To Survive in the New Beef Industry." Awards for Commercial and Purebred Producer of the Year, Commercial Herd Awards, Gold Star Cow Awards, Bull Test Awards, and the Richard Deese Award were all presented. Two key purebred and two key commercial producers from the Alabama BCIA program presented an afternoon panel discussion entitled "Using the BCIA Program for Genetic Improvement and Marketing."

On April 2-3, 2002, an in-service training session was held at the 4-H Center for county agents. Thirty-three county agents, 1 regional agent, 2 state agents, 1 private company instructor, and 1 producer volunteer were in attendance. Further training was provided in operating the Red Wing Cow/Calf software, implementing a county BCIA program, maintaining and reporting of BCIA data, and interpreting and consultation of performance reports with producers. A summary report of BCIA membership, performance statistics, and sale reports was presented to the attendees. A recap of the Alabama Pasture to Rail program was also discussed. An interactive session, led by the county agents, to discuss the problems and successes of the past year and the implementation of the county Red Wing system. A new publication video entitled "Proper Scale Setup and Weighing Procedure" was also viewed and distributed.

An educational tour entitled "The Beef Production Cycle: Conception to Consumption" was held on April 16 - 19, 2002 for county agents, regional and state agents, and interested cattle producers. Forty-four Alabamians toured key beef cattle stops in Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. Twenty-one county agents, 1 regional agent, 2 state agents, 2 AAES superintendents, 1 ADS graduate student, and 17 interested cattle producers and Alabama cattle industry leaders attended the tour. The group viewed all aspects of the U. S. Beef Industry firsthand. These key stops included the following: 1) 2 national breed association headquarters in Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO 2) the USDA Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, NE 3) 1 purebred and 1 commercial cattle operation in Nebraska 4) Decatur County Feed yard in Oberlin, KS (where the Alabama Pasture to Rail feeder cattle are retained and fed) 5) The Future Beef Packing Facility in Arkansas City, KS.

In the calendar year of 2002, BCIA held 9 replacement heifer sales, selling a total of 411 open heifers and 262 bred heifers, and 5 bull sales, selling a total of 393 bulls. This results in 14 total sales in sale locations throughout the state for an overall total of 1,066 head sold from BCIA members. These sales were possible through hard work by ACES state, regional, and county agents, and BCIA producers.

The Red Wing Cow/Calf software that is utilized by the BCIA to maintain and evaluate member's commercial herds is currently in 35 counties across the state, as well as, in 2 state offices and 1 regional office. This is an increase in the number of counties from last year by 6. A total of 69 herds were reported to the state BCIA office in 2000-01 for a total of 4,940 calf records processed for an average weaning weight of 562 lbs. The 2001-02 state data included a total of 97 herds with 8,091 calf records processed for an average weaning weight of 557 lbs. This data shows an increase in the number of herds processed by 28 herds and 3,151 more calf records when comparing the two years. This calculates to a 61% increase in the number of calves processed from the year 2000-01 to 2001-02.

For the program year, 2001-02, 551 producer calves were transported to a high plains feedlot to obtain individual data measuring feedlot and carcass performance through the Alabama Pasture to Rail Program. The calves were enrolled by 25 producers from 15

counties1. The Alabama Pasture to Rail Program is designed to allow producers to collect carcass and retained ownership information on a small number of calves. Producers can consign as few as 3 calves to the program. The number of calves enrolled in the program remained steady compared to previous years. The number of individual consignors was lower than in previous years. This may have been partially due to high calf prices in the fall of 2001, prompting many producers to market their calves rather than retain ownership. Proper calf vaccinations are essential in keeping calves healthy in the feed yard. Calves becoming ill once reaching the feed yard gained 0.23 lbs/day less resulting in lower carcass weights and increasing cost of gain by $0.044/lb as compared to calves remaining healthy. This results in a minimum $34 loss in revenue (given a 775 lb carcass) as compared to healthy calves and all other factors being equal. Breed of sire of the calves played an important role for most traits. This suggests there are still differences among breeds, which can be exploited when defining a beef cattle breeding program. These differences can be used to produce cattle meeting the demands of the beef consumer. At the advent of the Pasture to Rail Program, Alabama cattle excelled in muscling. With the use of more British breeds of bulls being used in the breeding program today, Alabama cattle were deficient in muscling (0.50 sq. in of ribeye area) as compared to the USDA standard of the same carcass weight in 2001-02. Muscling affects USDA yield grade values, which will significantly affect the value of the carcass as amounts of red meat yield decreases. Most of the variation in this trait can be attributed to breed of sire. This again points out the need for a carefully planned breeding program. Feed efficiency or the pounds of grain it takes an individual to put on a pound of gain is becoming increasingly important in the beef industry. Surprisingly, heifers were more feed efficient than steers fed in 2001-02. Again, breed of sire plays a significant role in feed efficiency. As feed efficiency improves, average daily gain rates also generally increase by 0.27 lbs/day. For the program year 2002-03, 550 calves were shipped in August, September, October, December and January. The majority of calves are still on feed. These calves are owned by 44 producers.
1 Counties: Autauga, Baldwin, Bibb, Chilton, Choctaw, Clay, Coffee, Dallas, Fayette, Hale, Mobile, Montgomery, Morgan, St. Clair, and Wilcox

C. Results, Impacts, and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Of the 122 people in attendance at the 2002 Alabama BCIA Annual Meeting and Awards Program, 42 or 34% filled out the survey prior to leaving. The overwhelming majority of people filling out the surveys were Alabama BCIA members (41/42 or 97.6%). Only one (1) respondent was a non-BCIA member. The Alabama BCIA Annual Meeting and Awards program can be broken down into the educational, annual meeting and awards portion of the day. Most producers were pleased with the overall format of the meeting (average score = 4.6; range 3 to 5; with 1 = very displeased; 5=very pleased). When analyzing the educational portion of the program, respondents rated overall beneficial aspects of the information presented a 7.9 on a scale of 10 (1=least beneficial; 10 = most beneficial). The lowest score given to the overall program was a 5 (8/39 = 20.5%). Almost 70% of survey respondents rated the beneficial aspects of the program with a score of 8 or higher. Of these 25% (10/39) of the respondents rated the

beneficial aspects of the program a 10. According to the survey responses, the presentation given by Dr. William Herring on the New Genetic Structure of the Beef Industry received an average rating of 4.3 (scale 1 to 5; 1=very displeased; 5 =very pleased). Scores ranged from 2 to 5 with 90.4% of respondents rating the presentation 4 or higher. The presentation given by Mr. Mark Cowan on How Producers Can Survive the New Beef Industry received an average score of 4.7. Scores ranged from 3 to 5 with 97.6% of responses being 4 or 5. The Producer Panel on How Performance Data can be used to Market Cattle received the highest rating (4.8) of the educational portion of the meeting. Scores ranges from 3 to 5 with 80% of respondents (29/36) giving the producer panel a score of 5. When asked what people would like changed about the topics or length of the educational portion of the program, three (3) people responded. One suggested BCIA continue to emphasize genetics and keep producers informed in the changing cattle industry. Another respondent suggested a break between speakers, while the third suggested only one speaker for the educational portion of the program. The Annual Meeting and Awards Program did not receive scores as high as the educational portion of the program. The length and content of the Annual Meeting received ratings of 4.2 and 4.5, respectively. Both questions had a range of values from 3 to 5. The length and quality of the Awards portion of the program received average scores of 4.2 and 4.3, respectively. The range of scores concerning the length of the awards program ranged from 2 to 5. The range of scores concerning the number and quality of the awards ranged from 1 to 5 with 20% of responses receiving scores of 3 or lower. All respondents stated they would attend another Alabama BCIA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet and would also recommend the meeting to a fellow cattle producer.

Each of the 44 attendees of the educational tour "The Beef Production Cycle: Conception to Consumption" completed a survey with the following results. The majority of participants rated the educational value of the tour as excellent (75%), with the other 25% of the participants rating the educational value of the tour as good. Over 65% of the participants stated the tour was extremely beneficial for increasing their overall knowledge and understanding of the U.S. Beef Industry. On average, participants rated the organization of the tour, food, hotels and timing of the year also as excellent. The length of the tour and time spent on the bus was on average rated as good. Each participant rated each stop. Most stops received excellent ratings. There were mixed reviews for the 2 breed associations, the bull stud and the product development center. Participants either liked them a lot or not at all. In summary, the survey showed that the conception to consumption tour organized by Alabama BCIA was a worthwhile educational opportunity for all participants. Individuals were able to see parts of the United States, which generally receive 18 to 20 inches of annual precipitation and observe how they are also able to produce beef. Most participants were exposed to at least one facet of the beef industry in which they were unfamiliar. This tour concept may serve as an educational model for other Alabama producers in the future. Perhaps Alabama BCIA can organize other national tours, visiting other parts of the U.S. to further broaden the perspectives of our producers and county agents. These tours also may have the potential to increase marketing avenues of Alabama cattle.

Member surveys were mailed to all BCIA members in 2001 and 2002. The survey questions were identical for both years. There were a total of 150 surveys returned from the two surveys. In 2001, 89 surveys were returned to the Alabama BCIA office. In 2002, 61 surveys were returned to the Alabama BCIA office. The return rate on the surveys was excellent. The information obtained from these surveys will serve two primary purposes. The first is to ensure Alabama BCIA is serving its members adequately and to adjust programs to further serve the needs of its members. The second is to provide Alabama BCIA's partner, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), an indication of the scope and success of the BCIA program. The demographics of respondents are represented by the following statements: 1) 46 commercial producers owning an average of 154 cows, with a range of 5 to 1500 head 2) 67 purebred producers owning an average of 67 cows, with a range of 1 to 600 head owned 3) 35 producers claimed to be both purebred and commercial producers. The average number of years of membership in BCIA was 10.7 years, with a range of 0.5 to 39 years. General: Overall, Alabama BCIA producers returning the surveys rated all areas of BCIA average to above average. With regard to communication between Alabama BCIA and its membership, the average producer thought services were slightly above average. There was no difference in responses between purebred and commercial producers. In general, less than 6% of producers responding rated communication below average between Alabama BCIA with regard to general BCIA information, bull and heifer evaluations/sales or information on the annual meeting/awards banquet. The average producer rated the quality of information found in the Alabama BCIA quarterly newsletter and annual meeting slightly above average. Purebred producers tended to rate the quality of the newsletter higher than commercial producers. Marketing: Almost all producers responding to the survey were satisfied by the number of opportunities for marketing performance documented cattle. In addition, several producers responded marketing opportunities were one of the ways Alabama BCIA assisted them in their cattle operations. Producers responding that Alabama BCIA did not provide enough marketing opportunities indicated three additional areas of needed marketing. Additional marketing areas included marketing feeder calves or calves of BCIA bulls, more sale opportunities for spring born calves and sales closer to home. The survey asked producers to indicate the number of cattle consigned and sold at each BCIA marketing opportunity along with the estimated total dollars received over market conditions. Most of the responses received were associated with Alabama BCIA bull evaluations and sales. Only 24 producers shared information concerning Alabama BCIA heifer sales. On average, producers responding to this portion of the survey had consigned to two Alabama BCIA sponsored sales in 2001 and 2002 with a range of 1 to 5 sales. On average, producers believed they received added dollars over market by selling their cattle through Alabama BCIA sponsored sales. The total added dollars over all consignments ranged from $-1000 to $12,000. However, the data in this section is really too sketchy to draw many meaningful conclusions on actual dollar amounts. Commercial data processing: Of the commercial producers responding to the survey, 45% of the producers are using the Red Wing Cow/Calf management software program either at the county level or through the BCIA office. Another 30% of the commercial

producers have their own software on a home computer. Almost 8% of the commercial producers said they did not keep records at this time. Another 17% had some other type of data processing system. The other types of data processing systems included national breed associations, spreadsheets, notebooks and ear tags. Producers utilizing the Red Wing Cow/Calf Management System through the local county extension office generally found the ability to input records, receive summary reports, and receive assistance in interpreting the reports slightly above average. There were 12% of the producers, which rated each of these items slightly unacceptable or worse. Most producers also rated the knowledge of their county agent with respect to beef cattle performance information as slightly above average. Again, approximately 12% of the producers did not feel their county agent knowledge was acceptable in this area. Producers sending their data to the BCIA office rated their service also slightly above average. There were no responses less than average for those producers utilizing the BCIA office. Alabama BCIA members were generally pleased with the information, sale opportunities and record processing capabilities of the association. However, total costs at bull evaluations are a concern for members. This survey also suggests Alabama BCIA needs to be mindful of the commercial producers unsatisfied with commercial records processing. The results of this survey can be useful in guiding the programming efforts of the association to serving its members.

An evaluation instrument was sent to all Extension agents involved with this project. Eight responses from 2 level I, 4 Level II, and 2 Level III agents were received back to the ETP leader to report a total of 31 county/multi-county meetings were held with a total of 1,156 participants. Forty producers sold cattle in performance sales for a total of 2,781 head and a value of $1,357,929. One hundred forty-seven producers bought cattle from performance sales for a total of 1,324 head for a total value of $834,000. Sixteen producers participated in retained ownership programs for a total of 566 head for a total value $292,200. A total of 4 alternative marketing events were organized with a total of 26 participants and 2,846 head of cattle. This resulted in a total value of $552,750. At the time of the responses from the survey, 88 days had been spent working in this ETP program area. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1=not effective/useful; 5=most effective/useful), the respondents rated the value of this program in their county as a 4. The agents were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (1=not helpful; 5=most helpful) how helpful the state/regional animal science staff was in supporting the county level. An average ranking of 4.86 was reported for answering questions completely in a timely manner and providing additional educational materials in a timely manner. An average ranking of 4.67 was reported for providing support for the Red Wing Cow/Calf Software. An average ranking of 4.83 was given to the quality of programs presented in your county. On describing how helpful the current resources, such as publications, newsletters, and videos, were in implementing this program in your county the average ranking was 4.71. On describing how useful and informative in-service training sessions are in implementing this program in your county the average ranking was 4.86. Gathering this type of information from the county ETP participants is very helpful to assess the success of the program, and more respondents would have been even more beneficial.

As determined by the 2001 and 2002 BCIA member surveys, marketing of performance documented cattle is an integral part of the association. Members suggested, on average, they received added dollars over market by marketing cattle through Alabama BCIA sponsored sales. Therefore, it is relevant to survey the buyers of cattle in Alabama BCIA sponsored sales. To ensure continued dollars over market, buyers must be happy with their purchases and continue to support Alabama BCIA sales and Alabama BCIA members. All individuals who purchased cattle through one of the Alabama BCIA sponsored sales in 2001-2002 were send a buyer's survey. Only 20 people responded to the survey. This represents approximately 5% of the 2001-2002 buyers. Most of the buyers responding to this survey (85%) purchased bulls. The remaining 15% of buyers purchased heifers (n=3). Therefore, caution should be used when interpreting heifer sale data. When buyers were asked how pleased they were with their purchases, the average response was "okay". However, given the number of responses to the survey, this answer does not adequately reflect the individual answers given. The 20 buyers answered this question in the following manner: 1) 3 buyers classified themselves as very displeased with their purchases, for a frequency of 15% 2) 2 buyers were classified as displeased, for a frequency of 10% 3) 1 buyer classified in each of the okay and pleased categories, for a frequency of 5% for each category 4) 13 buyers classified themselves as very pleased with their purchases, for a frequency of 65%. It is very important to note 25% of the respondents were not happy with the cattle they purchased. However, 65% of the buyers were very pleased. Two buyers indicated they had breeding problems with their purchase. One buyer was able to settle the problem with the consignor, and the other was not. Perhaps most importantly, when asked if they would purchase cattle from an Alabama BCIA sale again, 95% of the buyers said yes. Again, Alabama BCIA should not discount the buyer(s) who answered the question no. Those buyer(s) saying no could significantly impact the number of producers willing to purchase cattle from BCIA sales in their area. In summary, overall, buyers responding to this survey were generally satisfied with their experiences at an Alabama BCIA sale. It is important to note, these buyers were very happy with the technical details of the sale. In general, they were happy with their purchases and will buy more cattle from BCIA sales. However, it is important to try to correct any deficiencies with buyers who were unhappy with their purchases or experiences. Certainly not all buyers can be satisfied, but it is critical that minimal negative press is given to Alabama BCIA sales if Alabama BCIA continues to work in the sales and marketing arena.

The impact from the 2002 BCIA Sales totaled 1,066 head sold to 311 different buyers all over the state of Alabama and into all the surrounding states. Economic impact for buyers of BCIA bulls was significant and figured to be a $471,600 benefit. This figure was calculated by analyzing 393 total bulls sold x 20 calves/year for an estimate of 3 years service for a total of 23,580 calves at an estimate of a premium of $20/calf to equal $471,600 dollar impact for BCIA bulls sold in 2002. For the sellers of these bulls, which are BCIA purebred producers, an economic impact of $698,675.40 was calculated for 2002. The average bull selling price was $1,777.80/bull x a total of 393

bulls sold equals $698,675.40. BCIA purebred producers also sold 26 registered heifers in BCIA sales for an average selling price of $954/heifer to total $24,804. For commercial BCIA producers, 411 open heifers were sold for an average selling price of $626.56/heifer which totals to an impact of $257,514. Commercial BCIA producers also sold 262 bred heifers for an average selling price of $805.20/heifer to make an impact of $210,962.40.

For the Alabama Pasture to Rail program, 2001-02 was not the optimal year to retain ownership of calves. On average, producers would have netted $1.92 more per calf if they sold the calves at weaning instead of at harvest. Many factors entered into this loss, including the cost of feeder calves, post 9/11 and a soft economy. Producers sending calves in August and September 2001 realized much higher losses than producers sending calves in October 2001 or January 2002. However, the benefit of the feed and carcass data received by the producers to use in their breeding programs is immeasurable. A testament to how the BCIA and Pasture to Rail programs can successfully work together to make an impact to the producer was shown by the yearly report from the feedlot that cooperates with the Pasture to Rail program. Two lots of Alabama BCIA calves sent through Pasture to Rail ranked the first and third highest lots of cattle for adjusted net return out of 22,205 head of cattle fed at that feedlot for that year. The October 2001 lot of Alabama cattle returned a net of $90.00 and adjusted net return of $59.00. The January 2002 lot of Alabama cattle returned a net of $19.00 and an adjusted net return of $49.00.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
Forty-two ACES employees allocated a total of 1,721 days to this project in 2002. To date, 1,658 days have been reported for this project. Extension funds utilized included $4,450.00 from the In-service Training Fund to support the in-service for this project and $4,015.00 from the BCIA/Extension fund to support the educational tour for this project. A total of $6,425.00 was also collected through sponsorships from county Cattlemen's Associations and county Alabama Farmer's Federation groups that supported the county agents that attended the educational tour.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans:
Alabama BCIA has been featured in a national magazine article that was published in the 2002 September issue of the Angus Journal and the Angus Beef Bulletin. The article featured the success and history of Alabama BCIA and the benefits that it provides to 2 Alabama Angus producers. It also highlighted the commercial aspects of the BCIA program, including the replacement heifer sales and the Red Wing Cow/Calf software for performance record management. Alabama BCIA's Purebred and Commercial Producers of the Year were featured in an article in the May issue of the Neighbors magazine, published by the Alabama Farmers Federation. BCIA's 2002 commercial herd awards, outstanding county agent, and the Richard Deese award winners were also listed in that article. The Richard Deese award winner for 2002, Dr. Lisa Kriese-Anderson of ACES, and the Outstanding County Agent winner, Johnny Gladney from Tuscaloosa County, was also further featured in the May 22, 2002 issue of the ACES

Extension Connections newsletter. The educational tour "The Beef Production Cycle: Conception to Consumption" was featured in The News-Courier newspaper of Athens in the Tuesday, May 7, 2002 issue. The article was written and placed in the newspaper by Limestone county agent, Gerry Thompson, and displayed a photo of Limestone county producer and BCIA Director, Wesley Stroud of Athens, who attended the tour. Press releases announcing the Purebred and Commercial Producers of the Year, commercial herd awards, outstanding county agent, and the Richard Deese award winners were also sent to the winners' local county and town newspapers. New worldwide exposure of Alabama BCIA was made available in 2002 by utilizing internet technology in an Alabama BCIA website. General BCIA information, sale cattle performance data, contact information, and upcoming events are all available to internet users 24 hours a day. The number of visits and time duration of each visit to the website has been monitored and has been phenomenal. BCIA distributed a quarterly newsletter throughout the year to total 3 newsletters for a total of 2,920 mailed in 2002. The newsletter is a way to communicate with our membership about events, educational topics, information, and services. Through ACES channels, ACES agents have written a total 18 individual success stories from this project. Further exposure of Alabama BCIA comes through its individual sale ads, which total to approximately 30 ads per year, in publications such as the Alabama Cattlemen's magazine, the Alabama Farmer's Cooperative newspaper, and the Cattle Today regional newspaper. Alabama BCIA also presented itself with a booth in the 2002 Alabama Cattlemen's Annual Convention Trade Show in Mobile. It has been represented at various Alabama Farmer's Federation and county cattlemen's association functions throughout the year.

There are several future plans for this project to improve the service to cattle producers. An alternative data entry method for Red Wing Cow/Calf software utilizing a basic computer spreadsheet that would make it possible for cattle producers to type in their own performance data is being planned. This would streamline the data entry method that is in place currently and would ease the duties of ACES agents. An internship position has been planned and is currently in place to provide BCIA more visibility that has not been previously achieved. This will increase awareness of BCIA programs and sales and will potentially attract additional new members and buyers. Due to the success of this year's tour, it has been planned that a BCIA educational tour will be held every other year to provide exposure to various aspects of the U. S. beef industry for interested county agents and members.

ETP11e. Poultry Production and Processing
By John P. Blake

A. Description
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 impact greatly on the economic viability of the state. Alabama's poultry management and food safety educational programs are a "Peaks of Excellence Program" and as a result have been recognized as a national model 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 eleven 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.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out
Result demonstrations were initiated to answer pressing industry concerns. The following represent major projects completed or in progress with the scope of activities extending even beyond those listed.

Troubleshooting Salmonella Control in a Broiler Processing Operation
Extension specialists from the Poultry Science Department at Auburn have worked with one of the State's broiler operations to reduce salmonella levels detected in the processing plant. All operations of this type have bacterial control programs to minimize the incidence of bacteria on raw product; however, these programs are constantly under revision to affect maximum control. Extension efforts have been spread across several sectors of the company in reducing salmonella counts. Salmonella monitoring regimes,

processing plant procedures and broiler house salmonella control measures have been altered to improve bacterial control for regulatory compliance and consumer food safety concerns. Extension-related efforts along this line are in keeping with food safety and product quality efforts of the Auburn University Poultry Science Department Peak of Excellence and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

Sand as an Alternative Bedding Material for Broilers
Poultry farmers need steady and economical supply of bedding materials (i.e., pine shavings, sawdust, peanut or rice hulls) to rear broiler chickens. Depending upon the location in the State and competition for alternative uses, the cost and availability of these materials might vary extensively.

For the past three years, Extension Poultry Scientists have taken a lead role in investigating and field testing sand as an alternative bedding materials for rearing broiler chickens. Currently, there are 16 commercial houses around the State equipped with sand, providing for result demonstration of this material to assess flock performance, durability, disposal and/or alternative uses for the used-litter, and economic analysis.

The performance of broilers reared on sand has been at least equal to those reared on conventional bedding materials, even after 20+ flocks on some farms. Although the cost of sand is initially higher, it has a payback period of about 1.5 years when compared to the cost of pine shavings. Sand proved to be an acceptable bedding material for broilers and an economical alternative for the poultry farmers. Use of sand as a bedding material has received tremendous interest, statewide and nationally.

Sand litter may be used for the fertilization of crop and pasture lands as is currently practiced, or may be uniquely suited to other uses that may add profit for the broiler grower while reducing the amount of litter applied to traditional areas. Faculty in Agronomy and Soils and Poultry Science Departments has collaborated to determine whether sand litter may be of interest to those developing golf greens or producing sod commercially. Result demonstrations comparing mixes containing used sand litter and traditional golf green mixes have shown promising results in enhanced greening with sand litter. In addition, top dressing trials with used sand litter are showing accelerated growth on existing grass plots. These results may allow poultry producers to earn increased income from sand litter at cleanout, in addition to moving a portion of Alabama's poultry litter away from traditional farming lands.

Value of Production Feed Additives In Broiler Performance
Live production (growth and feed conversion) and carcass yield data (total saleable product) were comparatively evaluated for broilers administered either production feed additives (i.e., anticoccidials, antibiotics, and organic arsenicals) or non-medicated rations with live immunization for the prevention and control of avian coccidiosis. Data demonstrated that the addition of the non-nutritive feed additives improved total saleable meat yield by 66 grams per bird. In a typical integrated broiler operation that processes one million broilers per week with a target weight in the range of 2.6 kilo

(5.75 pounds), this increase in saleable product would approach 66,000 kilos (145,000 pounds) every seven days. Such science-based data validate the use of safe and effective non-nutritive feed additives in broiler production.

Nutritional Studies for Bobwhite Quail
Native Bobwhite quail populations have declined almost 80% during the previous 40 years. As a result, about 20 million birds are produced commercially to fulfill hunting needs. Limited information exists concerning dietary requirements of Bobwhite quail and producers could benefit from such information. Results from two experiments that were designed to answer basic field questions posed by producers indicate that Bobwhite quail are responsive to a decrease in protein intake from 26 to 20%, but respond to compensatory gain. Results also indicated that the feed additives Allzyme Phytase, Bio-Mos Plus XCL, and Penicillin had no effect on improving bodyweight gain, feed efficiency, or mortality under conditions of this trial.

Computer Short Course for Poultry Managers
A two-day intensive, hands-on, training session was held on the Auburn University campus to improve the computer literacy of poultry managers at all levels (pullet, breeder, hatchery, broiler, quality control, and field operations). Attendees were selected based on their interest in improving their computer skills and their limited access to formal computer training while on the job. Dr. Gene Simpson served as primary instructor; Professors Mike Eckman and Jim Donald served as secondary instructors. Industry managers were exposed to a number of computer and network applications pertinent to the industry, and became quite familiar with using several of these applications to improve their efficiencies in managing their company's resources. A substantial amount of training was directed to special uses of electronic mail, alternative methods of locating pertinent resources on the World Wide Web, and creating and working with Excel spreadsheets to improve decision making. Each attending manager indicated the course was extremely helpful, and all indicated a desire for additional sessions.

Evaluation of Incineration for Disposal of Poultry Mortality
Prior to the late 1990's, most on-farm poultry moralities were disposed of in on-farm burial pits. The use of burial pits was no longer permitted after July 1, 1998, and most poultry growers began composting dead birds in full sized and mini-compost bins constructed on their farms. Composting is a very sound approach to mortality disposal; however, poor management of composting equipment has led to a number of problems, including attracting insects and predators, producing noxious odors, incomplete composting, and generating a surplus of compost materials on many farms. The average total cost of composting dead birds has been estimated at five cents per pound of mortality. Recent technological advances in incinerator design and new generation refractory materials have made incineration appear to be a cost effective method of dead bird disposal for poultry growers.

A small grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management supported a

one-year demonstration of on-farm incineration. Three cooperators in North Alabama with newer generation incinerator equipment were selected for this study. They agreed to maintain daily data entry sheets for a period of slightly more than one year. Daily mortality were counted and weighed, and fuel (diesel or LP) usage was determined during the study period. The aggregate data represent four full quarters on Farm #1, a two house broiler breeder farm, and 6 flocks of large (approximately 7 pound) broilers on Farms #2 and #3, both four house broiler farms. Each farm used an incinerator from a different manufacturer. Farm #1 used LP and Farms #2 and #3 used diesel fuel. Fuel prices used in cost calculations were $0.85 and $0.98 for LP and diesel, respectively.

When ownership costs of approximately one cent per pound are included, total disposal cost is estimated to be as low as three cents per pound for incineration. This compares very favorably with the traditional disposal method of composting, and may result in much less negative environmental impact. Incineration of 500 pounds of mortality takes only several hours to accomplish and results in only about 1.5 pounds of ash residue. Composting 500 pounds of mortality requires 3 weeks or longer and results in several hundred pounds of compost material that requires additional labor and handling for land application. Newer generation incinerators with appropriate management can greatly reduce dead bird disposal costs and reduce labor requirements, as well.

Educating the Educators

The average Alabama citizen has no idea of the scope and importance of the Poultry Industry in the state. Poultry's total economic impact in the state of Alabama, alone, is $8,000,000,000. It accounts for 63% of farm income and 75% of all farm exports. In addition, the poultry industry accounts for 78,000 jobs and is the third largest broiler producing state in the nation. As a result, there is an urgent need for poultry science graduates with a strong science background such as that required to enter medical school. The current number of graduates from Auburn's Poultry Science Department meets only 20% of the needs of the Alabama poultry industry. Starting salaries are strong and upward mobility is even stronger. The need for an informed public is tremendous.

As a result, extension specialists joined with teaching and research faculty along with the Peak of Excellence in the Department to address this need. Two separate programs were developed. The first of these was a Poultry in-service short course that would educate Ag teachers and councilors in the scope of the poultry industry, anatomy, and judging techniques in the areas of breeders, layers, eggs, carcass grading, placing of eggs along with information on preparing a mock judging contest. Feedback from teachers indicates that they effectively use the newly acquired knowledge in the training of judging teams and to educate students on career opportunities. As a result there has been an increase in enrollment that can be directly traced to this program in the Poultry Science Department. A second program has been developed called S.T.E.P. (Science Teachers Education Program) with support from the Poultry Products Safety and Quality Program which is a University Peak of Excellence. This addressed the need to specifically educate science teachers who would be able to pass on this knowledge to

science oriented students. The program provided the participant with science based food science examples along with practical applications that provide solid, strong models for use in classrooms. Although this was the first year of the S.T.E.P. program, a summary of the evaluation forms made it evident that it was effective at motivating teachers and that it will result in the incorporation of these materials into lesson plans for the classroom. Since one science teacher impacts numerous students, it is expected that it should result in an increase in the number of Poultry majors at Auburn. Due to the positive response to both of these programs it is planned to repeat these programs next year.

Career Development Program
Extension Specialists in the Poultry Department participated in three Regional and one State Poultry Career Development events involving 175 high school students from 44 schools. These students were exposed to intensive training in factors establishing quality in: live broiler breeders and past production layers; parts identification, ready-to-cook carcasses, interior and exterior egg quality and further processed poultry. The students were required to participate in learning activities related to production, processing, marketing and consumption of poultry and products. This assists in developing a sound basis for using the decision making process. This section of the project covers; commercial laying operations, pullet growing, broiler/turkey breeders, broiler/turkey production, marketing, processing, further processing, hatchery management, brooding, nutrition and biosecurity. In addition, possible careers are explored. Strong personal growth of these participants has been observed.

Backyard Poultry Flock Production
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. At the request of individual clientele or through county staff, several hundred requests are received annually.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Several other organizations have collaborated with extension scientists in the Department of Poultry Science in support and implementation of the "Poultry Production and Processing" team project.

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
US Poultry and Egg Association

Contact 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 materials were also used to support specific program objectives. Many of these publications are available on the ACES website and Department of Poultry Science website.

The Department of Poultry Science in conjunction with Alabama Poultry and Egg Association jointly sponsors three workshops annually with over 500 participants.

Processor's Workshop-September
Broiler Workshop--October
Breeder/Hatchery Workshop--November

The Peaks of Excellence Program in Poultry Product Quality and Food Safety has received national and international recognition and the extension specialists are directly tied to this program and any applicable information resulting from this program is transmitted to industry clientele.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
Contact 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. The poultry extension scientists in the Department of Poultry Science were responsible for a large proportion of clientele contacts. Other faculty in the Department of Poultry Science as well as other extension scientists and faculty from the Departments of Biosystems Engineering, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, and Agronomy and Soils were instrumental in providing clientele needs based on specialty.

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.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans
Current Concepts in Broiler Production
This is a quarterly newsletter encompassing four pages that contains information targeting managers in broiler production which encompasses broiler-breeder and broiler live production, hatchery, feed mill, and field related concerns that may influence processing. This newsletter provides information in a timely manner to poultry industry personnel in Alabama and its mailings have been expanded to include poultry companies nationally. This newsletter has a distribution list of over 500 and has been well received. Copies of this newsletter are also placed on the ACES website.

WOGS: Poultry Processing Newsletter

Over the years, many poultry processing plant managers have expressed a need for timely, relevant and comprehensive, yet concise, information to be used in on-the-job training of the technical work-force (i.e., line supervisors, quality control personnel, and managers) in the plant. To meet this continuing education need, a monthly newsletter called WOGS (Worthwhile Operational Guidelines and Suggestions) was created. The name WOGS was actually adopted from a common poultry-processing term that actually refers to a whole processed chicken carcass without giblets. WOGS covers topics in all aspects of processing technology, including product quality and yield, food safety and protection, environmental stewardship.

This one-page processing newsletter, designed to be retrieved electronically and printed locally to be displayed in color, has been extremely well received by the poultry and allied industries and is distributed to over 200 subscribers. In addition to all the plants in the State, the electronic mailing list has been expanding to include many poultry companies nationally and internationally. Copies of the WOGS newsletter is also posted on the Departmental Web site for general public access. WOGS newsletter allows rapid dissemination of critical information to our industrial clientele and provides global visibility for the Poultry Product Safety and Quality Peak of Excellence Program.

Future Plans
Alabama's poultry management and food safety programs have been recognized as a national model adopted by other states facing many of the same challenges. Future plans are to continue this program to meet the needs of the poultry and allied industries. There is an interest to continue to develop materials compatible for electronic accessibility and distribution.

ETP11F Alabama Beef Excellence Program
By Robert E. Blaylock

Cattle growers continue to search for ways to recapture value losses and strengthen consumer confidence in beef products. The Alabama Beef Excellence Program, held June 18th through 20th at Auburn University, provided cattle producers an innovative program to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of beef production from “Gate to Plate” demonstrating practices of selection, quality assurance and value-based marketing. Twenty-four producers from 13 counties participated. A program very similar in content called “Strategies for Producing, Processing and Marketing Pork and Beef” was held earlier in May for county Extension agents and USDA graders. This session targeted only Alabama beef growers.

On day one of the session, participants were given the opportunity to yield grade and quality grade live market steers ranging in different finished weights. Days two and three were spent in the A.U. Meats Lab where carcasses were after thorough instruction and being assigned to teams, producers evaluated carcasses for yield grade, quality grade,

and whole carcass value based on present market information. They were required to measure fat thickness, rib eye area, percent internal fat and estimate quality grade based on marbling score. Digital photos (attached to each carcass) of weaning, backgrounding stage and harvest time along with live-animal market values were supplied for all cattle so that could trainees could determine differences in live cattle type versus carcass values.

And it did not end there. Teams were then required to break or fabricate each carcass into sub-primal cuts. Each team actually divided a carcass into different cuts, weighed each portion and determined the wholesale value of the entire carcass based on the weight and value of the sub-primal cuts. Live-animal value, whole carcass value and total value of the different fabricated cuts were compared. Videos and digital photos were taken of cattle throughout all the stages of their life. The same was done at the time of harvest and as carcasses were evaluated and fabricated. Graphics and data will be used to write publications and develop future publications and videos. Another program is planned for 2003.

The Alabama Beef Excellence Program was made possible by grants received from the Upchurch Foundation of the A.U. Animal Sciences Department and the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association with support from the Alabama Cattleman’s Association. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System provided support for travel sand key instruction personnel. A special thanks goes to the Auburn Beef Unit and the Auburn Meats Lab crews. Without their valuable assistance, none of this would have been possible.

Coordinators and instructors were Robert E. (Butch) Blaylock, W.R. (Bill) Jones and R.A. (Bob) Ebert. Other instructors included Dr. Chris Kerth, Ben Alderton and Tom Bonner of the Animal Sciences Department and County agents Perry Mobley, Autauga and Josh Elmore, Mobile.

ETP 12a: Alternative Aquaculture Production and Marketing Systems

By Gregory N. Whitis

A. Description

According to the 2002 Alabama Agricultural Statistical Service's annual bulletin, aquaculture is valued at $70 million in farm receipts. Although this is less than 2% of the total farm and forestry receipts for Alabama, for West Alabama, aquaculture in the form of catfish production, ranks 2nd in receipts following poultry. Alabama ranks second in national production with over 25,900 acres. There are 240 operations in the state and most of these are located in west Alabama.

Alternative species besides channel catfish have potential. Red swamp crawfish, freshwater and saltwater shrimp, and tilapia all can be cultured on either a hobby level

or commercially. Often the local extension office is the first source of information for most citizens of the state. Local agents can access four aquaculture specialists for further assistance.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Between October 1st, 2001 and December 31, 2002, over two hundred fish producers visited the Alabama Fish Farming Center. This represents over ninety percent of the fish producers in the state. There were 407 requests for technical assistance from the ETP team leader during this period. These requests ranged from water quality problems to site evaluations for aquaculture operations. The ETP team leader provided assistance to 51 counties and assisted county agents in twenty-two different counties on 104 different occasions.

One of the goals of the ETP was to setup two verification projects in alternative aquaculture. Red swamp crawfish projects were set up in Lowndes and Tuscaloosa counties with assistance from the local county agents. Also a Lowndes county saltwater shrimp producer received extensive assistance from the ETP leader and in the course of this experience, a field interview by Alabama Public Television was conducted with the producer and ETP leader. A workshop on alternative aquaculture was conducted in the summer of 2002.

Another project which arose from the ETP was a local board of education starting up an Aquatic Science Complex at a vocational school. A grant of $50,000 was acquired and this was used to purchase tanks, pumps, textbooks and filters. Construction of an indoor 90 x 35 foot facility is slated to begin in 2003. The local extension agent is assisting with this endeavor. This complex will house a state of the art aquaponics facility capable of growing ornamental carp and vegetables.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
A Lowndes county saltwater shrimp producer raised over $ 30,000 worth of shrimp in two 5 acre ponds. He employed over ten people in the community of Mosses for harvest labor. Several television and radio stations plus print media covered this event. A videotape of this story by Alabama Public Television is available. Inland shrimp production utilizing saline groundwater in Central Alabama will pump needed revenue into impoverished areas.

The Aquatic Science Complex underway in Hale County will provide vocational and science training for high school students willing to work in Alabama's growing catfish industry. This program as practiced in other high schools is a good educational motivator and is responsible for recruiting kids for college who otherwise might not have gone on to further education.

Twenty-three county agents from the counties of Franklin, Lauderdale, Chilton, Monroe, Dekalb, Butler, Pickens, Madison, Pike, Monroe, Cullman, Marengo, Washington, Walker, Limestone, Mobile, Houston, Franklin, Dale and Montgomery assisted

landowners in some aspect of aquaculture or marketing. They provided assistance to clientele in Alabama on 104 occasions.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
The ETP team leader spent 250 days on this project. Two other Extension Aquaculturists spent a combined total of 46 days including ten presentations on alternative species and marketing and 20 farm visits. One agent spent fifteen days on the ETP addressing issues such as management, water quality and aquatic vegetation.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans
The crawfish verification projects in Tuscaloosa and Lowndes counties will continue. The Lowndes county shrimp producer will probably expand his operation. Hopefully these projects will spur new interest in aquaculture as a profitable alternative for struggling farmers in Alabama.

F. Appendices
Accomplishments of the Extension Aquaculturist at the Alabama Fish Farming Center (Alabama Fish Farming Center 2002 Annual Report)

Alabama @ Work. Alabama Public Television. 10/18/2002. Video footage.

ETP24B Urban and Nontraditional Horticulture
By Cathy

A. Description
There are over one million households in Alabama's urban areas. Just over 71% (836,472) of these households own their own homes. These homeowners place heavy demands on county educators to provide information on landscapes and maintenance. Most horticulture agents receive over 500 calls per year requesting information and assistance with their landscape or it's maintenance. To reduce home visits required and the number of calls by homeowners, four major landscape project/programs were implemented in these urban areas through workshops and hands-on demonstrations.

