

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

*Alabama A&M University*  
*Auburn University*  
*Tuskegee University*

FISCAL YEAR 2003

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## CERTIFICATION

The Alabama Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results has been reviewed and approved by the 1862 Extension Director - Auburn University, the 1890 Administrator - Alabama A&M University, and the 1890 Administrator - Tuskegee University. The 2003 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.

## 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 planning, 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 Results 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.

# NATIONAL GOALS AND RELATED PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## **NATIONAL 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.**

### **ETP24B Urban and Nontraditional Horticulture**

*By Cathy Sabota*

#### 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

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

##### Vermicomposting

Presentations on vermicomposting were conducted at the Environmental Educators Association of Alabama, Northridge High School, and Arcadia Elementary School in Tuscaloosa County. A presentation on the definition of vermicomposting, the steps in vermicomposting, and the benefits of vermicomposting were developed. Each participant made their own vermicompost. Forty teachers and students created their

own vermicompost and learned how they can compost in a limited amount of space.

#### “Controlling Mosquitoes”

Due to the growing concern of the West Nile Virus a “Controlling Mosquitoes” program was conducted. The speakers included specialists from Auburn, the USDA, Tuscaloosa County Health Department, and the Mosquito Industry. Topics of the program were West Nile Virus in Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County Chemical Control, Mosquito Control Strategies, Mosquito Biology and Behavior, An Overview of Arboviral Surveillance in Alabama, as well as Pesticide Safety and Record Keeping. Thirty people participated in this program. One participant stated, “I learned so much about mosquitoes I never knew, it was a great program”.

#### Growing Together

The growing together tree-planting program was developed by the National Tree Trust to teach children about the important role tree planting and tree care plays in keeping our environment healthy. This program was conducted at three city schools in Tuscaloosa County with 190 students participating. The students learned the importance of trees. Following the program the students were tested on the importance of trees. And when asked why trees are important all the students knew trees produce oxygen. In addition each student could name two things made from trees. With answers ranging from food, pencils, houses, gum to shade. In addition to learning about trees, each student planted their own tree from seed and took it home.

#### Office Recycling

In January of 2003, Michelle Mobley started the recycling paper program at the Tuscaloosa County Extension Office. All paper products are taken to Alabama Paper Products where it is recycled into roofing felt. The reason for starting this program was to reduce waste and to “practice what you preach”. When she goes into schools teaching environmental lessons she tells the students they should recycle, and she felt responsible to recycle in her own environment. This year she recycled approximately 3000 pounds of paper and received \$21.50. The money is used to buy recycled paper.

#### Earth Day Projects

The Earth Day Groceries Project is an environmental awareness project in which grocery bags are borrowed from a grocery store and then students decorate the bags with environmental messages for Earth Day. Then the decorated bags are returned to the grocery store and passed out on Earth Day. This is an internet project, which allows all types of organizations to be involved. Two schools in Tuscaloosa County decorated over 500 grocery bags. Not only was this something the students enjoyed, but also the shoppers. The manager of the local grocery store said the shoppers enjoyed receiving these bags and seeing what each bag said. Horticulture programs were conducted as part of the “Earth Day Celebration”.

Approximately 1,023 students were taught the importance of plants to the environment and either received a plant or planted their own tree.

#### Horticulture Therapy

In November of 2003, Michelle Mobley started the Horticulture Program for Heritage Health Care Center and Northport Estes in Tuscaloosa County. These two nursing homes will participate in a horticulture program once a month. They have planted window boxes and made Christmas tree ornaments for the birds. This program was developed to improve the bodies, minds, and spirits of these residents. This has been a program the residents enjoy and look forward to each month according to the Activity Directors.

In the spring they will have raised beds where the residents can plant their own garden. This is very exciting for some of the residents because at the start of project one gentleman said, "I wish we could have a garden" and another person quickly said, "those are days of the past". Michelle Mobley has responded to their request by establishing raised beds and making gardening a future for these residents.

#### Greenhouse for the Special Needs Class at Hillcrest High School

The Greenhouse/Horticulture Program for Hillcrest High School's Special Needs Class in Tuscaloosa County began September 2003. The students in this class have various exceptionalities: autism, mental retardation to multiple disabilities. The reason for starting this program was to provide these students the opportunity to obtain vocational skills and improve their motor skills.

Each week a lesson is conducted with the help of community volunteers. These lessons range from learning how to put on gloves, filling pots up with soil, planting seeds, planting transplants, plant propagation, fertilizing, proper watering, and inventorying the plants. In addition the students are conducting general maintenance each day.

These students are gaining information and using it in a functional way. For instance, at the start of this program putting on gloves was somewhat challenging and would take anywhere from one to three minutes with assistance from volunteers. Now the students are able to put on their gloves in a few seconds with little assistance. Another great accomplishment is that the students initiate work as soon as they enter the greenhouse. The teacher of this class is very excited about this program and stated, "This program has given my students a sense of purpose and accomplishment. It has also allowed my students to connect with others from the community and increase diversity." This program will continue until the end of the school year. Currently the students are preparing for a plant sale in the spring.

#### Community Garden

Extension's Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit was awarded \$250,000 from Alabama State Representative Knight (D) Montgomery to develop

urban agriculture programs for Montgomery and other urban counties. Urban agents submitted proposals for these funds and the following projects are currently being established in Alabama.

Michele Mobley in Tuscaloosa County has established the “Plant and Extra Row” Urban Community Gardening Project. Her project started last year with the goal of getting gardeners to donate fresh vegetables and fruits to local food banks. Gardeners are encouraged to plant an extra row of produce to donate and then deliver that produce to the food bank after harvest. She will be expanding the “Plant and Extra Row” program this year and plans to start a community garden in the Tuscaloosa area. Mobley will also work with various organizations to obtain volunteers to participate in the project. The garden will be used as an educational tool for city youth, giving them the opportunity to grow their own produce and educate them about where the food they eat is obtained. She does plan to sell some of the produce from the garden to allow for garden sustainability.

Phillip Carter in Houston County plans to establish a honeybee and pollination education and training program in Landmark Park in Dothan. The program objective is to recruit 5-10 individuals for the program. These participants will hear lectures and receive hands-on training from experienced beekeepers to learn how to properly manage their own beehives. Each participant will be given one hive free of charge and will be responsible for managing the hive and finding fruit or vegetable producers that are growing crops that need pollination. Viable hives and beekeepers are in short supply in Alabama. It is anticipated that this program will not only train new beekeepers, but also help fruit and vegetable producers optimize the yields of crops such as squash, watermelons, cucumbers and muskmelons.

Hayes Jackson in Calhoun County plans to construct and maintain a working banana farm on the campus of Coosa Valley Youth Services in Anniston. He plans to plant one acre of hardy ornamental bananas that will be sold locally as potted or bareroot specimens. The program will train local youth about horticulture, entrepreneurship, and nontraditional agriculture.

Thomas Daugherty at the Mobile Urban Center plans to establish multiple community and school gardens by using a “Garden Roadshow.” He will create a mobile garden unit with equipment and supplies that can be moved to various locations. He plans to provide a mechanism to move diverse community garden projects from the meeting stage to established gardens. These gardens will be used for production and education, and produce will be distributed to the participants or to designated recipients in the area.

Mark Mayeske has worked with the Birmingham Urban Garden Society (BUGS) program for several years. He plans to establish ten new community gardens and 15 new school learning gardens. He also intends to train volunteers for this program to be “Garden Angels.” Gardening increases science test scores, teaches patience and



responsibility, and increases interest in eating a variety of vegetables. Mayeske plans to create competition and recognition between schools and students relative to their gardening skills and knowledge. This project will also launch several more BUGS gardens into entrepreneurship ventures. Project participants have been offered a free stand at a prominent market and are developing plans to work with the Hope 6 revitalization project in downtown Birmingham that will have a full production kitchen built for surrounding low-income residents. Residents will have the opportunity to begin to learn to run a food distribution business, thus return unemployed citizens to the job market.

Valerie Conner and Deborah Boutelier's are working with several other agencies in Autauga County to construct a community garden. The City of Prattville has provided land to be developed into a community garden to serve limited-resource families and senior citizens. The garden is located in an area designated for economic redevelopment with an eye towards maintaining the heritage of the community. The garden is not only productive but is attractive and enhances the downtown riverfront. The community garden was developed to accommodate diverse populations who otherwise would not be able to participate in the production of foodstuffs. The planting beds are raised and the pathways paved to accommodate wheelchairs and semi-ambulatory citizens. The City of Prattville also provided an area for the development of a fragrance garden for sight-impaired citizens. Signs for plants were designed for sighted and sight-impaired visitors. Several community partners are involved in these programs. The fragrance garden, located in Overlook Park has become a reality in the past months. This grant was approved to purchase the plantings for the garden. The planting of fragrant and textural plants was accomplished in May of this year. These will be evaluated in the spring and adjusted as necessary. In June of 2003, this garden was on the local Parade of Ponds. Many visitors have enjoyed this garden since it was opened.

A CASA (Care Assurance System for the Aging) Community Garden and Harvest Ministries project, in Huntsville, produced 11,954 pounds of produce in 2003. Both gardens utilized volunteers from Master Gardeners, churches, Boy Scouts, civic groups, and corporations. Over 1000 people volunteered their time to 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.

Kershaw Community Garden in is a 5-acre community vegetable garden. It is a partnership between several State, City, County, and non-profit organizations. Montgomery County Extension Office is one of the working partners. The Alabama Coalition Against Hunger is the leader organization. County agents provided educational workshops, literature and hands on demonstrations at field days to audiences consisting of youth and senior citizens. Bonnie Plant Farm donated seedlings. The garden is active from March-November. Alabama Agriculture &

Industries donated black plastic mulch and installed drip irrigation for the garden. During the summer months, crops such as tomatoes, eggplants, squash, okra, watermelon, cucumber, peas, butter beans, and snap beans are planted and harvested by Alabama Coalition Against Hunger employees, community volunteers, and youth volunteers. Produce collected from the garden is distributed to Montgomery Food Bank, Salvation Army, Beulah Baptist Church Senior Citizens, seniors who attended several field days, youth who attended field days and other local churches. The garden is planted in cool season crops in the fall and early spring such as collards, turnips, broccoli, and mustards.

Urban youth who have never experienced planting, harvesting, and eating fresh vegetables were given the opportunity to learn where fruits and vegetables come from, how they grow in the field, how to prepare them and the benefits of eating fresh vegetables. Over 500 youth spent 2-3 hours at field days and demonstrations at the garden. The Montgomery County Urban Agent led garden tours describing the different vegetables growing in the garden, provided hands on demonstrations on the correct way to harvest vegetables, how to tell ripe from unripe fruit, the purpose of plasticulture in the garden and the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables. She also provided similar tours and demonstrations to over 150 senior citizens. Youth and seniors alike expressed that they would eat more fresh fruits and vegetables, that they learned the importance of drip irrigation, and that using black plastic as a mulch really did increase the amount of fruit on the vines.

#### Trees are my Friends

The Montgomery county Urban Agent conducted six workshops to urban youth at Montgomery Housing Authority Housing Projects "Summer Enrichment Program" and urban forestry educational programs to over 200 youth during the months of June and July 2003. "Trees are my Friends" teaches kids the importance of trees and encourages urban youth to get involved in tree planting and tree care in their neighborhoods. Youth who were a part of the program said they now know that trees are important and learned ways to take care of trees.

#### Weed and Seed Project

In another urban area a landscape project with the Weed and Seed Program (Weed out Crime Seed in Hope) was established in Madison County. 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 completed and both the students and residents have been positive about the results.

#### C. Results, Impacts and Benefits:

Several horticulture programs were established in the school systems in urban counties and include vermiculture, horticulture therapy, trees and earth day and recycling. These programs have taught students how to recycle not only paper but

waste fruit and vegetable products to create an environment for worms which in turn produce compost. Forty teachers and students each created a vermicompost that can be used in a home, apartment or a school cafeteria. Not only is the compost valuable, but so is the sale of worms. Students also were taught the value of recycling. The Tuscaloosa County office recycled over 3,000 pounds of paper, the proceeds of which were used to buy recycled paper.

Earth Day presents an opportunity for educators to teach students about trees, the environment and the role of humans in the whole process. Almost 1200 students learned about the production of oxygen by trees and how they are used to produce products that are part of our everyday lives. Each student also planted their own tree from a seed and took them home. Earth day is also about teaching others. By decorating grocery bags, students were able to inform consumers of grocery stores about Earth Day.

Horticulture therapy programs in schools and nursing homes have given both the elderly and students a sense of purpose and accomplishment. Students are learning from the community and diversifying their classroom experience to include plant sales. Nursing home participants have planted window boxes and made Christmas tree ornaments for the birds. Residents look forward to the monthly program that will be expanded to include an outdoor garden in 2004.

A fragrance garden for the blind was completed in June 2003. This garden was on the local Parade of Ponds and many visitors have enjoyed this garden since it was opened.

Community gardens established by Extension personnel using grants, donations and other resources produced over 12,000 pounds of produce in 2003. Gardens utilized 1000 volunteers. Food was distributed to over 7,500 elderly and homebound.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resource Input

According to reported data, 16 employees worked 884 days on this project in 2003. The value of this professional time is \$21,924.00. County agents and specialists that participated in this program estimated that they and other volunteers raised an additional \$220,000 in local contributions, grants and donations to carry out many of the local activities, demonstrations and community gardens. Based on data reported by county agents, a total of 2,500 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 \$37,500. 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 1174% and generated an estimated \$19,500 return in food donated and grown for program recipients. Agents' contacts included 285,984

rural and 1,899,602 urban residents.