In the urban areas of Alabama, there are over 170,000 households living below the poverty level of income. While federal and state dollars continue to decrease, additional forms of support must be found to supplement these household resources. County educators in several urban areas have established community gardens that distribute produce to as many of these lower income families as possible. Distribution of produce to these families not only lowers the dollars spent on food, but also increases the quality of food these families are receiving.

Urban youth are often unaware of farming and how much it affects their lives. Understanding about how crops are grown and different types of produce not only

demonstrate agricultural techniques but also teach lessons in biology and other sciences.

B. Actions and Activities
To reduce home visits and yard and landscape questions, county educators in two urban counties (Morgan and Lee) offered one-day workshops to 150 clientele. The workshop topics included landscape design, pruning, and landscape maintenance.

A landscaping project for the new Salvation Army children's daycare facility in Morgan County was part of the 2002 Prudential Youth Leadership Institute Community Service Project. Parents and teens were taught about landscape plans, grass seed types, plants and plant hardiness, irrigation, landscape maintenance requirements, techniques of digging and moving existing plants, planting, bed and seed-bed preparation, as well as plant installation and maintenance.

In another urban area a landscape project with the Weed and Seed Program (Weed out Crime Seed in Hope-Madison County) was established. The community council determined three sites that needed additional landscaping. College students were recruited to participate in the renovation of these sites. All work is still in progress; however, both the students and residents have been positive about the results so far.
In an effort to empower communities and schools in the Birmingham metro area an alliance dubbed "Birmingham Urban Garden Society" (BUGS) was established. Gardens become a tool to build relationships, teach leadership/entrepreneurship, promote good nutrition, provide food, beautify vacant areas, and to teach many other life and academic lessons.

In the past year 15 community gardens and 20 school learning gardens were initiated. Jefferson County Extension has been the conduit for monthly garden/leadership training for all our community gardeners. A particularly exciting and effective community garden was in collaboration with Highlands United Methodist Church. At the first planting day, 28 volunteers, including residents from the neighboring houses, assisted in tilling and establishing the garden. The garden was well maintained and very productive. The community has been continually invited to harvest as they please, and they have obliged. The Highlands United Methodist now wishes to assist BUGS in getting raised bed vegetable gardens installed at nearby Ramsey High School, and to "adopt" that school to provide ongoing interaction keeping the garden sustainable.
Many gardeners harvest more than they consume, so why not give to those who are hungry instead of wasting this extra produce? That thought was the reason the “Plant An Extra Row” program was established in Tuscaloosa County. The goal of the program is to get gardeners to donate fresh vegetables and fruits to the local Salvation Army and Community Soup Bowl. During planting time gardeners are encouraged to plant an extra row of produce to donate to local food banks. At harvest time they are encouraged to donate the extra produce they planted or simply donate any extra vegetables or fruits they have. Gardeners take the produce directly to the Salvation Army and/or Community Soup Bowl or a volunteer picks up the produce at their home. This program

has been going on since April 2002 and we hope to continue on for years to come.

Agape House in Jefferson County is a federally funded HIV-specific housing complex and is one of just two such facilities in Alabama. Approximately 55 HIV-positive residents live there. Some are living out their last days, and others will be there several years, perhaps eventually moving on as finances and condition allow. In the spring of 2002 an interest in gardening was sparked among residents when the entire facility won a Keep Birmingham Beautiful Commission award for the curb appeal of their grounds. Residents voiced their desire for the means to grow garden plants, including vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Through their illness, these folks have been uprooted from the lives they knew, and gardening is one way to bring worthwhile activity, peace, and sense of accomplishment to their lives - not to mention fresh food and the aesthetics and interest that plants provide. Master Gardeners, the Wildflower Garden Club and the local County Educator met with residents on several occasions, developed a plan and established six raised bed gardens. The Wildflower Garden Club has provided the plants for the initial fall planting, and have committed to an ongoing relationship with these gardeners by offering classes on many facets of gardening. They taught eight residents about planting herbs and vegetables.

A CASA (Care Assurance System for the Aging) Community Garden and Harvest Ministries project in Madison County produced 5,264 pounds of produce in 2002. Both gardens utilized volunteers from Master Gardeners, churches, Boy Scouts, civic groups, and corporations. Over 1000 people volunteered their time in the CASA Community Garden and Harvest Ministries gardens. Beans, cucumbers, eggplant, greens okay, peppers, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, zucchini and yellow squash were distributed to over 7500 elderly and homebound.

At an Urban Youth Farm Day in Madison County, educators conducted 5 shiitake mushroom demonstrations for youth. They were taught the biology of shiitake mushrooms and shown how to inoculate logs and care for inoculated logs to produce mushrooms. Urban youth possess little knowledge of agriculture and the role it plays in their lives. Providing educational information and training for urban youth is a necessity. Volunteers and extension personnel trained 275 youth on gardening basics and farming.

A new program was established in Madison County to work with Habitat for Humanity residents on how to care for their trees, shrubs, and lawns. Ten new homeowners participated in this program. We are now working on a plan to propagate and provide the plant materials needed to landscape around future Habitat Houses. This work will involve the U.S Forest Service, Alabama Master Gardeners, 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Alabama A&M University.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits:
County Educators created numerous linkages with the Salvation Army, The Volunteer Center of Morgan County, and Prudential Youth Leadership. The group gained a much

better understanding of how to create their own landscape design that will meet the criteria for a good design. According to program evaluations, most of the participants indicated they would apply proper landscape design principles learned in the class. Also, everyone stated a desire for another class that would deal more directly with plant identification as well as their uses in the landscape.

Everyone involved stated how much information they had gained from the Salvation Army project and that they would apply the techniques taught, in their everyday garden practices. Also, the project was done at a shelter for those whom are having a tough time in life and several families that were living there at the shelter participated and in some cases learned a valuable new skill as well. This project speaks highly of these youth through the compassion they showed by wanting to be involved in this project. It also promoted good leadership skills to all of those involved, because without leadership, the project could not have been accomplished in the efficient manner in which it was.

A reverend at Highlands United Methodist Church summed things up nicely for the success of this community building effort: "Many aspects of urban gardening have stirred the interest and instincts of Highlands' members and friends: planning and organizing, relationship building, digging, planting, weeding, harvesting, canning, freezing or marketing fresh vegetables. We can learn a lot from the garden."
From the “Plant an Extra Row” project approximately 500 pounds of vegetables and fruits were donated. This produce helps people with one of the greatest needs, hunger. Each day the Salvation Army and Community Soup Bowl feed hundreds of hungry people while being on a limited budget. Our goal is to continue to increase the amount of produce donated each year and to expand the number of food banks we are helping. In order for this to happen media plays an important role. Radio, television and newspaper are the main sources of publicity. Flyers are also put up around town at garden centers. Although this program is still on going we feel it has already been a success based upon comments such as the following. A member of the Salvation Army stated “to be able to get fresh vegetables from the garden is very special. Usually we have to use canned produce-these people do not know if they are going to have a next meal and then to get fresh produce is a blessing.”

The Extension and Master Gardener mission of enhancing people's quality of life through education and helpfulness was accomplished thanks to volunteers responding to citizen's needs at Agape House. In this situation, the gardens, though new, have already brought life and character into these outdoor living areas and lifted the spirits of those that reside there. The Site Manager stated that, "We (Agape House) were always considered a weed in the area, and now we're a flower!"

D. Fiscal and Human Resource Input
According to reported data, 17 employees worked 668 days on this project in 2002. The value of this professional time is $17,773.00. County agents and specialists that participated in this program estimated that they and other volunteers raised an

additional $15,000.00 in local contributions, grants and donations to carry out many of the local activities and demonstrations. Based on data reported by county agents, a total of 2,000 hours of local volunteer time was donated to help with the training and garden demonstrations. The value of this volunteer service is estimated to be $30,000. The Weed and Seed grant provided funds for plants and two students to supervise the landscape project. In all, ACES was able to leverage it's funding for this program by 253% and generated an estimated $15,000 return in food donated and grown for program recipients.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans

County Educators and Specialists have created linkages with many volunteer organizations and received publicity for several of their projects. Several success stories have been developed from these efforts. All programs will continue into 2003 and several will receive additional state funding.

ETP12E East Alabama Aquaculture Market Development

By David J. Cline

A. Description

There are more than 20,000 acres of watershed ponds in East Alabama. These ponds provide water storage, recreational opportunities, livestock needs, and enormous potential for the expansion of Alabama's aquaculture industry. Despite this potential, aquaculture has progressed only modestly in this area and relatively few existing pond owners take advantage of their water resource to provide additional income for their families. Efforts to organize producers and expand production have met with variable success. There appears to be a variety of reasons for this slow growth including lack of infrastructure and producer education but the lack of marketing stability and direction continues to be the bane of these small-scale producers.

The initial target audience of this program was the county agents participating in the project. These agents are in tune with local conditions and demographics and provide a multiplying effect to our efforts. The well trained agents and specialists transfer this production and marketing information to the producers and potential producers throughout the state.

The goals of this long term project include, helping to remove the barriers of market instability for small-scale aquaculture producers in E. Alabama, demonstrate niche marketing methods and techniques, and determine the economic value of processing to small-scale producers and the feasibility of this type of market operation. In addition, we are constructing an information database to help producers target their marketing efforts and develop alliances with producer groups to create a marketing program and facility that could be replicated in other areas.

B. Actions and Activities
A variety of surveys, educational activities and presentations were carried out by ACES team members to develop the baseline information regarding producers and marketers of aquaculture products throughout East Alabama. Specialists and agents conducted more than 100 farm visits and 50 presentations to disseminate information and collect data from potential collaborators.

Collaborative educational efforts involved multiple organizations including the Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D), the Northwest Alabama RC&D, the Cawaca RC&D, the Piedmont Association of Caged Fish Producers, the East Alabama Fish Farmers, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Tri-State Aquaculture Initiative and Gadsden State Community College. Meetings in conjunction with these organizations allowed us to reach over 10,000 agriculture/aquaculture producers, local business leaders, natural resource specialists, and secondary school teachers.
In addition, a web site is under development to help small scale producers gather productions information, interact with one another and locate potential new market outlets for their products. The developing site can be seen at www.eastalabamafishproducers.org.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Results from one of the surveys conducted identified the market preferences for tilapia size and color among 12 ethnic groups. This will help small-scale fish producers identify and target specific ethnic markets. Surveys of the ETP participants helped identify 13 potential new market outlets for fish in various east Alabama counties. Work with the Tri-State Aquaculture Initiative allowed over 5000 people to sample a variety of styles of cooked catfish. Many of these people were discovering catfish for the first time. This type of effort is designed to expose people to aquaculture products in an effort to expand the market. This effects both small and large-scale producers.
Agent training developed for this ETP improved agent knowledge of aquaculture production and marketing. Test scores improved by an average of 22% as a result of the training. Agents indicated that this knowledge could be put to use directly in their home counties.
Through collaboration with the Auburn University Fisheries station and fish market farmers were able to supplement their sales and help stabilize the markets they have developed. In FY01 the AU Fisheries Unit provided 81,000 lbs. of fish enabling farmers satisfy and maintain their customers. In FY 02 this figure dropped to 45,000 lbs. due in part to their increased production and our efforts at helping them network among themselves. In addition to these aquacultured products, data collected at the AU fish market and by fisheries personnel is being analyzed and organized to help farmers make informed marketing decisions.
This ETP has also nurtured the growing interest in year round tilapia production and sales. One farmer has designed and built a tilapia over wintering facility. This will enable him and other producers to access to winter and spring tilapia markets (these

markets were previously limited to summer and fall).

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
According to the reported days worked on this project, 13 Aces Employees allocated a total of 325 days to this project in 2002. The value of this professional time is approximately $60,000. An additional $5,950 was raised through grant efforts of the participants. Some of this funding went towards equipment to assist the producers while the bulk of is being directed towards research of alternate production techniques. Numerous producers volunteered their time to educate both the public and other producers. More than 325 hours were contributed by these producers and constitute an added value of $5000 to our efforts. Based on the reduction of fish purchased from the AU Fisheries Unit it is assumed that farmers produced an additional 36,000 lbs. of fish leading to an increase in gross income of approximately $31,000.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
This program and work in this area has received very good exposure, With the number of presentations and farm visits by specialists and agents we were able to create relationships with a large percentage of the small scale producers. A feature story in the ALFA Neighbors magazine (with a circulation of over 100,000) about one of our crawfish farmers provides insight into the motivation for and highlights the efforts of this program. This story can be viewed on the web at: http://alfafarmers.org/neighbors/neighborsStory.phtml?id=4071

Exposure at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in cooperation with the Tri-State Aquaculture Initiative and Auburn University gave us access to bring our message to another 100,000 producers and agriculture enthusiasts. We passed out over 1000 catfish recipe books (provided by The Catfish Institute) and more than 5,000 samples of cooked catfish.

This program has very broad goals and objectives and the results may take several years to manifest themselves. It is anticipated that this program will continue for at least 4 more years or as long as agents and specials are willing to devote time to improving the lives and viability of small-scale aquaculture operations in Alabama and surrounding states. As we learn more about the specific needs of the producers and marketers of these products we will continue to modify and focus the efforts and goals of this program.

ETP24A Integrated Approaches to Nontraditional Agriculture
By Jacqueline U. Johnson

A. Description
Data retrieved from the Alabama Agricultural Statistical Service in 2000-2002 showed that goat sales in Alabama have more than tripled (12,000-38,646). The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries filled permanent positions to monitor, record and distribute weekly market reports for goat sales in Alabama (AL Market News, AL Department of Agriculture and Industries). This was done in response to the rising number of new goat farm startups and the increased number of reported goat sales to USDA and Alabama. With an increasing number of Hispanic immigrants into Alabama and other Southeastern States, the demand for goat meat is exceeding the supply. United States importation of goat meat (frozen or chilled) has risen 4-fold (1,200 > 4,500 metric tons) since 1998, resulting in an average annual rate of increase exceeding 600,000 lbs. of goat meat per year.

The continued efforts of this project are to provide instructional program delivery to heighten the awareness of issues pertaining to producers and impacting the alternative livestock (goat, sheep, rabbit) industry, to assure the development of safe, secure food and fiber animals and prevent re-emergence of zoonotic diseases.

B. Actions and Activities Conducted
In August, 300 + persons attended a Sheep and Meat Goat field day event held at the Winifred Thomas Agricultural Research Station. The program was a combined effort between the Alabama Federation of Sheep/Meat Goat Producers, Alabama A&M University's School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Fort Valley State University and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Guest lecture presentations, concurrent workshop sessions and hands-on demonstrations and a 'taste of goat meat' fare, comprised the one-day event. The program educated goat and sheep producers on production, marketing and parasite control strategies.

In September, 14 Meat Goat producers and county agents came together to participate in a Small Ruminant Parasite Management Workshop. The workshop focused on preventive health strategies that targeted gender-specific and age-related groups of animals, strategic anthelmintic usage in combination with pasture rotation and hands-on parasite identification. The goal of this workshop was to educate goat and sheep producers about parasites. Empower them to actively monitor parasitic burdens in their flock or herd and develop effective treatment strategies in consult with their local veterinarian to minimize the impact of parasites on small ruminants. Producers were instructed in basic techniques of fecal flotation, fecal smears and identification of common parasites, specific to small ruminants, utilizing actual samples collected from their farms.

The challenge was to get producers to realize both the significance and benefit of monitoring parasite burdens in their herd and flock to prevent devastating production losses due to parasite infestation.

In December, a mini-clinic was held on the value of performing ultrasonography for early

pregnancy determination in goats. Producers had an opportunity to have at least 2 does per owner evaluated and assessed for pregnancy. The workshop offered an immediate answer to owners concerned with readying the females for the kidding season or a second chance to rebreed and/or cull. Conditions that may cause repeated estrus in females were also addressed.

C. Impacts, Results and Benefits to Clientele and the Public
Producer participants from the Small Ruminant Parasite Workshop also completed a Small Ruminant Survey which showed that 22% of the goat producers currently using some form of parasite monitoring or those who intended to implement the Strategies and Surveillance practices (knowledge attained from this activity) increased nearly 78% since this project began.

Also, see mini-clinic impact statements above.

Several other organizations have collaborated with ACES in stimulating interest and marketing these programs. Our partners include the Alabama Federation of Sheep and Meat Goat Producers, the Small Farmers Outreach Program, Gil Meyers, Ph.D., Inc., and Alabama A&M University.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
According to the reported days worked on this project, more than 528 rural face to face clientele contacts and 1,977 urban face to face clientele contacts were made during the 2002 period of this ETP. A total of some 25,020 rural and 20,000 urban non-face to-face contacts were also reported by county extension agents involved in this project.

We also received program assistance (i.e. travel expenses and Honorarium fees for invited speakers; food, beverages, snacks) from the Alabama Federation of Sheep and Goat Producers (formerly, the Alabama Meat Goat Association and the Alabama Lamb, Wool and Mohair Association).

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Planes
We have produced a power point slide presentation that highlights the project objectives and education goals. This presentation will be used at goat producer meetings, in-service training and conferences. The successful outcome of the sheep and goat field day was featured in the December/January 2003 issue of the AAMU Campus Intercom Magazine and website. We have also developed a power point slide presentation of the Parasite Management Workshop. A video or web-based version of the presentation is to be made for distribution to all of the workshop's first participants and dissemination to larger audiences upon request.

Our future plans are to continue the Parasite Management and the Pregnancy diagnosis programs for at least 2 more years. It is our aim to expand the educational objectives and broaden the target audiences for these two activities, based on the positive

feedback received in 2002 and thus far in 2003.

GOAL ONE SUCCESS STORIES

Thinking Out of the Box

As farmers, the Glenn's have always been innovators—or, to paraphrase the late playwright George Bernard Shaw, the sort of people "who dream of things that never were and ask, 'Why not?'"

They grow corn and soybeans in a region devoted almost exclusively to cotton. They've also abandoned a one-size-fits-all approach to farming in favor of a new technique known as precision farming – perhaps more accurately described as farming by satellite.

Like most farmers, the Glenn's—father Eugene and sons Don and Brian—know that surviving in an increasingly competitive in a global economy will involve cutting operating costs even further, a fact of life that first attracted them to precision farming.

> Precision farming is a Space Age technology operated through a global positioning system comprised of 24 orbiting satellites. Using specially designed ground-based receivers with these satellites, they have compiled a staggering database on their cropland that includes detailed soil maps and yield histories.

Their success with the technique began almost a decade ago when they entered into an agreement with Extension. In return for allowing their farm to function as a huge precision-farming experiment, they received valuable technical assistance learning how to use the technology.

The Glenn's have learned how to use their soil maps and yield data to apply common farm chemicals, such as fertilizer, lime, and especially nitrogen, far more efficiently.

“With precision farming, we can go in and put nitrogen where it’s needed,” says Don Glenn. “It not only cuts costs but is environmentally sound because we avoid applying nitrogen that will not be used by the plants and that eventually would leach into groundwater.”

And there’s the labor issue. Raising corn and soybeans in the Tennessee Valley is hard enough without the added challenge of finding and keeping farm labor. Fortunately for the Glenn’s, precision-farming techniques have allowed them to remain an exclusively family-operated farm.

“A cotton farm this size would probably have between eight and ten people on it,” says Paul Mask, coordinator of Extension’s precision-farming program. “But they’ve learned how to substitute technology for labor by becoming more efficient with every facet of their operation.

“All things considered, it’s easy to see why they are among the top one percent of all precision farmers in the nation.”

Goal 1 Bullets

- Five years ago, cattle producers in West Alabama and East Mississippi had a vision of taking their region to the leading edge of beef cattle production. With this in mind, Extension worked with local Cattlemen’s Associations in a 14-county area to form the Leading Edge group, which now provides state-of–the-art educational information to beef producers in the region.

- The Cherokee County Extension Office sponsored a series of meetings prior to the last three growing seasons to help cotton producers make the transition to no-till production, a soil conservation practice. During this period, no-till cotton production levels in the county climbed from 2 percent to 95 percent.
- Each January, peach growers from across the state and the Southeast attend the Extension-sponsored Chilton Area Peach Production meeting to learn about the latest advances in production marketing and farm management technology. More than 100 growers surveyed in 2002 reported an average 54 percent increase in yield/profitability on their farms thanks to knowledge gained from the meeting.
- Extension animal scientists supervise three bull tests in Alabama. In 2002, more than 300 bulls were performance tested, providing beef producers interested in upgrading their herds with valuable genetic information about the bulls.
- An ongoing integrated pest management program used in pecan production has resulted in an average reduction of insecticide applications from twelve to fewer than five. The program is based on a strategy that protects natural predators of pest insects through targeted applications of low-impact insecticides.
- An Extension agricultural economist helped organize and conduct several national “train the trainer” meetings attended by individuals responsible for educating farmers on the new Farm Bill. It is estimated the training ultimately will result in more than 100,000 producers and landowners receiving information about the Farm Bill.
- Demonstrations of irrigation, weed control, and container production of Christmas trees were established to help producers in this specialized industry enhance production efficiency and quality, harvest a higher percentage of trees planted, and increase tree value.

- A Lee County 4-H alumnus, now carrying a full load as an agricultural economics major at Auburn University, became the youngest person in Auburn University bull performance testing history to consign the top-performing bull.
- Four Alabama 4-H'ers went to the 2002 National Western Meats Judging Contest with a mission — to make perennial winners like Texas take notice. They accomplished their goal, winning the overall competition.
- The Alabama State 4-H Horse Show celebrated its 30th birthday in 2002, a year underscored by heightened interest and the numbers of entries in the competition. More than 230 young people from 29 Alabama counties participated in the summer show, traditionally held at the Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery.
- Ultrasound technology became an innovative part of the 4-H-sponsored Alabama Junior Beef Expo in 2002. Organizers of the competition believe the technology will be a valuable teaching tool in helping competitors understand the importance of maintaining animal carcass quality all the way “from pasture to plate.”
- An Alabama 4-H’er won a perfect score of 300 in meats identification at the recent National Western Meats Judging Contest held at Colorado State University. The last perfect score recorded at national competition several years ago was also earned by an Alabama 4-H’er.

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.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ETP11b. The Alabama Master Cattle Producers Training Program
By Robert E. Blaylock

A. Description:
More than 21,000 individuals own and operate cattle farms in Alabama making beef production account for more than two billion dollars in gross receipts. However, some cattle growers fail to make a profit because of inadequate managerial skills and poor production practices. Cattle farming is a business and for cattle growers to maximize their return on investment, state-of-the-art production practices must be followed. Superior genetics, timely reproduction, good forage production, sound herd health programs, adequate nutrition, acceptable end product type and planned marketing must be combined to achieve success in modern day beef production.

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. Following beef quality assurance guidelines helps assure that consumer acceptance of beef products is maintained. The Alabama Master Cattle Producers Training Program is an educational effort designed for every Alabama cattle grower wishing to focus on using research-based production practices for increased returns. Producer certification is achieved through participation in a series of consecutive meetings taught by agents, specialists and veterinarians. A major goal of this project has been and will continue to be "making cattle growers aware they are food producers".

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
The Alabama Master Cattle Producers Training Program has been offered as an ETP for five years. Beginning in 1998, issues were identified by producer, agent and specialist input and addressed by developing program materials (slide sets, videos, publications, etc.) to use as educational tools at county/multi-county Master Cattle Producers training meetings. The Alabama Beef Cattle Producers Guide was written and has served as the textbook for MC programs. Agents attended in-service meetings

and were certified as MC instructors.

To receive certification, participants are required to attend at least six consecutive meetings taught by specialists, agents and veterinarians. Upon graduation, certified producers are given diplomas, caps and farm signs. Since the program's initiation in 1999, sixty-two (62) MC Programs totaling three hundred-seventy two (372) meetings have been held bringing the total of certified graduates to almost 2,200 people. The Alabama Beef Producers Guide has been re-edited and the second edition has been published.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
More than 2,200 program graduates have been made aware of recommended production and management practices that can be used to increase returns. According to evaluations completed by MC graduates, program content was rated excellent (9.5 average) and right on target. Beef Quality Assurance certification received during MC training has enabled members of alliances to provide AL-BQA certification numbers and health records to buyers of their cattle resulting in increased returns. Some feeder cattle marketing associations have made it a requirement that members receive Master Cattle Producer certification. Several Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association sanctioned heifer sales require BQA certification before cattle can be consigned. According to 2002 NCBA audits, product defects such as injection-site lesions, hide damage, bruising and drug residues have been significantly reduced because of intense producer education.

The goal of this project is to make cattle growers aware of the importance of using modern production practices to produce high quality beef products that are wholesome and safe to consume. Although quantifying economic benefits is difficult, the willingness of the participant to commit to attending no less than six weekly night meetings to hear educational programs about production, management and marketing is commendable.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
Several supporters made the Master Cattle Producers Program possible. However, the support of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System from administration, agents and specialists has been the major factor in its success. In 2002, forty-four Extension employees enrolled in ETP11b and seven success stories were submitted. Extension Communications has played an important role in providing publication and media work. Extension Animal Science, Agronomy and Agricultural Economics specialists have devoted much of their time traveling statewide presenting portions of the program. Other team players have been the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Alabama Farmers Federation,
Alabama Veterinarian Association, Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Pfizer Animal Health and Merial Animal Health.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans
Although ETP11b is not a multi-state 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. Tennessee and Louisiana are in the process of developing Master Cattle Producers Programs following the Alabama format. 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.

The program was offered as an ETP for 2003 even though it was supposed to be finished. Four sessions are already planned and four more are being planned for the fall of 2003.

GOAL TWO SUCCESS STORIES

Goal 2 Bullets

- The Pesticide Education Safety Program serves a critical safety role throughout Alabama, helping ensure that pesticides are applied in ways that are safe to humans, animals, and the environment. In 2002, more than 4,000 Alabamians passed exams and received pesticide applicator certification after attending Extension training sessions.

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.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ETP13a. The Beginning Education Early (BEE) Program
By Ellen E. Abell

A. Project Description:
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, particularly in school. Parents require information that offers them knowledge, skills, and alternatives for interacting with their children to develop these skills. The purpose of the BEE Program is to increase parental knowledge and increase behaviors associated with young children's school readiness.

Paraprofessional educators are hired and trained to work with geographically isolated, limited-resource families with at least one child age 0-5. Participant families are enrolled for a minimum of 10 one-hour sessions carried out over 3 months. Participants attend their sessions at their homes or aboard a van, renovated to be a classroom-on-wheels. Outcomes sought include increased parental knowledge about (1) appropriate child guidance and support for their children, (2) skills that children need in order to be ready for school, and (3) increased parental awareness of their role in children's development.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002, HE agents in five counties wrote and submitted competitive grant proposals for funding to support the implementation of the BEE program: Bibb, Choctaw, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, and Wilcox counties. One additional county, Marengo, completed its BEE program in July, when federal funding ended. BEE educators in these counties worked with a total of 232 families. Each adult and each child in participating families received a minimum of 10 hours of education over 3 months. With parents, educators used the "Principles of Parenting" and "Basic Parenting" curricula, supplemented, as appropriate, with the "Building Strong Families" and/or "Parents as Teachers" curricula. With children, educators used either an original, developmentally appropriate early childhood curriculum, or the "Parents as Teachers" curriculum.

BEE educators and their supervising agents received 8 hours of training during two one-day regional training workshops and attended the May13-15 training conference held in Auburn, entitled “Overcoming the Risks on the Road to School Readiness.” Additional on-site training was provided to educators in each county through observational visits and post-observation feedback sessions highlighting strengths and needs of BEE educators.

42 county Extension educators, 8 state-level Extension specialists and associates, and 20 child care professionals attended the “Overcoming the Risks on the Road to School Readiness” training conference in May, an educational event financially supported by Alabama’s State Strengthening grant from USDA’s Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) initiative. Conference sessions provided Extension educators with training and resources to address three primary areas important to school readiness: parenting education, health, and child development. In addition, these issues were presented in the context of the needs of under-served and low-income families.

Another competitive grant proposal was written and submitted to USDA’s CYFAR initiative to support 3 counties to implement the BEE program for another 5 years. The BEE website (http://www.humsci.auburn.edu/abell/beeprogram/beeprogram.htm) was updated and remains a source of information for on-line resources related to child development and care for children ages 0-5.

C. Clientele, Results, and Impacts:
BEE program evaluation strategies consist of a quarterly document review of program records, BEE educator observations and session reports, and parental self-reports of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors through pre- and post-program interviews conducted by BEE educators. Analysis of pre- and post-test interviews with the 232 participating indicated that our targeted audience (rural, low-income families with at least one preschool aged child) was successfully reached. Over 86% of participants reported being eligible for services based on low income status; 83% were African American, 47% were single parents, and 70% had a high school education or less.
In open-ended questions, 89% of parents were able to identify one or more 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 (40%); understanding (17%), the use of positive discipline (13%), and increased interest and activity in their children’s learning (14%).

The three items assessing parental attitudes about the use of guidance strategies showed an average increase of 22% from pre- to post-test in appropriate responses to statements about the use of positive discipline techniques.

When asked initially how they prepare their preschool-aged children for school, relatively few parents describe behaviors other than teaching young children basic facts or skills (e.g., ABC’s, counting, tying shoes, etc.). After completing the program, more parents described school-readying behaviors that went beyond teaching basic facts: the

percentage of parents reporting behaviors encouraging language skills increased from 3 to 57%; reporting self-control-related behaviors increased from 17% to 38%; reports of social skills-related behaviors increased from 8% to 15%; 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 13% to 23%.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
According to the reported days worked on this project, 8 ACES employees allocated a total of 520 days to this project in 2002. In addition, 12 program assistants worked over 9240 hours working directly with the families. Work in three counties was supported by grants from the USDA's CSREES initiative for Children, Youth, and Families at Risk Work in the other three counties was supported by funds received from the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans
Future plans are to continue to seek external grant funding from Children's Trust Fund and other agencies to support county programs. If the new CYFAR grant is approved, in May 2003, efforts will begin to put the BEE program into 2 new counties and expand the existing program in a third to include health literacy and co-parenting information. Several new publications (Good Beginnings Guides) dealing with common early childhood behaviors will be published through the ACES Publications Unit, adding to the availability of research-based information for parents and caregivers of young children.

ETP 25a. Metropolitan Health, Nutrition and Wellness
Donnie L. Cook

A. Description
Today, more allied health professionals are embracing the role of Extension as educators in promoting good health and healthy lifestyle for all people throughout the life cycle. During 2002 Extension programs and activities addressed the healthcare needs of the underserved populations focusing on disease prevention and intervention. Programs were designed to teach nutrition education, healthy eating habits, food preparation, food security, food safety, stretching of food dollars, behavior modification, and lifestyle changes with emphasis on reducing risk factors associated with poor health and general well being. The goals and objectives of this ETP were accomplished through creative programs, workshops, seminars, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and distribution of appropriate printed materials to individuals, families, and communities. Participants learned how to become more proactive and involved in self-care. Further, in efforts to reach all the people, the underserved and hard to reach

audiences, community partnerships with allied health professionals, health councils, and volunteers organizations were established.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out
In March of 2002 an in-service training was conducted at Alabama A&M University. Twenty-five agents and specialists attended. Outcomes were, new and different strategies were conceptualized for reaching the target populations. Over the course of the year, 1,264,343 non face- to- face Urban (748,196) and Rural (516,174) contacts were made through the news media: newspapers, newsletters, radio, and TV. County Extension agents and specialists conducted programs, workshops, seminars and health fairs to focus on nutrition, health, and wellness. Urban face-to-face contacts were 26,086, of these 32% were males and 68% females. Ethnicity of population served are as followes:56% white, 43% black, and 1% other races. The number of Rural face -to-face contacts was 10,734 with 22% males and 78% females. Primary issues targeted were factors associated with poor eating, physical inactivity, food safety, stress and chronic diseases such as asthma, cancer, diabetes, obesity, hypertension, heart and kidney disease.

C. Special Funding
Multi-state Project -Funded: USDA -CRSEES
§ $50,000 for a three year Germ City Project involving: Alabama, Hawaii, Idaho Washington, and West Virginia

The Clean Hands Healthy People- Germ City is an interactive hand-washing program, which facilitates cognitive change in hand washing behaviors. Acceptance and utilization of this unique and fun-filled educational tool state- wide has been excellent.
Germ City Unit

Year 1:

Clean Hands Healthy People - "Germ City" was officially presented to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System On March 5, 2002 to twenty-five county Extension agents and five staff members attending ETP 25A's annual in-service training. Mrs. B. Susie Craig, Washington State University Cooperative Extension, Area Faculty-Food Safety (the inventor) introduced the Germ City concept and trained the group using a PowerPoint presentation. She discussed the project's goals and objectives, provided research data, and three curriculum levels. Everyone was able to see and experience, "Clean Hands Healthy People, Germ City" first hand. The concept of Germ City is that your hand is symbolic of a city filled with thousands of germs, which cannot be seen without a microscope. Hand washing is often over looked and poorly practiced, but it is the best defense against disease.
Lessons taught using Germ City emphasized the importance of when and how to wash hands properly. Participants were given a pretend germ lotion to rub on hands, which illuminates under the black light. Participants were instructed to

wash their hands and return, and go through the tunnel again, the areas where lotion remained indicated the effectiveness of the usual hand washing techniques. This procedure provides immediate hands on feedback. It is very effective, colorful and fun. Using two Germ City units, more than 7,200 youth, children and adults participated statewide. Programs were presented in fourteen counties from April - December 2002 in the state.

Presentations:

9 Kindergarten & Elementary Schools (K-3)
5 Middle Schools (4-5)
2 Schools with 6 grade classes
6 State fairs
3 Health fairs
2 Festivals
2 After school Programs
1 Head Start Program

USDA Food Stamp Program - Funded $123.809

Implementation of the Urban Nutrition Program (UNEP)
The UNEP program provided an avenue to expand educational services to help address the nutritional needs of seniors and the limited resource families. This new and vital program was to be initiated in three phases in the state's 10 metropolitan areas. Phase I consisted of four counties - Calhoun, Lauderdale, Madison, and Morgan. Phase II to be initiated in 2003, will include Houston, Jefferson, Mobile, and Montgomery counties. During the final phase, Phase III, Tuscaloosa will implement the program in 2004.

UNEP was initiated in April 2002 with four of the state's Metropolitan areas as pilot sites. It provides an avenue to expand educational services to help address the nutritional needs of the limited resource families, seniors and residents of public housing. Within the four pilot counties, the part-time agent assistants provided educational services to over 2,592 clients through programs, food demonstrations and exhibits.

The WEALTH Curriculum, The Wise Eating Approaches for a Lifetime of Health was designed and developed by the UNEP specialists, nutritionists and staff.

UNEP curriculum, other resource curricular, and teaching materials

Food Demonstration training for UNEP agents and agent assistants

Nutrition education class for target audience

D. Results and Impact

Agents, supported by their staff and specialists, sponsored 86 programs and provided 114 displays and exhibits during programs, workshops, seminars, health fairs, and state fairs. Exhibits and displays focused on healthy eating, early detection, diabetes, high blood pressure, food safety, food preparation and cancer awareness. As a result of breast cancer awareness programs (BSE and TAF) more 500 made commitment to get their first mammogram. The participants attending the programs were 70% women, ages ranged from 25 to 79, middle to low income and with limited to no insurance. Program attendance far exceeded expectations. The programs served 5,216, with over 4,019 of the women pledging to get a mammogram yearly. Through follow-up phone calls and surveys, 49 women reported finding a lump or other warning signs of breast cancer. Also, 141 reported receiving assistant or treatment for breast cancer from Alabama's Department of Public Health and other allied health agencies. Thousands of educational materials were distributed: brochures, pamphlets, calendars, Hope beads, etc. The educational activities increased awareness and motivated some to become proactive and take responsibility for controlling their health. Many participants indicated they shared the information with other family members and friends. Several volunteers found lumps in their breast as a results of their participation in the programs. Many, many participants actually changed their behavior and improved their general health through the application of knowledge and skills learned from programs provided. ACES employees can take pride in helping to save lives.

Germ City teaches the importance of proper hand washing in six steps. Good hand washing is one of the keys to good health, it is important in personal health, food safety and disease prevention. To measure the impact and determine behavior changes as a result of experiencing Germ City, a survey was given to the classroom teaches who were asked to complete them from their observation in two to four weeks following the presentation. Eighty five percent (85%) of the surveys reviewed indicated that positive changes were noted:

· Attitudes improved regarding hand washing
· Students asked to wash hands more often
· Students got upset when someone coughed without covering their mouth
· Increased usage of soap and paper towels noted

Additional comments made by teachers include:

· "Wonderful job ladies, my students are still talking about it."
· "The Germ City project was very educational and also helpful to the students and teachers."
· "This presentation really reinforced what we had discussed and it gave the children a chance to become more actively involved."
· "I realize how important it is to have warm water to effectively wash your hands,
· Teaches recognized that some students did not wash correctly and that cold water does not get the children's hands clean. Warm water is needed in all the schools.

E. Fiscal and Human Resources

Agents, specialists and many volunteers worked diligently to educate the people in the areas of nutrition and health. Thirty ACES employees worked 912 days for reaching out to those in need. In addition, numerous volunteers, health agencies and organizations supported and co-sponsored programmatic activities.

F. Future Plans
· Conduct Germ City presentations in each county of the state.
· Implement Phase II of Urban Nutrition Education Program.
· Certify four Arthritis Self Care Instructors.
· Focus on breast, cervical and prostate cancers.
· Conduct more comprehensive diabetes education with seniors.
· Establish "Diabetes Sunday" with UNEP clientele.
· Continue proposal writing in the areas of breast and prostate cancer, and food safety.

ETP27A IPM/Elementary & Secondary Schools
By Xing Ping Hu

A. Description:
Schools are the engines powering generations, strongging our society and enabling the master of knowledge. The students are the most vulnerable to exposure of pests and pesticides. Occurrences of pests in schools cause diseases and injuries. Pesticide use creates worse consequences of contamination and danger lives. To promote a safer, healthier educational environment to our students, this ETP27A was generated as a part of the ACES Statewide Major Program on Pest Management. The goal of this ETP is to inform schools and communities about the importance, the tools and the means to do integrated pest management, a process of using the most effective yet the least toxic strategies to control pests, thus to exclude pests from schools and reduce incidents of pesticide misuse, overdose and abuse, and by doing so to promote a friendly and least-risk leaning environment for schoolers. The targeted audiences are county agents, pest management professionals, school faculty and staff, and the most important, legislators and school managers. This ETP expects schools to accept IPM in their facilities and change their traditional ways of killing bugs from solely relying on chemicals to adopting new developed technologies and strategies for pest management, through training workshops, multimedia, community events and publications.

B. Actions and Activities carried out
Six publications were developed to release updates on integrated pest management in schools, including a coloring activity book which is favored by young students and

parents, as well as teachers who want to use it in this science classes. Several community events were conducted to disseminate educational materials and exhibit our school IPM display, including Earth Day and Environmental Day. Several workshops were conducted for agents, school custodians and building maintenance crews. Extension specialists from Louisiana and Georgia participated in our workshops. The training on new technologies composed lectures and on-site demonstrations. Collaborative efforts were given the AL State Department of Agriculture and Industries and Mobile public school system, with ACES as the lead agency. I do not have the exact number and the name of media who has reported our school IPM and activities, but there were always people from news media presenting at our activities and interviewing the participants and us.

C. Results impact and benefits to direct clientele and to the public
In school that adopted IPM, the use of pesticides was reduced by more than 90%, while the incidence of pest invading and damage was decreased based on our pre-project survey and post-project survey. The long-term impacts are invaluable with respects of the quality of the environment and life, and economy. The public is aware of pest and pesticide issues.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
This ETP partially funded by an EPA grant ($36,000) to implement IPM in under-served schools. There were many volunteers to promote school IPM and assisting our activities.

E. Program visibility, exposure and future plans
We presented and communicated our results with EPA, Beyound Pesticide, and Purdue University.