County educators and specialists created linkages with Environmental Educators Association of Alabama, Northridge High School, and Arcadia Elementary School in Tuscaloosa County, USDA, Tuscaloosa County Health Department, National Tree Trust, Heritage Health Care Center, Northport Estes, Heritage, Hillcrest High School, Coosa Valley Youth Services, Birmingham Urban Garden Society (BUGS), City of Prattville, CASA (Care Assurance System for the Aging), Community Garden and Harvest Ministries project, Alabama Agriculture & Industries, Alabama Coalition Against Hunger, Montgomery Food Bank, Salvation Army, Beulah Baptist Church Senior Citizens, Montgomery Housing Authority Housing, and the Weed and Seed Program (Weed out Crime Seed in Hope).

#### E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans

County Educators and Specialists have created linkages with many volunteer organizations, government and private agencies and received publicity for several of their projects. Several success stories have been developed from these efforts. All community gardening programs will continue into 2004 with funds received from the legislature. The Alabama Cooperative Extension website will feature the gardens this spring and they have been reported in Metro News.

The upcoming year will include the establishment of the community gardens. These gardens are proposed to be self-sustaining and should continue as long as there is a need in the community.

### **ETP10D. Ensuring Sustainability for Alabama Row Crop Producers**

*By Charles D. Monks*

#### A. Description:

The primary row crops in Alabama, as reported by the state's agricultural statistics service in 2003 (<http://www.aces.edu/departments/nass/farmfact/ff0401.pdf>) were cotton, peanuts, field corn, soybeans, and wheat. While cash value is provided, the Alabama cotton industry output multiplier in the RIMS2 I-O model is 2.1286, thus making the cotton crop in 2002 worth an estimated \$250,000,000 in the state's economy. The 2003 cash and total impact value will be higher as a result of higher yields and quality.

Row crop production has been in a rapid state of flux for the past 10 years. A survey conducted in Lauderdale County indicated that farmers continue to undergo major changes. Farmers in the western Tennessee Valley began to change their crop diversity in 2003. Ronald Lane, County Extension Coordinator, found in his survey that as much as 10,000 acres were set to be converted from cotton and soybean

production to corn production. Innovations like genetically engineered varieties and cultivars, environmentally friendly pesticides and application methods, remote sensing and precision farming techniques, and computerized economic programs have helped producers increase their efficiency while maintaining or decreasing costs.

Each year, extension specialists meet with the Alabama Cotton Commission, Alabama Soybean Committee, Alabama Peanut Association, and Wheat and Feed Grains Committee to discuss research priority areas. For the past three years, cotton and soybean producers have listed variety and cultivar evaluation as one of their top five priority areas. Producer representatives from all commodity groups have encouraged county agents and specialists to place extension and applied research demonstrations on-farm where it is practical. The goals of this project were to provide the most current information on production practices to producers, to evaluate or demonstrate new techniques in an on-farm setting where possible, and to provide agricultural education programming to adult and youth audiences across the state.

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Extension programming efforts for producers included county production meetings, field days, county agent trainings, local school demonstrations, regional trainings, and presentations at national conferences. In 2003, agents and specialists participated in 86 crop production meetings (events that the participant either attended or initiated) with over 10,000 participant contacts. Row crop demonstrations (over 30) and field tours (50 agent/specialist events attended or initiated) were conducted under this program in weed control, cotton defoliation, variety and cultivar evaluation, precision farming, conservation tillage techniques, nematode and other pest management, and other areas. Specialists and agents participated in local adult and youth educational efforts through exhibits at county fairs and local school demonstrations (59).

Four multi-state regional conferences that included speakers from Georgia, Florida, and Alabama were held in the southern areas of the state. The second annual Southwest Alabama Farm Day drew over 170 attendees from lower Alabama, the Florida panhandle, and southeastern Mississippi at the 2nd Annual Farm Day held February 11 in Loxley. The fourth annual Wiregrass Cotton Expo was held in February in Dothan and drew over 145 participants for the program from southwest Georgia, the Florida panhandle, and southern Alabama. Precision farming techniques were demonstrated at the Tennessee Valley John Deere Field Day (280 attendees) and at the Tom Bigbee Resource and Conservation District annual meeting in Pickens County. At all conferences and field days, producers, industry representatives, researchers, and extension personnel had the opportunity to listen to presentations, visit exhibits, and discuss the newest technology in farming with

local, state, and national experts.

Four multi-state agent trainings were held for cotton (2) and precision farming (2). Cotton production trainings were held at two locations in the state: Tennessee Valley for Alabama and southern Tennessee county agents (26 participants); Greenville for Alabama and Florida county agents (22 participants). Precision farming trainings were held at Clemson (25 participants) and the University of Georgia (25 participants).

Participants in this project have collaborated with other agencies in implementing this program. These agencies and associations include the Alabama Farmers Federation, the Southern Cotton Growers Association, Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association, National Cotton Council, Cotton Incorporated, FSA, NRCS, private industry (ie., Delta and Pine Land, Stoneville Pedigreed Seed, Bayer Crop Science, BASF, Dow AgroSciences, United Ag Products, Alabama Farmer's Co-op, and others), National Wheat Growers Association, Alabama State Department of Agriculture, Aerial Applicators Association, Private Crop Consultants Association, Alabama Soybean Association, United Soybean Board, American Soybean Association, and national scientific organizations including the Southern Weed Science Society, Agronomy Society of America, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, and others.

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

Falling crop prices, increased pest pressures, and weather extremes have made profitability in row crop production an extreme challenge. Results from on-farm result demonstrations have had a great impact on local decisions and profitability as is evidenced in the following examples. Results from a 2003 soybean demonstration in Dallas County found that a producer choosing the correct soybean cultivar could have increased net returns by \$105 per acre resulting in \$105,000 increase in income for a 1,000 acre farm. Results from a demonstration in Shelby County found that choosing a poorly adapted cotton variety would have reduced lint yield by 200 lbs/acre at a cost of \$140 per acre to the producer. Based on agent's and specialist's recommendations during the early season floods in 2003, a Talladega County corn producer was able to save the cost of fertilizer (\$30/acre) on 700 acres for a total savings of \$21,000. Results from a cotton defoliation demonstration resulted in an average savings for Henry County producers of \$5.00/acre on 10,000 acres (total projected savings was \$50,000). An aphid disease monitoring program across the state resulted in no insecticide application on 100,000 acres of cotton at a savings of \$8.00 per acre (total savings was \$800,000).

Precision farming demonstrations and trainings in north Alabama have resulted in implementation of various techniques to improve yields and efficiency. For example, yield monitors aid producers by indicating where low yielding fields are in need of

adjustment. In a north Alabama total farm field demonstration, the producer was able to save over 13% on their nitrogen input to field corn. A grain producer in north Alabama has increased labor and equipment efficiency by enhancing the timing of their in-field trucking operations for hauling harvested grain. Through this program effort, IPAQ personal computers were demonstrated and distributed to agents in Alabama (8), Georgia (10), and South Carolina (10).

While direct benefits to our clientele are more obvious, indirect benefits are also evident. Variety and cultivar demonstrations and tours are generally located in areas not well served by the experiment station system. Thus, this program is providing valuable information to local producers that would not otherwise be available. Comprehensive, multi-state training programs enable specialists and agents to make more accurate recommendations and ensure that the system remains relevant on a local, state, regional, and national basis and proactive in solving the problems of our clientele.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to the ACES Intranet ETP signup system, approximately 34 specialists and county agents participated in this project. A total of 1508 days were allocated to this county agent training not including the efforts of specialists from the University of Georgia, University of Florida, and University of Tennessee. The interaction of working groups across the state lines enabled us to better share our experiences and expertise. Participants were successful in securing funds for many of the projects in this program area. The funds received that were associated with this project totaled \$807,500 not including \$74,500 in "in-kind" supplies and \$30,000 in meeting support.

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

Information was made available through local newsletters (94), newspaper articles (102), radio and television interviews (87), a new cotton web site ([www.alabamacotton.com](http://www.alabamacotton.com)), and publications in the Journal of Extension ([www.joe.org/joe/2003december/iw3.shtml](http://www.joe.org/joe/2003december/iw3.shtml)) and "GIS in Agriculture" in GIS in Business (book chapter). Local newsletters reporting on result demonstrations have aided producers in Elmore and Autauga by providing local research-based variety, nematode management, and plant growth regulator information that is directly applicable to their farms. Nematode management information is applicable to 35% and 97% of the row crop acreage in Autauga and Elmore Counties, respectively. We plan to continue this program in an effort to continue to provide the information needed for the state's row crop producers.

## **NATIONAL 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.**

### **ETP 11a 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 approximately 30,000 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 their winter feed costs have the potential of saving several million dollars for the state's beef industry.

The Master Cattleman Program (ETP11b) is the prerequisite for this and at present over 1,500 producers have participated in the Master Cattleman Program. The Advanced Beef Cattle Nutrition program is more in-depth 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:

The program was offered 6 times during 2003 to approximately 130 participants. The producers attend 2 sessions for a total of 5 hours and are given a written handout summarizing the oral presentation as well as ANR 1237, By-Product Feeds for Alabama Beef Cattle, and an exercise evaluating numerous supplements relative to four different hay samples of varying quality.

The other multiplying effect of this program is that the participants are introduced to my website which is updated with timely information each week. The availability of the information on the web is intended to reduce the amount of time spent on individual contact with producers by me as well as by the agents.

#### 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. 71% ranked it as excellent and the remaining 29% ranked it as good. Some select producer comments were: "This was most informative and helped build on to the Master Cattleman Program.", "Very informative", "Need more of these kinds of classes".

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

Based on the ETP signup information, 31 ACES employees allocated a total of 231.5 days to this project in 2003.

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

This program has now been offered for one full year so hopefully the visibility will increase over the next couple of years. Future plans will be to offer the program as needed at the multi-county level. I feel it should be a good program to offer once Extension is arranged into the regional areas - fits the regional concept very well.

## **NATIONAL 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.**

### **SMP 25. Nutrition and Health for Underserved**

*By Jannie Carter*

#### A. Description

Health and wellness are important to individual and family well being. But good health doesn't just happen. It comes with practicing learned habits of eating right, making healthy choices, and being physically active. In order to grow and develop properly, children and adults need to eat a variety of nutritious foods as outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture's dietary guidelines.

Recent national health statistics show one in five children in the U.S. as overweight and obesity linked cases of diabetes have increased significantly in the past few years. Alabama statistics indicate one in four older Alabamians live in poverty and some 40% of seniors admitted to Alabama hospitals are malnourished.

The Nutrition and Health for Under-served Audiences (SMP) includes planned days of work to address non-ETP specific program activities. The SMP targets senior citizens, limited resource families in inner city areas, and multicultural groups at risk for nutritional deficiency and high-risk diseases.

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

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

An estimated 2,243 face-to-face contacts were made under this SMP. Over 447,000 non-face-to-face contacts were reported.

In Mobile County, Extension educators implemented their 2nd Annual Purple Tea at the Toulminville Public Library. This is an event designed as a celebration of survival, and to enhance the awareness of women on the importance of breast self examinations (BSE). The Urban County Extension Agent reported "the impact of such an event is to be able to talk about prevention and survival and to share your story with your new circle of friends." Thirty men and women including six breast cancer survivors attended the event. A follow up survey indicated that half of the respondents had shared the informational handouts, and retained most of the

information presented. Ten of the participants indicated that they had already completed their annual mammogram; seven had appointments coming up, while fourteen were encouraged to do so. Five women were under forty and felt that cancer was a hereditary factor in their family and were encouraged to talk to their primary health care provider.

Escambia County Extension educators targeted 1,019 women between the ages of 40 and 64 identified as at risk for breast and cervical cancer. To increase awareness of these diseases a coalition of agencies and individuals was formed including the American Cancer Society, Bosom Buddies, the Escambia County Health Department, church groups and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. An additional 110 Native American women were identified on the reservation at Poarch. Workshops, seminars and purple teas provided information exchanges with the underserved audiences relating to breast and cervical cancer and survival rates. The coalition also stuffed over 1,000 bags with educational information and distributed them at locations frequently visited by the target population. As a result, 6.6% of the identified 1019 at risk women (68) participated in the screenings. The Creek Indian population participation included 48 women had mammograms, 29 had pap smears and 49 had clinical breast exams.

“Nutrition and Wellness” programs in Madison County served over 2,000 adults and 1,997 youth educating them on making healthy food choices and lifestyle changes. Seminar trainings and a quarterly newsletter have resulted in increased knowledge and skills in selecting foods. Based on follow-up assessments, 10% of the participants have shown increased knowledge and skills.

In Bullock County, Extension educators partnered with the Bullock County School System to implement a Thanksgiving Food Donation Drive. Four “hefty” and “healthy” boxes equivalent to several pounds of food sharing provided nutrition assist to needy families in the Bullock County area, as well as contributions to the Department of Human Resources’ Food Bank.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Eighteen County Extension Agents and specialists committed 270 days of work to this SMP at the time of initial sign-up. One hundred sixty four (164) days were reported at years end. Four (4) of the County Extension Agents signed up provided input to this report.

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

Nutrition education for underserved audiences will continue as a focus for Extension’s 2004 program year. SMP 24 will remain as a programming option for non project specific work in this area. Presently, the USDA Food and Nutrition

Services Urban NEP program targets this audience and program assistants have been brought on board in eight (8) of the state's 10 metropolitan centers to further expand educational outreach to this target audience through this program. The Urban NEP program is described more fully under ETP 25B.