ETP34b. Nutrition Education Program
By Sondra M. Parmer

A. Description:
The Alabama Nutrition Education Program (NEP) is a nutritional education program targeting food stamp recipients and eligible non-participants. The program is funded through a cooperative agreement between the Food Stamp Division of the Alabama Department of Human Resources, the Food and Nutrition Service, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The program is administered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Auburn University.

In its seventh year of implementation, all 67 counties in Alabama participated in NEP for the current project year. County Extension Agents, NEP Extension Agents, NEP Agent

Assistants, and NEP Program Assistants, along with local organizations and community leaders, worked actively with families in these counties to provided in-depth nutrition education.

In addition to the 67 counties participating in NEP through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, four sub-contracting agencies were part of the programming efforts. The Alabama Department of Public Health, the Mobile County Health Department, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, and Alabama A&M University each conducted nutrition education activities as part of the Alabama plan.

In addition to sub-contracting agreements, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System enters into partnerships with city and county school systems. The majority of the nutrition education delivered through NEP takes place in k-12 schools who are classified as 51% or more free and reduced lunch. The NEP Educator works closely with teachers in these schools to deliver research-based nutrition information to educate the young people of the state. This partnership is effective for both parties as it allows the current State Department of Education course of study standards to be met more effectively and thoroughly.

NEP educators have access to a wide range of materials with which to teach. The materials provided to them are current, engaging, age-appropriate, and interactive. In addition to curricula, an emphasis has been placed on providing the NEP educators with children's literature related to nutrition. The purpose of this has been to aid the state's current reading initiative as well as to provide the educator an appropriate starting point for a lesson in nutrition.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Statewide training was provided to all NEP educators. The training covered topics such as NEP and FNS policies, procedures, and guidelines, teaching techniques, and nutrition subject matter, including the dietary guidelines and the food guide pyramid.

Programming was conducted primarily in k-12 schools identified as 51% or more free and reduced lunch. Additionally, programs were conducted in local libraries, boys and girls clubs, senior nutrition sites, and public health departments.

Four different delivery methods are used to implement the Nutrition Education Program - the series program, the single program, the food demonstration, and the exhibit. The series program is defined as a collection of lessons to be taught on a weekly basis over the course of several weeks. The single program is a one-time meeting with a group. The food demonstration is a demonstration of food preparation in a public location. The exhibit is a composition of information placed in a site to impart knowledge to a targeted audience.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public
Participant demographic data are collected from each county and aggregated at the

state level. Additionally, information is collected on core concepts taught to every individual.

During this program year, NEP counties served 614,882 individuals. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of core concept areas taught to participants in series classes.

In addition to series classes, individuals were reached through single programs, food demonstrations, and exhibits. Table 1 shows the number of individuals reached in each of these delivery methods.

Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5 show demographic characteristics of the NEP series program audience, including the place of residence, gender and ethnic distribution, age distribution, and educational attainment for the 179,412 participants of the NEP series programs.

Single programs, food demonstrations, and exhibits played an integral role as implementation methods for serving NEP participants in Alabama. Figures 6 and 7 show a breakdown of how many of each of these programs was held and the number of people reached through each delivery method.

Of the 179,412 series program participants, 93% graduated from one of he series programs (Figure 8). In order to graduate from a NEP series program, a participant had to attend a minimum of one less that the total number of classes available (e.g., five out of six lessons). At the end of the data collection period, 4.9% of the participants had started but not finished the lesson series and were still currently enrolled in a series program. Only 1.8% of the participants did not complete one of the series programs.

Pre- and post-assessment instruments were used to collect impact data for young children. In programs serving k-2nd grade, data were collected for 3,015 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 93% understanding at post-assessment.
A pilot evaluation was conducted for children in 4th and 5th grade. Data were collected for 282 individuals to examine current nutrition and physical activity understanding and practices for this population. Responses to ten knowledge questions determined overall nutrition knowledge questions, an overall knowledge score of 51% was determined. Responses to the ten knowledge questions were analyzed by question and scored based on a 100% scale. Of a possible total score of ten, the mean knowledge score was 5.01. Students scored the lowest on questions related to the functions of Vitamin C, protein and Vitamin A in the body. Less than one-half of students answered these questions correctly. Highest scores were recorded for questions related to nutrients present in soft drinks, milk, fruits and vegetables, and meat.

Responses to 12 general behavior questions determined overall nutrition behavior

scores of students. To examine specific behavior patterns, responses to the 12 general behavior questions were analyzed question by question. More than one-half of students consumed milk, cheese or yogurt on most school days for breakfast and lunch. However, less than one-half of students consumed milk, cheese or yogurt for supper and a snack on school days. More than half of students consumed a fruit or vegetable for breakfast, lunch and supper on most days. Less than one-half of students consumed a fruit or a vegetable for a snack on school days. More than one-half of students consume soft drinks everyday. More than one-third of students play video games, play computer games, or watch TV four or more house a day on school days.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
According to the reported days worked on this project, 186 ACES employees allocated a total of 16,604 days to this project in 2002. The annual budget for this program was in excess of ten million dollars with half of this amount coming from the federal government. The remainder was provided from ACES and local partnerships with k-12 schools.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
In addition to direct educational efforts, the Nutrition Education Program contains a social marketing component. The purpose of this component is to provide general nutrition education messages to a large audience. As part of this effort, commercials were developed and aired, radio PSAs were done, and state partnerships formed.

Future plans include continuation of the program in all 67 counties in the state. State specialists will continue to provide new and innovative teaching materials to county educators and programming will continue to be refined to present the best possible nutrition education program to the citizens of Alabama.

GOAL THREE SUCCESS STORIES

Clean Hands—Healthy People: Germ City

We've sent astronauts to the moon and explored the deepest reaches of space with the Hubble Telescope, yet tens of millions of Americans have not mastered one of life's most basic tasks—hand washing, something we're supposed to learn by age four or even younger.

Studies show that of the 94 percent of people who claimed to wash their hands after using the restroom, only 68 percent actually did.

Hand washing is a key, but often overlooked, behavior that affects food safety, personal health, and disease prevention. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 79 million people in the United States become ill yearly as a result of food-related diseases and approximately 5,000 people die. Poor hygiene is the greatest contributor to food-related outbreaks.

In an effort to tackle this problem, Extension specialists in five states were awarded a $500,000 USDA grant to implement Germ City programs. Germ City is an interactive and science-based exhibit that increases the awareness of the consequences of poor hand washing.

While a catchy tune is playing, children are asked to cover their hands with a non-toxic, pretend germ lotion that glows under ultraviolet lights. A trip through the Germ City tunnel reflects the glow of the lotion indicating the presence of germs. Participants are then instructed to wash their hands thoroughly. During a second visit through the tunnel, areas that light up show germs left on the hands and illustrate the effectiveness of their hand washing skills. Children respond enthusiastically with comments such as, "Cool!", "Neat-o!", and "Can I go again?"

"At schools, teachers typically come out with it under their nails and on their wrists and fingers, while kids have it everywhere—their ears, noses, and even their clothes," Dr. Donnie Cook, Extension health and nutrition specialist, recalls with a chuckle.

The good news is that Germ City is teaching thousands of children a valuable lesson in good hygiene. During the past eight months, Germ City presentations have been conducted in 14 counties, reaching 7,200-plus participants of all ages.

Kindergarten and elementary teachers, in particular, have noticed a dramatic interest in hand washing among children who have participated.

A More Efficient Nutrition Program

Alabama is leading a nationwide effort in merging the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) in 31 counties with the Nutrition Education Program (NEP) in all 67 counties to strengthen nutrition education in the state. NEP focuses largely on a youth audience while EFNEP focuses on family and youth audiences. The newly merged program will be the Alabama Cooperative Extension Nutrition Education Program (ACENEP), which will produce a more efficient program for the citizens of Alabama. The highly successful NEP reached 179,412 participants with 93 percent graduating in 2002. EFNEP enrolled 6,031 families with more than 19,000 members in 2002. More than 85 percent of the enrolled homemakers demonstrated improvement of total family diets.

Breathing Again

Dothan resident Ethel Adams was coughing herself to death, but she didn't know why.

She suspected it was her carpet, but she couldn't be sure. Like most elderly people, she was living on a fixed income and couldn't afford to have it tested.

Studies have shown older carpet sometimes harbors biological contaminants – bacteria, dust mites, mold spores, fungi, and pollen, among others – known to affect breathing.

Night after stifling night she spent coughing and gasping for breath. She complained about the problem to the management of her housing complex, but to no effect.

At one point, suspecting the problem stemmed from a clogged air return, she squeezed herself into a narrow crawl space to clean it out – and suffered a mild heart attack.

Desperate, she paid a visit to her local health department and finally got the help she desperately sought. They recommended she contact Houston County Extension agent Phillip Carter, known in the Wiregrass as an authority on indoor air-related problems.

After a close inspection, Carter came away convinced that the carpet was rife with substances that were contributing to Adams' breathing problems.

It was just the proof she needed to make the case that her carpet needed to be removed and replaced with tile.

Carter, on her behalf, contacted the regional office ultimately responsible for the operation of her apartment complex. After a visit by a representative, Adams finally got her wish: workers removed the carpet and replaced it with the tiles she had requested.

Shortly after the installation of the tile flooring, Adams began breathing without difficulty – something she had not known for more than two years.

She's got her life back as well as a newfound friend in Phillip Carter.

"God led me to him," Adams says. "If it hadn't been for him, I don't know what I would have done."

Goal 3 Bullets

- Lauderdale County's traveling health fair, coordinated by Extension in collaboration with the Partnership for a Tobacco Free Shoals, literally took the university to the people. More than 4,600 youth were involved in interactive learning to discourage tobacco usage.
- The Plant an Extra Row program in Tuscaloosa County encourages gardeners to plant extra produce to donate at harvest time. Since April 2002, approximately 500 pounds of vegetables and fruits have been donated to the local Salvation Army and Community Soup Bowl.
- Breast-cancer awareness education is a major focus of Extension programming. In partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health, the American Cancer Society, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and local hospital and community groups, Extension has helped develop a wide array of breast-cancer awareness

materials, including brochures, a breast health calendar, and workshop teaching materials.

- Supported by a USDA Food and Nutrition Service grant, the Urban Nutrition Education Program (UNEP) was launched in 2002 in Morgan, Lauderdale, Madison, and Calhoun counties to expand nutrition education services to seniors and inner-city families in Alabama.
- Madison County 4-H volunteers and youth developed an early breast cancer detection program for African Americans, who, research has shown, are the most susceptible to the disease. More than 500 copies of breast cancer warning sign materials were provided in English and Spanish.
- Striking a healthy balance between thinness and good nutrition was the focus of a series of eight one-hour sessions provided by a Randolph County Extension agent to sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders at a local school. The girls were encouraged to write articles making other teens aware of eating disorders, one of which was quoted in an article on eating disorders featured in the local *Randolph Leader*.
- KidsCope is a Cullman County Extension-sponsored program designed for parents struggling to help children deal with emotional stresses associated with divorce. The biggest supporters of KidsCope are Cullman County's circuit court judges, who have credited the program with reducing the number of child custody and family-related cases.
- Almost 300 children received glasses and an additional 437 were referred for professional evaluations, thanks to a Pickens County Extension-sponsored program.

The program, made possible by an $8,000 grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, also played a critical role helping 70 children obtain desperately needed health insurance through Medicaid, ALL-Kids, or the Caring program.

- In partnership with Auburn University's Harrison School of Pharmacy, Extension developed an educational program to address one of Alabama's most serious health problems: asthma. A major focus of this project will be recruiting local pharmacists to provide on-site asthma education to their clients, such as how to take asthma medication and use asthma-related equipment safely and efficiently.
- Addressing the serious risk of heart disease and other chronic illnesses associated with sedentary lifestyles, the Choctaw County Extension Office sponsored a Walk! Alabama effort that attracted almost 200 participants. Of the 23 teams participating, 11 exceeded the 850-mile goal of crisscrossing Alabama.
- Alabama Extension agents are forming coalitions with other public and private agents to provide local residents with up-to-date diabetes information. After participating in a statewide program, agents returned to their counties to train local nutritionists and dieticians on how to deliver diabetes cooking schools and how to assemble and use foot-care kits.
- Helping communities maintain or improve local health care facilities is the goal of a joint partnership between Extension and the Alabama Southern Rural Access Project, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The project's goal is to help 18 rural counties in southern Alabama expand their local health care infrastructure, a key component of their local economy.

- The Colbert County Extension Office, along with Helen Keller Hospital, is working to make more parents of newborns aware of the potential risks of radon exposure. Colbert County was chosen to serve as the site for the Newborn Infant Pilot Program, made possible by a grant from the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors.
- Extension-sponsored indoor environmental health conferences have enabled more than 900 participants – nurses, social workers, public health employees, teachers, day care providers, and Extension professionals -- to return to their towns and cities to develop community-wide initiatives to improve the indoor environments of local homes, schools, and businesses.

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.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ETP 16B: Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring
By William Deutsch

A. Description:
Alabama has tremendous water resources, including more navigable river miles than any other state. The importance of public awareness in addition to government agencies for protection and restoration is essential. The Alabama Water Watch (AWW) program at Auburn University began in 1992, and has worked with about 180 citizen groups who are concerned with water issues. AWW has continued to expand over the last ten years, moving into many different facets of water quality monitoring. Through ETP 16B, there is opportunity for ACES agents to become more directly involved with the AWW program and citizen water monitors throughout Alabama.

The goal of ETP 16B is to work with ACES agents to educate citizens and communities about the importance of clean water and watershed management statewide. Citizen volunteers, including youth, become certified to conduct simple water tests using an inexpensive kit according to EPA-approved, quality assurance protocols. Community-based, water quality monitoring results have been shown to be comparable to data collected by state agencies and universities and are, therefore, useful for watershed management, stream restoration, and overall environmental stewardship.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Nineteen agents representing 12 counties, the 4-H Center, and AU on-campus specialists, signed up for 295 days on ETP 16B. One of the 19 agents (registered for 20 days) deleted his account mid-year. Agents participated in several water-related activities of the ETP. Through these activities, agents became:
1. Resources for people, distributing Alabama Water Watch (AWW) materials and information and loaning water testing equipment
2. Coordinators of AWW workshops
3. Facilitators of water watch groups
4. Certified water watchers (as part of the in-service training requirement)

An in-service training workshop was conducted in May 2002 in conjunction with a 4-H youth program workshop. This workshop was carried out in order to certify the agents, motivate them, and prepare them to pass their knowledge on to community and educational programs. Emphasis was put on educating school-age children on the importance of water quality, helping them become involved in water quality monitoring activities, and further educating others on the importance of community-based water quality monitoring. Fourteen agents representing 15 counties participated in this workshop, which included both a Water Chemistry Monitoring and Biological Assessment training. This was publicized through ACES so that only county agents were able to participate. Of these 14 participants, only four were signed up for ETP 16B.

Some of these agents were able to begin programs in their community in relation to water monitoring, encouraging several county agents who were not signed up for ETP 16B to become interested. An example of this is efforts by Mr. Hayes Jackson, a Calhoun County agent. Mr. Jackson coordinated a certification workshop for members and students conducted by Dr. Bill Deutsch in September 2002. The AWW office loaned Mr. Jackson a kit in order for the group to begin monitoring in his area. Mr. Jackson gained support for the water testing activity from a local garden club who donated two test kits for continuation of his efforts. In turn, Mr. Jackson became interested in becoming involved in ETP 16B for 2003.

A data interpretation session was held in February in Wedowee, AL at the Randolph county extension office. The extension office helped coordinate activities conducted by Dr. Bill Deutsch and Eric Reutebuch in which data collections from the Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association were explained. This in turn stirred interest for a water chemistry certification and recertification workshop in June coordinated by county agent Stan Roark at Lake Wedowee. Wendi Hartup, of the AWW office, conducted the workshop where approximately 25 members of the Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association became certified water watch monitors and approximately 10 members renewed their Water Chemistry Monitoring Certification. In October, a Bacteria Monitoring Certification workshop was coordinated at the same location.

Seven of the nineteen ETP 16B agents were certified in water quality at other times. Other county agents corresponded with the Alabama Water Watch program office through ACES on becoming involved with water quality monitoring and on how to begin programs in their area. Marion County agent, Bobby Wallace, coordinated a meeting in Hamilton, AL, in which thirteen local officials and groups voiced their interest in protecting and monitoring the Buttahatchee River. He then decided to participate in ETP 16B in 2003, and coordinate training workshops.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
ETP 16B had a strong response by agents in its first year. ACES involvement has strengthened citizen participation in water quality monitoring, particularly by agent efforts in counties where there has been relatively little involvement. ETP 16B has

resulted in widespread interest in water quality throughout various communities, and has made the tools available to effectively accomplish goals and objectives as well as gather useful water data. Several county agents not previously involved with community-based water quality monitoring have now become interested and plan to become certified.

There is great potential to expand the scope of ETP 16B, to become active with agents in several new counties, and to provide additional training and support to them. It is expected that some agents will go beyond serving as resource persons for citizen monitors, becoming monitors and AWW trainers in 2003.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
Eighteen county agents allotted 275 days of work to ETP 16B, the equivalent of 1.13 FTEs. Dr. Bill Deutsch has a one-third ACES appointment for participating in ETP 16B and SMP 16. He coordinates the ACES project with the ADEM/EPA-funded Alabama Water Watch program. AWW received a grant for $192,000 from ADEM in 2002, and provided training and technical backstopping for about 80 citizen groups. In 2002, citizens contributed 18,715 hours in training workshops and water monitoring valued at $300,376. It is difficult to quantify the volunteer hours that are a direct result of ETP 16B, however, a small portion of the total hours included ETP activities such as publicity, workshop coordination, monitoring, etc.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
The ETP 16B benefits from extensive exposure of the AWW program statewide over the last 10 years. Citizen groups, educators, and policy makers have become aware of community-based water monitoring in Alabama through newsletters, a website, a List serve, and numerous meetings.

Future plans are to include the activities of ETP 16B on the AWW website, http://www.alabamawaterwatch.org, and photos of the in-service training are currently on the homepage. County agents and the citizen monitors they work with are able to submit water data online and access the entire AWW database which represents information from about 1500 sites on 500 water bodies. Future water data collected through ETP 16B will be accessible worldwide through this source. The AWW Program plans to publish several new water body reports about Alabama's lakes, streams, and coastal areas in 2003. For example, a report on Lake Wedowee will feature involvement of Randolph County agents with the citizen group through ETP 16B.

Emily Kling, Eve Brantley, Stan Roark, and Christine Hardin all contributed immensely to the success of ETP 16B. Emily coordinated the in-service training workshop in May 2002. Eve is an active AWW trainer, and works with water quality monitoring efforts, serving as President of the Alabama Water Watch Association. Stan and Christine have coordinated water data interpretation sessions, provided support to citizen monitors of the Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association, and are active in the Upper Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership.

ETP 20A: 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation
By Emily B. Kling from Campus on 2003-01-14 for ETP20A

A. Description
Alabama's forests are home to 1.4 million of the nation's 18 million white tail deer and 350,000 of its 4 million wild turkeys. Hunting and fishing by 360,000 in-state and out-of-state hunters generate over $600,000 annually in taxes, license fees, hunting rights in sales of equipment and supplies. Alabama needs a continuous supply of industry professionals and landowners who are knowledgeable about sustaining wildlife enterprises that can compete in the global economy.

This project has multiple goals. It is designed to: help Alabama's youth to develop an appreciation of the need and importance of conserving wildlife and fisheries resources; demonstrate knowledge and skills related to the management of those resources; develop critical thinking, decision making, and team building skills; and develop citizenship and leadership knowledge and skills in wildlife and fisheries conservation. A secondary goal is to influence them to consider careers related to this industry.

B. Actions and Activities
Between February 22 and June 25, youth from eight counties studied and practiced to learn wildlife and foods identification, recognition of management practices through aerial photos, determine how specific sites should be managed for particular species, and write urban management plans. They practiced in such locations as Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, Horseshoe Bend National Park, Five Star Plantation, local parks, private forests, and farms.

Guidance for the training sessions came from the February 21 "Coaching 4-H Wildlife Judging Teams" In Service training video conference attended by ten Agents from and the video tape of that training sent to 12 counties.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public
43 youth from eight counties competed in the ACES- sponsored Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest on June 25-26 at Auburn High School. This event contained written tests, laboratory tests, problem solving and practical fieldwork. Unfortunately individual cumulative scores of 16 youth from 6 counties who participated in the 2001 and 2002 contests showed a 43% decrease. In spite of this decrease, reports from Agents indicate that youth learned goal setting, teamwork, and good study habits.

The winning Senior team from Coosa County continued their study and practices sessions in July. In early August they traveled to the National 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation contest in Wooseter, Ohio and placed third out of 18 teams.

The Alabama 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation program is considered by other participating states to be one of the foremost in the country. This is evidenced by the fact our coaches are often approached at national events and asked how they prepare their teams for competition. Even though this event rotates to different habitats throughout the country, Alabama teams have placed in the top five in the past 16 years. One 4-Her plans to enroll in Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Science.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
According to the reported days worked on this project 18 ACES employees contributed 204 days on this project. They made 1823 urban contacts and 224, 999 rural contacts. Also, volunteer leaders from the Alabama Forestry Commission, Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, or the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources contributed over 2500 hours. The value of their contribution is estimated to be $37500.

Financial contributions from the Alabama Forest Owners Association ($250), Alabama Chapter, The Wildlife Society ($ 300), Alabama Forest Owners Association ($250) Gulf States Paper, Inc.($ 250) and in kind contributions from the Natural Resources and Conservation Service helped defray the cost of the state contest. Funding from the Thompson Tractor, Inc. Trust covered the expenses for participation in the National Contest. Additional contributions from Alabama Power, Farm Services Agency, Five Star Plantation, and the Coosa County Commission supported various county programs.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans
ACES Communications personnel supplied photos of the top three Junior and Senior individual and team winners to daily or weekly newspapers in those counties. In addition, they posted an article about the state contest on the Web.

The lead Specialist provided photos of all participating teams and coaches for use in local news media.

Coosa County does an outstanding job in promoting its program. It holds an annual awards banquet for its wildlife and forestry judging teams. The local Probate Judge and the State representative attended the 2002 banquet. Montgomery's Channel 13 featured the senior team on a television newscast, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation periodical contained a feature article.

The decrease in yearly contest scores suggests a need for improved training for those who coach teams. A two-day, more field oriented In Service Training is planned for January21-22, 2003.

ETP 20B: 4-H Forestry Judging
By Emily B. Kling

A. Description
The forestry industry directly or indirectly employs 10% of Alabama's total workforce, has a $4.2 billion dollar payroll, and produces 13.2 billion in products. The value of forest products shipped abroad is approximately $1.25 billion, or 23% of all exports. Alabama needs a continuous supply of industry professionals and landowners who are knowledgeable about sustaining productive forests and wood products so that these industries that can compete in the global economy.

This project emphasizes developing an appreciation of the need and importance of conserving natural resources; acquiring information and understanding of practical forestry skills; and developing citizenship and leadership knowledge and skills. A secondary goal is to influence them to consider careers related to this industry. They will study and practice with a volunteer leader or Extension Agent.

B. Actions and Activities
Between January 11 and June 10, youth from 17 counties studied and practiced to learn tree identification, tree measurement, insect and disease identification, compass and pacing skills, and forest evaluation techniques. They practiced in such locations as Horseshoe Bend National Park, Five Star Plantation, Anniston Museum Outdoor Classroom, Auburn University Arboretum, Mary Olive Thomas Forestry Track, Auburn University's Forest Ecology Preserve, local parks, private forests, and farms. The four Etowah County youth who took a pre-test before their first practice and a post-test immediately prior to the state invitational showed an 86% increase in knowledge gained.

Guidance for the training sessions came from the January 10 "Coaching 4-H forestry Judging Teams" In Service training at the Lee county Extension Office and Mary Olive Thomas Forestry Tract attended by 18 Agents and five volunteer leaders from 18 counties. All participants increased their scores on the written pre- and post training tests.

C. Results, Impacts, and Benefits
Seventy-five youth from 17 counties competed in the ACES-sponsored Forestry Judging Invitational on June 10-11 at the 4-H Center. This event contained a written quiz, lab quiz on forest insect and disease pests, and knowledge bowl, as well as field events in tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, and forestry evaluation.

Three points separated the first and second place (Clay Co.) teams in this year's state competition. The winning senior team from Tuscaloosa County continued their study and practice sessions in July. In early August, they traveled to the National Invitational at Jackson's Mill West Virginia and won by a 125 point margin over 24 other teams.

The Alabama 4-H Forestry Judging program is considered by other participating states to be one of the foremost in the country. Clay County's score at the state contest was higher than the second place team score at the National Invitational. Alabama teams have won the national invitational 12 times in the past 16 years and placed in the top five all but one of those years. Thus it is not uncommon for our coaches to be asked how they prepare their teams for competition and how we structure our state contest.

Two 4-Hers have indicated interest in enrolling in Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Science.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
According to the reported days worked on this project, 24 ACES employees contributed 333.5 days on this project. They made 13961 urban contacts and 27232 rural contacts. Also, volunteer leaders from Alabama Power, Alabama Forestry Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, private industry, and county forestry planning committees contributed approximately 4000 hours. The value of their contribution is estimated to be $60000.

Financial contributions from the Alabama Forest Owners' Association ($250), Alabama Forestry Foundation ($250), Alabama Tree Farm Program ($250), and Gulf States Paper, Inc. ($250) helped defray the cost of the state contest. Funding from the Joe Brady Trust covered the expenses for participation in the National Invitational. In kind contributions from Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama River Woodlands, Inc., Alabama Tree Farm Program, Fred Harmon Forestry & Reality, and International Paper, Inc. were utilized to run the state contest. Additional contributions from ALFA, Alabama Power, Meade, Inc., Five Star Plantation, and county forestry planning committees supported various county programs.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans
ACES Communications personnel supplied photos of the top three Junior and Senior individual and team winners to daily or weekly newspapers in those counties. In addition, they posted an article about the state contest on the Web.

The lead Specialist provided photos of all participating teams and coaches for use in local news media.

Emily Vines, Coosa Co. won the Governor's Youth Conservationist of the Year award and was featured in an article in the Alabama Wildlife Federation periodical as well as local newspapers.

One 4-her has decided to major in Forestry in college and another is planning to become more involved in his family timber operation.

A one-day field oriented- In Service training at the 4-H Center is planned for January 23, 2003.

ETP20C Logger Education and Training
By Mathew F. Smidt

Loggers across the US are committed to completing basic logger training programs and continuing education. This commitment was made by the forest industry to provide assurance to consumers of wood products that principles of forest sustainability are practiced on US forests. In Alabama this training is provided by the Alabama Professional Logging Manager Training Program (PLM). The PLM program is a 5 day training course offered in cooperation with the Alabama Forestry Association and Alabama Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) State Implementation Committee.
In 2002 340 participants completed the 5 day training program. The program was presented 8 times at 7 locations (Brantley, Millport, Monroeville, Opelika, Ragland, Stevenson, and Wetumpka). Extension Specialist Mathew Smidt presented material at 11 courses at those programs.
In Late 2001 Smidt completed a revision of the Forest Management and Harvesting courses. In June 2002, Smidt presented a train-the-trainer program to10 industrial foresters and consultants who facilitate all Harvesting and Forest Management courses. Another 14 were trained in 2001.
Loggers who have already completed the PLM program are required to attend 6 hours of continuing education per year. The loggers rely on extension organized and supported programming to fill part or all of that requirement. Extension coordinators directly produced a total of 17 programs for 2620 hours. That accounted over 20% of the 13,000 hours accumulated by the 2161 continuing education participants. In my 2002 survey of continuing education a random sample of 100 participants indicated that programs they attended had value nearly equal to the cost of attendance and were generally convenient to their location and their work schedule. Value is most critical since it's estimated that a full day training program costs a logging business $1000/day/person.
The major continuing education events of the year were distance education programs. The Master Tree Farmer organized by cooperative extension provided continuing education for 584 participants of the PLM program. Two more satellite video conferences for the PLM program were produced by extension communications at Auburn and broadcast largely in extension offices across Alabama. The first program in May presented information on business organization, logging safety, and transportation safety. The program was shown in 13 locations to 132 people. The second program in August presented information on logging capacity utilization, the state of the forest products business, and global positioning technology. That program was viewed by 108 people in 13 locations. Both programs were rated highly in terms of overall value of the material presented and the mode of delivery.
Smidt shares responsibility for planning PLM activities through support of the Alabama SFI Logger Education Committee (SFI leadership is reserved for the statewide SFI

coordinator and SFI member companies). Smidt coordinates Alabama's activities regionally and nationally through participation in SFI conferences and Forest Resource Association (FRA) meetings. Each year FRA holds either a national or regional Logger Training and Education meeting to discuss training activities and certification requirements. Smidt attended the 2002 meeting in Charlotte, NC.

ETP27B. IPM/Horticultural Food Crops
By John R. McVay

A. Description:
Horticultural food crops comprise a dynamic force in Alabama. Production of tree crops, small fruits, and vegetables of all types is a multi-million dollar industry with an impact exceeding $1 Billion on the State's economy. Continued emphasis on IPM-based production by the Federal authority and implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act mandate that alternative methods to routinely scheduled applications of broad-spectrum pesticides be developed for crop protection. Specialists and Agents signed up for this ETP promoted the use of IPM principals and techniques among producers and worked as a team to develop and improve IPM approaches in these crops. Objectives are met through county, area and farm meetings: tours and field days; demonstrations and applied research as well as Extension publications and mass media techniques. The program objective is to have 75% of producers adopt at least some of the available IPM methodology in their operations.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
During the calendar year, 2002, specialists and agents conducted 20 county meetings with horticultural food crop IPM as a primary or supporting component. Included were meetings concerning vegetable production, small fruit production, tree fruit production and pecan production. As a result of theses meetings, over 325 producers were introduced to and received training in IPM techniques applicable to the crops they produce. Additionally, field days and tours concerning specific commodities, (Pecans, Peaches, Apples, Vegetables, etc.) were conducted in conjunction with the Agricultural Experiment Station network, and various producer organizations such as the Alabama Pecan Grower's Association. This introduced an additional 600 to 800 producers to the various aspects of production, including a heavy emphasis on IPM techniques.

Also, during 2002, 37 result demonstrations were conducted by county agents, specialists, and teams were designed and implemented to investigate IPM methodologies and expand the knowledge base of producers and team members. These demonstrations involved various management regimes for plant pathogens, weeds, and arthropod pests for Pecans, Apples, Peaches, Strawberries, Blueberries, Tomatoes, Potatoes, Cucurbits, and Pumpkins as well as other lesser grown specialty crops. The results of these demonstrations were utilized in county meetings, area meetings, and State production meetings as training tools for agents, specialists, and

producers.

Extension publications concerning IPM for horticultural food crops were updated and disseminated to producers and agents throughout the State. The ETP team cooperated with teams in other Southeastern States to produce regional IPM publications for Apples and Peaches. Other similar efforts are planned for additional crops.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Surveys indicate that the majority of Alabama producers of horticultural food crops are aware of IPM efforts and management techniques that can enhance pest management while maintaining produce quality at lower cost while preserving the integrity of the environment. In some specific crops, notably pecans, all producers are aware of the program impacts and use at least two or more of the IPM tools available. Also, in pecan production, a new, low-impact IPM system was introduced and is gaining recognition as a preferred alternative to the use of broad-spectrum pesticides applied at regular intervals.
At least 70% of producers of the affected crops are involved in some aspect of IPM in their production practices.

The adoption of IPM techniques by Alabama producers of these crops has resulted in dramatic declines of numbers of pesticide application and poundage of pesticide released into the agroecosystem. For example, in Pecans, producers now apply an average of 4 to 5 insecticide treatments under the IPM system as opposed to 10 to 15 under the old calendar-driven regime. This amounts to a cost savings of approximately $140.00 per acre for the cost of insecticides alone. The materials being used are also increasingly found to be more target-specific and environmentally friendly than in the past. Across the board, horticultural food crop producers are applying hundreds of thousands of pounds less pesticide annually at a financial savings of over 2 million dollars. While do so, they are introducing better control materials into the ecosystem that have less impact on the natural fauna and flora.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
According to the reported days worked on this project, 18 ACES employees allocated a total of 745 days to this project in 2002. The value of this professional time is approximately $20,000.00 and the total estimated cost was $45,000.00. When compared to the savings realized by the producers, the value of the crops produced, and the reduction of pesticide materials introduced into the environment, this nominal cost is well worth the investment.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
Plans are to continue these efforts for the extended future. Results of applied research, result demonstrations, and method demonstrations will be passed on to producer clientele by way of continued meetings (county, area and state) and in published form where applicable. IPM is a very viable option to older, established pest control practices nation and worldwide. The producers of Alabama are actively taking part in devising,

amending and adopting such practices. More and more horticultural food crops are expected to be included in such management systems in coming years.

ETP 27C, Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT).
By Wheeler Foshee

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. 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 Laboratory at Auburn University provides diagnosis of plant problems, soil nematode analysis, and weed and insect identifications. Clients, which include county agents, growers, homeowners, consultants, Extension specialists, and researchers, 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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS:
Pesticide activities included the following:
1) Private Applicator Training (PAT) Meetings: County Extension Agents and Specialist conducted 17, 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.
2) Commercial Applicator Training and Commodity Meetings: CEA and specialist participated in 11 area-wide meetings on various pesticide issues.
3) Master Gardener Meetings: CEAs and specialists conducted 14 meetings covering general entomology, ornamental and turf insects and pesticide safety.
4) Restricted Use Pesticide Dealer Meetings: Specialists planned, organized, and implemented area-wide educational meeting at three locations in state. Total attendance was 227.
5) Training by category:
a. Private applicators trained: 2,360

b. Commercial applicators trained: 1,486
Total: 3,846

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 2002 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.

ETP27d. Training Fire Ant Management Advisors
By Kathy L. Flanders

A. Description:
This ETP was designed to teach the principles of sustainable fire ant management. Fire ants affect nearly everyone in Alabama. They can adversely affect our health, our agriculture, our wildlife, and our environment. It has been estimated that fire ants cost Alabamians $175,000,000 per year (Thompson et al. 2002). Fire ant management is frequently crisis oriented, relying on the use of harsh chemical insecticides. As a rule, people spend too much money, too much time, and use too many pesticides trying to control fire ants. Environmentally safe fire ant products are currently available for use. However, they are often applied improperly. A sustainable approach to fire ant management can make fire ants easier to live with, while reducing social, economic, and environmental costs.
The goal of this project is to increase the general level of knowledge about fire ant management by 20-25%. A tiered training approach has been used. In 2000, forty county agents were trained in fire ant management. In 2001, educational publications

and teaching materials were developed with input from these county agents (www.aces.edu/dept/fireants). For 2002, we wanted to train the next tier of trainers, who we are calling fire ant management advisors. By teaching those who are likely to pass on their knowledge, we multiply our training efforts and dollars.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002, 812 trainers participated in 26 trainer-oriented workshops. Educational materials used included slide sets, videotapes, posters, mound models, and publications. Master Gardeners, Master Cattle Producers, pesticide dealers, turf grass managers, environmental biology students, city employees, botanical garden directors, horticultural inspectors, and pest control operators and NRCS personnel were trained in sustainable fire ant management. 202 members of the general public participated in 7 other workshops. Twelve county agents and two specialists participated in training fire ant management advisers..
Eight of our county agents are participating in the decapitating fly project. This project, administered by the Alabama Fire Ant Management Program, involves releasing and monitoring the establishment and spread of a biological control agent of the fire ant.
Two county agents conducted bait-based fire ant management demonstrations.
Three county agents and two specialists participated in staffing fire ant booths at the Alabama Peanut Festival and the Alabama National Fair. More than 10,000 ACES publications were handed out during these event.
Local extension agents have described their programming efforts in fire ant management in five success stories. Four of these have photos. At least 12 interviews were broadcast on television in 2002.
Several other organizations have collaborated with ACES in implementing this program. Our partners include The Alabama Fire Ant Management Program, Alabama A&M University, USDA ARS, USDA APHIS, and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. Stakeholder groups that allowed us to conduct training sessions were the Alabama Turf grass Association, the Southern Chapter of the Horticultural Inspection Society, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service East Team, and the Southeastern Association of Botanical Garden Directors. Grants from the Southern Region Professional Development Program and the Alabama Fire Ant Management Program provided funds for developing educational materials and conducting workshops.
C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Results from pre- and post-testing showed that we increased the general level of knowledge of our fire ant management advisers by 29%.
We hope that each of our fire ant management advisers will help 20 others manage fire ants in a sustainable way (16,200). We hope members of the general public who were trained will contact several of their neighbors (606). Of the 10,000 publications that were handed out, we hope that 2,000 will be read and cause individuals to change their fire ant management practices. This adds up to 18,800 people. Switching from crisis oriented fire ant management to a sustainable approach will reduce costs per household from $100 to approximately $30. That would result in a cost savings of $1,316,000 ($18,800 X $70).

In future years, we hope that the decapitating flies will make an even greater contribution towards improving the lives of all Alabamians.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
"According to the reported days worked on this project, 28 ACES employees allocated a total of 329 days to this project in 2002. The value of this professional time is $44,867. For every dollar spent by ACES, we will have observed a $30 return."

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
Fire ants affect all our lives. Because of that, they are frequently in the news. Our county agents appear frequently on the radio, on television, and in print discussing fire ants and their management. Results are reported to the Alabama Legislature, and key government officials via the annual report of the Alabama Fire Ant Management Program. Five agents wrote individual success stories about their local activities under this project.
Our future plans are to continue this program for at least two more years. In 2003, we will make an extra effort to train garden center personnel and additional cattlemen. The first, because they advise so many homeowners on fire ant management. The second, because Alabama's 4 million acres of grass pastures harbor approximately 160 million fire ant colonies.

References Cited
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GOAL FOUR SUCCESS STORIES

Blind Faith

Cam Lanier IV was ready to take a leap into the dark.

He was intrigued with the phenomenal success Alabama Extension wildlife scientist Lee Stribling had in Georgia working with landowners to expand quail populations through habitat management. He and his father, Cam III, wanted to produce the same success on land they had purchased for wild quail hunting.

Stribling couldn't have been more pleased by Lanier's interest. For years, he had hoped someone in Alabama would take this leap.

Until Lanier stepped up to the plate, Stribling's approach had never been tried in the region. And, as many neighboring landowners were quick to point out, "Just 'cause it works in Georgia doesn't mean it will work in Alabama."

Even so, Lanier remained a true believer. For three years, he operated on blind faith, following the recommendations to the letter – actually "150 percent of everything we told him to do," as Stribling recalls.

Part of these recommendations involved clearing hardwoods – a strategy many neighboring landowners believed invited disaster.

"People would call me and say, 'You're taking food [in the form of acorns] away from them!'" Lanier recalls with a smile. "They didn't realize that the trees we were taking out didn't produce acorns and were not a feed source."

Lanier also was advised to adopt practices promoting the growth of weeds that attract insects. Part of this involved periodic disking to discourage the growth of dense, mat-forming vegetation, which quail don't like, while enhancing the growth of weeds that quail prefer.

He also altered his prescribed burning techniques to preserve nesting areas.

Lanier's efforts were not in vain. By 2001, quail coveys had increased three-fold.

Based on this success, neighboring landowners, along with the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, the Alabama Wildlife Federation, and others, have joined forces to establish and fund the Alabama Quail Project, a research and Extension effort aimed at further enhancing quail populations throughout Alabama.

It couldn't have come at a better time. Organizers are hopeful the project will heighten interest in recreational hunting, which has played a crucial role in supplementing farm income and enhancing rural land values in recent years.

Training at the Grassroots

Worldwide concerns about the logging industry's effects on the environment have prompted the industry to enhance professional requirements for loggers.

As Lamar County forester Matthew Gilmore sees it, there's no other way around it. Much of the industry's success in the future will depend on how well it maintains its public image, and that, he believes, is why professional requirements are essential.

"Either we police ourselves or some government agency will do it for us," says Gilmore, who says the last thing he or any logging professional wants is to fill out an official form every time he harvests timber.

Gilmore and other logging professionals don't mind the training associated with this professional certification or abiding by new rules. What they do mind is the time and expense associated with certification.

Long before professional certification programs were developed, Extension-sponsored logger training programs were already under way in several states, most notably Alabama. One of the hallmarks of this training has been convenience – making sure these sessions are held at convenient times and locations.

Even after major professional certification programs, such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, first got under way, organizers looked to Extension for help. And Extension forestry specialists, working through county Extension agents and local

industry, remain an integral part of this process. Indeed, as the demand for training increases, Extension continues to keep pace by training and certifying new instructors who then can conduct logging training sessions on their own.

"Either through direct training or through facilitators, Extension continues to reach between 300 and 400 logging professionals each year," says Mathew Smidt, an Extension forestry specialist who coordinates logging training throughout the state.

Extension is also helping provide the six hours of continuing education credit loggers need to maintain their professional certification. In fact, Extension has contributed to about 15 percent of the 12,000 hours of continuing education accumulated annually by Alabama loggers.

"Feedback has been one of the key ingredients in the program's success," Smidt says. As he emphasizes, "We ask them what they want out of the training and listen to their concerns."

Seven and Still Counting

There's a saying: "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

The 2002 Tuscaloosa County 4-H Forestry Judging team is living proof of this fact. Not pulled wisdom teeth or laryngitis – not even a ruptured eardrum – stifled the team's spirit as it prepared to compete for the national championship, held in Weston, West Virginia, in August.

If anything, it just made them more determined to follow through with their appointed task: winning the team's seventh national forestry judging championship.

It was the culmination of months of grueling study for team members Brandon Ligon, Amy Farnsworth, Kate Greene, and Lisa Shaw. On top of mastering tree

identification and measurement and using a compass for navigation, they also learned how to identify forest pests both by their physical appearance and the type of damage they cause in trees.

They also had to demonstrate how well they could evaluate and manage a forest based on the needs of the forest landowner.

As if this weren't challenging enough, they also mastered a bookshelf full of forestry manuals to compete in a knowledge bowl testing their skills in forestry and natural resources – small wonder why preparation for forestry judging competition is equated with completing a college-level forestry course.

Part of the 2002 team's dogged determination to win despite all of the odds reflected an awareness of the legacy they represented.

Almost 20 years ago, with the same determination of the 2002 team, Tuscaloosa County Extension coordinator and team coach Wayne Ford set out to build a winning legacy comparable to that of another Tuscaloosa resident, the late Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

Ford's efforts have not been in vain. He is widely acknowledged as the father of 4-H forestry judging in Alabama – and for good reason: Alabama 4-H forestry judging teams have dominated national competition for most of the last generation.

This year's win marked Alabama's 12th national championship in the 4-H Forestry Judging Team competition.

What began as a dream a generation ago, has become one of the most successful competitive events in Alabama 4-H history – a legacy on which current and future generations will continue to build.

Goal 4 Bullets

- A water quality information Web site was launched in 2002 to provide a comprehensive source of information about Alabama's water resources. The site features a large number of articles and related information about water quality and related issues.
- Villagers throughout Romania are learning how to adopt more environmentally friendly forest-management practices, thanks to the efforts of Extension's coordinator for international programs and his counterpart in the Auburn University College of Agriculture. Fourteen Romanian forestry specialists already have toured Alabama, observing a broad range of forest production systems.
- More than 30 training sessions were held to provide representatives of key public and private agencies, commodity groups, and related organizations with a working knowledge of fire ant biology and how fire ants can be managed through biological control methods and baits. The effort reached more than 4,000 people directly and an estimated 25,500 via radio.
- "We Treasure All Earth Resources" was the theme for the 2002 Groundwater Education Day in Houston County where more than 1,200 youth received hands-on training in ways to conserve and protect our water resources. Supporting organizations included the City of Dothan, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), water authorities, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and school boards.
- The Geneva County Extension Office worked with a coalition of agencies to develop a day camp to promote good environmental stewardship of water resources,

involving almost 400 Geneva County fourth-graders. Sixteen teachers also were sent back to their schools with water quality reference materials.

- Trained volunteers with the Baldwin County Master Environmental Educators program, patterned after Extension's highly successful Master Gardener program, work with people from all walks of life to raise awareness about environmental issues. Each year, Environmental Educators coordinate more than 200 educational programs, reaching more than 400 adults and 7,000 young people.
- Millions of gallons of water in the Upper Tallapoosa Watershed have been safeguarded, thanks to the efforts of two Randolph County Extension agents, who organized an oil recycling program. The project already is being used as a model in other counties to alert people about the importance of oil recycling.
- Small Alabama timberland owners rarely have the privilege of top-notch management assistance during tree harvest time. With this in mind, Extension agents in Talladega and Shelby counties held a forest-management tour to provide 50 area landowners with training in forestry management practices.
- About 30 Lamar County students and even a few of their teachers learned something about forestry management at a day camp sponsored by the Lamar County Extension Office. Known as Learning Essentials for Forestry (LEAF), the program was credited with inspiring 13 of these students to consider careers in forestry-related fields.
- Helping hardwood forestland owners better manage their resources for larger profits was one of several topics covered in a series of Master Tree Farmer meetings.

Sponsored by a Wilcox County Extension agent, the meetings also addressed wildlife management as well as the advantages of leasing forestland for hunting.

- It marked the first time many Dale County students had ever visited a forest. Sponsored by the Dale County Extension Office, the Forestry Field Day gave fifth-grade students an up-close, personal look at how forestry products are used in everyday life and what must be done to maximize timberland production.
- Permeable concrete may be one solution to reducing levels of storm water that eventually pollutes lakes, rivers, and streams. The City of Fairhope worked with the Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership, developed by the Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center and Sherman International, to establish a storm water reduction demonstration project using permeable concrete.
- The threat of methyl mercury to Gulf Coast residents was the subject of a forum organized by the Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center and other sponsors. A highlight of the forum, which was attended by more than 300 people, was the first-ever joint appearance of two renowned researchers who offered different opinions about the risk to children born to mothers with elevated mercury levels.
- In partnership with other agencies, the Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center developed the highly successful Dog River Watershed Guardians, an educational outreach effort aimed at homeowners and construction sites within this Gulf Coast watershed. The program earned the praise of the World Wildlife

Fund, which provided funding to expand the program into the remainder of Mobile and neighboring Baldwin County.

- Almost eighty general science students at Lineville High School gained a better understanding of how geology contributes to radon risks, complements of an Extension-sponsored school-enrichment program. Part of the program focused on showing students how to test for radon so they could conduct testing in their own homes.
- A Pickens County Extension-sponsored career seminar introduced more than 130 Pickens County fifth-graders to the largest industry in their county: forestry. The program, sponsored with other partners, covered all aspects of forestry, including forestry soils, tree identification, forestry products and wildlife.
- The Coosa County 4-H Wildlife Team, considered a national wildlife judging team powerhouse, won third place at the 2002 National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Invitational. Coosa County, which earned its first national championship in 1989, holds two national, three reserve national, and seven state championships.
- For the fourth consecutive year, the National Wild Turkey Federation presented the Alabama Cooperative Extension System with $5,000 to support its Alabama 4-H Shooting Sports Program. Roughly 3,500 Alabama youth are enrolled in one or more 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines.
- Alabama 4-H held its highly acclaimed 4-H Environmental Stewardship Conference in March at the 4-H Youth Development Center in Columbiana. This year's approach involved an entirely new educational approach: Students not only were

challenged to be good stewards but to defend their rights as environmental stakeholders in a mock public forum.

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.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ETP13b. 4-H T.G.I.F. (Teens Getting Involved for the Future)
By Denise Shirley

A. Description:
No, T.G.I.F. does not mean "Thank Goodness it's Friday," it does mean "Teens Getting Involved for the Future." ETP13b. or 4-H T.G.I.F. is an Alabama Cooperative Extension System community and school-based teen pregnancy prevention program. The program is funded by a Title V abstinence-only grant from the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Among the eight counties included in this abstinence program, four are rated priority one, three priority two and one priority three. The Alabama Department of Public Health determined the priority (need) for each county based on statewide comparative data. The table presented below summarizes the data for the eight participating counties.

Year 2000
Teen Pregnancies, Out-of-Wedlock Births, and Select Sexually Transmitted Diseases

County	Priority	% Births To Teens	# Teen Births	# 15-19 yr. olds with:	# 15-19 yr. olds with:	# 15-19 yr. olds with:
				Out-of-wedlock	chlamydia	gonorrhea	syphilis
Choctaw	1	16.6	10	14	5	0
Conecuh	1	17.1	10	10	5	0
Coosa	2	16.2	7	21	7	0
Elmore	3	13.8	30	52	15	1
Marion	2	18.5	8	13	1	0
Pickens	1	17.5	19	52	15	0
Sumter	1	19.5	14	27	10	0

Tuscaloosa 2 14.0 87 289 140 0

4-H T.G.I.F. is based on the Managing Pressures Before Marriage curriculum, which has the specific purpose of helping young people develop skills to resist pressure to become sexually involved outside the context of marriage. Extension Agent Assistants were hired specifically for this project and work with County Extension Agents to implement the program.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Sixth grade students were targeted as program participants and 11th and 12th grade students as Teen Leaders. Program implementation began with the selection of 11th and 12th grade Teen Leaders from 26 public high schools. To insure good role models, great care was taken in the selection of Teen Leaders. Much time and effort was put into recruitment proper training. For program impact it was imperative that these teens be liked and admired by the preteens and be able to demonstrate that their status was not gained by being sexually active. Selected teen leaders received a minimum of 30 hours of training and practice. To achieve the program goals and objectives, Teen Leaders team-taught the six-session abstinence-only series. Teen Leaders taught sessions in about 47 elementary and junior high schools to approximately 100 classes of 6th graders.

Total participants served by the 4-H T.G.I.F. project in the eight counties for FY2002 were 5,330, 4168 were 6th graders and 491 were teen leaders. In addition, 660 adult volunteers assisted with the program. The program had a total of 29,419 client encounters. (Note: An encounter equals one hour of participation.)

Of the preteen participants (10-14) 2,103 were white, 2,037 black, 14 Hispanic, 14 other, and 2,162 were female and 2,006 male. Of the teen participants, (15-19) 300 were white, 191 black, 0 Hispanic, 0 other and 326 were female and 165 male. Of the adult participants 567 were white and 99 black and 584 adults were female and 87 male.

In addition, to the classroom sessions, Tuscaloosa, Conecuh, Elmore and Marion counties contracted with Theron Foshee, an abstinence coach with the STEP Foundation, to make assembly presentations for junior high and senior high groups in their schools. This enabled the program to greatly increase the number of high school students reached with the abstinence message.

4-H T.G.I.F. was one of five abstinence programs to receive a comprehensive, intensive longitudinal evaluation by Gerald and Glennelle Halpin, Ph.D.s at Auburn University. The evaluation in part consisted of a 135-question instrument given to 1/6th sample of sixth grade participants and 100% of the Teen Leaders. Each 6th grade class was divided by random number and half of the class was given the pre test and the other half the posttest. All teen leaders received a pre and posttest.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
The 4-H T.G.I.F. program evaluations have shown effective results in favorably changing the attitudes toward sexual abstinence among sixth graders and their 11th and 12th grade Teen Leaders. However, the evaluation results for the 11th and 12th grade Teen Leaders involved in the TGIF continue to be the most promising. These teens were chosen on the their merits and had high abstinence-oriented beliefs when they were chosen to be Teen Leaders. Yet, evaluators found these Teen Leaders experienced a more positive impact on their attitudes than did the sixth grade participants. The Teen Leaders strongly agree that abstinence is the only way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancies, that monogamous relationships in marriage are the expected standard of human sexual activity, that sexual activity outside of marriage causes harmful effects, and that drugs and alcohol increase vulnerability to sexual advances.

Although the impact on the sixth graders will not be truly discerned until they are past adolescence, the sixth grade participants did indicate that they are more likely, following program participation, to remain abstinent until marriage. Certainly, the current impact of the program on the Teen Leaders' beliefs and attitudes is observable and promising. Thus, there are some signs for optimism regarding the positive impact of the program in promoting abstinence for these students.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
Funding for this program was supported by a grant for $126,752.80 from the Alabama Department of Public Health. A total of eight Agent Assistants are totally employed by the grant to implement the program in eight counties. Seven County Extension Agents generate an in-kind match totaling $116,245.00 for a total program value of 242,997.80.

In addition, 660 adults assisted with the program in varying degrees in the schools and local communities. To further promote this effort, an additional $36,000 grant was awarded from the Alabama Department of Public Health with the specific goal of expanding community abstinence education through volunteers.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
Throughout the nine years that 4-H T.G.I.F. has been in existence, there have been opportunities and resources to produce professional, high quality promotional pieces that are utilized year after year. Some of these include: an exhibit featuring Teen Leaders, a video using teen leaders, billboards in three counties, a results brochure and a promotional brochure.

Each County Extension Agent promotes their program utilizing these items in combination with other items produced individually. Agents typically report that 4-H T.G.I.F. was promoted through new articles, cutlines, and radio programs. Statewide, the Alabama Department of Public Health reported program results. Program information was also included in the 2001 Extension Annual Report, Stepping Up to the

Plate.

At the present, it appears that 4-H T.G.I. F. will receive level funding for an additional four years. Subtle changes will be made in the program based on implementation and outcome evaluation results and recommendations from the Halpins, the Alabama Department of Public Health and County Extension Agents involved in the program. (Photo's attached).

ETP13c. Promoting Alabama Youth Development
By Jennifer L. Kerpelman

A. Description:
The youth of rural American towns are the citizens who will be responsible for the future vitality and economic strength of their communities, as well as the growth and development of families, places of employment, and governing institutions and policies. In the United States, we find tremendous variability between communities in the preparation of youth to shoulder these roles and responsibilities. Key elements of successful programs that promote healthy adolescent development are: (a) adult facilitators who instill hope in youth and assist youth in personal and community strength building processes, (b) adolescents who are viewed as community resources needing development rather than problems to be managed, (c) active adolescent participation and empowering the adolescents to take ownership of their development as a major outcome goal, and (d) flexible programs that are adapted to the needs of the participating adolescents and their communities (see Danish, 1996; Johnson & Johnson, 1998; Roth, Brooks-Gunn, Murray, & Foster, 1998). The Promoting Alabama Youth Development program (PAYD) program is designed to strengthen the ability of adolescents to promote their own healthy development and to contribute in positive ways to their communities. The program includes the key elements of successful programs and has the overall goal of increasing positive, healthy adolescent behaviors. This goal was accomplished by meeting the following objectives:
Objective 1: Participants' self-knowledge in the domains of education, employment, and adult roles will be increased.
Objective 2: Participants will be able to engage in successful decision making and responsibility taking.
Objective 3: Participants will engage in effective communication and cooperation in group settings.
Objective 4: Problem solving strategies, as well as successfully management of interpersonal conflict will be developed.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Preliminary data analysis from Montgomery (6 classrooms) and Bullock (5 classrooms) counties yielded promising results for the efficacy of the PAYD program. Across the 11 classrooms that participated in Fall 2001, the average satisfaction score was 3.6 (4-point scale). Student learning was assessed with five items per module; a retrospective pre/post format was used. Scores ranged from 1 (no knowledge) to 4 (a great deal of knowledge). Across the classrooms, the average pre-knowledge score was 3.0; the average post-knowledge score was 3.7. The gains in knowledge for each of the classrooms were statistically significant.

In February, 2002, 33 extension agents, representing 30 counties participated in a 2-day in-service training on the PAYD program. The agents received notebooks and CDs containing the PAYD curriculum and supporting materials. During the remaining months of 2002, the agents conducted the PAYD program with youth in their respective counties.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:

Table 1 provides a demographic breakdown of the adolescents who participated in the PAYD program during 2002.

Table 1. Description of PAYD Participants

County	Gender	Race/Ethnicity*	Grade Range
Madison	46 M; 51 F	19B;75W;4H;4N.A; 10O	6th
Randolph	12 M; 9 F	5B; 15W	9th
Choctaw	29 M; 41 F	55B; 33W	8th
Pike	14 M; 8 F	28B; 2W	5th-12th
Selma	11M; 35F	48B	10th-12th
Chilton	47M; 54F	29B; 84W; 2H; 1N.A.; 1 other	7th, 11th, 12 th
Baldwin	6M; 4F	12B	5th -9 th
Etowah	7M; 3F	10W; 1 other	7th-8th,11th-12th
Coosa	74M; 62F	91B; 53W; 1 N.A.; 1O	6th-8th

Bibb 23M; 43F 6B; 57W; 1H; 2 other 7th, 9th-12th

Jefferson 87M; 122F 77B; 146W; 2H; 3N.A.;1 A.A.; 3O 3rd-11 th

Montgomery 57M; 138F 211B; 1W;1A.A. 9th-12th

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*KEY
B= Black/African American
W= White/Caucasian
H= Hispanic/Latino
N.A.= Native American
A.A.= Asian American
O = Other

A total 1,158 adolescents from 12 counties within the state of Alabama completed evaluations of the PAYD program. Various counties, such as Chilton County for example, had multiple schools that participated in the PAYD program. Across counties/schools, there were a total of 413 males and 570 females who participated. Of those who participated, 581 were Black, 476 were White, 9 were Hispanic, 9 were Native American, 2 were Asian American, and 9 were listed as "other." The majority of participants were in the seventh grade, followed by the eighth grade, sixth grade, and the ninth grade, respectively. Although the ages ranged from 9 years to 19 years, 12 year-olds represent the majority of students receiving programming (total=247), followed by 13 year-olds (total=238), 14 year-olds (total=199), and 15 year-olds (total=150) respectively.
Results of the retrospective pre/post-evaluation of knowledge gained from participation in the PAYD program indicated that across the group of participating adolescents, perceived increases in knowledge were observed for the eight PAYD modules. Table 2 shows the means for knowledge at pre- and post-session (range is from little knowledge (1) to a great deal of knowledge (4)). Participant satisfaction (not satisfied (1) to very satisfied (4)) also is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Satisfaction and Knowledge Gains of PAYD Participants

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Module/# of participants Satisfaction Pre-Knowledge Score Post-Knowledge Score*

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1 n=189 3.4 3.4 3.6
2 n=392 3.0 2.9 3.4
3 n=174 3.3 2.8 3.4

4 n=139 3.8 3.0 3.6
5 n=71 3.6 3.2 3.7
6 n=112 3.5 2.9 3.2
7 n=48 3.7 3.0 3.7
8 n=97 3.7 3.0 3.5

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*All increases in knowledge scores were significant at p<.01.

Feedback provided by ACES agents who facilitated the PAYD program indicated that the PAYD curriculum is easy to implement, preparation time is not extensive, and meeting the goals of the modules is relatively easy to accomplish. In some instances space and/or time constraints required modification of a module activity.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
According to the reported days worked on this project, 33 ACES employees allocated 561 days to this project in 2002. The cost of this project is primarily the agent's time and the purchasing of a relatively small number of supplemental materials, as well as duplication of a few forms. An estimate of the cost of doing the full program with a group of 35 adolescents is approximately $200* plus personnel costs for the agent facilitating the 9 session program (each session is one hour; preparation time varies from 20-60 minutes).

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
A Web Site (http://www.aces.edu/teens/alyouthdevelopment) has been produced that depicts the PAYD program modules. PAYD also has been presented at national conferences, including the Family Life Specialists conference held in 2002. Future plans are to continue this program for at least the next 5 years. Changes are being made to the program in 2003 based on feedback from participating adolescents, county agents, and other program facilitators. Also planned are modifications to the PAYD program for implementation with younger children (3rd through 6th graders). Plans to identify and seek external funding to support the implementation and evaluation of PAYD with children and adolescents also are being developed.

*Once all supplies for PAYD are purchased/created, some of these supplies can be reused indefinitely, lowering the cost of the program for subsequent groups.

ETP14A - Leading with Character
By Mary H. Gregg

A. Description:

Leading with Character is an outgrowth of the work of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. The youth component of the Institute, CHARACTER COUNTS!, is a national partnership of organizations and individuals involved in the education, training, or care of youth, working together in a collaborative effort to improve the character of America's young people. CHARACTER COUNTS! focuses on "Six Pillars of Character," the core ethical values of Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Alabama's Education Accountability Law (Act 95-313) requires local Boards of Education to develop and implement a comprehensive character education program. However, this law is not supported by curricula or fiduciary support. The goal of Leading with Character is to provide curricula, training, and support to local school systems to aid them in meeting the demands of Accountability Law.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Since 2001, the number of counties with an Extension-trained character education educator has increased from 32 to 65. There is no youth agent in the two Alabama counties without an agent trained in character education. One hundred and one extension personnel now are trained in Character Education, an increase of 76 agents and agent assistants and three district agents.
All ACES employees trained in character education have the capacity to train local schoolteachers and other youth personnel in character education. During 2002, these ACES employees trained 114 school personnel and adult and youth volunteers.
ACES has also developed curricula which are available to all youth audiences in the state. ACES curriculum pieces are: Leading with Character: The Six Pillars of Character; Leading with Character: Showing Character Through Alabama 4-H Animal Science Projects; Leading with Character: Sports Ethics; Leading with Character: Acting "Right" on the School Bus; Leading with Character: Cafeteria Character; Leading with Character: School Personnel Handbook; Leading with Character: Student Handbook; Leading with Character: Lesson Plans; 36 Lessons for 4th Grade, 36 Lessons for 5th Grade, 36 Lessons for 6th Grade, 36 Lessons for 7th Grade, and 36 Lessons for 8th grade.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Sixteen of the 47 agents signed up for this ETP reported a positive effect of Leading with Character in their counties. The responses of agents document the flexibility of program delivery and its adaptability to meet the diverse needs of different audiences.

When asked to comment on how Leading With Character was having an impact on their communities. Agents cited the following applications in their county Leading With Character activities:
· We use Character words in monthly 4-H programs
· We supply local leaders with Character Education lesson plans
· We provide monthly "thoughts" at club programs about Character Education
· This past year Betty Gottler did a program on the Six Pillars of Character for our county professional Women's Seminar and Dr. Molly Gregg did a session on "Ethics in the Workplace" for Leadership Randolph County

· A character education lesson was presented in about 25 classrooms of 4th, 5th, and 6th grades annually
· We had in-school sessions
· In Monroe County we had great acceptance of the program from teachers and students alike. The CC! Curriculum is easy to use and the materials are great. I especially like the coloring/activity sheets for the younger students and the pillar posters for upper elementary
· More teachers are involved in conducting character education in the schools. More children are being exposed to good character.
· Every school promotes character education
· In 2001-2002, I used Character Counts! as my 4-H club program. I received many positive remarks from the classroom teachers, parents, and principals
· I have a Character Critters program I started in October with Head Start and the teachers seem to love it. I haven't gotten evaluations back yet, but plan to at the first of the year.
· The Character Education program was implemented in the fifth grade classes at one school
· One counselor is using the "Character Critters" program with kindergarten students at the two schools she serves. At another school, the kindergarten teacher is teaching the program to her students.
· In the spring, volunteers (called providers) were trained to teach abstinence curriculum, "Choosing the Best Life." This curriculum includes information on self respect, respect, honesty, responsibility, compassion, and self-discipline.
· Schools are showing an interest in the Character Education program
· What is the best thing going on with character education in your county?
We hire a part-time agent assistant for 4-H and youth development and she's currently teaching Character education to all 6th grade classes in our county.
· Chilton and Shelby counties partnered to do an in-service training for both Head Start programs using the Character Critters Curriculum produced in Louisiana.
· Teachers are actually teaching and implementing Character Education in their classrooms
· Character Education lessons presented at twenty-nine (29) 4-H Club meetings;
· Monthly thoughts at 4-H Club programs about Character Education

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
47 agents reported spending 936.7 days on Leading With Character
691,718 non-face-to-face encounters were reported
35,314 face-to-face encounters were reported
90% of these meetings were in rural communities
Three counties received small grants for character education materials

E. Program Visibility and Future Plans:
The Leading With Character program was cited in publications such as ALFA's Neighbors magazine, the 4-H Foundation's Passages, the AEA Journal, and Action:

Alabama Communities in Transition. Five agents have written success stories on their county's Character Education program.

Future plans include expanding and updating character materials available through the state 4-H web site, providing an in-service training on workplace ethics and building partnerships with the local business community. Additional publications will be developed and distributed.

ETP15C: Workforce Preparation and Development Programs
By Jacquelyn P. Robinson

A. Description:
Alabama experienced a sharp decline in jobs during 2001. The sharpest decline was in rural Alabama with as many as 10 counties reporting double digit unemployment rate. The textiles and apparel industry was the hardest hit. Lumber and wood products, primary and fabricated metals, and industrial machinery and equipment were also hard hit. The rapid downturn in jobs in Alabama (approximately 33 thousand) created a desperate need for new economic development projects that could provide employment opportunities, especially in rural areas (Center for Business and Economic Research). Meeting the needs and strengthening the economic base of our rapidly changing communities call for a multifaceted approach. The workforce preparation/development activities offer solutions to communities' concerns about and desires for an economically secure, sustainable future. Technical assistance will provide help to municipalities, counties, entities, and individual groups. County agents will be trained to identity areas/situations requiring services, will make referral to lead specialist who will deliver the assistance, and provide follow-up.

Technical assistance programs addressing specific needs of the adult population may include asset mapping, partnership development, and location/dissemination of educational materials. Programs may focus on current issues and concerns such as mounting a job search, preparing for a job interview, choosing a career, starting a business, recovering from job loss, workplace ethics, and violence in the workplace.

Technical assistance programs addressing specific needs of the K-12 population may include career fairs, interview days, teacher-industry tours, and simulations such as Surviving Life.
B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
This ETP provided agents with the flexibility to provide a wide array of programs and activities for county clientele. Examples of the activities carried out in this ETP are:
1. Students in one county participated in The Real World, a simulation game giving students a sample of making a salary cover actual living experiences.
2. Classes in stress management and stretching the unemployment check were taught to unemployed individuals.

3. Job search skills, including interviewing techniques, and how to choose a career in addition to time, money and personal management skills were taught to two groups of women.
4. Sessions teaching the art of interviewing for a job as well as how to dress for an interview were conducted for young adults in an after-school program.
C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Examples of results from activities carried out in relation to this ETP are:
1. The need to help students better understand the connection between jobs and paying for life's expenses as well as the need to plan for unexpected expenses and emergencies became apparent as a result of their participation in The Real World game. The benefit to the public is students will be able to make more informed decisions about the types of jobs to go into and will be better able to manage their wages.
2. Four hundred individuals participated in stress management and stretching the unemployment check classes indicated they felt more capable of handling the stress of unemployment better. The interviewing tips learned enabled 200 to find jobs within six months. The benefit to the public is 200 wages are being pumped back into the community.
3. Most of the 24 women participating in the job readiness classes either took their GED or enrolled in college of technical school.
4. Job interview program helped prepare young adults for finding summer jobs.
D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
Between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002, 10 Extension professional spent 233.50 days delivering programs designed to strengthen Alabama's workforce.
E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
Program visibility, exposure and future plans were as varied as the agents and county clientele served. Examples include:
1. The Real World game provided in addition to a framework for students to continue to learn life skills system wide visibility with the school. Plans are underway to continue the program during the next school year.
2. The stress management and stretching the unemployment check classes provided immeasurable exposure within the county. The same classes will be expanded to be offered at night, thus enabling the agents to provide services to more people at a more convenient time.
3. Other Extension publications were provided to help the job readiness participants, thus providing a wide array of information that could be carried home and shared with others.
4. Program on job interviews helped strengthen relationship between Extension and the local school system; agent plants to expand program to include junior and senior high school students.
Two of the counties are planning to organize materials and hold entrepreneur classes for individuals wanting to start their own businesses. The projected goal is to have five businesses functioning at the end of one year.

ETP 17A Financial Security
By Barbara W. Mobley

From an email survey, 42 counties reported conducting work in Family Financial Security.
Work included:

_____364 adult financial management classes were conducted and that included more than 5,480 program contacts. (Lauderdale County alone conducted 101 meetings with 3,375 program contacts.) More than 80% of the participants indicated they had been helped through these classes and courses. Examples of the changes made: more in control of finances; set priorities/spend money according to priorities and not impulse' established/use record system; consult professionals (i.e. attorney, financial planner) for advice; made a will; made changes in insurance policies; more/improved self-confidence in handling money; increased knowledge of financial competencies; managing money for the first time rather than spouse of other family member handling $$; started savings; paid-off/reduced debt.

_____More than 300 financial management classes were conducted by 4-H leaders and teachers in Alabama, reaching more than 6,000 youth. Agents and teachers estimate that 85% of the 4-Hers and family and consumer science students made at least one change after participating. Some of the changes included: learning to write a check, learning to balance a check book, learning how to have credit record checked, learning to develop a spending record, learning important techniques in applying for a job, learning how to request reference letters for job applications, and more. The High School Financial Planning program has been an important part of the youth money management program.

_____4_____ counties worked with Habitat For Humanity, reaching more than 140 families with in-depth financial training for Habitat families. The Calhoun-Cleburne cluster provided financial counseling, a five session money management course and the four session Master Food Shopper Course for 83 families. More than one-third of those families required financial counseling before becoming eligible for Habitat and Extension's assistance enabled those families to meet the requirements to qualify for new homes.

---------6------ counties conducted Financial Elder Abuse Conferences, reaching more than 800 senior citizens with classes on financial fraud, purchasing long term care insurance, banking privileges for senior citizens, shopping for auto repairs, community resources for help, free prescription drug programs, selecting assisted living and/or nursing home facilities, etc. Some of the comments: "Thanks for providing this information. Now I will know how to get my car repairs done."; "I know now I made a

mistake on buying my long term care insurance and I will correct the problem." ; "I did not know about the Better Business Bureau through the Chamber of Commerce before today."; "I know who to go to now to help get my check book balanced."; " I needed this information a long time ago-please take it to the younger generation also." "Why not make this an annual event!" Agents reported through formal and informal surveys that 90% of the participants gained information that will produce a quality of life change.

_____A Women's Money Management Institute 2002 was conducted in Marshall county. The publicly advertised course that included 26 women and men, was planned by an advisory committee, and evaluated formally and informally. More than 60% reported they now planned to talk to a professional about their financial plans. 86% indicated they now felt more confident about managing their money and could more positively affect their financial future. Examples of knowledge gained included learning about the importance of being organized, gaining knowledge about banking, gaining knowledge about spending habits, and being prepared for future financial uncertainties.

---------- ----------_____59,000 Money Management Calendars were distributed in 2002

___ __More than 3,000 phone calls were answered on family financial management.

More than __1,000____financial management referrals were made to Extension from other agencies that included Head Start, Habitat, Meals on Wheels, Wheels to Work, Day Care Providers and others.

ETP 19A Forefronting Youth Initiative
By Edna T. Coleman

A. Description:
The Youth Development Base Program of the Cooperative Extension System (CES) focuses on building lifelong learning skills that develop youths' potential. The Urban Affairs and New Non Traditional unit of Extension continues to identify and implement youth development programs in support of the CES National base program initiative. The primary goal of these programs is to provide socialization through challenges, experiences, and support that youth need to develop their fullest potential. Emphasis is placed on learning strategies based upon play, action, and group and individual challenges teaching life skills rather than academic lessons. The programs further encourage long-term involvement and provide a progression of activities promoting developmental growth.

During FY 2002, specific programs were targeted in the areas of Youth Leadership and Mentoring. The Teen Leadership Connection Curriculum (TLC) was implemented in

several urban areas within the state and leadership groups established accordingly. The TLC program has served effectively as a catalyst for reconstructing and increasing urban participation in Alabama Extension Youth development programs. According to recent reporting, teen leadership programs have been very successful and have engaged youth in personal skill building as well as fostered interest and involvement in community and voluntary activities.

The Mentoring Program was implemented in various after school programs locally and statewide to support youth and schools experiencing a decline in academic standards. Volunteers were trained through the Extension SPACE program to address tutorial and mentoring needs. Additionally, a very effective mentor program for teen parents continued to receive support through the local Girls, Inc. and the National Children Trust Fund. Recent studies indicate an overall decline in teen births due partly to mentoring programs, community support groups and in school counseling programs.

In effort to ensure success of program impact and to maximize program delivery, various partnerships were established with business associations, coalition groups, community groups and educational institutions locally and across the state.

B. - C. Actions and Activities Carried Out/Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:

During the 2002 program year, a statewide in-service training was provided for county agents having youth development responsibilities. The training focused on techniques and/or strategies for organizing youth groups in the area of leadership, and procedures for addressing community issues through youth projects. Several county agents implemented the TLC Curriculum and were able to involve their youth groups in community service activities as well. According to county reports, a total of 9,498 contacts were made through various youth leadership meetings including High Schools, community groups, 4-H meetings, organized rallies, a two (2) day public policy institute, youth development workshops, and summer enrichment programs. Media usage included radio and television programs, and the development of county resource booklets. Additionally, over fifty (50) partnerships and organizations were actively involved in the county's youth development and leadership programs. Collaborations were established through agencies such as the county Chamber of Commerce, YWCA, YMCA, Family Court Systems, Housing Authorities, Department of Human Resources, Colleges and Universities, Children's Aid Society, Big Brother and Big Sister Organizations, department stores, and many others. As a result of attending the leadership in-service training in 2002, the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters of North Alabama (BBBSNA) was successful in implementing an innovative, six week summer youth training program entitled Operation: Infinite Possibilities, "Youth Leadership Institute". This program according to BBBSNA offered students a high caliber of leadership training and conveyed a fundamental understanding of the need and potential for young people to become leaders; thus making their communities better places to live.

The county youth development and leadership program activities culminated in a statewide Leadership and Community Service Expo. The Youth Expo was co-hosted on the campuses of Alabama A&M University and Oakwood College with shared partnerships including the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce and the Office of Madison County District Six. A total of three hundred (300) participants were in attendance at this event. 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 display of competitive service projects that were researched, planned and implemented by youth-lead teams. Impact information revealed that youth having been involved in these programs became engaged in similar organized groups such 4-H programs and projects to utilize leadership skills; and teachers within several school systems expressed how the educational programs helped several youth to develop good self-esteem and leadership skills, while other observations revealed overall improvement in academic accomplishments. More specifically, the Colbert County Leadership group expressed how they developed their life, social and leadership skills by being involved and participating in the Colbert County Community Service Project (Voter's Registration Drive). The Community Service Project was held at Wal-Mart Supercenter in Muscle Shoals, Alabama with the primary goal of reaching as many non-registered voters eighteen years of age and older. Approximately three hundred forty-six (346) individuals were reached through this community service project. Twenty-one percent (21%) of the contacts either completed a voter's registration form on site or took the form with them to be completed. The greater percentage of this group were made aware of upcoming elections and were reminded to participate in the election process. Materials were also distributed on the importance and impact of voting in today's society.

Through the Mentoring project, Fostering Achievement Through Mentoring Education (FAME), Student Volunteers participating in SPACE, Students Promoting Action/Community Education, received intensive mentoring training which was used at the various community service sites. The SPACE program had a total of ninety five (95) students enrolled for fiscal year 2002.

As a result of SPACE student tutoring hours, a total of 645 benefited from the program 150 students showed improvements in their grades and 137 showed improvement in their behavior. Thirty-three (33) of these students' grades improved one letter grade and in some cases two letter grades. There was significant improvement in students' math computation and read comprehension skills.
The Huntsville City School reported in the summer of 2002 that several of the schools that were classified on academic decline had changed due to the improvements of student's test scores.

The Mentor Mom Program was very effective and beneficial to several teenage parents enrolled in the Girls, Inc. program. Mentors provided information in several critical areas

to young parents including, pregnancy prevention, parenting, budgeting and finance, career opportunities, and assistance in accessing local health care, childcare, and housing resources. Overall, each participant was observed to have developed positive attitudes toward pregnancy prevention, positive parenting, and increased interest in excelling academically with defined goals.

As with any quality educational experience, excellent curricula is the foundation for effective youth programming. The leadership program was developed on research-based principals, structured exercises, evaluation, and real life leadership knowledge and skills. The objectives and goals continue to develop leadership qualities in today's youth to build a foundation for tomorrow's adult leaders in families, and communities. The quality of life in the community and the enhancement of the human capacity of young people will ultimately increase and result in improved citizenship. Significant community issues are also addressed through youth participation in community service projects.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
County Report data indicated that agents received substantial support through the partnerships and coalition established in their respective County areas. Program support included funding, transportation of youth to events and seminars, facility space, resource speakers, educational materials, and donation of numerous volunteer service hours. Solicited program stipends and in-kind support for the Youth Leadership Expo totaled approximately $5,000 which was used to defray the cost of the two (2) day event and subsidize housing expenses incurred in University housing. Additionally, the Extension Mentor Program's commitment to the local Girls, Inc. partially enabled the agency to qualify for over $50,000 in funding from the State Children's Trust Fund.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans
Several marketing strategies have been employed in the area of youth development to showcase program accomplishments and educational opportunities, including videotapes and brochures. This program has been featured in Extension reports - via five (5) county success stories in 2002 and forwarded to respective county agent's county commissioners.

The youth development program area will be expanded in 2003 to include a youth leadership institute to be conducted statewide. Plans have already begun through the development of a Youth Leadership Program Implementation Guide - to be introduced in the upcoming combined in-service training scheduled for March 11-13, 2003.

Annual Report
By Mary Williams Hurt from Alabama A&M University on 2003-01-31 for ETP19B

A. DESCRIPTION:
According to recent data from the 2001 Alabama Kids Count data book, the dropout rate for Madison County was 346 (2.8%) and a total of 8,938 (4.4%) dropouts, statewide. The projected dropout rate for 2002 in Madison County is 422 (10.5%) and 10,194 (16.7%) statewide.

Data collected from the 2001 Alabama Kids Count book shows the rate of juvenile substance abuse arrests and substance abuse court referral rates are steadily increasing statewide. Madison County had a total of 656 substance abuse arrests/substance abuse court referrals for 2001, and a total of 8,337 statewide. In the area of juvenile violent crime, Madison County had a total of 188 arrests and court referrals, while the state's total was 4,122.

According to a news article in the Huntsville Times, the Alabama Prison population has more than doubled in the past decade and is growing at a rate of about 150 inmates per month. Overcrowding of facilities have created a backlog of about 1,000 state prisoners in county jails around the state. Alabama had 321 prisoners for every 100,000 Alabamians in 1989 compared to a 260-per 100,000 national average. The state's per capita prison population grew 118% over the past decade.

To combat juvenile violence and crime arrest rates, school dropouts, public schools' Caution and Alert, suicidal tendencies and behavioral problems, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) in Madison County and statewide is taking a proactive approach. At least 28 collaborative partnerships have been formed with Community Based Organizations (CBO), post secondary and secondary schools, representing 100% volunteer community service hours for improving the quality of life of Alabama citizens (children and adults).

B. ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:
During FY 2002, the SPACE program formed a collaborative partnership with 28 community based agencies, generating a total of 12 site managers, 15 volunteer leaders, 409 active volunteers (304 adults/95 youth), generating at least 6,528 volunteer hours reaching a total of 15,621 Alabama customers (14,127 adults and 1,494 youth). The SPACE program is organized in seven counties at post-secondary/secondary schools (4 additional post-secondary schools, two high schools and one church). Four community service projects were implemented under the SPACE program. They consisted of the "Holiday Gift Drive", the "American Red Cross Blood Drive", the "Voter's Registration Drive" and the Food Drive for Needy Children.

In Madison County, the SPACE program has a collaborative partnership with District 6 County Commissioner, Alabama A&M University (AAMU) Community Development Corporation (CDC)/VISTA Program, and the Juvenile Court. The District 6 County Commissioner provides transportation and on-going training for the volunteers at ten community-based tutorial and mentoring sites and insurance coverage for the student

volunteers. Alabama A&M University CDC provides a VISTA worker who works closely with Madison County SPACE Site Manager and the Bo Matthews Center of Excellence Program Director to place, monitor and tabulate SPACE's evaluative results. As a result of this partnership, volunteers (post-secondary/community) generated 5,990 community service hours.