Programs and services are needed to support outreach to more culturally diverse audiences in the area of nutrition and health. The Urban Affairs unit will continue to pursue funding and partnerships to identify funding resources to support continued service and expansion.

### **ETP 25a. Metropolitan Health, Nutrition and Wellness**

*By Donnie L. Cook*

#### **A. Description**

There is an increase need for Extension educators to promote good health, healthy eating and physical active for people of all ages and walks of life. During 2003 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 safety, and promote positive behavior for lifestyle changes. 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**

The annual in-service training was conducted March 12, 2003 at Alabama A&M University. Twenty-seven agents, specialists, other staff attended. Outcomes .new strategies were discussed for reaching the underserved and limited resource populations.

Over the course of the year, 1,238,169 non face- to- face 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 14,831 of these 22% were males and 78% females. Ethnicity of populations served follows: 45% white, 49% black, and 6% other races. Issues addressed were poor eating, physical inactivity, proper hand

washing, food safety, chronic diseases such as asthma, cancer (breast and cervical), diabetes, obesity, and hypertension,

### C. Special Funding

Multi-state Project -Funded: USDA -CRSEES

§ 2nd year of a \$50,000 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 2: GERM CITY

The key message emphasized 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. Scientifically proven, hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious disease. Presenters of the Germ City programs taught proper hand washing using Germ City, lessons focused on 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 18,000 youth, children and adults participated statewide. Programs were presented in 18 counties (from January - December 2003), making a total of 32 counties and over 27,000 participants to experience Germ City in the state.

Multi- counties Funded: Alabama Department of Public Health - \$121,644 (January-December 2003)

Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Project in six North Alabama counties: Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Madison, Morgan and Marion.

Thousands of women are diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer each year. Early detection is the best defense- it promotes "better survival rates and allows for more treatment options". Outreach educators in these counties have partnered with radio, television and print media, Food Stamp offices, human resource and county health departments, the American Cancer Society, churches, department/grocery stores, area housing authorities, area city bank, area city jails, utilities departments,

and other community agencies to recruit and educate women about breast and cervical cancer. The six outreach educators made a difference in their areas by educating 6,384 (face-to-face) about breast and cervical cancer and how to receive free screening. As a result 264 women qualified and received special services.

#### D. Results and Impact

Programs, exhibits and displays focused on healthy eating, early detection, diabetes, high blood pressure, food safety, and cancer awareness. 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. Thousands of youth and adults learn how to wash hands properly and that good hand washing can prevent the spread of diseases. To measure the impact and determine behavior changes as a result of experiencing Germ City, a survey was given to the classroom teachers who were asked to complete them from their observation in two to four weeks following the presentation. Eighty five percent (87%) 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

Through the breast and cervical cancer early detection project 264 women in North Alabama received services that may help save their lives.

#### E. Fiscal and Human Resources

Agents, specialists and many volunteers worked diligently to educate the people in the areas of nutrition and health. Twelve ACES employees worked 485 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

- Continue Germ City presentations state wide
- Continue breast and cervical cancer early detection project
- Comprehensive community outreach education: obesity and diabetes all ages

## **ETP 25b. Urban Nutrition Education Program**

*By Donnie L. Cook*

### A. Description

The Nutrition Education Initiative Impacting Underserved Populations was established in furtherance of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's commitment to nutrition and health for citizens residing in metropolitan communities. This Initiative serves as the framework to deliver the Urban Nutrition Education Program (UNEP) to individuals and families in nine of the state's ten urban areas. The UNEP program provided an avenue to expand educational services to help address the nutritional needs of seniors and limited resource families of public housing. Within each Urban Center a part-time agent assistants, supervised by an Urban Agent, provided educational services to clients with 7 of the 9 Urban Centers located through-out the state.

### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

- Hired a full-time nutrition education coordinator, oriented to the job and the state.
- Structured the UNEP program educational instrument for the collection and evaluation of data into computer-based system.
- Implemented Phase II of the Urban Nutrition Program.
- Conducted general nutrition in-service training for seven agent assistants.
- Site visitation to each center.

### C. Special Funding

USDA Food Stamp Program - Funded \$212,216 (October 2002-September 30, 2003)

### D. Outcome Evaluations and Assessment of Impact

UNEP expanded to four additional centers in an effort to further, it's overall purpose to empower families and individual in the metropolitan areas to make wise food choices, to select and prepare safe foods, and to consume a nutrient dense diet of healthy foods. Agent assistants provided programs, exhibits, displays, and food demonstrations focused on nutrition education, healthy eating, food safety, food security, food preparation, how to stretch the food dollar and health and general well-being.

The process of evaluating the Urban NEP program involves a three-tier approach that is designed to measure changes in participants' knowledge, behavior, and

attitude. The tiers include: participant's pre-assessment inventory, participant's post-assessment inventory, and the participant's delayed post-assessment inventory. The instruments were developed based on the objectives and content described in the WEALTH module. Content and face validity was determined using a three-stage formative evaluation process: subject-matter expert, one-to-one, and small-group (8-30 people). Revisions were made following each stage of the process.

The participant's pre-assessment inventory is used to determine participants' prior knowledge, skills and behaviors upon enrollment in the UNEP program. The participants' post-assessment is designed to measure participant's acquisition of concepts and application of skills immediately following completion of the program. Lastly, the participants' delayed post-assessment measures delayed retention and transfer of knowledge and skills 3-4 months subsequent to the completion of the program.

### State Summary for Urban Nutrition Education

#### 2003 Nutrition Education Activities in the CORE areas:

##### Dietary Quality

Number of participants who...

3688 (30.60%)\_moved closer to Food Guide Pyramid serving recommendations

7038 (58.40%)\_moved closer to Dietary Guidelines recommendations

5302 (44.00 %)\_increased their fruit and vegetable consumption

2458 (20.40%)\_increased their level of physical activity

\_\_\_\_other (Specify:\_\_\_\_\_)

##### Food Resource Management and Shopping Behavior

Number of participants who...

3856 (32.00%)\_use a spending plan more often

3465 (28.75%)\_utilize a menu plan more often

4880 (40.50%)\_shop from a list more often

5453 (45.25%)\_comparison shop more often

\_\_\_\_Other (Specify:\_\_\_\_\_)

##### Food Safety

Number of participants who...

6598 (54.75%)\_more often wash hands before meal preparation/eating

6056 (50.25%)\_less often let food sit out more than 2 hours

5302 (44.00%)\_more often keep raw meat separate from other foods

4941 (41.00%)\_more often cook meat and eggs thoroughly

\_\_\_\_Other (Specify:\_\_\_\_\_)



Food Security

Number of participants who...