District 6 Madison County Commissioner, Prince Preyer, Jr. (right) chats with SPACE student volunteers after Fall 2002 Orientation and Training Blast Off.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has been in a collaborative partnership with the Madison County Juvenile Court PHOENIX Program and District 6 County Commissioner since its inception in 1992. For the past decade, the Children, Youth and Family State Extension Specialist has played a vital role in the implementation of PHOENIX as an instructor, advisory board member, and program activity participant. PHOENIX is a ten-week educational program managed by the Chief Probation Officer and a Probation Officer of Madison County Juvenile Court and community volunteers. It meets weekly (6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.) in the judge's courtroom in a ten-week cycle, three (3) times a year. The program has a parenting component. Approximately, 20 adult community-based volunteers

generated at least 4,800 volunteer hours during FY' 2003 resulting in a 70% reduction in repeat juvenile offenders. The remaining 1,728 volunteer hours were conducted at four post-secondary schools, two secondary schools and one church-related group. Other collaborative entities included the American Red Cross, Bo Matthew Center of Excellence, Girls, Inc. Ed White Middle School, Meadow Hills Initiative, public housing, churches, middle and high schools, retired senior volunteer program, sororities and fraternities, Junior League, health ministries, United Way, Lay's Potato Chips, Domino Pizza and Blue Bell, just to name a few.

C. RESULTS, IMPACTS AND BENEFITS TO DIRECT CLIENTELE AND TO THE PUBLIC: According to impact data evaluation instruments from 12 site managers, 15 volunteer leaders, five county extension agents, collaborative agencies, District 6 Commissioner, Bo Matthew Center of Excellence, and follow-up court records of the Madison County Juvenile Court, the Extension System is making a significant difference in changing lives of adults and children.

As a result of SPACE students' volunteer tutorial and mentoring volunteer hours in Madison County, 645 children (K-12) benefited from this program; 150 students' overall grade point average improved by 25%; 117 students made a significant improvement in their grades by 80%; 137 students improved their overall behavior by 70%; 34 students significantly improved their behavior by 95% and 207 youth improved their overall behavior and grades by 20%.

 The Huntsville City Schools reported in Summer of 2002 that several of the schools that were classified as Caution/Alert had changed due to the improvement of students' test scores. Johnson High School's status progressed from Alert to Caution and Terry Heights Elementary School progressed from Caution to Clear.

 SPACE student volunteers worked with Madison County "100 Black Men of America" on their Annual Health Fair. The volunteers worked a total of 18 hours and made over 6,600 contacts. During this fair, 65 men were tested for prostate cancer, 481 citizens were tested for HIV AIDS, 1,000 consumers were tested for high blood pressure/high cholesterol, and 2000 tested for diabetes. The SPACE student volunteers assisted with the overall operation of the fair, such as setting up health test stations, enrolling participants and conducting the Awards program.

 Alabama A&M University Professional Faculty/Staff and the Huntsville business community have provided opportunities for volunteers to perform jobs such as office assistants (helping with clerical duties, greeting guest and making appointments); providing organized instructions for students who need to improve classroom performance; data clerk-input statistical data into a define database; recreational assistance to supervise recreational activities at Boys & Girls Club; library assistance (reading to children) and providing leadership for special projects and events and preparing for community-based

programs. These professional environments have provided student volunteers the opportunity to gain special work experiences and knowledge.

The Talladega County Extension Coordinator has launched and established the SPACE student volunteer community service program at Talladega College. A total of 38 student volunteers were recruited generating 155 volunteer hours and making 588 customer contacts. Eight communities, agencies and businesses assisted in setting up, organizing and training six (6) volunteer leaders, three (3) site managers and 38 college student volunteers for the implementation of two SPACE community service projects: The Blood Drive and Voter's Registration Drive.

Talladega County volunteer leader Virgie Warner (standing), Director of RSVP, listens to comments from a participant at CEC Wanda Jurriaans' Talladega College SPACE Volunteer Leaders training.

The volunteer leaders trained the student volunteers on how to register participants and when to serve refreshments at the appropriate time (during the Blood Drive). This effort resulted in a total of 18 pints of blood collected, with at least 40 individuals contributing.

The Boys and Girls Club, the Talladega Recreational Center and Brecon Recreational Center assisted in implementing a Voter's Registration Drive. This drive resulted in registering more than 100 Talladega citizens. A follow-up survey (telephone calls) indicated

80% of the citizen exercised their voting rights in the November 2002 election.

The Lauderdale County extension agent and two volunteer leaders formed a partnership with the University of North Alabama Nursing Department, the American Cancer Society, Health Department and Lauderdale County school system to implement a “Tobacco Free Schools”. Forty-five (45) nursing student/volunteers from the University of North Alabama participated in the Fair. This program was designed for middle school students in grades 5-8 to learn about the dangers of tobacco use. The fair rotated from school to school and a special designed curriculum was used in conjunction with school system health education class. The nursing students served as volunteers traveling to 13 schools, reaching 2,669 youth teaching them the importance of not smoking.

The goal of this project was to increase students’ awareness of the techniques employed by advertisers to manipulate consumer behavior and to teach students how to resist these techniques. In activity driven exercises, the students examined ways in which the use of tobacco interferes with health and well being and achieving personal goals. Additionally, the students identified and analyzed tobacco advertisements and discussed alternative ways of responding to appealing tobacco advertisements. According to the evaluation instrument, 80% of 400 teens pledged to stop smoking or not start the habit.

A County Extension Agent in Calhoun County formed a partnership with Jackson State University to implement the SPACE student volunteer community service program. One site manager from Jackson State University and two volunteer leaders assisted in training ten (10) student volunteers to facilitate the “Biz World” entrepreneurship program at Saks Elementary School. This program effort generated 24 volunteer hours and a total of 288 face-to-face contacts.

SPACE Community Service Project In Madison County

For the past decade, the SPACE program has sponsored three community service projects: The Holiday Gift Drive, the American Red Cross Blood Drive and Thanksgiving Food Drive. SPACE’s 2002 Holiday Gift Drive brought joy and serviced more than 849 Madison County residents. As a result of the Holiday Gift Drive, a monetary contribution of $300 was donated and more than 250 toys, clothing, personal hygiene and toiletry items. The following is a breakdown of gift distributions:

 More than 4,000 hard mints were purchased and donated to the Madison County Jail and Annex for men and women inmates.
 Health care products were purchased and donated to the Madison County Juvenile Court Neaves/Davis Detention Center for Children.
 A disabled public housing mother of two teenage girls on a fixed monthly income of $500 received a complete clothing outfit purchased for each daughter.
 An expectant single low-income mother and mother of toddlers, received 30 layette, newborn and toddler outfits.

 The Downtown Rescue Mission received 40 personal toiletries and hygiene items, clothing items and toys for needy adults and children.
 Meadow Hills Initiatives serviced five families with educational books and toys (dolls, loading trucks, puzzles, etc.), infants and toddlers clothing items, and personal hygiene items.
 Two anonymous Walmart gift cards ($75 and $50) were given to two needy families.

Charlotte Camper, Madison County Juvenile Court--Chief Probation Officer for the Neaves/Davis Center for Children (2nd on right), accepts SPACE's Community Service Project "Health Care Products".

PHOENIX

The Madison County Juvenile Court system and the County Commission-District 6 office in cooperation with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System are making a difference in the lives of juvenile offenders through the PHOENIX Program. PHOENIX has been piloted in Madison County for ten years and its overall objectives are to: 1) assist first time offenders

in their efforts to avoid further delinquency and/or risky behavior 2) help juveniles realize the importance of taking personal responsibility for one's life by accepting consequences of inappropriate behavior and 3) to promote family unity and cohesiveness by encouraging wholesome family-based activities. The PHOENIX Advisory Board believes that by providing first-time probationers with classes such as victim impact, domestic violence prevention, juvenile law, self-esteem, enhancement, conflict resolution and other life skill topics, it can increase the likelihood that these young people will not return to the court with additional charges. The success of PHOENIX is contributed to the parenting classes and some joint classes with their children. The program graduated 680 participants between 1993 and 2000. Since the inception of the PHOENIX Program in 1992, the court's records indicate 70% of the juveniles have not been repeat offenders. According to Chief Probation Officer Charlotte Camper, and Probation Officer Evon Webster, during FY 2001, a total of 69 juveniles were enrolled in the PHOENIX Program. Only 20 juveniles (3.4%) were repeat offenders and 49 (71%) did not re-offend. Many PHOENIX participants have completed high school or received their GEDs. Others are attending community colleges, universities or working on steady jobs. The PHOENIX program is making a difference and changing lives in Madison County.

Agents in Bibb County Coordinator implemented the Yes I Can! curriculum in Bibb County's Junior High School and West Blockton Middle School. A total of 16 educational lessons were conducted on self-esteem, life/citizenship skills, study skills and job preparedness skills, reaching more than 115 students. As a result of the training, the agent and teachers physically observed 75% increase in longer attention spans, improved classroom behavior 85% and a significant increase in self-confidence when speaking in front of the classroom.

The Yes I Can! program has been implemented in Bibb County for three consecutive years. According to Ms. Sims, the first year the kids hated the program and many of the students chose not to participate. The second year was a little better but the third was even better. The students loved the lessons and so did the teachers. The students were able to overcome anxiety of public speaking and peer pressure. Many of the students informed the agent they wanted to change their direction in life and succeed. One 7th grade student could not read. He was reassured that if he put forth an effort he could learn sound pronunciation. The young man indicated no one had ever told him he could learn to read. As a result of a one-to-one ratio of tutoring and mentoring, the student improved his reading ability 65%. Overall, the Yes I Can! curriculum and presenters were evaluated by the students and teachers with a score of Excellent.

Mobile County Extension Agent established and implemented four SPACE student volunteer programs at Bishop State Community College, in two high schools and one local church. A total of 61 students performed 80 volunteer service hours with five community-based organizations, generating 1,100 youth and adult contacts. Thirty (30) Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority volunteer leaders were trained to provide "leadership and tutorial training" for 51 high school student volunteers. Twenty-six (26) retired professionals volunteered 130 community service hours passing out 800 books to children from six local schools. The adult

volunteers autographed each book with a personal recommendation on reading tips. This project was implemented through the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program. The Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity served as the sponsor for an appreciation volunteer recognition breakfast for SPACE's 87 youth and adult volunteers. A certification of volunteer service was presented to each participant.

D. FISCAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES:
According to reported days worked on this Extension Team Project, 12 ACES employees worked on their project. Responses from the clientele for this ETP reported positive feedback as outlined under Program Results, Impacts and Benefits to direct clientele and to the public. The estimated value of the total 6,528 volunteer service @ $10.00/hour is $65,280. Since the inception of the SPACE program in 1992, a total of 1,256 volunteers have been trained and actively contributed 16,728 volunteer community service hours, serving more than 48,721 customers statewide.

E. PROGRAM VISIBILITY, EXPOSURE AND FUTURE PLANS:
The Madison County Juvenile Court and District 6 County Commissioner, in cooperation with ACES, is publishing a Juvenile PHOENIX training manual as a result of successfully piloting the PHOENIX program in Madison County since the inception in 1992. The publication is prepared for editing by the reading committee. Plans are being made to pilot PHOENIX in at least one county extension office by 2004. A video presentation of the PHOENIX program will be the 2003-2004 project.

ETP30A Netkeys: Unlocking Resources for Urban Families
By Marilyn S. Johnson, Wilma J. Ruffin, Bernice Wilson

A. Description of Problem
In Alabama in 2000, 989,799 families had their own children living with them. Single mothers, those classified as female householders with no husband present, totaled 247,227, or 25 percent of the state's families with children. Birmingham had the most single moms, with 24,204. Huntsville's total 9,469, was fourth-highest in the state. Among counties, Jefferson had the most single moms, with 42,494.

Many of these single moms are recipients of welfare services, suffer numerous forms of family breakdown and disproportionately make-up the poverty ranks across the state.

Recent statistics indicate that over 75% of welfare recipients have been victims of domestic violence. One in three Alabama children live in poverty – the second highest rate in the USA. Over 20% of Alabama's population is poor compared to 14% of the overall U.S.A. population. Yet, much of the poverty is concentrated in about a quarter of the counties in the state, with these counties having the highest unemployment rates. Low income youth are at high risk for developmental problems, including academic

underachievement, juvenile delinquency, withdrawal, apathy, aggression, depression, and more. While most research studies point to at-risk families and youth social and economic development, urban Extension can expand the focus of intervention with innovative and creative service delivery approaches to this population.

Given the weight of human needs and social problems in Alabama's hardscrabble counties, innovative and nontraditional programming to enhance the quality of life for families is essential. The physical environment has a rich tapestry of resources that can be utilized as a component of innovative Extension outreach. What effect do physical environments have on psychological well-being, family life, and health outcomes? Can Alabama forestry resources be tapped to develop family-centered community initiatives with a targeted emphasis on parks, nature trails, wildlife habitats, and forestry assets? Can these type programs impact the overall quality of life of the Urban Extension audience?

The challenge is whether family disintegration issues, such as domestic violence, can be mitigated in the ten urban centers with a concerted effort to incorporate "people-plant" interventions through a demonstration project in a small township in Madison County, Alabama. No demonstration projects exist on the "people-plant" link in Alabama, while well-documented evidence attests to the extent and scope of domestic violence and other family dysfunctional behaviors. Funding from the Alabama Forestry Association of a $38,000 demonstration grant to build community capacity in a resource-limited, at-risk community through urban forestry applications. This work was designed to be an innovative and nontraditional approach to domestic violence prevention and a supplement top the work of county agents with their domestic violence prevention councils.

According to 2000 US Census data, six million (8.4%) of all children under the age of 18 are living in grandparent or other relative-maintained households in the United States. The Census further found that nearly 5.8 million grandparents are living in households with one or more of their own grandchildren under the age of 18. More than 2.4 million of these grandparents are primarily responsible for meeting the basic needs of these children. A closer look at the Census data for Alabama's major cities revealed that 1,524 (52%) of the 2,922 grandparents who live in the household with one or more grandchildren under the age 18 serve as the primary caregiver; in Birmingham 4,764 (56%) serve as the primary parent, in Mobile, 2,825 (49%) serve as the primary parent and Montgomery 2,235 (53%) serve as the primary parent.

In Alabama, more than 113,000 (10.1%) children are living with a grandparent or relative who serves as their primary parent. Although the percentage of children in Alabama living in grandparent or relative-maintained households is only slightly higher than the national percentage, a closer look at Alabama counties reveal astounding percentages. For example, in Madison County 7.2% of all children are living with grandparents or relatives; this percentage is lower than the US (8.4%) and the state of Alabama (10.1%), whereas, examples of West Alabama counties present an alarmingly

high percentage, such as, Lowndes County (19%) and Wilcox County (17.3%).

While grandparents and relatives serving as the primary parent is not a new phenomenon, it is a rapidly growing trend that transcends all socioeconomic groups, geographic areas, and ethnicities. The major contributing factors to this growing trend are: drugs and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, divorce, abandonment, incarceration, AIDS and death. Regardless of the circumstances that led to grandparents and relatives new role, they share the common goal of wanting to provide a stable, nurturing environment for the children. These dedicated caregivers often take on their new roles at tremendous personal sacrifice. Relatives face a variety of legal, social, financial, and emotional or physical health problems in their efforts to parent a grandchild or young relative. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit is prepared to address the needs of relative caregivers through the Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP).

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health Center for Health Statistics, 45,052 marriages occurred in Alabama during 2001, of these marriages, more than 24,000 ended in divorce. Of the divorcing couples, 11,438 couples were parenting minor children. Less than half of America's children can expect to live continuously with their biological parents throughout their childhood, primarily because their parents are divorced or never married. Although social scientist may interpret the conclusions differently, virtually all research studies and literature reviews will express agreement that divorce results in a variety of negative outcomes for children and adults. Additionally, literature and research on divorce tells us that a major challenge for divorced couples with minor children is co-parenting after divorce. As a result, there is a need for courses, workshops, educational sessions, and seminars for children and adults, designed to help them cope with this often-painful family transition.

Research indicated, individuals and families need information in the following six areas as set priorities relative to personal finance: (1) Investing (general), (2) Retirement planning/plans, (3) Credit use/debt reduction, (4) Budgeting/managing money, (5) Saving money, (6) Specific investment products, Source: (Barbara ONeill, Barbara Bristow, and Patricia Brennan Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences: From Research to Practice Volume 91 Issue 4, Resource Issue, 1999 p.45.) Individuals and Families also have some preferred delivery methods in which to receive financial information. When asked how do you prefer to receive financial information? The most preferred program delivery method was newsletter, followed by classes/seminars, fact sheets, and one-on-one counseling (Personal Finance Education: Preferred Delivery Methods and Program Topics, Barbara O'Neill, Jing Xiao, Barbara Bristow, Patricia Brennan, and Claudia Kerbel) LifeSmarts in many respects satisfy all the preferred program delivery methods.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out
Between January 1, 2002 and December 30, 2002 collaborations were developed with Auburn's School of Agriculture and Wildlife Sciences, town of Triana, Alabama A&M

University's USDA Forest Service, Sierra Club, Tennessee Valley Audubon Society, Cumberland CP Church, Triana Youth Center, and Triana Boys and Girls Club. 4 intensive training sessions were provided a newly formed Triana Urban Forestry and Greenspace Committee on the link between park asset develop, including a 3-acre wildlife refuge, and residents sense of well-being. Over 25 AAMU and community volunteers renovated a town park and national wildlife refuge, including the purchase with town funds of approximately $2,000 in new playground equipment. Volunteers refurbished two unusable parks into green spaces where youth, families, seniors and visitors "connect" with nature and enhance family socialization and bonding.

Youth through the Triana Boys and Girls Club participated in a 6 week Triana Bird Watching Club, where resources from the Tennessee Audubon Society augmented grant funds. 12 elementary and middle school participants learned about trees and the variety habitats supported by the diverse vegetation in Triana. Environmental stewardship and anger management outcomes were the goals of this effort with these youth, as a model for other urban Extension programming.

To address the need for statewide youth initiatives in this area, a youth camps was held at the 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL where 22 middle-school youth participated in a variety of tree education and environmental stewardship activities. Over 10 volunteers assisted with this activity.

Two publications were developed from this project and four articles published in Extension and Alabama A&M University publications. Over 15,000 of these publications were distributed across the state, and some of these materials are available on the ACES website. Over 150,000 listeners heard public service announcements on "Trees Are My Friends" by the Triana Boys and Girls Club youth on AAMU's WJAB-FM radio station.

Other collaborators on the "People-Plants" project include the City of Chicago Parks and Recreation Department, North Central USDA Research Station, and the USDA Research Station in Athens, GA.

Over 100 Extension agents, CECs and DECs were briefed on this project at a mid-year Urban Extension update. Three county agents assisted in various aspects of the demonstration project of the "People-Plants" project from Montgomery and Madison counties.

While "testing" this concept in the field, county agents in 5 urban and rural counties worked with their domestic violence task forces in providing a variety of domestic violence outreach services and educational programs, including Jefferson, Mobile, Fayette, and Montgomery counties.

Training was provided to over 66 cosmetologists and barbers at the Alabama Beauty and Barber Culture Association in Tuscaloosa on the role they can play in addressing

issues of domestic violence, under the umbrella “Brushing with Violence”. An alliance with the Cosmetology certification board through Duncan Academy provided domestic violence training to over 70 members last year.

Presentations were made at the regional meeting of the Children’s Advocacy Center’s “Mission Possible” program on “Charitable Choice: Diffusing the Myth” with over 50 people in attendance.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit serves as the lead agency in collaboration with Alabama Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR)-Kinship Care Program, and the Alabama Department of Senior Service-Alabama Cares Program. An inter-system “Task Force” of state agencies was organized under the umbrella of the Alabama Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) to create and/or expand services to grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting. The goals of the Alabama RAPP Coalition are to: provide technical assistance for establishing and facilitating support groups, conduct informational sessions, and identify community resources for grandparents and other relatives parenting children. Support groups have been established across the state. Local support groups established their goals to meet the needs of grandparents and relatives in the local area by organizing support groups and or conducting community information meetings.

A brochure was developed to describe the Alabama RAPP and to create awareness of the program. Awareness of the programs prevents grandparents and relatives from GOING IT ALONE; they can seek support through educational seminars and/or support groups. Brochures and information about the program have been distributed through mediums of exhibits, workshops, and news articles. Presentations were statewide to promote and inform individuals and groups about the RAINBOWS program, a grief program designed to help children cope with loss because of divorce or death. Parents Forever, a complete educational package designed to put parents on the right path to minimizing trauma for themselves and their children during and after the divorce process were distributed and utilized in two pilot counties.

LifeSmarts On-line, and State in- person competitions, consumer education competitions that test teens in grades 9-12 about personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities have results to boast.

In 2002, County Agent Yvonne Thomas in Montgomery County, ordered 4,000 of the publications "66 Ways to Save Money" published by the Consumer Federation of America's Consumer Literacy Consortium. “ Agent Thomas stated I think this information is very timely for the holidays. I have requested 4,000copies, one for each household in Public Housing.”

Extension County Agent Rosalind James developed a partnership with the Houston County Retired Teachers Association. Through this partnership, Agent James provided consumer and financial education to the retired teachers of Houston County and others. Mr. Daniel G. Lord, Manager of the Education and Public Affairs Division, Alabama Securities Commission was the presenter. Mr. Lord shared the following information: How to Check Out a Sales Person and Securities Product and Wise Investment Habits-Study Diversification, Impulse, Greed Control, Getting 2nd and 3rd Opinions. Mr. Joseph P. Borg, Director, Alabama Securities Commission was the presenter at another program presented by Agent James. Mr. Borg discussed the effects of fraud on Alabama Citizens and remedies to combat rapid increases.

According to the evaluation summary of the 3rd Annual Family Conference, consumer education through the Annual Family Conference is making an impact in Alabama. When consumer education was first introduced at the 1st Annual Family Conference, as the topic, Just Say No: Telephone Fraud and Scams, here are some comments based on the conference evaluation from that first conference.
1. Telephone fraud the topic may not be appropriate for this conference
2. Telephone fraud not relevant to conference
3. Telephone fraud session was good, but it didn't seem to be about families
4. I am not sure how Telephone Fraud and Scams fit in.
5. I wasn't sure how the telephone fraud and scams topic tied into the overall vision for the conference
6. Telephone fraud session was not relevant to conference.

Presently several publications have been submitted to the publication department for printing in Consumer Education and Family Financial Management. They were:
UNP 37 – Fraud & the Internet: Online Shopping
UNP 38 – Encouraging Seniors to Say No to Telemarketing Fraud
UNP 39 – Fraud and Scams Cost Money
UNP 40 - Get to Know Your Basic Consumer Rights
UNP 42 – Senior Money Management Problems: Implications for Caregivers
UNP 51 – Time Management
UNP 53 – Daily Money Management Guidelines

Several other agencies have collaborated with ACES in implementing consumer education and financial management programs. Our partners include Houston County Retired Teachers Association, Alabama Securities Commission, and the Montgomery Housing Authority

In total, 15 county agents helped ETP 30A serve over 2,500 clients across Alabama. ETP 30A collaborated with 3 state representatives, 1 state senator and various judicial systems throughout the state.

C. Results, Impacts, and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public
Results from Triana survey data indicate that the community increased their

appreciation for the impact of trees and other vegetation, wildlife and wildlife habitats by over 25% as a result of information and trainings received through the “People-Plant” project. This heighten awareness of family and community development benefits of trees and their role as a habitat for other wildlife resulted in the restoration of two parks, including a 3-acre wildlife refuge. It is estimated that the town residents, other volunteers, an allocation of the town hall, and grant funds from ACES total approximately $85,000. The impact for the residents is a 100% improvement in the utility of these park resources.

In addition to the physical improvements to the park, implementing these initiatives will lead to better economic outcomes for Triana residents who expect more visitors to the park areas the Spring and Summer 2003. Agri-tourism notation through ACES CRD unit was set-up for Triana’s assets.

Research data indicates that 52% of the residents see trees as a social amenity that will impact in a positive manner parent-child recreational interaction, intimate partner relations, and intergenerational connections. With the completion of the physical improvements to the parks, urban forestry and social well-being efforts has the potential to be a very significant contributor to environmental/psychological quality of life.

Survey data from statewide training program in Tuscaloosa to cosmetologists indicate 85% developed new insight into how that could retrofit their beauty and barbershops to increase outreach information to their clientele.

The establishment of a statewide coalition that serves as an inter-system “Task Force” of state agencies that focus on issues and concerns of grandparents and relatives parenting children has impacted the lives of many adults and children in Alabama. As the research indicates, there is a great need for emotional and social networks in conjunction with the need for financial and legal services. Although research on grandparents and relatives as parents is sparse, it is well noted that grandparents and relatives face many emotional difficulties. Grandparents who are raising their grandchildren often express significantly lower feelings of life satisfaction when compared to non-care-giving grandparents. These findings dictate the need for emotional and social support networks to assist grandparents and relatives with navigating through the process successfully. Grandparents often report many additional obstacles, however researchers concluded that the three main areas of concern for grandparents parenting grandchildren are:

· Loss of the expected and preferred grandparent role;
· Uncertainty about the permanence of the childcare arrangements;
· The relationship with the son or daughter who is unable to fulfill the parenting role.

As indicated by research, there is a great need for emotional and social support networks. The goals of the Alabama RAPP Coalition, to provide technical assistance for establishing and facilitating support groups, conducting informational sessions, and identifying community resources for grandparents and other relatives parenting children were met and benefited clientele and the general public. Support groups were

established across the state. Surveys conducted through group contact, exhibits, community and educational meetings revealed that grandparents and relatives who responded to the surveys indicated serving as a surrogate parent for one to seven children with an age range of four years to 18 years. The number of children in one person or couple's care denoted a need for immediate direct services for adults and children. Resources were identified for families through the Department of Human Resources (DHR) Kinship Care Program and through the local support groups. Three local support groups submitted proposals and were awarded mini grants from Alabama Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP). Portions of the grants along with local sponsorship were used to help defray the cost of respite opportunities for grandparents and relatives before the Christmas holidays. Approximately 80 grandparents and relatives participated in respite type holiday functions along with an additional 25 representatives from partnering agencies. The facilitators of the local groups received testimonials from grandparents and relatives regarding the social and emotional benefits of their involvement in the holiday activities. Twenty-seven grandchildren of the grandparents in one local group had a "Merry Christmas". The group facilitator coordinated an Angel Tree and solicited gifts from church groups such as singles groups and Sunday school classes as well as individuals. She collected items for the families that valued over $3,500 collectively.

In 2002, LifeSmarts boast the improvements participating students have made since they begun taking part in LifeSmarts. In 1999-2000 the LifeSmarts team participated in the on-line participation in which one team qualified to participate in the Regional and National competitions. In 2000-2001 four teams, through the on-line competition, qualified and participated in the in-person competition. The winning team represented the State in San Diego, CA. In 2001-2002, four teams participated in the on-line competition. Alabama's qualifying LifeSmarts State championship team was not able to participate in the regional and national competitions due to funding, and other reasons beyond their control. In 2002-2003 five teams participated in the on-line competition.

No data is available for 2000. However, data from all participating teams represented in the State competitions for 2001-2002 indicate on average the LifeSmarts teams' consumers' knowledge increased. One team's knowledge based increased 2.5 %; another team's knowledge based increased 12.5 % between 2001-2002. Data reveal the individual teams, members' consumer knowledge increased also. Data supports team members knowledge gained, increased from minus 2% to 14% with 11% being the median knowledge increase per individual. These teens will no longer be among the teens who research alluded to that will not have the personal financial skills they need to support themselves when they leave high school. Clearly research shows, teens in Alabama have improved their marketplace skills through participating in LifeSmarts.

The Evaluation summary from the 3rd Annual Family Conference suggested the following. Twenty-eight people of the 3rd Annual Conference attended the First Annual Family Conference. Of those twenty-eight, thirteen used the information in this way:
1. "Provided information to extension clientele

2. Newsletter materials/ Individual clientele contacts
3. Gave to clients
4. Made a presentation at a resident meeting
5. Used this information in my personal life
6. Stopped listening to people phoning who are selling something or asking for donations."

This is a good success story for the Annual Family Conference. Clearly, one can see the difference in what two years of consumer education awareness can do.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
A total of $51,000 was received from sponsors and grants to support LifeSmarts, the "People and Plants" project, and RAPP to help defray the cost of NetKeys. Additionally over $75,000 was sought in 2002 to continue or develop new projects in 2003. This represents a 100% increase in grant/donor gifts for ETP 30A in 2002.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
We have produced two exhibits that tell the story of Alabama families and one that series of exhibits that focus on environmental design influence of community well-being. These exhibits showcase Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) and the value of "People-Plant" projects with at-risk families. The exhibits were featured at the statewide Annual Family Conference, Huntsville City School System, Town of Triana, and AAMU State ACES office. The "People-Plant" project was featured in the ACES Action Newsletter and the AAMU Campus Intercom. A featured article in the Huntsville Times on RAPP highlighted 3 North Alabama families raising their grandchildren. This article elicited responses from as far away as Oklahoma. Five success stories about NetKeys are available online.

A town-wide field day was held in Triana, AL to celebrate the completion of all requirements to become a "Tree City USA" community. Over 125 residents and friends attended the event, with attendees coming as far away as New Jersey to participate in the tree-planting ceremony. Expansion of this effort into other under-served communities will take place in 2003.

A network of state agencies, with Cooperative Extension serving as the lead agency, serves as an intersystem "Task Force" that supports RAPP. The state agencies are AARP Alabama, Alabama Department of Human Services, and the Alabama Department of Senior Services.

Collaborations were held with the USDA Forest Service in the development of the Triana project, with over 186 volunteer hours donated by AAMU Forest Service Student chapter. Collaborations were held with the USDA Research Stations in Athens, GA and Evanston, IL.

An Alabama web site supports the LifeSmarts on-line competition in Alabama. Periodic

updates on the Alabama LifeSmarts program has been sent to the National Consumers' League in Washington, D.C.

Over 500 people attended an Educational Fiesta in Morgan County and of that figure over 90% were Hispanic.

Our goal is to continue to market and develop the various programs and projects under NetKeys in the future. For example, we envision the Alabama LifeSmarts program becoming the statewide consumer education program for teens in grades 9-12. Through a collaboration with Calhoun Community College, we envision an expansion of the "Trees Are Our Friends" program into three North Alabama school systems.

Our future plans are to continue this ETP until 2005 and to meet or exceed our initial 5-year goal. We will be making some changes to the ETP in 2003 based on the feedback that we have received from the county agents that responded to our request for suggestions for improvements.

ETP 31a Diversity and Multicultural Affairs
By Celedonio Gapasin

Description
As the outreach component of the state's Land grant institutions, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System has a tremendous role to play in helping individuals, families and communities understand, adjust and respond to individual and cultural differences. Extension, by its very definition, is an organization operating under the commitment to provide educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, culture, national origin, religion sex, age, veteran status or disability. This commitment addresses directly the responsibilities of Extension to provide outreach services to diverse audiences, and indirectly addresses the organization's obligation to design its programs around the expressed needs of all citizens including diverse audiences.

The population in the state of Alabama is becoming increasingly diverse relative to race, color, culture, national origin, religion, gender, age, veteran status or disability. As the state's population changes, so must its response to diversity. The nature of this response is crucial to the well-being of individuals, families and communities. The truth is, differences alone do not cause racial problems, but how people respond to differences can. The history of the nation unfortunately reflects a race consciousness which its southern states have struggled to overcome for many years. There is a growing need for Alabama citizens to make conscious efforts to enhance their appreciation for differences and to move forward to eradicate prejudice through

education. The value lies in understanding that America was built on the unified contributions of its diverse constituents. Each race, culture, sex, and age group has positive contributions to make toward the betterment of human society. The diversity of the nation as a whole and within the state of Alabama “is a source of strength that should be appreciated and cultivated” (Beyond Rhetoric, 1991).

The goal of this project is to create a greater appreciation for the value of diversity and culture of people in different countries. The objective of this specific ETP is to educate communities on diversity issues relative to race, national origin, color, sexual orientation, age, gender, physical and mental ability, spiritual practice, disability, veteran status and multicultural activities to promote better understanding, appreciation and respect for the different aspects of human differences. It is also the intent of this project to collaborate with law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to establish programs to expand and enhance understanding of diversity and multiculturalism in the law enforcement arena.

Actions and Activities Carried Out
1. The Shoals Diversity Council, which was organized more than three years ago in Florence, Alabama through the leadership of Mary Andrews, County Extension Agent of Lauderdale County, celebrated its third anniversary on February 1, 2002. Another Extensionist, Theresa McDonald, County Extension Coordinator of Colbert County later joined the Council and helped carry out its mission and objectives.

During the celebration, egg rolls, Swedish meatballs and other international traits were part of the lunch buffet. A morning reception was tendered at the conference room of the Burrell-Slater Community Education Center. Dr. Santanu Borah, a professor at the University of North Alabama and a member of the Council emphasized in his address to 40 people present in the anniversary, the “salad bowl” concept in which cultural differences are appreciated . He said that “we no longer want to talk about being a melting pot where we are supposed to be here and forget about our individualism.” Council members present also said that understanding different cultures is an important issue in the Shoals. Diversity is no longer a black and white issue. Racial profiling was an important topic discussed by police officers and people of the community in one of the seminars conducted by the Council. An active Indian and Asian population and a booming Hispanic presence are found in the Shoals. The Council consists of a number of agencies including the ACES, University of North Alabama, the Florence Police Department and the area school system.

“The Shoals: A Cultural History and Promising Future,” a leaflet developed by the Council, describes the cultural heritage and promising future of the Shoals. Demographics of the Shoals or Quad Cities which include Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield and Tuscumbia, is also found. The mission statement and objectives of the Council were also included in the leaflet.

A Holiday Get-Together of the 20 active council members was held at the

Media/Conference Room of the Florence Police Department last December.

2. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System co-sponsored the Annual African-American Entrepreneurship Summit held on February 12-15, 2002 at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center in Auburn, Alabama. The objective of the Summit was to raise collective consciousness of African Americans and other minority groups in order to recognize and embrace entrepreneurship as a viable way of life and an acceptable path to financial independence and provide practical information and knowledge to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations.

The Summit provided participants thought-provoking presentations from speakers in the areas of entrepreneurship, self-help and leadership. There were speeches and lectures, informative workshops, sessions and academic paper presentations and youth entrepreneurship training. There opportunities for networking both formal and informal.

3. More than 130 pupils from West Huntsville Elementary school took an imaginary trip to various countries around the world during the cultural diversity program organized by Judy Edmond, County Extension Agent of the Extension's Family Life Center in Huntsville.

The program opened with the singing of "It's a Small World." For more than one hour the grade school pupils listened to the presentations of international students, faculty and staff of Alabama A&M University including lay persons from the Huntsville community. The trip included three continents. In Africa, the countries visited were Zambia ,Ethiopia, and Nigeria; in Asia, the Philippines; and the Americas (Central) Honduras and Puerto Rico. There were slide presentation and exhibits of arts and crafts, scenic pictorials of the various countries and costumes of people in the countries visited. The pupils were also taught words, phrases of greetings and songs in the native language. The program helped dispel some misconceptions of the school children about people in those countries visited. They learned their differences and similarities in many ways. The school principal together with five grade school teachers joined the trip. Some of the teachers and children remarked that it was great to have joined the trip because this was the only trip they have ever taken in other countries and also outside of Madison county.

4. On April 25, 2002 the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) and Farm Foundation, in cooperation with Rogelio Saenz and Cruz Torres of Texas A&M University sponsored a conference on "Latinos in the South," in Atlanta, Georgia. Five Extensionists from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System attended the conference.

The one-day conference had two sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The first session was Latina/o workers and immigrants in the South. Four topics were presented in this session: Latino immigration to rural Arkansas, an ethnographic report; Mexican immigrant communities in the South and social capital;

the new Latino workforce, employers experiences in Memphis, Tennessee and migrant workers and forest industries in Alabama.

The second session was on the Latino families and housing. The topics discussed were: Latino families in eastern North Carolina; the role of social networks in alleviating affordable housing shortages in Bonita Springs, Florida and housing adjustments and barriers to social and economic adaptation among the South's rural Latinos.

One discussant was assigned for each session and audience discussion followed thereafter.

5. On Saturday, May 4, 2002 the Alabama Cooperative Extension System through the leadership of Mary Malone of Morgan County, Jerry Chenault and Catherine Stanton of Lawrence County, other Extensionists in those counties and Dr. Bernice Wilson, Urban Specialist in Resource Management of the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs helped sponsor a one-day Education Fiesta or "Fiesta Latina" in Decatur Alabama. The audience were Hispanics many of them living in Sandlin Villas (Cardinal Apartments). The intent of the program were to educate the community, primarily the Latinos on food safety, domestic violence, money management, immigration matters, children's health services, and to familiarize them about Head Start, Hospices and Even Start and police services provided to the local community.

There were resource speakers from the Social Security Administration Office, Immigration and Labor lawyers and Decatur Police Department. Jorge Pereira, a native of Columbia, South America, talked on Basic Money Management. He also served as master of ceremonies and translator to the majority Hispanic audience. There were entertainment presented on stage like the dance of the Grupo Tlaloc dancers of Memphis, Tennessee who were invited by the Hispanic Media of Athens, children dance from the West Decatur Elementary School, Peruvian dance, Spanish songs, and skit. There were also outdoor activities such as piñata, karate demonstration, home made toys display. Various service agency providers had exhibits where they provided free handouts, leaflets, and publications. There was also free notary service, food and refreshments. About 12 local commercial businesses supported and participated in the fiesta.

6. This year, the Asian Pacific American Heritage month celebration in Huntsville, Alabama with the theme, "Unity in Freedom," had two major stage presentations. The first performance took place on May 8, 2002 at the Morris Auditorium of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center with Dr. Eugene Trinh of NASA Headquarters as keynote speaker. The second activity was on May 16, 2002 at the Heiser Hall Building with Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor at Alabama A&M University as special guest speaker. In both activities, there were entertainments from the Asian Pacific American communities of Huntsville which included a lion and dragon dance, Martial Arts demonstration, fashion show depicting costumes in different countries and cultural dances and songs from Thailand, India, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Japan,

Korea and Hawaii.

7. One of the activities included in the Food and Nutrition Summer Institute, “Food, Fitness and Fun for a Healthy Community,” held on July 28, 2002 at the Research Farm Auditorium at Alabama A&M University was an entertainment on diversity and culture called, “It’s a Small World.” This activity was presented through the joint effort and cooperation of the International Womens Club of Huntsville, the Philippine American Association of Alabama, Inc., International Students Association of Alabama A&M and the Hispanics and International Community of North Alabama. The entertainment included songs, music and fold dances.

There was also a food station which included A Taste of Alabama and Beyond and food safety demos and information. Attending the various activities were Extension and Academic administrators, Extension workers, county officials, lay leaders, medical practitioners and other community educators.

8. Dr. Kathleen Tajeu, Extension Community Health specialist, a member of the Auburn Black Caucus worked with local Masjid/Mosque in Auburn to spread the word about a day of fasting during the Ramadan (a month of fasting among Muslims) where those who were non-Muslims and who fasted earned dollars which was donated to the local Lee County food bank. Participation in committee meetings of the Central Alliance for Latino Health Reproductive Health was also reported. On the Unwed Pregnancy Prevention grant, a young woman whose first language is Spanish, was hired to interview more than 40 individuals in the Jefferson County Hispanic Community, to assess their needs. A resource directory relevant to access to healthcare and related resources for Hispanics in the county was prepared. Participation in planning committee for the Southern Region Health Initiative addressing health issues of Hispanics in Alabama, attendance in a diversity training workshop in Auburn and attendance in the conference on “Latinos in the South,” were also reported.

9. In Lee County, under the leadership of Mattie Walker Fort, Extension County Agent, planned and implemented a program called, “A Taste of Foods Around the World.” Different dishes from various cultures such as Mexican, Italian, Asian were prepared by the 101 students, (45 of them males and 56 females) that participated . Through this activity, the students became aware of how foods are prepared in other places and they also learned the importance of knowing the culture of the people living in those countries represented in the ethnic food program.