3374 (28.00%)\_decreased use of emergency food assistance (e.g. food pantry, soup kitchen)

2531 (21.00%)\_increased use of non-emergency food assistance programs (e.g. Food Stamp Program, WIC, Child Nutrition Programs)

2531 (21.00%)\_applied for the Food Stamp Program specifically

\_\_\_\_Other (Specify:\_\_\_\_\_)

Number of participants who (after education) reported having enough to eat:

4740 (39.33%)\_always 4056 (33.66%)\_most of the time 1205 (10.00%)\_sometimes

1205 (10.00%)\_never

Partnerships

\_58\_number of new collaborating partnerships

\_19\_number of collaborations with existing partners

\_\_\_\_other (Specify:\_\_\_\_\_)

Data

Provide counts of the number of contacts made with food stamp nutrition education in Fiscal Year 2003 through direct contacts, through indirect contacts, and total. You may report this data using either counts of contacts to households or of persons. Counts of persons are preferable.

---

1. Direct Contacts 2. Indirect Contacts 3. Total (1+2)

\_5,575\_Persons or \_6,476\_Persons or \_12,051\_Persons or

\_\_\_\_\_Households \_\_\_\_\_Households \_\_\_\_\_Households

E. Fiscal and Human Resources

Agents, agent assistants, specialists and many volunteers worked diligently to educate the people in the areas of nutrition and health. Twelve ACES employees worked 359 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

- Implement Phase III of Urban Nutrition Education Program.
- Increase the number of clients served
- Promote the development after school nutrition programs in each of the nine Urban Centers

### **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, 2003 and July 31, 2003, HE agents in five counties were implementing the BEE program as a result of having written and submitted competitive grant proposals for funding to support the implementation of the BEE program: Bibb, Choctaw, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, and Wilcox counties were all funded through the Alabama Children's Trust Fund. Due to State budget cuts in funding to non-State agencies, CTF funds ceased. Choctaw, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa counties were required to lay off their educators through October and Bibb was not refunded. Wilcox county was able to begin again due to new funding secured from the USDA's Children, Youth, and Families at Risk initiative.

Until July, when programs were shut down, BEE educators in these counties had worked with and graduated a total of 73. 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.

A competitive grant proposal, written and submitted in the fall of 2002 to USDA’s CYFAR initiative to support 3 counties to implement an expanded BEE program, was funded for 2003 – 2008. New programmatic efforts are focusing on broadening the scope of the BEE program to include health literacy and co parenting education to supplement the school readiness information that parents received in the original BEE program. Three educators/BEE program coordinators were hired in Wilcox, Macon, and Perry counties and have received training to implement BEE programming.

#### 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 73 participating indicated that our targeted audience (rural, low-income families with at least one preschool aged child) was successfully reached. Of the 54 individuals who chose to answer this question, 100% reported being eligible for services based on low income status. Participants were primarily African American (97%), single parents (63%), and had a high school education or less (86%). In open-ended questions, 79% 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 (33%); understanding (13%), the use of positive discipline (16%), and increased interest and activity in their children’s learning (13%).

The three items assessing parental attitudes about the use of guidance strategies showed an average increase of 31% in appropriate responses from pre- to post-test.

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 26% to 69%; reporting self-control-related behaviors

increased from 12% to 33%; reports of social skills-related behaviors increased from 12% to 13%; 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 7% to 15%.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to the reported days worked on this project, 8 ACES employees allocated a total of 330 days to this project in 2002. In addition, 9 program assistants worked over 4200 hours working directly with the families. Work in all five counties was supported by grant funds received from the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama. In May 2003, \$150,000 in grant funds from USDA was made available to further develop and implement expanded BEE programming in Wilcox, Macon, and Perry counties. Three employees were hired to develop and coordinate community collaborations with other agencies and organizations concerned with the parenting and coparenting skills of parents of young children, and with health and school readiness issues. A second year of funding has been applied for to begin May 2004.

#### E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans

Future plans are to continue to seek external grant funding from Children's Trust Fund, if and when those funds may once again become available, and from other agencies to support county programs. Programmatic efforts with the expanded BEE program in Wilcox, Macon, and Perry counties are underway and new assessment tools are being created. Applications for continuing USDA funding will be submitted as necessary.

## **NATIONAL 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.**

### **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](http://www.aces.edu/dept/fireants)). For 2002, we trained 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. In 2003, we continued our education efforts in fire ant management. We particularly wanted to get information to the employees at garden centers, and to extend our efforts to Alabama 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.

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003, ETP participants conducted 22 educational sessions for trainers. An average of 22 people attended each session. Educational materials used included slide sets, videotapes, posters, mound models,

and publications. Master Gardeners, cattle producers, turfgrass managers, garden center employees, city employees, county agents, garden club members, and civic club members were trained in sustainable fire ant management. Seven additional sessions were conducted for the general public. County agents from 14 counties (Mobile, Baldwin, Randolph, Lee, Houston, Shelby, Monroe, Etowah, Madison, Montgomery, Colbert, Lauderdale, Marshall, Chambers) and a specialist participated in the various training sessions. (please see success stories by Kathy Flanders, Shannon Norwood, Larry Craft, Ken Creel and Eddie Wheeler, for ETP 27d and/or SMP 27).

Videoconferencing was used to bring the expertise of two Extension specialists from Texas A&M University to county agents and cattlemen in three Alabama counties. The presentations prepared for this training session were re-recorded by the Texas Cooperative Extension Service and distributed on DVD. A companion publication, Managing fire ants in cattle production systems was authored by specialists at Auburn University and Texas A&M University, and will be published in spring 2004. Youth programs that featured fire ants and their management were conducted in Bullock, Mobile, Montgomery, Randolph and Cleburne counties. These included Farm Safety Days, 4-H club meetings, and environmental tours and field days (please see success stories by Marla Faver and Chip East for ETP 27d).

Field demonstrations were conducted (DeKalb, Lee, Choctaw, Monroe, Houston/Henry Counties), six using baits, and one using a broadcast granular insecticide. (see success story by James Jones, SMP 27).

Other agents prepared newspaper articles (Etowah, Choctaw), and conducted radio spots (Choctaw, Marion) on fire ant management. 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. (Please see success story by Charles Pinkston, SMP 27).

County agents from Houston and Henry Counties placed a fire ant exhibit at the Alabama Peanut Festival. 160,000 people attended the festival and had the opportunity to view the exhibit. Master Gardeners staffed the booth. County agents from Fayette and Lamar counties prepared an exhibit for a health fair at a farmer's market. Two specialists assisted the Alabama Fire Ant Management Project in staffing fire ant booths at the Alabama National Fair and the Sunbelt Ag Expo.

County agents in four counties (Geneva, Dallas, Talladega, and Morgan) conducted multiple field visits to garden centers to discuss fire ant management and training opportunities for employees.

Fire ant educational materials were distributed to nurseries and garden centers in

Jefferson County.

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. Grants from the Southern Region Professional Development Program, the Alabama Fire Ant Management Program, and the Crop Insurance Program at the USDA Risk Management Agency. provided funds for developing educational materials and conducting workshops.

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

We did not continue pre- and post-testing in 2003, but assume that results were similar to 2002, when 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 (8800). We hope members of the general public who were trained will contact several of their neighbors (462). Of the 20,000 publications that were handed out, we hope that 4,000 will be read and cause individuals to change their fire ant management practices. This adds up to 13,262 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 \$928, 340 ( $13,262 \times \$70$ ).

The training done with youths today will lead to a new generation of fire ant managers. 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, 21 ACES employees allocated a total of 192 days to this project in 2003. The value of this professional time is \$26,183. For every dollar spent by ACES, we will have observed a \$35.45 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. Nine participants wrote individual success stories about their local activities under this project.

In 2004, we will continue to train fire ant managers. Additional fire ant bait spreaders

will be made available to stakeholders. A cd containing PowerPoint presentations on ant identification and fire ant biology has been prepared, and will be distributed. Video products will be converted to streaming video format, and made available on the ACES web site.

#### References Cited

Thompson, L. C. and S. M. Semenov. 2002. Re-appraisal of the annual losses in the south caused by red imported fire ants. Imported Fire Ant Conference, Athens, GA, April 2002.

### **ETP 27E Urban Pest Management**

*By Xing Ping Hu*

#### A. Description:

The most destructive introduced Formosan subterranean termite is posing ever-great threat to human structures, causing collapsed houses and fallen trees in coastal counties. Coastal residents are crying for learning its exact distribution and control methods. A recent survey shows that termite related problems are rated the number one pest problem, and termite related lawsuit/claims have topped the US in 3 consecutive years. Costs of urban pest damage and control in AL have reached the peak. Urban pesticide use has increased to be 5-time amount of that used in agriculture. New products and technologies are coming into the market quickly in recent years.

The challenge is how can we introduce the information on these safer and effective technologies to the majority of our extension agents, pest control professionals and publics. The ETP27E is to enable agents to provide needed knowledge to help their clientele, and residents to cope with termite problems. Trainings, meetings, local activities were developed. The goal of this project is to provide training on identification, biology and sustainable toxic reduced management of common urban pests to our clients.

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

In 2003, four In-service Trainings were conducted and 142 agents and other clients implemented the trainings. Each training was an intensive 2 day course on managing household ants and cockroaches, managing termites and other structural pests, common sting and poisonous pests in homes, or common practice in managing household nuisance pests, respectively. Many participated agents also conducted training programs or demonstrations in their counties, and wrote newsletters or fact sheets to educate the public, or featured successful stories in newspaper or radio programs.



Several new extension publications were developed on implementing IPM in public schools. These publications are also available on our ACES website ([www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)), and we have made an intensive statewide effort to make the clientele aware of this.

Several other organizations have collaborated with ACES in implementing this program. Our partners include The Alabama Pest Control Association, AL State Department of Agriculture and Industries, Household Authorities, etc.

This program was displayed at several local events, including Earth Day, Environmental Day, County Fairs, ect.

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

This ETP has a great impact on every single resident who concerns about urban pest infestation and a significant contribution to make Alabamians' life better. The increased number of calls/emails/visits from agents and the public indicated that more people are aware of new products for urban pests and want to know more. A significantly number of clients acknowledged that they are using safer products than before, and are adopting integrated pest management practices rather than relying on pesticides.

Pest control industries are relying on our information to update their technologies to meet the need of high standard.

Successful stories include: 1) Fairhope Formosan Termite Watch through education and community participation. Cooperated by Baldwin county agent Ms. Favor, this program gained support from Fairhope City Government (\$5000) and USDA (supplies). A Fairhope Termite Committee was developed and more than 30 volunteers and all local news media were involved. 73 termite sites were identified and termite infestation levels and expansion potential were analyzed using termite traps and public surveillance. Residents were informed program progress through news media and public meetings. The entire city (population over 12480) learned termite problems and gained the knowledge to win the battle against termites. 2) Be Aware of Termite on Crops. Our new finding shows termites have expanded host to feed on crops. Agent Harris from Tallapoosa wrote a story on termite damaging collar based on one of my visit to his county. His article won national award. I would like to cite the most successful story from an agent: "what's really rewarding and important about Extension is just being able to help folks time after time with education and solutions to their problems".

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

I have not been able to obtain the numbers needed, though I tried.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

Our future plans are to continue this program for at least long as urban pest problem exists. We will be making some changes to the program in 2004 based on the feedback that we have received from the county agents that responded to our request for suggestions for improvement.

**ETP11h. Agents Providing AFO and CAFO Manure and Environmental Management Education**

*By Ted W. Tyson*

A. Description:

This ETP had two major thrusts, Providing AFO/CAFO Continuing Education required by ADEM, and Preparing AFO/CAFO Operators for Positive ADEM On-Site Inspections.

Providing AFO/CAFO Continuing Education required by ADEM - Every owner and on-site manager of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Alabama is required by ADEM's AFO/CAFO Rules to have both initial and annual training in various aspects of animal manure and waste product management. All CAFO personnel responsible for the operation and maintenance of the system must be trained and this training documented at each annual re-registration of the CAFO.

Preparing AFO/CAFO Operators for Positive ADEM On-Site Inspections - Each AFO and CAFO in Alabama, regardless of size or number of animals, is required to operate the farm production site in an environmentally safe and responsible manner. Each operation must maintain manure and dead animal management records sufficient to document accepted levels of environmental stewardship under Alabama's ADEM AFO/CAFO Rules. Each farm is subject to on-site inspection by ADEM to ensure proper operation under the rules. This ADEM inspection may be either a routine annual or complaint driven visit. An unsatisfactory ADEM inspection may subject the operator to fines and other actions that could become burdensome to further operation.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Eleven (11) agents attended in-service training (IST-1104 - Basic Topics in CAFO

Continuing Education) held February 20-21, 2003. This IST provided educational material for and trained county ANR agents to provide CAFO Continuing Education training on the county level. Specialists on the ACES Waste Management Task Force prepared training material to include Power Point presentations and overhead projections with appropriate ACES Circulars and Timely Information Sheets. Topics included Buffers and Setbacks for Animal Manure Land Application; Understanding The Phosphorus Index, Emergency Response Plans, Waste Management Facility Self-Inspection, Records for Manure Handling and Dead Animal/Bird Management, How to Operate and Maintain a Dead Animal/Bird Composter, and Operating A Liquid Manure Management System.

Armed with this information and supported by state specialists, agents with Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) responsibilities responded to over twenty-five (25) requests from operators of AFOs or CAFOs who had gotten unfavorable inspections from ADEM and needed educational information to correct noted deficiencies within the ADEM-imposed response deadline.