ETP33A Workforce Preparation and Economic Development
By Rosalie M. Lane

A. Description
According to the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Alabama’s unemployment

rate was 5.8 percent in November 2002. While the increase is a little below the 5.9 percent recorded in 2001, it is much higher than the record low 4.1 percent in 2000. (Labor Department Monthly Labor Statistics). The national trend has also emulated similar vicissitudes. The high unemployment numbers are not going unnoticed by Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. She stated, during the June 20, 2001 "Summit on the 21st Century Workforce, that "America needs a wake-up call about its workforce – because the trends that are impacting it will have huge economic consequences if we don't act on them." While Alabama's high unemployment rate may have a lot to do with the economic downturn that happened to the nation as a whole after the "9/11" terrorist attack, Secretary Chao, made critical observations. She stated that three issues will "impact our nations economic strength in the decades ahead, and shape the quality of life of America's working families." Those issues are: a) The skills gap, b) our demographic destiny, and c) the future of the American workplace.

The skills gap, for example, is prevalent in Alabama, as it is in the rest of the nation. However, the cause of the gap is a disconnect between an increase of new jobs demanding new skills that are going unmanned because of the large numbers of unskilled workers not ready to use new technology. These workers now compete in decreasing traditional job markets, such as manufacturing. Also separating our nation is the technological "haves" and "have nots". The digital divide is fueling this situation. There is already a wide gap in the unemployment rate of high school dropouts that is four times that of a college graduate. The Secretary suggests that we bridge these and other unemployment gaps through education, and reform our 'culture of complacency with a culture of challenge." She challenges the workforce training professionals to promote training programs that are seen as "venture capital for the 21st workforce" – and therefore offering hope to those workers who have not been reached by employers. Demographics also play a very important role in the success of our nations workforce future because the labor pool is getting smaller, and will be even smaller when the baby boomers complete retirement about the year 2020. Labor shortages will dictate the need to import labor. Alabama is fortunate as it already has come to terms with incorporating large pools of newly arrived labor to answer its labor shortages. Secretary Chao envisions the future workplace as being multi-talented and thriving with many that have been left out of the economic mainstream. Alabama Cooperative Extension System through its diversified workforce network has many programs and resources that are ready to assist Alabama families in realizing a better quality of life.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

Youth Career Summits: Technical Careers for Women, Preparing Young Women for High-Skilled, High-Waged Careers, is one of the programs that have been delivered in MSA's, as a tool to enhance Senior high female 11th and 12th graders (and now young men) thought process to get a broader view of the nontraditional careers available to them in the high tech field. The Summit is designed to educate the students about careers in high skill and high wage fields in avionics, aviation, automotive, manufacturing, allied health, and entrepreneurship, etc. The Summit is in partnership with Vocational Schools and Junior Colleges and was a part of the AACC-ACCT

Community College Agenda for the 107th Congress. It provides some funding for workforce training programs, especially the Basic State Grants and Tech Prep Program contained in the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, which emphasize continuous program improvement and partnerships with business and industry. The Summit's Mission of increasing awareness of young women in technical career opportunities and the training programs available in this region to prepare for those high-skilled jobs accommodates this agenda..

Recent data reveals that women are under represented in the high-paying technical fields:

• Women compromise 15% of engineering graduates
• Only 1.2% of civilian and commercial airline pilots are women
• Less than 3% of aircraft engine mechanics are women
• There are fewer women in upper level math and physics courses
• Men dominate the field of information technology, even with over 300,000 IT jobs going unfilled this year alone

Since its inception in 2000, the Summit has been host to approximately 6,000 male and female high school students. In 2002 it hosted 1500 students in Houston, Mobile, and Madison Counties. The Specialist took the leadership (Chairperson) role in the 2002 Summit at Virginia College in Madison County.

Welcome to the Real World reached more than 5,000 participants in 2002. The Welcome to the Real World (WTTRW) curriculum activity was used by Specialists and County Extension Agents (CEAs), on a local, county, state and national level at schools, career fairs, community centers, agency JOBS programs, resource fairs, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc. The agents and other facilitators used the curriculum in Alabama in Colbert, Calhoun, Houston, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Jefferson, Madison, Montgomery, and St. Clair, and other Counties. The curriculum is an exciting and enjoyable method for delivering workforce training and education to youth and adults. It presents the user an holistic view of real life choices that must be made by self-sufficient 25-year-old adults regarding career, budget, emergency and other life considerations. Agents said the curriculum starts many students rethinking career choices when faced with real life living experiences on salaries of the jobs that the students had previously selected. Agents and instructors establish dialogue with the students about career choices and how self-motivation will be required to be successful in pursuing any career. Many instructor's comment that they use the WTTRW curriculum and activity as an assessment tool to critique and measure students' progress.

Instructors and agents report that the WTTRW is a good role-playing tool. The activity becomes very real to the participants as they try to make decision to keep them afloat on one month's salary. Following are some comments that participants were overheard making after the activity:

• “I will have to choose another career or work two jobs to be able to do what I want to do”

• “I learned that I can’t be a big shot or I’ll be bankrupt,”
• “I’ll really have to watch my spending and keep good records or I’m gonna be in trouble.”

Because this curriculum is so widely used throughout the state by Extension facilitators who do not report impact to 33AL Workforce Preparation and Economic Development, the Specialist has designed an impact measurement reporting instrument that has been placed on the Extension website under Urban New and Nontraditional Programs for reporting purposes for all users. (Contacts approx. 5,000)

Job Readiness Programs reaching over 750 participants, were delivered by the Specialist and County Agents throughout the state. These programs are designed to identify and respond to critical areas of workforce preparation for skilled, unskilled or newly skilled adult workers. They are adapted, developed, and delivered to solve the users basic workforce preparation needs and enhance and increase opportunities for advancements. There are several publications that are being used as enhancements to the job readiness programs: “The Job Hunting Kit” and “Workforce, Education and Career Assistance Network for You” (WECAN4U) website workbook.

During the year, on an ongoing basis county agents and the Specialist have provided non-formal education and training to hard to reach audiences through partnerships and community based initiatives, such as Job preparation classes for JOBS Training Program and Boot Camp in Talladega County; resource fairs in Jefferson County, Family Court Juvenile Program, Bessemer Family Services, Birmingham Works for Youth, Birmingham Housing Authority, and CHAMPS, Inc. Jefferson County; Career Awareness Classes at Jackson Olin also in Jefferson County, and Business Etiquette presentation at Upward Bound Summer Enrichment Program at UAH in Madison County and sponsored by North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence . (Contacts 753).

Internet Based Programs: The Workforce Education and Career Assistance Network for You (WECAN4U) is a workforce preparation Internet website. The website was created to provide workforce preparation and related information to users. It was designed as a result of a Multi State Agreement between the Alabama Cooperative Extension Specialist and her counterpart at West Virginia State College (Land Grant Program). The short-term measurement has already seen approximately 3,500 hits since its inception in May 2000. It is easily accessible and user friendly as the client only keys in the short website address www.wecan4u.net and clicks on to any platform that he chooses, including employment, education, entrepreneurship, financial management. It is also useful for workforce professionals as it gives up to date information on what other states are doing with the Workforce Investment Act and gives updated statistical information on employment from the Department of Labor’s website. The site also

delivers current employment related information, specifically to Alabama and West Virginia audiences. The site has an unlimited information thrust as it provides employment and entrepreneurship information pertinent for audiences beyond Alabama and West Virginia. County Extension Agents in Talladega, Chilton, Mobile, and Jefferson Counties have incorporated it into their Job Readiness Programs. The DOL has just issued a grant for site enhancement.

Senior Programs: The Specialist provided support in other ETPS to promote seniors in the workforce and volunteering. Ninety seniors were trained at the "Successful Aging Initiative: A Senior Expo," to be aware of current and future employment volunteering opportunities. (250 brochures "Employment & Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors,") Also exhibited at the Urban Rural Interface Conference in April on same subject (250.) Distributed 300 brochures at the "4th Annual Family Conference". Exhibited at the "Grandparents" Conference. Distributed 150 brochures. (1,040 contacts).

C. Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public
Hierarchical surveys show that ninety-seven percent of the Instructors rate the "Youth Career Summit" as excellent, as do ninety-six percent of the students surveyed. Counselors say that most students who have not made up their mind about careers usually consider one of the careers presented at the Summit. This is a new program that will get more concrete impact after the third year, as some of the students have agreed to become a cohort and receive workforce technical information. This way we will get a chance to see how the Summit impacts students' career selections. The Specialist presented the website at the ACESEO Conference in Decatur in May, (30 manuals) and also wrote and article in the Metro News, on the Summit in the Vol. 1, No. 3 issue.

Participants completed evaluation instruments, reflect the impact of the "Welcome to the Real World" activity as the students pursue their goal to manage their real world affairs. The participants valiantly try to make ends meet with one month's salary in an assigned career and wage category. Tallying up the participants' 2002 evaluations, One-eighth of the participants have had previous banking experiences, however, two-thirds of the students balance their bank books, thereby making reasonable decisions about real life decision-making and finances. One-third of the students went bankrupt. This is remarkable, especially since the students must make wise decisions about the kind of transportation, shelter, insurance, food, clothing, entertainment, etc they need. Two-thirds of the students also selected to consider a career change. Participants who come into the activity with very little knowledge in many real life areas get a chance to decipher how to become more proficient in managing their personal financial management, career selection, and decision making strategy. Instructors often use this curriculum in conjunction with financial management, career development and mathematics classes. Ninety-six percent of Instructors and students rate the activity as "Excellent." Students made the following remarks to the question: "How has your view of life in the future changed as a result of participating in the 'Real World' program":

“As a result of today’s Real World activity, it has made me have more respect for people and money. It has made me a more efficient person.”

“A lot! As a result of today’s program, I will plan and explore my options more closely”

“Can’t have everything you want.”

“Yes, because I realize sometimes you don’t always get what you want in the ‘Real World’”

“To finish high school and then get a good job, good pay in money, and not to listen to the people”

“I was changed a lot because I realized how much my parents have to spend”

“As a result of today’s program, I learned to get what you can, don’t try to be high class.”

“As a result of today’s program, I will be careful about purchasing items”

“I plan to live within my means”

“As of today, I will make wiser financial decisions”

“As a result of today’s program, I will never leave home”

“As a result of today’s program, I will balance my income better and learn more about the ‘Real World.’

“I didn’t know all of the bills that you have to pay.”

“I’m going to change my career plans.”

Job Readiness Programs and resources have fostered confidence in many of the adults that complete the many programs that Extension provides by equipping them with handy workforce preparation tools such as The Job Hunting Kit. The booklet provides a simple and complete guide for selecting the proper resume to use, practicing for interviews, knowing how to answer the questions that most employers ask, how to write simple application cover and interview response letters. “The Job Hunting Kit” will be a give-away on one of the local employment related radio programs that are being scheduled for springtime. Over 1000 were given away last year by request and accompanying job readiness programs. In 2002, over 200 of the WECAN4U website Internet workforce training guide to accessing the website have also been given out. It is also being used to as a tool to enhance job readiness programs in several counties. Presented In-service Training in March 2002 on the subject: “ETP 33A: Partnering & Maximizing Outreach Potential and Unique Audience Bases.”

Internet Based Program: The WECAN4U workforce preparation Internet website is being used. Over 800 hits have occurred in Alabama in the employment sector, followed by 100 hits in the area of workforce certification and education training programs. The grant that is coming from the DOL for $10,000 will further market the site in selected areas of Alabama and West Virginia as well as expand the site's capability. The Specialist also presented the Website at the SRDC – CRED National Conference in Orlando (200 public relations sheets) and to the ACESEO Conference in May. (30 manuals)

Senior Programs: The Specialist h partnered with Top of Alabama Regional Counsels of Government (TARCOG) and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) programs to prepare a brochure that focus on Senior volunteerism and employment. Approximately 750 have been distributed to three senior related programs.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
Ten ACES employees worked with the WTTRW Project using 885 volunteers. The volunteer hours, if costing $10.00 an hour, amounts to $2,655. Each volunteer would spend 3 hours at each activity, based on the average time that it takes for each WTTRW activity. Industry and Social Service agency also donated, by proposal and gift, the amount of 1950.00, to present the Youth Career Summit. Virginia College provided the facility, volunteers and the cost of 300 lunches for Summit 2002. The WTTRW activity also received a donation of $400.00 – Morgan County

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans:
A videotape is being produced for the Youth Career Summit that will be a marketing tool for the event. This will be shown to the Superintendents, Principals, host college and Counselors when doing program planning. Future plans are to keep in touch with a percentage of the Summit's participants to follow their educational and workforce progress. The "Works for Me" curriculum, co-authored with Dr. Carol Centrallo, that is due out soon, will be co-exhibited at the National SRDC-CRED Conference in Orlando, Florida in March. The Specialist is also doing a collaborative presentation on the WECAN4U website at the same conference with Mr. Ray Ali of WVSC. Welcome to the Real World is currently being updated and will be presented at the March 2003 In-service.

GOAL FIVE SUCCESS STORIES

Keeping Faith

Before her father's death in 1979, Ruth Ann Weedon was asked for a promise, a solemn promise that, come what may, she would do everything in her power to preserve her family's century-old Autauga County farm.

For a time, her prospects of honoring that pledge grew exceedingly dim.

As the farm crisis set in during the mid-1980s, Ruth Ann and her husband, Cliff, like tens of thousands of other farm families of that era, were swimming against a rising tide of steep interest rates and declining land values. The worst shock occurred when their lender informed them that they no longer would be financed unless they made drastic changes in their farming operation.

Frantically searching for a solution, they contacted Hal Pepper, a local Extension farm business economist.

Pepper introduced them to a record-keeping and analysis system available through the new Central Alabama Farm Analysis Association that helped them gain an accurate assessment of their farm's current and future profitability.

In time, the knowledge gained from this record system, coupled with Pepper's counseling, helped the Weedons come to terms with the bitter truth that saving the farm would involve selling part of it.

"It involved selling everything that wasn't contributing to their operation's profitability," Pepper recalls. "If there was large equipment or other assets they didn't need, they sold them and reduced debt."

Brood cows were sold. They also harvested and sold timber off the land and parted with 800 acres of river bottomland.

"I once thought the bigger you are, the better you are," Cliff recalls. "But I learned it's not how big you are but how well you manage what you have."

In time, the Weedons made one other fateful decision: getting out of farming entirely and converting their farm into a commercial hunting enterprise they run with oldest daughter Wendy. Using the same business management principles they acquired from Pepper, they are also running an equally successful food distributorship.

Twenty years since weathering one of the worst crises of their lives, the Weedons have their lives back. Even more important, they are honoring the pledge they made almost a quarter century ago to preserve a precious legacy for future generations.

Taking the Plunge

For Baldwin County growers Joe Mullek and son Tim the time seemed right.

Under the 1996 Farm Bill, Congress had finally made it possible for peanut quotas to be transferred across county lines. That meant they could take the plunge and begin raising peanuts on their Gulf Coast farm, along with cotton and corn.

It seemed like a win/win situation for the Mulleks, who were confident the peanuts would thrive under the Gulf Coast's ample rainfall. Even so, a couple of Extension specialists, agronomist Dallas Hartzog and farm business economist Bob Lisec, offered help along the way—in one instance, critical help.

"Dallas visited once every few weeks and spent a lot of time going through fields and telling us what to do at key intervals—what weeds to look out for and when to spray," Tim Mullek recalls.

Hartzog also helped the Mulleks overcome what turned out to be one of the only serious challenges associated with his switch to peanuts. During planting, they had

inoculated their peanuts—a routine practice to ensure the plants get enough nitrogen during the growing season.

Unfortunately, in their case, the inoculation failed—a problem they discovered in mid-July when the plants began turning yellow.

During a visit to the farm, Hartzog quickly diagnosed the problem and recommended they apply fertilizer to compensate for the loss.

“Without this fertilizer, we wouldn’t have ended up with much of a crop,” Mullek recalls.

Mullek also credits Lisec with helping him understand the nuts and bolts of peanut production.

“He helped me anticipate the costs that would be involved in peanut production by laying it all out on the table,” he recalls.

Once the Mulleks took the plunge into peanuts they never looked back. Today, they are farming almost 900 acres of peanuts, along with about 850 acres of cotton.

“It was a good decision, and I’m glad we did it,” Mullek says.

“It works well in rotation with cotton, and it’s been good to us.”

Raising Vegetables *and* Practical Knowledge

Day after day, Hilma Orman and countless other high school teachers strive to ensure their students leave their classrooms with a practical understanding of science beyond textbook learning.

Fortunately for Orman, her job just got a little easier, thanks to the Extension-sponsored Birmingham Urban Garden Society (BUGS). BUGS board member Rev.

Hughey Reynolds, a local United Methodist minister, coordinated the volunteers who recently built four raised gardening beds in the courtyard of Ramsay High School, the magnet school where Orman teaches.

"Our goal is to get teachers to use outdoor gardens to teach their science and math courses," says Mark Mayeske, Jefferson County Extension agent, who coordinates the BUGS effort to assist schools.

That is precisely the idea Orman has in mind. She is using the beds as an outdoor laboratory for her botany students to help them understand the steps involved in planting and maintaining an organic garden.

After a careful study to identify vegetables best suited to Birmingham's growing conditions, Orman's students first draw on paper where they want to grow each crop. Then, they roll up their sleeves and go to work. As an added challenge, they also make their own compost from kitchen scraps, newspapers, and earthworms.

Similar gardens have been established in 22 other schools. But this is just the beginning. Volunteers plan to enhance this effort with a series of teaching materials that science instructors can soon incorporate into their coursework.

BUGS organizers have worked closely with Spencer Horn, director of science for the Birmingham City School System, who, Mayeske says, "has been enthusiastic and has backed us all the way."

Training sessions for Birmingham-area teachers also have been held, and four more have been slated during the next four months that will provide continuing education credit.

Meanwhile, Ramsay High School students credit the project with helping dispel many of the misconceptions associated with gardening.

“I’ve found out how complicated gardening is,” observes Jessica Spencer, one of Orman’s botany students. “Before you even plant the seeds, you’ve got to determine things like the soil’s acidity, what plants will grow where, and whether there is enough sunlight during the day.”

“The program has taught me a lot.”

Planting Trees and Hopes

On an overcast morning in September, more than 150 Triana residents and guests from as far away as New Jersey gathered in Flamingo Park to celebrate their first Arbor Day. But they didn’t mind. As far as they were concerned, the sun was shining all around.

With fewer than 500 residents, Triana was once a bustling, vibrant community. Then, in 1978, trace elements of PCB and DDT, two environmentally harmful substances, were detected in the local Wheeler Reservoir, where townspeople had fished and drawn water for years.

It was a devastating blow made worse by the loss of a beloved mayor who had worked tirelessly for the community. Years of stagnation and decline followed.

Marilyn Simpson Johnson, an Extension family educator based at Alabama A&M University in nearby Huntsville, had seen rapid urban growth undermine other at-risk urban communities. And while she realized that economic growth and revitalization

were essential to Triana's future, she didn't want this to occur at the expense of community values and local traditions.

What was needed, she reasoned, was a spark—a project that would bring townspeople together to work toward the common goal of revitalizing the town while maintaining its character.

Working through Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, she helped organize a local tree board to spearhead revitalization of Flamingo Park. Trees are increasingly perceived as a valuable social commodity in any community, especially those coping with problems such as teen drug abuse, domestic violence, and unemployment.

Another key player in the tree-planting initiative was Brenda Allen, an Extension specialist in urban forestry. Allen played a critical role in helping Triana secure a grant from the Alabama Urban and Community Forestry Association to launch the tree-planting initiative.

Extension also worked with the board and other public and private partners to undertake other restoration efforts.

A ripple effect followed as more townspeople became actively engaged in these efforts.

Today, the park and nearby wildlife refuge have been equipped with new playground equipment, picnic tables, and an outdoor learning pavilion. The USDA Forest Service also has been enlisted to teach Project Learning Tree materials to members of the local Boys and Girls Clubs and Triana Girls, Inc.

The Arbor Day celebration also marked another milestone for the town. Holding the celebration was the last requirement for obtaining eligibility as a Certified Tree City—another result of the tree board's tireless efforts.

Most important of all, it marked a new day for Triana. For, in addition to planting new trees, townspeople were planting new hopes and breathing new life into their community.

"All you have to do in Triana is plant a seed and we will nurture it and water it," observes Triana mayor Marlene Freeman.

"This has been made possible through the efforts of a lot of local people, but the person who really got it going was Marilyn Johnson."

Spawning Fish and Learning

Several years ago, reading about the role fish production would play in feeding the world, Florala High School teacher John Harbuck came up with an idea – a very big idea, as it turned out.

"If aquaculture (fish production) is so vital to the world's future," Harbuck reasoned, "why not establish an aquaculture course at Florala High School?"

It was a tall order, for sure. But with assistance from the University of Alabama's Program for Rural Services and Research, the program was funded and is now an integral part of science teaching at the school.

From the beginning, Extension aquaculturist Claude Reeves has played a vital role at the center, helping instructors plan the coursework and determine what types of fish to stock. He also has been on hand to help students tackle one of the toughest assignments of the school year: injecting hormones into the fish to induce spawning.

Today, thanks partly to Reeves' efforts, tiny Florala High School, with fewer than 200 students, boasts a state-of-the-art aquaculture center -- an ideal hands-on environment for teaching science that is the envy of high schools across America.

"Whenever you get kids involved in hands-on activity, they can see the results and see what they're doing," says science teacher Donny Powell, who assumed part of the responsibility for the center after Harbuck's retirement. "It's a much better way of teaching the material."

It's often not the star students who are helped most by the hands-on approach. As Harbuck and Powell have observed time after time, failing students are often transformed into "B" and even "A" students after working in the center.

Two students who passed through the program even credit the center with providing them with the inspiration to finish high school, Harbuck says.

Florala High School's aquaculture center is one of about 25 school projects with which Reeves and other Extension aquaculturists are involved throughout the state. The cornerstone of these efforts is an intensive four-day course taught each summer at Gadsden State Community College. The course provides continuing education credit to high-school teachers who are working to establish similar aquacultural projects in their schools.

Empowerment and Gratitude

Ask Debra Glenn what inspires her, and she will sum it up in one word: gratitude.

It is an inspiration she acquired during childhood attending a weekly Extension Food and Nutrition Education Program's 4-H DOT (Diet's Our Thing) program. Local

Extension 4-H agent Helen Wilson conducted the program at the Girl Scout House in the Birmingham housing project where Glenn grew up.

Looking back, Glenn is convinced that “Wilson was one of the catalysts God provided to inspire me.”

“She was very much a role model for me,” she recalls. “Every week, she brought simple, affordable recipes that she taught the rest of us and that I’d take home and prepare for my mother and brothers.

“I never pictured myself preparing a recipe from scratch – measuring it, cooking it, and putting it on a plate or in a bowl so that people could eat it.”

For Glenn, it opened the door to a lifetime of self-mastery and empowerment.

“It showed me I had potential and could serve in a leadership role,” she recalls.

Others began noticing the change, and, eventually, she was entrusted with teaching 4-H DOT, Brownies, and Junior Scouts these recipes when Wilson was away.

This sense of empowerment only grew stronger through high school and college. With it came a feeling of gratitude and a desire to inspire others.

After completing a degree in elementary education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, she served as a day care center operator, a counselor of hardcore juvenile delinquents, and a cottage counselor at a children’s home.

Today, as an administrator with the Birmingham VA Medical Center, she supervises 37 employees -- at a job grade only two short of the highest grade attainable in her career track.

In her free time, she works as a counselor at the Tuscaloosa County Youth Detention Center. She is also an ordained minister.

Glenn also serves as a Big Sister, mentoring girls from backgrounds similar to her own. One of the girls, Natasha Dean Bass, has since received her bachelor's degree from Birmingham-Southern College and is now completing her final year of law school.

"Because someone took the time, I feel responsible," Glenn says. "I have no choice but to give back."

Strength for the Journey

The transition from welfare to work is often a long, difficult, even frightening journey.

No one knows this better than Cindy Prince, now a certified nursing assistant at a nursing home and rehabilitation center in Florence, who was able to complete the journey, thanks, in part, to an Extension-sponsored training program.

What many people such as Prince need, but often lack, is strength for the journey – help learning how to juggle work with other demands, such as caring for family, managing car payments, and preparing meals on a tight budget.

Four years ago, Lauderdale County Extension agent Lelia Wissert perceived this as a critical need in her community and worked with other public and private partners to develop a series of week-long seminars to enable clientele to acquire these skills.

What was once offered periodically is now provided monthly. More than 45 classes have been conducted since 1998, reaching more than 220 participants – 50 percent of whom got jobs and kept them after completing the training. The program is

conducted through the JOBS program, operated by the Alabama Department of Human Resources and Adult Basic Education.

Prince, a graduate of the program, is now a junior working on a nursing degree from the University of North Alabama and has accomplished more than she ever thought possible.

"I tell people in similar situations that there is light at the end of the tunnel," she says. "It hurts your pride going to a local church to ask for help paying a power bill or buying medicine. So instead of having to ask for help every few months, why not try to become self-sufficient?"

Another graduate of the program, Stefanie Stovall, now employed as a security guard at the Department of Human Resources, is completing her degree in computer information systems at North Alabama. She says the success she's had with the program is proof that people can make the transition from welfare to work if they take the time to acquire these skills.

> "There's help out there, but if you don't help yourself, no one else will," Stovall observes. "Life's really what you make of it."

Critical Partner

When Eufaula citizens began work on their new strategic plan, they had no idea how revolutionary it would be.

Five years ago, as the plan evolved, planners decided to make environmental sustainability a cornerstone of their strategic plan and to include as many townspeople in the planning process as possible. With this approach, they wanted to ensure that future economic growth did not occur at the expense of citizens or their environment.

It had been tried before, but only in commercially developed communities, seldom in incorporated towns such as Eufaula.

Fortunately, for Eufaula mayor Jay Jaxon and other planners, Barbour County Extension agent David Koon knew a thing or two about sustainability and how the resources of Auburn University could be enlisted to aid with this effort.

> With Koon's assistance, Eufaula enlisted the help of Tom Chesnutt, Extension tourism specialist, who spearheaded a partnership that included Eufaula, Audubon International, and Extension and that was assisted by a core group of Auburn University faculty members.

In time, faculty members from 14 disciplines were involved in this partnership.

> Chesnutt, along with these faculty members, played a key role helping Jaxon and other planners identify tasks to include in the strategic plan. The Extension and Auburn University team offered nine different proposals for consideration; seven were eventually adopted. Jaxon also identified five other issues for which the team submitted proposals.

Jaxon was impressed with what he had seen – so impressed that he decided to work exclusively with the Extension/Auburn team rather than with private companies that had previously been considered.

Once the roles were clearly established, Extension transferred project leadership to Joe Sumners, director of the university's Economic Development Institute. Even so, Extension remained a strong partner throughout the process – an involvement, Jaxon believes, that was critical to the plan's success.

"Sometimes we tend to think of Extension as just dealing with farmers and landowners. But in this case, they showed us where to look for resources that we otherwise would not have known about," Jaxon says.

"In the 17 months it took for us to finish the plan, Extension was an asset and partner throughout."

Thanks to the hard work of Extension and other partners involved in the project, Eufaula will soon make history by becoming Audubon International's first sustainable community.

Business Smarts and Life Lessons

Ever since primary school, Ashley Easley had dreamed of becoming a majorette.

But becoming a majorette required lessons -- $20-a-week lessons.

So, beginning in the sixth grade, the Cleburne County girl worked with a 4-H Youth Entrepreneurship project to develop a business, a modest business, that would enable her to sell just enough jewelry to pay for her weekly lessons.

Her 4-H leader, Bridgette Groce, helped her with all of the things required to become a successful young entrepreneur -- learning how to get started, developing business cards, and getting a business license.

In a short time, she was hooked.

"Even after I completed the majorette lessons, I realized I enjoyed the business and wanted to keep it," she recalls.

And keep it she did.

What began as a modest effort to finance majorette lessons grew far beyond anything Ashley or her mother, Vonda, had ever imagined.

"When I first started, I worked with simple things – plastic and stretchy stuff," she remembers. "But over time, I started going to bead stores, where people introduced me to wires, glass beads, and more complex materials."

In time, Ashley worked up a unique product line, one that people as far away as Atlanta wanted to buy.

It would be a heady experience for many teenagers, but for Ashley, it's all in a day's work.

"Lots of people call and tell me what they want, and I deliver it," she says with an unmistakable air of entrepreneurial self-confidence.

In fact, the business, operated out of her family's basement, has grown so big that she is now required to pay business taxes.

She's even earned enough to hire one of her classmates as an employee.

The 14-year-old also has saved enough money to buy an ice-green Volkswagen Beetle when she turns 16 – one that will bear her business logo, Ashley's Accessories.

Now a cheerleader and band member, she's also well on her way to attaining her ultimate goal of becoming a majorette when she turns 16.

But far more important than anything else are the business smarts and priceless lifetime lessons Ashley has learned along the way.

"It not only has taught me how to run a business but how important it is to treat your customers fairly," she observes.

"And I've made lots of friends too."

Goal 5 Bullets

- A team of Extension horticulturists developed a nationally recognized Web site that is a source of up-to-date information for home gardeners as well as professional greenhouse, nursery, and landscape operators.
- Working to ensure that Alabama farmers become more effective leaders in the public arena, the Alabama Agriculture and Forestry LEADERS Program, with almost 200 alumni throughout the state,

completed its seventh year in 2002. An impact study conducted last year revealed that about half of all LEADERS graduates have served in some public office since completion of the program.

- The Para Nuestros Amigos Latinos Web site extended the outreach of Extension's Urban Affairs unit to Spanish-speaking families and communities. The user-friendly Web site offers a wide variety of research-based information to the state's growing Hispanic population.
- The Successful Aging Initiative, a partnership agreement between the state Bureau of Geriatric Psychiatry and Extension's Urban Affairs unit, educated more than 250 seniors in Huntsville area faith-based communities on resource management, elder law, and health issues. Health screenings saved participants thousands of dollars.
- A multi-state agreement between Extension's Urban Affairs unit and New Mexico State University led to the planning and implementation of an Education Fiesta in the Morgan County metro area. Extension agents in Morgan and Lawrence counties worked with supporting agencies and organizations to provide vital information and resources to more than 500 Latino/Hispanic residents.
- Former Surgeon General David Satcher was the keynote speaker at the fourth Annual Food and Nutrition Summer Institute held at Alabama A&M University, marking the first time this event was hosted at a historically black university. The Urban Affairs unit and AAMU's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences hosted this event.
- The Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) provided support groups to grandparents raising grandchildren in North Alabama. The program has received funding through the Brookdale Foundation to expand services in 2003.

- The Annual Family Conference has become an important avenue for addressing major issues of public concern such as domestic violence, parenting, work force preparation, nutrition, and health. Held for the fourth year on the Alabama A&M University campus, the 2002 conference featured family life specialist Wallace Goddard as keynote speaker.
- The Students Promoting Action: Community Education (SPACE) volunteer program orbited to Talladega, Mobile, and Jefferson counties to establish new sites for the student volunteer program. SPACE is being implemented at postsecondary institutions in Madison, Montgomery, and Limestone counties. It has generated more than 1,000 volunteers and 11,500 volunteer hours and has reached 36,000 adults and young people since its inception in 1992.
- **Morgan County Extension agents worked with the Alabama Department of Corrections and Calhoun Community College to initiate a pilot program designed to rehabilitate inmates. Educational training that included a work force preparation series contributed to an improved recidivism rate from as much as 50 percent to 5 percent and substantial savings to the Alabama penal system.**
- A series of Youth Career Summits coordinated by agents and specialists in Houston, Madison, and Mobile counties educated more than 1,500 young women on nontraditional careers in technical fields. This was the second year of implementation for the summits that are designed to motivate young women to pursue high-wage, high-skilled occupations.

- Excellent fishing in the reservoir at Steelwood Plantation, a popular Gulf Coast resort, is partly due to the efforts of one Extension fisheries specialist who helped the resort control a serious overgrowth of aquatic weeds and trained their staff to effectively manage the lake. Now fishing in the reservoir is exceptional, with anglers catching largemouth bass routinely exceeding five pounds.
- The Walker County Extension Office planned and implemented a series of thirteen programs to provide childcare workers with training in six different areas of competency mandated by new state requirements. The sessions were held in the evening to fit with the workers' busy schedules.
- The Begin Education Early (BEE) program, begun in Wilcox County in 1997, remains the only home visitation parenting program aimed at school readiness and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. More than 90 percent of parents who have completed the program report they read more to their children, use alternative disciplinary methods, and communicate with their children more effectively.
- Helping teens gain a clearer picture of what they want in life and how to get it is the goal of the Extension-sponsored Promoting Alabama Youth Development (PAYD). Of the more than 142 high-school youth throughout Montgomery County who have participated in the program, 89 percent reported gains in knowledge, with the strongest improvements in communications, problem anticipation, and creation of alternative solutions.
- Extension family life educators took part in a discussion of one of the newest areas of family life education – couples education – using one of the newest forms of

communication, the online e-conference. Pioneered by an Alabama Extension family life specialist, along with a counterpart from Ohio, the approach provided a low-cost, flexible method for connecting family life educators with researchers considered to be on the cutting edge of this new field.

- Financial Elder Abuse programs provided more than 500 residents in five counties – Calhoun, Baldwin, Houston, Montgomery, Monroe, and Talladega – with skills to better manage their legal and financial affairs and avoid financial scams.
- A one-day workshop, conducted by the Extension-sponsored Alabama Sunrise Region, was held in Central Alabama to alert community leaders throughout the state about the value of Alabama tourism, a multibillion-dollar enterprise that comprises the state's largest industry. Community leaders were trained on how to recognize and market potential sources of tourism in their region.
- Southeast Alabama Trails (SEATS), an 11-county tourism and retiree association (formerly LATARA) was formed by Extension and area Chambers of Commerce in 1992 to help Wiregrass communities develop and implement programs to increase tourism and retiree attraction. A membership-driven association funded by grants, SEATS offers numerous benefits, including listings on Web pages, member hospitality training, newsletters, cooperative advertising, seminars, and tours.
- Several years ago, the Jackson County Extension Office developed leadership training to get more citizens "educated, networked, and involved" in their communities. With the completion of the tenth leadership class in 2002, more than 200 area citizens are now actively engaged in their communities.

- Helping soon-to-be Habitat for Humanity residents become responsible homeowners was the focus of training provided by a Lee County Extension agent and an Extension specialist. New homeowners were shown how to manage mortgage payments and cope with other financial concerns.
- In collaboration with Space Camp, Alabama renewed its highly popular 4-H Missions in Space. Young people from five counties throughout Alabama participated in this program in 2002.
- A new program, 4-H Sci-Tech Day Camp, was held in 2002 in collaboration with Auburn University's Colleges of Engineering and Business. Teams of young people worked together to learn about science principles and then collaborated to prepare a computer presentation on the subject.
- Volunteers are an indispensable part of 4-H youth programming. One volunteer, for example, was instrumental in helping Lauderdale County 4-H Lamb Club junior and senior teams place first and third, respectively, in statewide competition.

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.

PRGM AREA	$ ALLOCATION	FTEs
4H&YD	$ 3,478,094	57.29
AG	$ 8,961,320	147.61
C&ED	$ 534,533	8.80
F&IWB	$ 2,401,426	39.56
UU&NNTP	$ 3,093,597	50.96
F&NR	$ 1,108,906	8.27
ACENEP	$ 1,869,108	30.79

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.

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 reexamination 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.

1. 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 Website.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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

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 ($688,000.00) 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 (Charles Mitchell, Dale Monks, Mike Patterson, Dallas Hartzog, Don Ball, and Charles Burmester) 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 $170,150.00 each.

Animal and Dairy Sciences: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has four specialists (Frank Owsley, Robert Ebert, William Jones, and B. R. Moss) 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 $198,427.00 each.

Poultry Science: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has two state specialists (S. F. Bilgili and Eugene Simpson) 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 Moralities,
- 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 $39,763.00 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 ,

- Multi-state stored grain IPM training session ,

- Multi-state 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 $55,933.00 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 $39,873.00 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 $93,122.00 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 Assn.,

- Southern Extension Public Policy Affairs Committee

Total expenditures for both the integrated research and extension activities and multistate activities are $90,732.00 each.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT, 2002

INTRODUCTION

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) enters its fifth year of implementing Extension Team Projects--a series of related activities which take 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 2002 were:

1. **Assisting Small-Scale Farmers and Landowners to Manage Change in Agriculture.** The objective of this Extension Team Project (ETP) is to increase profitability and sustainability for small-scale farmers and landowners who continue to face production, financial and marketing challenges due to the size of their operations and other historical and environmental factors.

2. **Enhancing Citizens' Capacity to Transform Their Communities**. This ETP is part of TUCEP's core area of Economic Development. It consists of two tracks. They are: (a) *the business plan development track, and (b) the individual and leadership skills development track*. The objective of the business plan development track is to assist individuals and businesses with business plan preparation and/or improvement, and to help theses entities with tools for sound decision-making. The objective of individual and leadership skills development track is to enhance the leadership capacity of individuals and community leaders by providing them with requisite skills in leadership.

3. **Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Education**. This ETP addresses a variety of critical educational needs in the area of natural resources, water quality and environmental management, including environmental justice issues. The goals of the ETP are to increase environmental awareness and promote responsible environmental stewardship among Alabamians as a whole and in particular its rural minority populous. Special emphasis is placed on youth and young adults in this target population.

4. **Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): A Strategy for Workforce Development.** AEI is a catalyst for workforce development in the Alabama Black Belt,

and it attempts to build a systematic approach involving youth, adult volunteers, Alabama citizens, and Cooperative Extension in an entrepreneurial education initiative. The objectives of AEI are to: (a) provide youths and adults exposure to a variety of entrepreneurial curriculums, programs and models for teaching and/or conducting an entrepreneurial education project, (b) allow participants to examine on-going programs and curricula that emphasizes entrepreneurial education and encourages partnering with local businesses to enhance entrepreneurial skills, (c) engage participants in experiential "hands on learning" activities related to exploring entrepreneurship education, thus expanding their knowledge of entrepreneurial career options and entrepreneurial leadership skills, and (d) explore the development of entrepreneurship education and its impact on economic development as well as its interaction with workforce development.

5. **Promoting Healthy Living Environments for Under-served and Hard to Reach Audiences.** The objective of this ETP is to assist participants in the process of using what they have learned to change behaviors positively. The four content modules are used to address the critical subject matter area related to nutrition, health and wellness: (a) balancing food preferences with knowledge of nutrition, (b) health status and age-related nutrition, (c) enhancing management skills, (d) ensuring food quality and safety.

6. **Promoting Healthy Behavior.** The objective of this ETP is to increase awareness among racial and ethnic minority groups in Alabama about the risk factors of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, and cancer. Agents and specialists have made significant progress in these areas during the last 12-month period.

Comprehensive program and compliance reviews were conducted in Barbour, Macon, and Montgomery Counties in 2002.

Program area, accomplishments, results and impacts are reported. Participatory methodologies were used to achieve these accomplishments, results and impacts– demonstrations, group meetings, workshops, seminars, clinics, mini-conferences, major conferences, an economic development summit, visits to family homes, farms, and other Extension sites.

Professional development in 2002 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) community leadership development training, (c) team development and strategic planning, (d) impact reporting, and (e) civil rights and the EEO counseling process.

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.

Extension Team Project 28D: Assisting Small-Scale Farmers and Landowners to Manage Change in Agriculture

A. Description:

The impact of uniformed decisions on farms in general, and small-scale farms and land-based production units in particular, makes it imperative for owners of these rural enterprises to understand the basic nature of changes in agriculture and the economic environment. It is also important to understand and be able to use tools, strategies, and techniques that are more applicable to this group of producers in order to increase profitability and sustainability, while reducing related risks. This ETP focused on farm techniques and strategies, farmers' markets, management of cattle and small ruminants, forest land management, and risks management, particularly in regards to adaptability and adoption for small and limited resource farmers and landowners primarily in South Central Alabama.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Plasticulture

This is one of the several activities of TUCEP and the George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station, in collaboration with the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI), in addressing the needs of limited resource farmers in Alabama through the introduction and promotion of plasticulture for competitive vegetable production. Collaborating on this technology, with more than 30 innovative farmers across the state of Alabama for the past three seasons, has stimulated considerable interest among new farmers willing to initiate the practice of plasticulture. All farmers who tested the technology are committed to continue the associated practices of this technology in the coming season.

Within the framework of the technology transfer, technical backstopping and equipment programming scheme for the participating farmers, two workshops were conducted. The Central Alabama Plasticulture Workshop focused on the installation and management of plasticulture. It was conducted at the George Washington Carver

Experiment Station. During the workshop, access to resource needs were identified. This demonstration/workshop dealt with model plot layout and demonstrated the range of possibilities for production and management. It was attended by farmers, Extension workers, and USDA agency personnel..

A second workshop, Risk Management for Limited Resource Farmers, dealt with risk factors in plasticulture production. Farmers, Extension agents, and specialists were in attendance. The Extension team identified and prioritized some of the major risk factors that were of concern to the farmers. Strategies were developed for the implementation of an action plan designed to reduce associated risks.

A third activity was undertaken as study tours for producers. Many farmers were able to exchange views and experiences about the technologies being tested. Many of the concerns about plasticulture production were observed and discussed by Extension agents, farmers, and specialists. Four attendees received an intense briefing on the commercial aspects of vegetable transplant production, and evaluated test pots of bioengineering crop.

C. **Results, Impacts, and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public**

The direct impact of these workshops and field trips was the strengthening of the farmers' organization capacities in terms of their appreciation for timely planning and the use of improved varieties and intense management for the plasticulture system.

D. **Fiscal and Human Resources**

The workshop was funded by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Tuskegee University, Mid-South RC&D, USDA, and Small Farm Marketing and Education Association.

E. **Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans:**

Both Tuskegee University and the Department of Agriculture and Industries have proceeded to address some of the issues raised by farmers. A second medium size plastic laying machine has been obtained and arrangements made for timely delivery of quality seedlings to farmers. This medium machine is very appropriate for use with small plot sizes most often found on limited resources farms. Both institutions continue to provide technical help to encourage the accelerated adoption of this technology.

Actions and Activities Carried Out in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties on Plasticulture

Two plasticulture projects were implemented in Lowndes County this year. Several varieties of vegetables planted included snap beans, okra, butterbeans, squash, peppers (bell and hot), and tomatoes. This new technology doubled vegetable production, and increased the quality of fruit and vegetables as well as conservation of

water, fertilizer, and farm land. The farmers sold their produce at the Farmers' Market in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties, and some sales were made direct from the farm. Demonstrators were excited about this new technology and in the increase in production. Plasticulture projects were carried out in Macon, Montgomery, Dallas, Perry, Barbour and Bullock Counties, respectively.

Actions and Activities Carried Out in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties on County Farmers' Markets

In an effort to increase consumption of fresh vegetables and to promote vegetable production and sales, TUCEP, the State Health Department (WIC Office), Senior Citizens' Nutrition Program, Alabama Farmers' Market Authority, and the County Commissions, established **four** farmers' markets in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties. These markets, served by area farmers, supply fresh vegetables to the citizens in these two counties.

The impacts of these markets are twofold. First, they encourage the purchase of locally grown fresh vegetables directly from the farmers. Secondly, the sales of the vegetables provide an additional income for the local farmers.

Future plans are to seek funding to construct a market shed in the Lowndes County area for these farmers' market activities to continue.

Actions and Activities Carried Out in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties on the Small Farmers' Livestock Conference

Lowndes and Wilcox Counties contain a large number of small and large beef cattle operations. Current herd health practices and procedures are especially important to producers. Therefore, several mini beef cattle management clinics were held in Lowndes County to assist the farmers in the following areas: basic herd health management practices, parasite control–external and internal–dehorning, castrating and vaccinating, and pasture management. A total of 78 persons attended this workshop.

The second workshop held assisted farmers in the following areas: farmers' market opportunities, plasticulture opportunities, small farm outreach opportunity initiatives, vegetable production, agroforestry, rabbit production, and beef cattle herd health strategies for small farmers. A total of 63 persons attended this workshop.

Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and the Public

A total of 141 farmers attended these workshops. The impacts resulting from these workshops were: three farmers' markets were established, an increased awareness of health and wholesome consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, and an increase in the economic growth of participating farmers in increasing their overall income from sales of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Fiscal and Human Resources

Fiscal and human resources were made available by partnering with the personnel of the NRCS Offices of Lowndes and Wilcox Counties, the High School Agriscience Department, RC&D Councils, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, the County Commissions,

Alabama Marketing Authority, Senior Citizens' Nutrition Program, the Cooperative Extension System of Lowndes and Wilcox Counties, and Tuskegee University College of Agriculture.

Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans

These workshops will be continued as a part of the Lowndes/Wilcox Plan of Work. Local community leaders and many of the local elected officials have commented on the success of the Small Farmers' Work Conferences, and some of these comments are expressed in the success stories in Appendix A, *Assisting Small Scale Farmers and Landowners to Manage Change in Agriculture.*

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Senior Citizens in Macon County

A. Description

Macon County is primarily a rural county with a population that is 87 % minority and a significant number of senior citizens. Part of the rural atmosphere in this area is the popularity of vegetable gardens out in the countryside. However, there is a lack of major industries in the county, which is partially responsible for it being economically depressed. An income generating activity bringing these components together (i.e., vegetable growers and senior citizens) would be ideal for helping the community.

In conjunction with the State of Alabama Farmers' Market Authority, it was suggested that a two-fold project be implemented to assist Macon County. One aspect was to provide a needed boost in income for local farmers who participate in the market by bringing fresh vegetables to the market to sell to senior citizens. The second aspect of the program was that senior citizens have the opportunity to purchase fresh vegetables which contribute to the improvement of their health and nutrition.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

A meeting was held in Tuskegee with representatives from the State Farmers' Market Authority, the Macon County Farmers' Organization, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, and the Macon County Extension System. The purpose of this meeting was to explain the details of the Seniors' Farmers Market Nutrition Program and to identify how many farmers were interested in participating in the program. The *Tuskegee News* published

an article on the proposed program. The conclusion from the meeting was to move forward with the program, and that it would be located in Macon County.

C. Results, Impacts and Direct Benefits to Clientele and to the Public

In April 2002, two training meetings were conducted–one in Clanton, Alabama, and the second meeting in Tuskegee. Seven local producers were certified to participate in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors. Sixteen thousand dollars ($16,000) were set aside for the Seniors' program in Macon County. This money was administered through the Community Action Program to 800 citizens residing in Macon County.

On Thursday, June 20, 2002, the first Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors was held in Macon County. Approximately 350 seniors convened around local producers. They purchased $1,700.00 worth of freshly picked produce the first day. This process enabled senior citizens to have the freshest produce to prepare for nutritious meals. In addition, the downtown merchants received more visits from shoppers, thus increasing visitation to the downtown area. The Expanded Food and Nutrition Program Agency along with the Farmers' Market held a Health Fair. They gave health advice to approximately 350 persons. This new money in the community has been estimated to turn over six to seven times, thus generating about $112,000 in local sales.

One Macon County producer who participated in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors (FMNPS) sold fresh vegetables such as corn, squash, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, collards, turnips, mustards, field peas, lima beans, green beans, cucumbers, okra, pepper, strawberries, and watermelons over the length of the growing season. This resulted in 2,250 coupons which generated $9,000.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

In order to improve local markets and people's nutritional habits, a grant was written to USDA, and it was funded. The Mayor of the City of Tuskegee granted permission to use the downtown square. Working with the Community Action Program, the program was implemented for the first time as a Senior Marketing Program. The grant money received served as a catalyst to help improve the local economy and nutritional habits of Macon County senior citizens.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans

The market provides fresh vegetables for local citizens as well as stimulates the local economy. The market will continue to grow and develop to meet future needs of local citizens in Macon County.

Actions and Activities Carried Out in Bullock and/Barbour Counties Relative to the Farmers' Association Co-op

The Bullock/Barbour Farmers' Association is a new organization which consists of limited resource farm families dedicated to improving the future of small-scale agriculture in Alabama's Bullock and Barbour Counties. The purpose of this association is to increase farm families income and build collaborative sustainable relationships by producing and jointly marketing a variety of farm products such as meat goats, pastured poultry, beef cattle, rabbits, and vegetables.

The expected impacts over the next three years are that 14 families will have increased their income and collaborative relationships by raising meat goats, pastured poultry, rabbits, beef cattle, and/or vegetables and working together to market these products locally and regionally. That 14 farm families will have increased their knowledge and skills through training in animal husbandry, forage management, small farm management, marketing, leadership, gender awareness, and grant writing. That seven families and at least 10 school children will have learned how to construct and maintain a recirculating aquaculture system and will have tilapia from two systems for home consumption. And that 15 youth will have increased their knowledge, income, and active participation in small-scale agriculture through raising and marketing meat goats, pastured poultry, and/or beef cattle and participating in agricultural training.

The TUCEP Farmers' Conference

Another significant Extension activity relative to assisting small scale farmers and landowners is the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Farmers' Conference. This year, 2002, the 110th Annual Farmers' Conference was held on the Tuskegee University campus. The theme of the conference was: **Innovative Technologies and Enterprises for Small Farms**. The goal of the conference was to: (a) enhance the overall quality of life for all of TU's constituents and present opportunities to benefit the communities in which TUCEP serves; and (b) make the latest farming techniques, practices, and technologies available to those they benefit most. Highlights from the conference included: (a) forest management practices, (b) Thomas M. Campbell Memorial Banquet, (c) the black land loss crisis, (d) updates on the pigford settlement (black farmers class action lawsuit), (e) rural health and environmental stewardship, (f) risk management workshop, (g) business plan development for small businesses and microenterprises in rural areas, (h) goat production: a new approach for an old livestock species, and (i) youth entrepreneurship exposition. Approximately 200 adult farmers and 112 youth were in attendance at the conference.

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.

Extension Team Project: Promoting Healthy Living Environments for Underserved and Hard to Reach Audiences

A. Description

This Extension Team Project acknowledges knowledge and skills that participants bring to the training and fosters respect for them. It also seeks to take participants to a higher level by utilizing a variety of instructional and assessment approaches which have been designed towards transformation for the benefit of individuals, families, and communities. Collectively, the components of the FF-NEWS make up a curriculum that represent an action plan for behavior modification by participants. The information in the curriculum is based on results of scientific and educational research, observation, and clinical trials. The curriculum is comprised of six components: an informative and instructive introductory section, four content modules and a resource/reference section. Each of the content modules address a critical subject area related to nutrition, health and wellness. The ultimate objective of the this ETP is teach participants to use what they learn to change behaviors positively.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

For the past three years, participants who signed on this ETP have been working with youth and adults in the area of food safety. Garden preparation gives a hands-on-experience in planting, caring, and harvesting of vegetables. Also, it provides an opportunity to participate in handling vegetables safely from the garden to the table. Specifically, a food safety advisory council was organized, workshops were conducted in kitchen sanitation, personal hygiene, basic food preparation, appropriate cooling and heating of foods, and ways to prevent cross-contamination. Training was offered in identifying the hazards and risks across the food chain from the garden to the table. The four principles of food safety, emphasizing the culturally appropriate food to be used for demonstration, were taught. A workshop was conducted on soil testing, identification of a good plot for gardening, as well as selecting seeds and seedlings for planting.

Lectures and demonstrations were used in presenting the following topics: garden site selection, seed and varieties selection, soil testing and soil fertility, planting and planting dates, harvesting, and safe handling of vegetables from the garden to the table.

Partners in this ETP were: Snow Hill Christian Church, Little Zion AMEZ Church, Donald Carter Family, Montgomery Seed and Supply Company, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and the State Department of Agriculture.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and the Public

The impact of this program is that 30 adult volunteers and 42 youth participants were trained and are able to use recommended practices in food safety to prevent and reduce risk factors of food borne illness. Also, these gardens provided local families with fresh vegetables, thus decreasing the grocery budget. Some participants left donations for the fresh vegetables. Those donations were used to purchase five computers for the learning center for the tutorial program. By utilizing placticulture technology, it broadened the knowledge of the participants in the use of plasticulture and increased the yield of vegetables by 45to55 percent. Youth and adults' knowledge and attitudes towards safe handling of foods have greatly increased. In 2002, the group planted a summer crop of okra. This garden project was used to increase the awareness of the participants knowledge on how to grow a successful garden.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

This ETP is funded by TUCEP under the leadership of the Family Life Development Specialist, agents, and partners named above.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future plans

This ETP will be continued.

Church-Based Food Safety Program. The Church-Based Food Safety Program conducted through TUCEP has four major objectives. They are to: (a) make Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program an immediate visible source of food safety information; (b) conduct a comprehensive and culturally appropriate food safety program; (c) illustrate training content to youth by planting theme vegetable gardens; and (d) encourage youth peer educators to extend food safety training to families at home, in school settings, and in other counties served by TUCEP.

Implementation of the Church-Based Food Safety Program. An advisory Board on food safety education was established, including representatives from food agency partners from the twelve black belt counties. Training in kitchen sanitation, personal hygiene, basic food preparation, appropriate cooling and heating of foods, and ways to avoid cross contamination was conducted at the various church sites to youth and adult volunteer cooks.

Vegetable theme gardens that offered experiential learning in identifying the hazards and risks across the food chain from the garden to the table were planted in the Fall and in the Summer by youth and adults.

Initially, representatives from several local church congregations and other congregations in the twelve black belt counties were selected and trained using the four principles of food safety, emphasizing the culturally appropriate foods to be used for demonstration. Culturally appropriate crops were collard and turnip greens, squash, field

peas, tomatoes, cabbages, and sweet potatoes. After the training, only about a third of the trainees actually participated in the project in training other youth and adults.

A total of 360 youth and adults participated in the food safety training program. Since the initial training began, the program consultants and county agents have conducted several training programs to approximately 248 trainees. There were twelve garden sites with youth and adults planting and harvesting their gardens.

Demonstrations by county agents on personal and kitchen hygiene were conducted. Participants experienced "hands-on" cleaning, separating vegetables from meat preparation in the kitchen without cross contamination, and cooking of various harvested vegetables at the right temperatures without losing the nutrients. Lastly, church refrigerators were monitored with freezer thermometers for the correct temperature, which is below 40 degrees. Proper refrigeration techniques and use of utensil for leftover foods were conducted.

Impact of Church-Based Food Safety Program. Three hundred and sixty youth and adult volunteers participated in this food safety project and gained knowledge on the importance of using

basic sanitation practices when handling food. Also, participants learned how to prevent food borne illness, reduce waste, and conserve nutrients and resources.

Related Food Safety Extension Activity

HACCP. One of the major areas of need that TUCEP has impacted in our community is the on-going Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) project. HACCP is a new rule on food safety enacted by the US government. It is a plan or series of science-based regulations that have been established to eliminate or reduce the risk of food borne illnesses such as *Salmonella, E.coli*. The HACCP rules require all slaughter and processing plants that produce meat and poultry food products meant for public consumption to control physical, chemical and microbial contaminants in their products. However, many small scale meat and poultry processors particularly among the African Americans, in the black belt counties of Alabama, closed their packing plants, because they could not comply with the new HACCP requirements.

Compliance with HACCP implies that meat and poultry food processors must attend a training workshop where he or she must learn the seven principles of HACCP and be able to develop a "HACCP_plan" for his plant to keep his processing plant open. In the Southeastern United States alone, there are 63 large packing plants and 970 small and very small packing plants. Many of these very small plants are located in our target areas in Alabama. With a grant from the USDA/CSREES, Tuskegee University led a consortium of experts from Fort Valley State University, Georgia and Southern University, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana , to conduct hands-on training workshops covering five contiguous

states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina at no cost to the participants.

Tuskegee University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health and TUCEP conducted six training workshops on HACCP over a three year period. Thirty five (35) meat and poultry producers and processors located in Alabama, Georgia, and Southern Carolina states were invited to Tuskegee, trained and given certificates of training. For each workshop, provisions were made for up to twenty participants. Tuskegee University in collaboration with Fort Valley State University (FVSU), also conducted workshop trainings for participants from Georgia and South Carolina on the campus of the FVSU. The trainings were extended to Louisiana and Mississippi. Small scale meat processors located in the two states were invited for the workshop that was conducted in collaboration with Southern University at its Baton Rouge campus, LA.

Participants were trained on how to handle foods of plants and animal origins to prevent contaminations and thereby prevent the occurrence of diseases such as *E.coli* that was involved in "Jack in the Box" fatalities. They knew what are common food borne diseases such as botulism, salmonella and listeriosis. They knew about campylobacter and the new fish disease caused by *Pfiesteria piscicida* which can also infect human. They learned that apart from the human type of tuberculosis caused by *Mycobacteriun tuberculosis*, there are also cattle type (*M. bovis*) and chicken (*M. avium*) type of tuberculosis both of which can also infect and even kill human beings, if we are not careful. They knew how they can occur in cattle, poultry, goats and other animals and how human beings can be infected.

It was found out from participants that there was need to educate both the processors and producers on some diseases of economic and public health importance since food safety starts from farm to table. So, trainings were not limited to common food pathogens such as *Escherichia coli O157:H7*, *Salmonella, Listeria Campylobacter and Pfiesteria*. Some scary diseases which can double as "biological weapons in the hands of terrorists" such as Anthrax, Foot and Mouth Disease virus and "mad cow disease"(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy), even though this last disease has not been reported in the USA, were included in our training workshops. How farmers can recognize and handle these diseases were discussed. The need to further address the prevention of these serious threats from entering into the USA cannot be over emphasized.

At the request of participants, the project expanded its mandate, secured assistance from TUCEP specialists who served as lecturers on (i) cooperative marketing, (ii) agricultural economics, (iii) the benefits and dangers in the use of growth promotants and hormones, and (iv) sources of government financial help, etc. Food safety requirements as they relate to fish and seafood products were some of the topics that are now also in demand by some of the trainees, especially from the aqua-culture and fish processing states of Alabama and Louisiana.

At the end of the HACCP workshop training, three families in Alabama were able to re-open their closed meat processing plants. Some other producers became gainfully employed by joining together to form cooperatives which started goat breeding,

slaughtering and marketing businesses. The new comers into such cooperatives will need HACCP training which is now available as a 2-credit unit course in our Cooperative Extension and Continuing Education Program.

Extension's Involvement in Cancer Research Project. This study report was at the initiative of an enlightened resident of Knollwood Community Organization (KCO), in East Montgomery, Alabama. The community residents would like to know if the observed increase in levels of morbidity and mortality in their community were cancer-related. At the request of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (ATSDR)/CDC), Atlanta, the study, funded through a cooperative agreement with the Minority Health Professions Foundation (MHPF) was conducted by the Tuskegee University Center for Computational Epidemiology, Bioinformatics and Risk Analysis (CCEBRA), College of Veterinary Medicine Nursing and Allied Health. The objective of the study was to determine if the cancer experience in Knollwood community is unusual.

Survey through Questionnaire:

The study was conducted by administration of informed consent questionnaires. The administration and collection of Survey Questionnaire from the willing members of the community was completed towards the end of 2001 and early part of 2002.

Out of 87 households and an estimated 250-260 persons, 200 questionnaires were administered to only 180 adult residents, 18 years and older. We were able to retrieve 145 completed questionnaire packages which represented 81% of members of the community that responded.

Fairly adequate information on residential, demographic, environmental, psychological and behavioral risk factors as well as morbidity and mortality for all cancer cases was extracted from the filled-out questionnaires returned.

Our exclusive database was created and updated periodically from answers to our questionnaire packages as they trickled in from the residents.

The detailed maps of the Knollwood Community was constantly updated to capture both visual and spatial data pertaining to this project.

Visits to the State office of the Environmental Services were made in order to collect data to know what the land now occupied by the Knollwood Community had been used for before the establishment of the community in 1964. Had it been farm land? Was it a chemical dump ground for farm use, airplanes, war machines, etc.? These were some of the questions that needed to be answered.

During the project, there was a visual discovery and evidence that the pipes that brought water to the community were made of asbestos materials which when broken could possibly contaminate the potable water that goes to the community.

These asbestos pipes were being replaced by none-asbestos water pipes by the Montgomery City Authority.

BIMS_research team, in collaboration with the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program and the TU Bioethics Center, has started the second phase of the study which involves Woodcrest Community in West Montgomery and a selected population of households in the City of Tuskegee. Epidemiological studies have been designed to compare what had been found so far at Knollwood with what may be found in Tuskegee and Woodcrest communities. Three town meetings were held-- two in Tuskegee and one at Woodcrest-- to inform and educate members of the communities on this "voluntary participation" and "informed consent" project on the epidemiology of cancer. There has been an excellent response by residents of both communities. It is gratifying to receive invitations from some other communities in Alabama, asking Tuskegee University to come and conduct similar surveys at their places.

This project is being conducted in line with Alabama state laws and with utmost professional ethics and respect for the participants. All data collected in all the different phases of the project remain confidential and exclusive to only the principal investigator (PI) of the project. No other member of the research team will have any access to the information provided by human subject participants.

Acknowledgment:_

We are grateful to the KC residents who initiated this exciting study, particularly the President, Mr. Ken Walker and Dr. Pat Patterson, the Liaison to the project for their continued cooperation. Both Mrs. Ruth Harshbarger, director and State Registrar of Health Statistics and Mrs. Reda Wilson, State Director of Cancer Registry in Montgomery Alabama have been very cooperative.

Three Extension Youth Activities

1. *Power-UP in Lowndes County.* Personnel in the Lowndes County Extension Office were able to assist the Lowndes County Community Life Center in its Power-Up Youth Partnership Program. This is a computer educational program that involves community youth.

The Lowndes County Community Life Center received (20) Gateway Computers and one printer hooked up in series. To secure high speed Internet services, a second phase Power-Up Cash Grant for satellite dish and installation from Optistsream was secured. Optistsream *is a nationwide satellite broadband and content service provider.* The Power-Up program provides the following: (a) active participation in computer education for students grade pre-kindergarten to 12th grade; and (b) teaching a computer

technology through the use of various educational software program and use of the World Wide Web (Internet) to help students prepare to succeed in the digital age.

2. Wil-Low Project - Dollars for Scholars in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties. The Wil-Low Dollars for Scholars Community Foundation is a totally volunteer organization. It is an affiliate chapter of the National Dollars for Scholars, established in 1994. The purpose of Wil-Low Dollars for Scholars is to expand the educational opportunities of Lowndes/Wilcox Counties by raising funds for scholarships, awarding financial assistance and encouragement and awarding scholarships in a fair, equitable and nondiscriminatory way to deserving students.

Over a seven-year period of time, a number of fund raising activities have been conducted to increase the Foundation's scholarship fund. Board members and volunteers work together to accomplish this goal. Annual events include: an annual trail ride, an annual walk-a-thon, and a souvenir awards' booklet/awards program.

Scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors from the local high schools. A total of 100+ scholarships have been awarded to Lowndes/Wilcox Counties students. Future plans are to continue to work with volunteers and community residents in fund raising activities to secure funds for awarding of scholarships.

The partners in this project are: Lowndes/Wilcox Counties Extension Personnel, citizens, schools, churches, boards of education, commissioners, and news media.

3. The Summer Youth College Program (SYCP). The concept of "Youth College" grew out of the need to provide rural youth with alternative and additional educational opportunities for academic preparedness. Tuskegee University Youth College was implemented to encourage rural youth to develop favorable attitudes toward pursuing higher education. Those youth who attend the SYCP are exposed to various careers in science and computer technology as well as non-traditional careers and hands-on experiences for healthy interactions with campus faculty, student counselors, and mentors.

A computer and science technology center has been established with materials and resources that supplement all activities in the SYCP. Subject areas ranging from design and manufacturing, animal and plant science, environmental, forestry, and natural resources, foods and nutrition and computer applications are offered. Youth finances, reading, observational study skills, cultural studies, and field trips are included.

The SYCP has been and is a feeder to other programs on campus. It attracts youth from other states. Sixty-five percent of the students who participate in the program initially have attended college and enrolled in science and engineering programs. Thirty youths attended this program in 2002.

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.

Extension Team Project 413: Promoting Individual Health

A. Description

Obesity and the risk for the metabolic syndrome are increasing rapidly in Alabama. The metabolic syndrome increases one's risk of cardiovascular events by 50 percent. Second, 11 percent of people with the metabolic syndrome progress to Type 2 diabetes per year. The people with diabetes have a two-to-fourfold increase in cardiovascular risk in addition to the complications of diabetes.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD), including heart disease and stroke, is by far the largest killer in the twelve Black Belt Counties in Alabama. In 1998, almost half of all deaths in these counties were due to CVD. African Americans are twice as likely as whites to have diabetes, and experience higher rates of hypertension, and risk factors for heart disease.

The risk factors for the high incidence of this disease include: high level 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 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and certain types of cancer, and conditions that lead to these diseases.

The United States Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) found that intensive lifestyles interventions resulted in a 58 percent relative reduction in the incidence of diabetes.

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 diabetes and CVD. The data also show that many minorities face significant deterrents that make it difficult to adopt recommended lifestyle changes.

The goal of this ETP is to provide resources and services to enhance the health and well being of all racial/ethnic and other under served population groups. This goal was achieved by changing their lifestyles through appropriate health care services, screening, education–workshops and seminars–individual and group counseling, referrals, and collaborating with appropriate agencies.

The target audiences for this ETP included: African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and other under served minorities. These groups generally do not have the ability to afford regular medical care, and many persons in these groups are unable to discuss their health concerns with a health care provider, or understand what services are available to them through public health education.

The desired outcomes are that the participants would: (1) know their blood pressure and cholesterol level and reduce and maintain blood pressure and cholesterol levels; (2) reduce or stop smoking; (3) maintain reasonable weight by monitoring caloric consumption; (4) control diabetes through diet, exercise, medication, and stress management; (5) reduce the incidence of breast and cervical cancers among Asian American Women and other minority women; and (6) practice personal health protection (e.g., immunization, self-examination, regular physical check ups, cholesterol screening, blood pressure, etc.)

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

To implement the goals of this ETP, several outreach strategies were employed. They were: six county health fairs, three coordinated broad-based comprehensive weight loss programs, eleven broad-based comprehensive programs on diabetes education, twelve workshops on cancer prevention, two exercise classes, eight hundred publications were distributed, and other activities, including short presentations, home and office visits, mailing information, and telephone calls. These actions and activities were executed in Barbour, Bullock, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, and Sumter Counties.

Grant Programs. To implement the goal of this ETP, six leaders from the various Asian American groups were chosen to form a coalition. A plan of work was developed by the recommendations from this group. Three coalition members, along with two Extension staff members were trained to conduct the program in the community. The training emphasized breast self-examinations (BSE), annual Pap smears, regular clinical breast examinations, and mammograms. The trainees were also informed about free health screening services for the low income groups.

To become aware of the importance of early detection for reducing the risk of breast and cervical cancers, an information table on breast and cervical cancer was set up at the Annual Chinese New Year Celebration in Montgomery. Approximately 300 Chinese Americans attended the celebration. One hundred brochures on breast and cervical cancer prevention were distributed. Sixty-five pink ribbons were distributed. The pink ribbon is the symbol for breast cancer awareness. At least 50 participants actually placed the ribbon on their blouses to show their support. Also, Dr. Habiba N. Shaw, Health Education Specialist of the Tuskegee University Extension Program, presented a one-minute program on breast and cervical cancer prevention on Montgomery's Cable Channel 8 Television Program. A total of 114 Asian American women were actually contacted and were given training on how to take a self-examination on breast cancer. These women represented five Asian American subgroups.

A brochure, Saving Your Life with the Touch of Your Fingers: An Early Detection Program for Asian American Women, was developed, and 2000 copies were requested for the first printing.

A grant was awarded to reduce cancer mortality through prevention among African American women in Barbour County, Alabama. Barbour County has a population of 29,038. The racial makeup of the county's population is 50 percent white, 49 percent black, and one percent Hispanic.

Approximately 250 women were reached by collaborating with the various health organization in the community.

The above projects were completed by September 30, 2002. The goals and objectives were met by educational opportunities offered throughout the year.

Broad-Based Comprehensive Programs on Diabetes Education. A total of 73 males and females with diabetes were reached through eight different groups. Each group attended a series of 10 to 12 classes on diabetes education. As a result of the program, approximately 43 individuals were able to develop an ongoing food plan and learn diabetes self-management skills. The self-management skills included maintaining a blood glucose level below 120 in the morning and below 140 in the evening at bedtime, thus keeping their blood pressure below 130/80, keeping blood cholesterol levels in the desirable range, and weight regulation.

The programs involved collaboration between Macon County Health Department, Central Alabama Comprehensive Health (CACH), Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), Tuskegee Area Health Education Center, and Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, which provided brochures, educational programs, video tapes, satellite program, films, and other educational information on diabetes education.

Because of the success in TUCEP's diabetes education program, Macon County was approved to receive a grant from the Appalachian Diabetes Control and Translation Project. This grant is being utilized to offer similar programs throughout Macon County. (Success stories are shown in Appendix A, Goal 3).

Early Detection of Breast Cancer Education Seminar. TUCEP jointly sponsored Early Detection of Breast Cancer Education Seminars in five Black Belt Counties. A total of 395 women attended the seminars/workshops. All participants learned the skill of proper breast self-examination. TUCEP has reapplied for a second grant for 2003.

Coordinated Broad-Based Comprehensive Weight Loss Programs. A total of 35 males and females were reached through four different groups. Each group attended a series of 8 to 10 classes. Twenty individuals lost an average of 5 to 15 pounds of extra body weight.

Senior Olympics. To promote physical exercise and other health issues among older Americans, TUCEP worked with local leaders and collaborated with other organizations to conduct the Senior Olympics in August 2002. Approximately 350 older Americans participated from five senior centers in the Alabama Black Belt Counties.

Raising General Awareness. To raise general awareness of disease prevention, six health fairs were conducted. The purpose of the health fairs was to increase awareness on health issues and to detect potential disease problems at an early stage. Approximately 950 people were reached through these health fairs.

All of these ETP programs were implemented through the collaboration of multiple organizations. These organizations include: Alabama Department of Public Health Cancer Division, Southeast Alabama Comprehensive Health, Bullock County Hospital, Health Occupation Students of America, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Alabama Department of Public Health Diabetes Division, Senior Circle of Barbour County, Deep South Cancer Program in Sumter and Marengo Counties, Churches, Nutrition Centers, Minority Health Council, Health Council of Barbour County, Bullock County Concerned Citizens' Group, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Program (ACES).

C. Results, Impacts, and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public

Seminars/workshops breast cancer, diabetes, cholesterol, and hypertension, one Senior Olympic, six weekly newspaper articles**,** eight weekly radio releases, a distribution of 600 publications, and other related activities contributed to contacting 2359. The goal of these Extension activities were to increase the awareness and general knowledge of health education issues.

Improved Quality of Life. Through the health fair screening, 325 participants were tested for Lipid Profile (blood cholesterol and triglycerides). Out of 325 participants who were tested, 30 percent were identified with a ratio of 4.5 or higher. A person whose ratio is 4.5 or higher is more likely to have a heart attack than a person whose ratio is 3.5 or lower. One hundred and fifty (150) participants were found with high blood pressure, and 60 participants were identified with abnormal blood sugar levels. Appropriate referrals were also made to all high risk participants. By controlling the above diagnosed risk factors, these individuals may be able to slow down or stop the hardening of the arteries.

Other tests included sickle cell anemina, hearing, vision, osteoporosis, body fat analysis, blood hematocrit, depression screening, and height and weight. Approximately, another 350 individuals participated in other tests. Five referrals were made for sickle cell anemina, two referrals were made for hearing impairments, and forty-two individuals were referred to their eye doctors for further evaluations. In addition, six referrals were also made to the House of Ruth for domestic violence. Follow up classes, seminars, and referrals were also made to each individual. Through the classes, participants received information and learned skills for a healthier lifestyle.

Savings on Medical Expenses. The approximate money value for all of these tests and information per person is $225. Six hundred and seventy-five persons participated in the screening process, thus totaling to $151,875 of medical services rendered to the needy and under served clientele.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Two (2) mini grants on Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program were received from the Department of Public Health (Montgomery and Barbour Counties). Dr. Habiba N. Shaw, Health Education Specialist, TUCEP, was the principal investigator for both grants.

One grant was specifically awarded to address only the Asian American Women in Montgomery County, Alabama. The purpose of this grant was to reduce cancer mortality through prevention oriented behaviors and healthy lifestyles among Asian American women in Montgomery County. Approximately 2,217 Asian Americans reside in Montgomery County. Out of this population, approximately 52 percent are females (U.S. Census, 2000).

E. **Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans:**

Because of the success in TUCEP'S diabetes education program, Macon County was approved to receive a grant from the **Appalachian Diabetes Control and Translation Project**. This grant is utilized to offer similar programs throughout the county. Success stories are shown in Appendix A, Goal 2).

Grants will be sought to continue programs on Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program for the Asian Women in Montgomery County.

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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.

Extension Team Project 16-A, Integrated Natural Resource and Environmental Education

A. Description

This ETP allows TUCEP to address a variety of critical educational needs in the area of natural resources, water quality and environmental management, including environmental justice issues. The specific goals are to increase environmental awareness and promote responsible environmental stewardship among Alabamians as a whole and in particular its rural minority populous. A special emphasis is placed on youths and young adults in the Alabama Black Belt and beyond. It is anticipated that youth and young adults served by this project will have an increased

knowledge of natural resources and their uses, will increase the number of young adults choosing careers in natural resources and the related area, and improve the quality of streams and watersheds in the area.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

Several Extension forestry activities were conducted in planning, implementing, delivering, and evaluating this ETP. For example, land line clearing, land line posting, fire line construction, timber harvesting, silviculture examinations, and land relocation are a part of the activities of this ETP. Lectures and demonstrations were the methods used in this ETP. Partners in this ETP were: Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Forestry Foundation, Auburn University School of Forestry, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Tuskegee University Forest and Natural Resources Council, and USDA Forestry Service. Some major activities in this ETP are annual events and are included in the specialists plan of work. Local newspapers and flyers are used to assist in advertising the events in this ETP.

C. Results, Impact, and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public

Forestry for Kids. Forestry for kids (Kids day on the farm) was held March 27, 2002, in Lowndes County. This event was held to address and answer general questions and to increase knowledge of students between the grade level of K-3 about life on the farm. The following topics were covered: farm equipment (hay equipment, soil tillage equipment, and tractor and pasture management equipment); forestry management (The Forestry Commission demonstrated the use of the bulldozer that is used in forestry management to ply fire lanes and to clear fire lanes); fish pond management/ water

quality; hay ride to tour livestock management (beef cattle and goats–hands on experience); and forestry management (tree identification and use of basic forestry instruments). This event culminated with a cookout and free time before students returned to school.

Alabama Forestry Camp - Epes, Alabama. The Alabama Forestry Camp is a one-week resident camp for high school students designed to teach basic forestry concepts through classroom instruction and outdoor activities. Those students in attendance were boys and girls within the age range of 15 and had completed the 9th grade but had not finished the 12th grade.

There were thirty-four (34) students from across the state of Alabama completing application for attendance. The camp was held at the Federation of Southern Cooperative Facility in Epes, Alabama (Sumter County).

Students participated in classes covering: tree identification, forest management, forest products, wildlife, water quality, and urban forestry. Students also attended career night to learn more about requirements for jobs in the area of natural resources. Each student and all instructors received a certificate at the close of the camp.

Forest Landowners Management. This Extension activity assisted landowners in developing detailed forest management plans. This plan included property information summary, property map, stand description and recommendations, and a 10-year activity plan. Also, landowners were assisted with cost sharing information from NRCS for reforestation.

Water Quality. Water is a basic necessity of life and should be available to everyone. Clients were informed of the water testing service that Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension offers–Lead/pH/Nitrate.

Work was done with five pond owners to promote the use of Cage Culture Fish Operation. The fish that are being grown is Tilapia fish/catfish. One objective of this project is to supplement farm income.

Assisted one homeowner with information relative to water quality at fishpond with the assistance of the Tuskegee University Water Quality Specialist. Water was tested for oxygen level, nitrate, and pH of water. Recommendations were given relative to the fish kill problem. Assisted the Ag-Science Department at Wilcox County Central High School with Agriculture Fish Project using an inside fish tank.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

The Alabama Forestry Camp was sponsored by the Alabama Forestry Commission by a grant for $15,000, supported by TUCEP, FSC, Alabama Commission, and several governmental agencies. Funds for Extension water quality projects were made available through the local resource conservation districts and water resource foundations.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans

The demand for an increased awareness of natural resource related issues has prompted this team to increase its efforts in furthering the objectives of this team project. An increased effort was made to focus on youth education at more specific grade levels and interactive adult education projects with a focus on total community involvement.

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.

Extension Team Project 15-A, Enhancing Citizens Capacity to Transform Communities

A. Description:

This ETP has two tracks, Business and Individual Planning and Individual and Leadership Skills Development. Anecdotal field data show that many small business owners in rural Alabama lack adequate skills, do not have business plans, or have not updated their business plans in years. Indeed, there are other individuals who want to enter into business, but many times they do not start on the right footing because of inadequate knowledge. In addition, residents of communities need current information on issues, such as personnel financial management, tax planning, and insurance planning that affect their daily lives. The business and individual planning track is intended to assist businesses with business planning as well as help with other tools for sound decision making. This track is also intended to equip individuals with tools for sound personal decision making.

Further, there is a need to teach and constantly update the leadership skills of leaders and residents in rural Alabama. The communities need effective leadership to extricate them from their problems. The objective of the Leadership Track is to enhance the leadership capability of individuals and community leaders by providing them with requisite skills in leadership.

The target audiences are adults, agricultural clientele, non-agricultural clientele and community leaders and officials. Our aim is to reach "hardcore left out" audiences. With better business and individual skills comes better productivity; and with better leadership comes better communities. The effective implementation of these tracks is expected to help the communities grow. The Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) got involved in these types of activities because of the constant requests for such help. The intended outcome is to improve business, leadership, and individual skills of community residents and leaders. It is hoped that skills acquired will be applied in everyday activities in the communities.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Contact was made with a total of 385 persons, 163 males and 222 females, 21 whites, and 364 African American.

Business and Individual Planning: The series of business planning workshops held in Hayneville, Lowndes County, alluded to in the 2001 Annual Report were concluded earlier this year. There were sessions on resource opportunities from the USDA, HUD, Alabama Department of Community and Economic Affairs, and Pioneer Electric, a private company.

In early June, a one-day seminar on estate planning was held at the Union Number 2 Baptist Church in Eclectic, Elmore County. Emphasis was placed on wills and trusts. This seminar was held at the request of one of the deacons of the church. One of the church members died intestate, and this caused a rift in the family because there was a scramble by family members to grab as much property of the deceased person as possible. This deacon realized there was the need to educate their members on estate planning so he approached TUCEP for a seminar to make their members aware of the importance of estate planning. The pastor of the church indicated that he will invite the team again in the future for a second workshop on estate planning. Also, the team was in Selma to organize a seminar for small business owners on "Marketing Strategies for Small Business Owners."

Individual and Leadership Development: A series of leadership development workshops were conducted in Barbour County. The participants of this workshop comprised primarily the members of the Barbour County Improvement Association (BCIA). Topics dealt with included, but were not limited to, strategic planning, grantsmanship, zoning and land use, leadership and ethics, and team building. Out of this training, a mini-grant proposal entitled, "Barbour County Youth Development Project," was submitted and funded. The objective of this mini-grant project is to help at-risk youth with after-school programs and other activities. These include tutorials (homework, Alabama Exit Exam preparation, and computer technology), field trips, motivational presentations, and entrepreneurial programs. Graduation for this leadership training course was on May 28 in Clayton, Barbour County. The BCIA, with the assistance of the team, has applied to the IRS to operate as a 501c organization.

Another series of leadership training workshops were conducted in the Selma area for three groups, Sardis Unity Fellowship, Christian Light Development Board, and the Love in Action Youth Organization. All these groups have submitted mini-grant proposals and are waiting for the final decisions on these proposals. The emphasis of the proposals is to help at-risk youth improve themselves. Also, the Sardis Unity Fellowship and the Christian Light Development Board have applied to IRS to operate as 501c organizations.

Handouts were provided to participants at the workshops. The workshop sessions were generally interactive. They included a combination of lectures and hands-on activities. Programs were publicized through agents' offices through announcements by flyers and word-of-mouth.

Other Activities: Also, the team was in Sardis and Selma, Dallas County, on two different occasions prior to the workshops to expose the ETP to the unified congregation of 6 Baptist churches of about 150 members. These churches need help with capacity building in economic and community development. We were invited to discuss how we could help them achieve their goals.

In addition, there was a one-day in-service training workshop for those who had signed up for ETP 15a. The training focused on the contents of the ETP, the expectations of signees, implementation, and evaluation of the ETP.

Several other organizations have collaborated with Tuskegee University in implementing this program. Our partners include Auburn University, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and the United States Department of Agriculture. Three publications on community and economic development have been published. They are: "Basic Concepts in Community and Economic Development Defined and Discussed," The Basics of Strategic Planning," and "Business Plan Made Simple." Over 1800 copies have been mailed to agents in the counties for use and circulation.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:

Survey questionnaires to measure impacts have been mailed to clients, BCIA members and those who participated in the Hayneville workshops. We await the return of the questionnaires for analysis, but the key outcome is participants now have information and skills they did not have before the activities were conducted. The BCIA has been able to secure a mini-grant, and mini-grant proposals for the Sardis Unity Fellowship and the Christian Light Development Board are

pending. The impact evaluation will assess how the participant has used the information and what effect it has had on him/her. In the next report details of impacts will be discussed. Very likely, this discussion will include the Dallas County clients.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

Extension personnel, other university personnel, and non-Extension/university personnel (volunteers) were used to carry out these activities. At each workshop, there were at least two resource persons working together. According to the reported days worked on this project, 10 TUCEP employees allocated 285 days; two Tuskegee University Center for Continuing Education (TUCEE) employees allocated 51 days; one Tuskegee University G.W.C. Agricultural Experiment Station employee allocated 40 days; and one Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) employee allocated 10 days to this project in 2002. The total days allocated was 386 days. Volunteer time spent on this ETP is estimated to be 20 hours. The total value of volunteer time was $300.00 (assuming $15.00 per hour).

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

Future plans are to continue this program over the next three years. Beyond that the program may be kept or amended as the situation dictates.

The Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit, 2002

Another significant impact contributing to program visibility, exposure and future plans was the Seventh Annual Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit, held October 9-11, 2002, on the campus of Tuskegee University. The theme for the

summit was: ***"Cast Down Your Bucket Where You Are: Strategies for Business and Economic Development in Rural America."*** Highlights from the summit included an open forum/town hall meeting–success and challenges in business and economic development for minority and rural communities. Additionally, the summit covered six tracks: (1) building wealth and financial security, (2) youth entrepreneurial development. (3) small business and micro enterprise development, (4) faith-based community development, (5) women in business development, (6) disadvantaged businesses and transportation, and (7) leadership for economic development. Approximately, 200 hundred persons participated in this summit.

The co-sponsors of the summit were: the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Cooperative Service, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, AmSouth Bank (Birmingham, Alabama), Tuskegee University and DBE/Entrepreneurial Development Institute (Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Stillman College, Tuskegee University, and the University of Alabama, Birmingham).

Extension Team Project 33b: Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): A Strategy for Workforce Development

A. Description

Alabama Entrepreneurship Initiative (AEI) can be viewed as a first step in preparing both youth-at-risk and adults for participation in Alabama's workforce and for self-employment. The objectives of AEI are as follows: (1) To provide youths and adults exposure to a variety of entrepreneurial curriculums, programs and models for teaching and/ or conducting an entrepreneurial education project, (2) To allow participants to examine on-going programs and curriculums that emphasizes entrepreneurial education and encourages partnering with local businesses to enhance entrepreneurial skills, (3) To engage participants in experiential "hands on learning" activities related to exploring entrepreneurship education thus expanding their knowledge of entrepreneurial career options and entrepreneurial leadership skills, and (4) To explore the development of entrepreneurship education and its impact on economic development as well as its interaction with workforce development. AEI is being implemented by a two-tier approach. The first approach, funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is entitled Mini-Society, an experimental entrepreneurial education program for youths in middle schools. The second approach based on the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurial (NFTE) is not funded and provides entrepreneurial training for high school students. Together this curriculum makes up Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative.

B. **Actions and Activities Carried Out**

Mini-Society Activities. The core of this training has been done in the Kauffman Foundation Mini-Society curriculum. In all Mini-Society training youth have an opportunity to learn entrepreneurial concepts within the context on traditional subjects such as math, science, social studies, and language. They learn critical thinking skills, problem-solving and practical arts as they practice entrepreneurial concepts during Mini-Society activities. The youth get to create their own society, including flags, currency, and elected officials. Participants set up businesses ranging from sports clothing, hair salons, printing shops, and bakeries.

***NFTE Activities*.** The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurial biz camp exposed youths and adults to an on-going program and curricula that emphasized entrepreneurial education. The hands-on activities and youth presenters expanded their knowledge of entrepreneurial career options and entrepreneurial leadership skills. A NFTE biz camp was conducted at Bullock County High School in Union Springs, Alabama. The curriculum consisted of basic finance, legal structures, financial statements, tracking cash flow, market research and use of the Wall Street Journal. The students also participated in three presentations given by local youth entrepreneurs. The students thought of a business idea (for local community), conducted market research and developed a business plan. The Business Plan presentations consisted of the business idea, economics per one unit, fliers/coupons and a jingle.

C. Results, Impacts, and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public

Alabama Entrepreneurship Initiative has allowed the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program to develop a unique series of partnerships with local schools, churches, public housing, and corporate donors and youth agencies. All with the purpose of assisting youths in their understanding of entrepreneurship education. To date programs have been conducted in summer camps, schools, and community centers and are on going in the twelve Black Belt counties of Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program targeted counties.

Mini-Society Benefits. In Macon County, entrepreneurial training was conducted during the Summer Youth College Program. This six week camp allowed the youth to enjoy educational activities in nutrition, computer literacy and entrepreneurial education.

During July, 40 adult participants attended Mini-Society curriculum training at Tuskegee University. As a result of this workshop teachers are infusing entrepreneurial education into the classroom at Booker T. Washington Public Elementary, Tuskegee Public Elementary, and Tuskegee Middle School.

In Dallas County, 50 youths from Dallas and Perry Counties Public School Systems participated in Mini-Society training camps and received 72 hours of training over a five month period. Five adult facilitators in Dallas County have been certified to conduct the program in their communities. Collaborating agencies include Sardis Unity Fellowship,

Christian Light Youth Development Center, Dallas County School Board, Safford Community Center and Mt. Olive# 1 Baptist Church.

In Sumter County, the Mini-Society curriculum was implemented at the request of Marengo and Sumter County School district administrators. The administrators wanted to improve the knowledge and skills of youth in areas that were not a part of the youth everyday activities. A total of thirty-five youths, some being gifted and having the ability to grasp the information, shared it with other youth, as well as use it as a tool as they grow up in society.

National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship Benefits. In Bullock County, some older youth attended a week long training by the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship. High school students learned the basic finance, business legal structures, financial statements, tracking cash flow, and the use of the Wall Street Journal. They also had the opportunity to think of a business idea, conduct market research, and develop a business plan. The business plan was then judged by local business leaders. This group of youth formed an entrepreneurial club at their school this term and continues to operate a school newspaper at their high school.

The students have formed a youth entrepreneurship organization. "Teen-Preneurs" is presently a recognized Bullock County High School Student Organization and has twenty five members. The Teen-Preneurs are publishing a Monthly Newspaper entitled, "Teen-Times" and selling it in the high school for only 25 cents. Erica Butler Todd is an advisor who has taken the students on several field trips to local businesses. The social and economic value of the program is that the students understand the economic development within the community is focused on training to become an employee and not an employer. We want our young people to have the knowledge and pride to become employers. Some may realize entrepreneurship is not for them, and others may do it on a part-time basis. It is important to know that they have the knowledge to become their own boss.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Mini-Society Resources. With the generous support of the Ewing Kuaffman Foundation of Entrepreneurial Leadership, Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative is being implemented in the twelve Black Belt counties of Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program. The AEI can be viewed as an effort in response to the future workforce needs of Alabama by preparing future entrepreneurs.

NFTE Resources. NFTE curriculum was implemented, which included all training material (books, handouts, and transparencies). Youth Entrepreneurs were solicited by agents to conduct presentations. **The Wall Street Journal,** items for "haggling" activity (hand soap, Gatorade, candy, etc.), and a cash gift awarded for the winning Business Plan were purchased by agents. Lunch was provided by Bullock County High School and snacks were donated by Ms. Erica Butler Todd, Social Studies instructor. Certificates of completion were printed by TUCEP.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans

AEI is a catalyst for workforce development in the Black Belt. AEI attempts to build a systematic approach involving youth, adult volunteers, Alabama citizens, and Cooperative Extension in an entrepreneurial education. Currently, the Mini-Society curriculum is being considered for implementation at all 1890 land-grant universities as a programmatic thrust in youth development. Additionally, TUCEP will conduct a second facilitators' training for 40 adult leaders, teachers, and youth workers in the Spring of 2003. It is our intention to train teachers and community volunteers in the Mini-Society Curriculum in order that they might incorporate the program into the community and the local school systems. Hence, this ETP will be continued for the next four years.

ALLOCATION OF FISCAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program allocation of fiscal and human resources among program areas for 2002 are listed below. Data do not reflect FTE's for clerical and support staff nor administrative support. However, these factors are reflected in the dollar amounts.

Program Area	$Allocation	FTE's
4-H&YD	$157,527.99	4.25
AG	246,692.80	5.80
C&ED	64,430.90	1.60
F& IWB	172,756.40	3.90
IN PEST MGT	22,639.70	.50
U& NNTP	22,781.00	.30

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 program planning, implementation, delivery, and evaluation. Beginning in 1997, TUCEP strengthened its relationships with various interest groups in the communities it serves and throughout the State of Alabama by forming six County Advisory Councils.

Each local county advisory council consists of representatives form the county in which agents and specialists serve. TUCEP has six units which 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 is selected, and it includes farmers, educators, local public officials, and other individuals from Alabama State agencies. The 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 Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, identify better ways and means to cooperate, review State and Federal Plans of Work, as well as Extension Team Projects proposed and implemented by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

The State Advisory Council is a committed staff of lay and professionals that team up with the agents, specialist, and administrators to advise and devise strategies to strengthen and improve the lives of all Alabamians. More specifically, the State Advisory Council advise the state administrators on the overall mission of Extension at Tuskegee University, policies and programs, and assist with other matters such as improving the image of Extension, evaluating its program, and linking and sanctioning Extension with other programs and organizations throughout the State of Alabama and the nation..

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS

As stated 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.

Some Extension Team Project Success Stories - 2002

1. Assisting Small Scale Farmers and Landowners to Manage Change in Agriculture

Success Story One:

SMALL FARMERS AREA WORKSHOP CONFERENCE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LOWNDES AND WILCOX COUNTIES

Both Lowndes and Wilcox counties are similar in socioeconomic conditions, very rural and very poor.

The population of Lowndes County is 13, 473, while the population of Wilcox County is 13,183. Almost 41 percent, 40.9 %, of the population in Wilcox County lives below the poverty line, while 35 percent of the population in Lowndes County lives below the poverty line.

Agricultural production is a major enterprise in both counties. The Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program serves both counties. George Hunter, Jr., is the Extension County Agent.

Now in its fifth year, Hunter and the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program played a major role in organizing a **Small Farmers Area Work Conference**, which convenes annually and usually in February. The conference was designed, Hunter says, "to help small and limited resource farmers in surrounding counties tap into new enterprises that might increase their income."

In addition to the leadership that comes from Hunter and the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, the Area Work Conference receives support in different ways from the Southern Education Enhancement Program (SEEP), Wilcox County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), ACES, and the ALA-TOM RC&D Council.

Balance is of special concern in planning the annual conferences. Hunter explains, "We want to introduce them (our farmers) to new opportunities (in agricultural production), but we also want to help them improve existing farm operations," he says. "We want to encourage those

who do not have any means of expanding (their farm operations), “but he says most of the conference programs are also geared toward diversification and expansion of existing farm operations.”

The one-day conferences are proving to be attractive and apparently effective. The first year, 1999, 30 farmers registered for the conference. This year, 77 farmers were on hand for the conference at the Lower Costal Plains Experimentation in Camden, AL. In addition to Lowndes and Wilcox, the two adjacent counties served by Agent Hunter, the annual conferences are attracting farmers from Butler, Dallas, Clarke, Macon, and Montgomery counties.

The agenda for the 2002 conference included farmers market opportunities, plasticulture production, outreach opportunity initiatives, vegetable production, rabbit production, and beef
cattle herd health strategies. Lecturers are usually specialists and professors from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Alabama A&M University, and Tuskegee University.

Willie Carter is one of the participating farmers from Wilcox County. Carter only works part-time on his farm, which is devoted largely to beef cattle and timber. After attending last year’s Small Farmers Area Conference, Carter decided to add a vegetable crop–purple hull peas, to his farm operation.

Because of his success with production and marketing of his peas, Carter is now considering further diversification of his farm to include fall collard greens.

Recently, Carter cut some timber from his farm in Butler County. Since that time, Hunter says, Cater is “now on the right track” to participate in a government program to reforest the timber he cut this year, a program opportunity he learned about through County Agent Hunter and the Small Farmers Area Work Conference.

County Agent Hunter expects rabbit and goat production to be “hot topics” at the 2003 conference. There is some rabbit farming in the counties served by Hunter, but not on a large scale. “People talk about it, but nobody is moving forward,” Hunter says. The absence of local processing facilities and established local markets are the key reasons why rabbit, as well as goat production, has not caught on, Hunter and other sources believe.

The conferences are also playing a major role, Hunter believes, in encouraging the expansion of vegetable production largely due to the introduction of plasticulture technology. A plastic mulch protects the 36 inch high beds of crops which receive water from a “drip irrigation” system rather than depending on the rain. Plants are fed fertilizer through the same drip tapes that supply them with water. As a result, production is significantly increased, competing weeds are limited, and drought is never a problem.

Using plasticulture production technology last year, one farmer who participated in the

Small Farmers Area Work Conference, planted six rows of string beans 220 feet long. His yield: 75 bushels which he sold at $20 a bushel. His success with okra, squash, and peppers the previous year encouraged him, to try the string beans. Because the string beans proved to be very successful, he plans a fall planting of collard greens.

His investment in the plastic mulch was an estimated $700 for the first crop, but there was no additional investment in the plastic mulch for the second and third crops.

Another Lowndes County farmer used plastic mulch to plant a three-quarter acre plot of peas from which he harvested 70 bushels and sold them at $15 a bushel. After the first harvest, he replanted, and his yield on the second planting was an impressive 60 bushels which he sold for $12 a bushel.

Marketing was not a problem. At least, it was not a major problem. Area grocery markets welcomed the vegetables and an ample supply was always available for the farmer's freezer.

"A community Farmers Market in Haynesville has also proven to be an effective marketing source," County Agent Hunter says. The Farmers Market typically opens about 7 a.m. and is sold out by noon. "The demand is high for fresh vegetables," Hunter says.

What is the future of the annual Area Work Conference? "Good," Hunter says. The evaluations indicate that the farmers want Cooperative Extension Service to keep sponsoring the conferences. "Future conferences, however, may offer an additional component," Hunter says. While lectures provided by state specialists and university professors will remain the "centerpiece" of the conferences, Hunter says that he and his colleagues may add a "demonstration, hands-on" component to supplement the lectures. A formal certification program for participating farmers may also be considered.

It is also likely that the Small Farmers Area Work Conference for which Hunter provides the leadership in Lowndes and Wilcox counties will become a model and be replicated in the 10 other counties served by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

Success Story Two:

Thursday, December 26, 2002, the following article appeared in **The Tuskegee News.**

USDA Farm Service Administration Visits Macon County Produce Farm

USDA and Farm Service Administration official, Cliff Heron, visited Al Hooks' Macon County farm this October to observe a one acre demonstration plot of plasticulture**.** Mr. Hooks' project is just one of twenty-one such projects to be established over a seventeen county area which is funded by a FSA grant.

The $60,000 grant, which was released through Mr. Heron's offices, combine the efforts of the State Department of Agriculture and Industries, Tuskegee Extension, Mid-South Rural Conservation and Development, NRCS's District Conservationist, and the Small Farmers Marketing and Education Committee. Mr. Heron says, "One of the elements of the grant request that impressed the FSA was the number of government agencies, non-government groups, and private businesses involved in the administration of the project. It will take that sort of coordinated effort between these groups for the small produce framers in rural American to not only survive, but to succeed."

Plasticulture is a method of producing farming that utilizes raised beds and drip tape that is then covered with a black plastic "mulch." This technique will yield 2 to 3 times as much high quality produce as conventional farming. Mr. Hooks' farm was chosen by Tuskegee Extension agent Walter Baldwin as Macon County's demonstration farm. "Al's farm was a perfect situation for the plasticulture demo," said Walter Baldwin. "Al has his own market next to this house where the plasticulture project was laid, so it will get plenty of exposure to farmers in the area. Plus, Al is a strong participant in Tuskegee's new farmers' market where his vegetables will be on display and he can answer questions form the public on plasticulture." Through the grant monies, Mr. Baldwin provided the materials for the demonstration, including approximately 5,000 collard plants. He also administered the laying of the drip tape and plastic. Mr. Baldwin continued, "Tuskegee Extension has always been involved with plasticulture, but hopefully with grants such as this which puts Tuskegee's knowledge in the filed, we can help Central Alabama become a player in Alabama's produce industry."

Al Hooks' farm is located on County Road 30, about 3 miles south of I-85, Tallassee Exit.

Success Story Three

Vertical Integration Beef Finishing Demonstration for Small Beef Cattle Farmers - Macon County

Small cow-calf beef cattle farmers in Alabama have limited options to market their calves. This is partially because large beef operations have squeezed out their opportunities. However, if small farmers retain ownership of their calves until slaughter through on-farm finishing without hormones, direct marketing of a healthy beef product opens up new marketing options. This project is a collaborative effort between Macon County Farmers' Organization, the Small Farm Rural Economic Development Center, and Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program to demonstrate the feasibility of vertical integration for small farmers to produce hormone free beef though on-farm finishing of beef cattle.

Weaning calves (2) were purchased from two Macon County small beef cattle farmers. They were transported to a central site at another small farm in the same county.

They were provided hay, growing followed by a finishing ration with water free choice. No feed additives or growth promoters were used. All items were from Alabama producers. Cattle were weighed every month until they reached market weight of 1200 pounds. They were then shipped to Billings Meat and Processing Plant, a small USDA meat processor in Gordo, Alabama.

The finished calves consumed an average of 2.2 tons (T) of feed to gain an average of 700 pounds. The feed efficiency of 6 pounds of feed consumed for each pound of gain was very good according to industry standards.

After slaughter, the calves yielded an average carcass weight of 682 pounds. The dressing percent was 57 percent with an average quality grade of low choice and yield grade of 2.

The parameters measured were all within the top quality standards established by the beef industry for today's American consumers.

In conclusion, good quality weaning calves (weaning Weight = 500 pounds) grown in Alabama by small cow-calf operator, fed a good quality locally prepared diet gain rapid weight (ADG=>4 lbs/hd/ day) to slaughter (1200 lbs) and produce high quality yield grade (low choice) and quality grade (2) hormone free natural beef at a profit. Slow ADG, low quality feed, high feed prices and low market prices can reduce the profit potential for small beef farmers. The price of high quality finish beef cattle cannot be marketed or sold according to local stockyards, if profit is to be realized. However, through on-farm finishing, small beef operators can increase their farm income by $275 above feed cost per steer.

This project demonstrates that small beef cattle farmers in the black belt of central Alabama can produce high quality, hormone free natural finish cattle as an alternative marketing option in rural communities, if they use the management recommendations outlined in this project.

Success Story Four

Plasticulture Working for Small Farmers in Barbour County

When you talk with Lee Fryer, you don't get the impression that he is your typical farmer. Long days in all kinds of weather is the life of the typical farmer. But not for Lee Fryer.

Fryer works hard but his day on the farm is not close to being long. If there is any such thing as a casual farmer, Lee Fryer belongs at the top of this list. But among the clients served by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, Fryer can also be called a "success story."

He is learning but still leading the way in the use of “plasticulture” on his small but productive Barbour County farm where he grows watermelons, tomatoes, corn, sweet potatoes, okra, peppers, and greens.

Plasticulture uses a combination of plastic mulch, raised cop beds, and drip irrigation in plant production. Rain is a bonus. Fryer agrees, but at least an acre and half of his small farm does not depend on the rain. He uses water from a well and plasticulture.

The black plastic which covers the raised crop beds help control soil temperature and increases soil moisture. There is a minimum lost of fertilizer which travels to the crops through the drip irrigation tape which line the plant beds. The black plastic mulch also helps control weeds.

Fryer learned about plasticculture while attending the 109th Annual Farmers’ Conference at Tuskegee University. He had planned to establish a small vegetable plot using a sprinkler water system, but changed his mind after attending a conference workshop presented by Harold McLemore of the Alabama Department of Agriculture.

Plasticulture makes more efficient use of water and fertilizer the plants require. Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Agents, Rory Stephens and William A. Hodge, agree. Stephens is the County Extension Agent for Barbour/Bullock counties, and Hodge is the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension specialists for water quality and environmental education.

Hodge says plasticulture “minimizes acreage use and maximizes production.” Fryer is among those who Hodge says has been able to produce more crops on a quarter acre of land than they can on one acre using conventional production methods.

He has only used the plasticulture system of production for two years, but Fryer estimates that has seen a two to threefold increase in the production of some of his crops. Fryer got a late start with his “stars and stripes” watermelons this season, but the more than 6,000 melons the planting yielded averaged 25 to 30 pounds, he estimates. That was more than triple the estimated 2,000 melons that would have been yielded on an acre plot using the conventional method of production.

Fryer’s most successful cash crop this year was his USDA Grade A okra. The two-third acre plot he panted in late May, 2002, was first harvested in early July. The okra crop is yielding Fryer 30 pounds (one bushel) a day. He started cutting okra in July and was still cutting in mid October. In addition to local home, his markets include two supermarkets in nearby Eufaula and restaurants in Clayton.

This will be the second year Fryer has used plasticulture production to grow fall collard greens. The greens he plants in September are being harvested, Stephens says. Fryer is increasing his collard green plants to only one acre this year. Stephens says,

because “we want to be able to control harvesting and not have any waste. He (Fryer) is working with limited manpower.”

Fryer and Stephens expect the 2,000 collards they plant to yield at least 1,000 bunches, most of which will be marketed to the North Florida Farmers’ Cooperatives in Marianna, Florida.

His crop sales supplement his disability retirement income, but for Fryer farming is “just something to do. Getting our here makes you feel better,” he maintains. “I might make a little bit of money and I might not.”

How much time does Fryer devote to his farming enterprise? Enough time but not his entire day. He is not a “sunrise to sunset” farmer. Not every day starts at 6 a.m., although some do. Indeed, many times he starts his day three miles down the road from his farm seeing his don, a third grader, off to school. And on some days, he completes his farm work in time to pick his son up from school.

But his farm does get appropriate attention. The drip irrigation system requires frequent monitoring. Harvesting takes time, and marketing his bountiful harvest can take the good portion of an afternoon. But when it is extremely hot, Fryer says his farm work is limited to
the first five hours in the morning,” and “when it is cools off in the evening.” He has occasional help of his brother, Clarence, and his 19-year-old son, Lenard.

Fryer’s success in using plasticulture has earned him the Plasticulture Merit Award from the office of U. S. Representative Earl Hilliard, Alabama’s representative from the 7th Congressional District.

Rep. Hilliard’s office provided the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program with a grant to help fund plasticulture production in rural Alabama. Farmers like Fryer, using plasticulture and served by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, have also had the support of grants from the Alabama Resource Conservation and Development Office, and recently from the U. S. Department of Agriculture , Office of Outreach.

The grants pay the cost of installing the plasticulture mulch system for up to one acre of land. Hodge estimates that it costs about $700 to install the plasticulture production system for one acre of crops. But he maintains that the cost of that installation will be returned to the farmer by the production of the first crop.

As successful as the system has been for Fryer and others who have used it, plasticulture is not for everyone, Hodge and Stephens maintain. Plasticulture requires good management. Hodge says, “You need to be able to visit your plots everyday.”

Since plasticulture can be expected to significantly increase crop yields, Hodge says farmers need to be sure they have the market to sell the crops. And the cost of installing the system and the water it requires must also be considered. "It (plasticulture) might be something you want, but do you have the resources to manage it?'' Hodge says farmers must ask themselves.

Meanwhile, Stephens believes that the use of plasticulure has enhanced Fryer's success in "sustainable agriculture." "You should be able to sustain yourself and not go to the market for everything, " Stephens says.

Fryer, Stephens observes, can do that. Not only is he producing enough quality crops to sell and "sustain" himself, his crop production is also sufficient enough to help "sustain" several of his extended families. An increase in management efficiency, Fryer and Stephens agree, will also increase the impact of Fryer's small farm operation.

Stephens does not expect Fryer to increase his plasticulture production by more than a half acre over the next year. "We need to maximize what plastic we already have," Stephens says. In addition to limited expansion of plasticulture production, Stephens says, he is advising Fryer to place priority on identifying additional markets for the anticipated increase in volume placticulture technology is expected to yield.

Success Story Five

Lowndes County Native Says
He May Leave the Classroom, But Not the Farm

He was enrolled in a Lowndes County Community Head Start program and only four-years old at the time, but he remembers his grandfather putting him in the seat of a tractor and placing it in first gear. He would drive the tractor slowly while his grandfather and others would load the trailer with hay. "When I got to the end of the row, someone would jump on the tractor and turn me around," he remembers.

That was one of Donald Carter, Jr.'s first experience on the farm. He didn't know it then, but he was hooked on agriculture and farm life.

Twenty-one years later at 25-years old, Carter has earned his bachelor's degree from Alabama A&M University. He is teaching agri-science in junior high school, and he is two courses away from completing the requirements for the master's degree at A&M. But he is also still farming–in the Lowndes County Willing Community.

He has distinct memories of “getting up early in the morning at the crack of dawn to get ready to go to the field.” While friends were idle or busy playing games, Carter followed behind his family with his :little read wagon” gathering the grass they were cleaning from the growing crops.

He planted and grew his first crop while in the 8th or 9th grade, a quarter-acre of purple hull peas, the suggestion of his grandmother. “My grand-daddy taught me how to plow,” and “my uncle taught me how to rake hay and eventually how to bail it.” Carter remembers, all before he reached high school. His uncle is Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension County Agent, George Hunter.

In addition to the overall satisfaction he received from his adventures on the farm, Carter’s mementos include: several state medals for his Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H projects, one of them for a 1,100 lb. Steer he raised and a Star Chapter Agribusiness Award. Carter credits Cooperative Extension with playing a “big role” in the selection, grooming, and feeding program for the FFA Livestock Judging Contests in which he placed.

Despite the amount of time he devoted to agriculture projects, “that is what I wanted to do.” Carter also found time to play baseball in elementary and junior high school and football and basketball in high school.

Before he graduated from high school, Carter had earned a Master Garden Certificate from the Cooperative Extension Program, and he had also used platiculture technology to grow a demonstration watermelon garden.

Some 65 8th grade students are enrolled in his agri-science classes at Houston Hills Junior High School in Montgomery, Alabama. Carter uses his introductory class to expose his students to some 15 different careers in agri-science–forestry, farm management, landscape design, soil science, plant science, natural resources, animal science, and hydroponics, among them. There is some hands-on experience, but most of the instruction is by computer modules.

Agriculture is “just a little hobby for me, and there is a little money in it, too,” Carter says. The crops he grows and sells also “give me something to do when I am out of school” in the summer. But Carter does not wait for the summer to plant and grow his crops.

Using plasticulture technology, he sometimes plants three times a year–collard greens, butter beans, okra, squash, turnip greens, tomatoes, bell peppers, and hot peppers, included.

In one of his plantings this year, six rows of pole beans yielded almost 100 bushels. He sells sometimes 90 percent of what he grows, Carter says. His first crop of peas this year yielded 70 bushels, while the second crop yielded 54 bushels, “because I didn’t

harvest them the way I should have." The peas sold for $14 to $15 per bushel. His squash, for instance, earned him $1 a lb. Or $18 a bushel.

"I don't know the numbers, but it was a lot of them." he said about his production of peppers.

Most of his crops are sold through the farmers' market in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties.

When he was in the 8th grade, Carter started a small lawn business, which he maintains had connections to his interest in agriculture. Of the seven (7) lawns he serviced in the 8th grade, Carter still maintains two of them but the total number has grown to 25–some in Montgomery where he teaches, and some in Lowndes County where he lives.

"The grass growing season is about eight months," Carter says. So when he is not mowing lawns, he turns to landscape design–planting flower beds, pruning shrubbery, and the like.

"Eventually, I want to be self-employed, and you have to start somewhere," he reasons. His answer is an empathic "no" when asked if he ever envision getting away from the farm.

"I may get away from the classroom, but not from the farm. That is where my heart is–tilling the soil and watching things grow. It's just a passion I have." "I tried the city, and I don't like that."

Would he be as successful as he has been in agriculture without the support of Cooperative Extension? He does not think so, and he would hate to be without the support Extension provides.

"Instead of trail and error, it is a lot easier to call on Extension for advice," Carter says. "They have most of the information you need, and they can get what they don't have."

Extension, Carter says, has kept him abreast with updates on production technology, market prices, advice on pest control, and "they also help with soil testing."

Enhancing Citizens' Capacity to Transform Their Communities

Success Story One:

Leadership Training and Capacity Building in Clayton, Alabama
By Nii O. Tackie from Tuskegee University for ETP 15a on 2002-11-15

This activity was conducted to improve the leadership skills and build capacity of members of the Barbour County Improvement Association (BCIA) in Clayton. When citizens are provided the necessary skills and tools, they are able to handle their own affairs better and efficiently.

This activity was part of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program's (TUCEP) ETP 15a. The emphasis is to strengthen capacity of individuals and communities. A series of 12 leadership skills development workshops were held from October 2001 to May 28, 2002 for members of BCIA at the Barbour County School System Transportation Building on Armory Street in Clayton.

Eighty-two adults attended the workshops. Topics at workshop included, but were not limited to, leadership and ethics, visioning and strategic planning, grant writing, and zoning and land use. Several specialists from TUCEP, partners from Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and consultants led the workshops.

As a result of the program, BCIA has applied to the IRS to become a 501c organization. It has also secured a mini-grant of $10,500 to set up a youth project for Barbour County to implement an after school program and other activities for at-risk youth.

Members of the Barbour County Improvement Association at one of the workshops

Success Story Two:

Safford Community Quilting Program

In 1976 eight women living in the Safford Community established the Safford Community Quilting Program. Their needs for bedding for their families in winter months lead the way to the center we know today.

The Quilting Center, located on Alabama Highway 5, has accomplished much since their first quilt was completed many years ago. Today, Safford Community Quilting Center sells qu8ilts all over the United States. They have gained fame by displaying their quilts at many professional meetings.

With the assistance of Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, the Safford Quilting Center was able to obtain a Folk Art Apprenticeship Grant in 2001 from the Alabama State Council of the Arts for a sum of $3,500. This grant enabled the quilting instructor to establish classes to teach the dying art of quilting to adults and youth.

Quilting classes were established, one for adults and one for youth. The adult class met twice a week for four hours each day, and the youth group class met once a week at the Christian Light Development Center for two hours. Nine women were enrolled in the adult class, and five were enrolled in the youth group class.

The results from these two classes were: seven quilts were completed by the adult class, and three quilts were sold for $475. The proceeds from the sales were divided among the students who quilted them. The youth group completed two quilts and sold them for $300. The proceeds were divided among the class. The students donated 25 percent of their profits to the center in order to continue the classes and purchase materials and supplies for the future groups.

The Safford Community Quilting Program was recommended by the Alabama State Council of the Arts to work with Space One-Eleven Art Director, Lane Conville, to layout and design a quilt for the Birmingham Archives. Work on this quilt, which will travel over the United States for one year then rest hanging in an elementary school in Birmingham, began July 19, 2002. The Safford Quilting Center, as well as the instructor, has been recommended by the State Council on the Arts to receive another Folk Art Apprenticeship Grant and an additional grant to develop and establish its own web page.

Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): A Strategy for Workforce Development

Mini-Society is an experienced based instructional program targeted for teaching entrepreneurship economics and citizenship concepts to students ages 8-12. Throughout Marengo County, a series of schools had expressed a desire to try nontraditional programs. With the implementation of nontraditional programs within the school system, it was discovered that little or no emphasis was placed on entrepreneurial education. Linden Elementary, a school that thrives on nontraditional programs, urged Tuskegee's Cooperative Extension agent to share a curriculum that not only challenged, but also improved the students' reading, writing, mathematics, and communication skills.

During the months of September 2001–January 2002, Linden Elementary students, grades 4-6 were exposed to Mini-Society. Twelve (12) students participated in entrepreneurial instruction for one hour a day, three days each week for a total of eight weeks.

From this experience, students learned how to create their own society and created their own flag and money, established their own business interest, laws and methods of dealing with a confused society. They were able to explain profits and losses when selling goods and products.

Entrepreneurship education provided an opportunity for these students to sense the importance of being productive in their society. After all they created their society, and they were in charge of their own society.

Although entrepreneurship education is still in its infancy, TUCEP agents hope that the Mini-Society concept will be added to the school curriculum.

Promoting Healthy Behavior

Diabetes Education: Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Attacking Diabetes through Education Classes

Macon County has the second highest incidence of diabetes among the 67 counties in Alabama, according to census data collected through the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

More than 2000 Macon County citizens were diagnosed with diabetes in 2002. Some sources believe as many as 17 million Americans suffer from diabetes with as many as six million undiagnosed.

"A lot of people don't ever get diagnosed," says Jennifer Wells, Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program County Agent. And, she adds, "many of those who do get

diagnosed visited a doctor with a complaint about something other than what they though may have been diabetes.

Diabetes can kill. It puts patients at risk for heart attacks, strokes, renal failure, and other ailments.

Dr. Habiba N. Shaw, a Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Health specialist, has teamed with County Agent Wells in the conduct of a series of classes to help patients manage diabetes. Their educational approach to managing the disease is having a slow but positive impact.

From October to May 2002, County Agent Wells attracted 50 diabetes patients to her series of education classes, most of them referred by physicians at the Macon County Comprehensive Health Center, while some came voluntarily. Fifteen patients are attending the class currently under way.

In Type 1 diabetes patients, the body does not produce sufficient amounts of insulin, and they must take medication. Type II diabetes is driven by lifestyle, Wells says. The body does not produce enough insulin or it cannot use the insulin it makes. Wells and Shaw are working with patients who have Type II diabetes.

Wells says she has found that most of the participants in the class may have been told they have diabetes, but they still don't what it is–or does. "They don't have a clear focus on how to manage diabetes," Wells says.

Some of the patients get literature from physicians, but they don't understand it. Wells says, while others don't have money or transportation to attend diabetes education classes in Montgomery and other cities.

"It is a silent disease. It is a slow killer." And many of the class participants have adopted "home remedies" to combat the disease.

Wells and Shaw use flip charts and cartoons, for instance, to help class participants understand diabetes. After an assessment of nutritional and other lifestyle habits, each of the class participants receives an "individualized diabetes education plan."

Records indicate that at least 25 of the participants in the first class of 50 patients adopted appropriate food plans and learned what Well and Shaw call diabetes "self-management skills."

Patient's record show weight loss, a decline in blood cholesterol levels, good blood pressure readings, and desired blood sugar levels–120 in the mornings and 140 at bedtime.

Mrs. Barbara Riley was a participant in the first class. She was diagnosed with diabetes five years ago. Not only has Mrs. Riley changed her eating habits, her entire

family has also, she says. No more fried foods from Mrs. Riley's kitchen, only baked and broiled chicken, fish or turkey.

"It wasn't that I didn't want to take care of myself, I just didn't know how to do it," she says. According to Mrs. Riley, she didn't learn much from doctors who only told her she had diabetes. But the credits Wells and Shaw with "brining stuff in and showing how much a serving size is for different kinds of food and all that."

She lost 16 pounds, and now maintains an acceptable glucose level.

Ruth Crawford, a retired Pike County school teacher, and Artimus Felton, a retired Ford Motor Company employee, say participation in the diabetes classes helped them control their blood sugar.

"I stayed on my diet. I ate exactly what I was suppose to , and I exercised," Ms. Crawford says. Ms. Crawford recommends that diabetes patients "stay on their diets, exercise, and don't get hungry." They should also read labels on foods before purchasing them, avoiding those high in sodium and cholesterol.

"Before I started the class, I didn't know that flour turns into sugar," Felton observed. "It's good, it's fine, it's helpful to everybody," he says about the diabetes education classes offered by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

Felton says he now eats mostly vegetables, some meat, but "not very much." He has learned , Felton says, that the best way to control diabetes is "don't overeat and exercise."

Shaw call the diabetes educational classes "holistic." She focuses on nutrition. Wells takes the leadership with exercise, stress management and food management, and assists Shaw with the nutrition component.

"We don't tell people not to eat what they like to eat," Wells says, "because we know they will not do that." She says they do tell the class participants "they can't eat a bowl of greens cooked in fatback with cornbread."

The meal plans the class participants receive help them understand how many calories they need a day based on their active or sedentary lifestyles. "A person who swims needs more calories than a person who sits at home and does nothing," she explains.

Wells and Shaw use actual food demonstrations to emphasize the proper food portions. ":For most people, their eyes are bigger than their stomach," Wells maintains. "They want to fill up their plates," and she believes plate sizes have increased in recent years. "What were once nine inch plates are today 12 inches," Wells says, and "12 inch platters are today 15 inches."

Wells says diabetes spend more money than they should buying foods that are reported to be sugar free but still don't understand why their blood sugar levels remain out of line. The sugar free products can be high in carbohydrates which break down into sugar, Well says. By the same token, bacon may not be high in carbohydrates but it is high in sodium, which diabetes must also learn to control.

Wells believes that the key to controlling diabetes is "lifestyle management"– managing what you eat, the things you drink, exercising, and emotional well being. She says most of the patients in the classes fall short on what they eat and an active lifestyle.

Exercise helps keep weight under control. "It burns calories" the body does not need, Wells says. Advice varies, depending on the source, but Wells believes that active lifestyles can take the place of a structured exercise regime.

After serving as a resource person in the classes with County Agent Wells in Macon County, Dr. Shaw is moving forward with plans for diabetes education classes in Barbour, Lowndes, Dallas, and Sumter counties.

"There is no charge to participate in the classes, and they will continue as long as their is a demand," Wells says. Contact County Agent Wells at 334-727-1320 and Nutrition and Health Education Specialist Shaw at 334-775-3284.

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APPENDIX B
SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

MULTISTATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AND INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTESION 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.

TITLE OF PLANNED PROGRAM/ACTIVITY	***FY2002 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES***
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS	$ 90,732.00
AGRONOMY	$170, 150.00
ANIMAL & DAIRY SCIENCE	$198,427.00
HORTICULTURE	$ 39,873.00
PEST MANAGEMENT	$ 55, 933.00
POULTRY SCIENCE	$ 39,763.00
WILDLIFE	$ 93,122.00
TOTAL	**$ 688,000.00**

By separate, signed, correspondence the Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System certifies that the above cited data represents actual expenditure of Fiscal Year 2002 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.