Nine (9) agents attended in-service training (IST 1103 - BASIC PLUS -ADEM ON-SITE INSPECTION VISIT) held April 9-10, 2003. Information on details of an ADEM inspection were presented, along with guidance for setting up and leading a MOCK ADEM inspection for AFO/CAFO operators.

Six agents presented five (5) MULTI-COUNTY MOCK ADEM ON-SITE FARM INSPECTION training tours to provide education that helped prepare the operation for periodic operation reviews and inspections. Seventy-five (108) farm operators and poultry company personnel were taught by these agents to understand and properly DOCUMENT the Best Management Practices in their Nutrient Management, Comprehensive Nutrient Management, or Waste Management System Plan. These periodic operational "snapshots" identified record-keeping and/or operational deficiencies that may harm the environment and initiate ADEM AFO/CAFO compliance enforcement action and/or prevent Annual CAFO Re-Certification.

The Alabama Animal Waste Management ([www.aces.edu/aawm](http://www.aces.edu/aawm)) website was redesigned to include new ACES publications developed by the aawm team and the latest regulatory information from EPA and ADEM.

A member-only web-based discussion list, [aawm@aces.edu](mailto:aawm@aces.edu), was initiated and is used by all agents who signed up for the 2003 animal waste management ETPs and ISTs. This list is used to get the latest animal waste/manure/nutrient management and biosecurity information out to these agents with AFO and CAFO responsibilities.

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

Results from informal surveys by participating aawm county agents of the more than four hundred (400) AFO and CAFO operators trained at the twenty (20) Extension conducted continuing education programs were overwhelmingly positive. When 2 to 3 employees of these 400 AFO/CAFOs are considered, over 1000 animal feeding operation employees received ADEM-required continuing education as a result of efforts of the Extension aawm Team. 3112 total clientele contacts were reported. 3112 of these contacts were by agents and 1300 by specialists.

Three ETP success-stories illustrate this project. Tim Reed, Heath Potter, and Bobby Wallace submitted "Extension Helps Poultry Farmers Comply with Environmental Regulations". Charles Mason submitted "Mock Inspection of Poultry Farm". Russell Parrish submitted "CEU Credits Made Available for Butler County AFO/CAFO Poultry Producers".

In addition to the direct benefit to AFO/CAFO operators, this training will lead to better utilization of animal manures and especially to better utilization of poultry litter - a byproduct of our large poultry industry which has the potential to be a very significant contributor to environmental problems. This will ultimately benefit the general public through improved water quality and environmental quality.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to the reported days worked on this project, 12 ACES agents and 4 specialists allocated 133 days to this project in 2003. The value of this professional time is over \$28,728.

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

The need to continue training Alabama's animal feeding operations and concentrated animal feeding operations will only increase in the future. Our intentions are to expand agent-training support to allow ACES field agents to continue to meet this increasingly important educational need for the economic viability of Alabama farmers and the protection of Alabama's environment for all of it's citizens.

## **NATIONAL 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.**

### **ETP30B on 2004-01-26 Dogs as Companion Animals**

*By Julio Correa*

#### A. Description:

Industrialization and urbanization have partly been the cause of increased stress and health challenges in the American society. This unhealthy state of affairs is being vigorously addressed by many people in many disciplines with the object of helping to restore health to communities everywhere. Recently, scientific research has lent credibility to the centuries-old belief that the close relationship between humans and animals contributes to the overall health improvement and well being of society.

As society moved from small rural communities to increasingly large metropolitan areas, the dog's role changed. According to a national survey, the majority of dog owners selected companionship as the major reason for having a dog (American Animal Hospital Association, 1995). Dog companionship increases recreational walks, self-esteem, involvement in sports and clubs, and family happiness and fun. Furthermore, clinical observations have shown that association with dogs may contribute to reduction in stress, blood pressure, feelings of loneliness, and fear of being a victim of crime.

Therapy dogs have been tremendously successful, especially in the areas of physical rehabilitation and psychological recovery. For example, the presence of animals in institutional settings is associated with the tendency of older persons to smile and talk more, reach out toward people and objects, exhibit more alertness and attention, and experience more symptoms of well-being and less depression (National Institutes of Health, 1987). A dog can enhance self-esteem and feelings of competence in youth, as well as improve motivation, when given the responsibility for its exercise, training, and feeding.

To increase the chance that both dog and owner will remain together for the rest of the natural life of the dog, people must be prepared and make sure that the dog is properly nourished, in good health, and well behaved. The latter is of ought most

importance to prevent the dog from becoming a nuisance or a menace to the community. Besides, a well-behaved dog makes a much more pleasant companion, and can be more easily a part of the family life. Therefore, the objectives of this project are to educate the public in the subjects of dog nutrition, health, behavior, training, responsible ownership, and the benefits of dog companionship.

**B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:**

In Tuscaloosa County, Extension Agent Betsy Myers continued her remarkable work with the Tuscaloosa County 4-H Dog Club. During 2003, the Dog Club participated in a workshop in which two of the local veterinarians and the Executive Director of T-Town PAWS (People for Animal Welfare and Safety) made presentations on general pet care and the importance of spaying or neutering pets. In addition, Betsy Myers and Kim Romain participated in Pet Therapy at Hillcrest High School's special education class. Many of the youngsters in this class have severe disabilities such as autism, blindness and hard of hearing. Extension Agent Betsy Myers and the Tuscaloosa County 4-H Dog Club expect to continue its work with the community during 2004.



**Betsy Myers' dog therapy group makes presentation at Northridge High School**



**Betsy Myers, Kim Romain and their dogs participate in Hillcrest High School's Special Ed class**

In Cullman County, Extension Agent James Conway continued using pets to encourage 4-H members to participate in public speaking events. In 2003 4-H members were persuaded into public speaking by offering them an invitation to a pet show. Each of the 88 4-H clubs in Cullman County had 5 to 10 youngsters give talks and before the pet show started they were given gift bags containing handouts on dog training. This event has become one of the most popular 4-H projects in the county. For more information on the Cullman County 4-H Pet Show, call James Conway at (256) 737-9386.

In DeKalb County, Extension Agent Terry Shackelford conducted a clinic entitled "Caring for Dogs". The DeKalb County Extension Office and the Society sponsored the activity for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). Dr. Joe McNew was the Guest Speaker of the activity.



**Some of the participants of DeKalb County Dog Clinic**

The Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit of ACES continued the distribution of its instructional ring-binder entitled “Dogs As Companion Animals”. During 2003 another pamphlet was added to the current series of publications about dogs which are also available on our ACES website ([www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)) under Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs.

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

Results obtained from county agents show that a grand total of 67,684 contacts were made through this project. From this grand total, 99.4% of the contacts were made in Tuscaloosa and Cullman County combined.

As ACES completes its restructuring and county participation is determined, we shall be able to ascertain specific impacts from this project.

**D. Fiscal and Human Resources:**

According to the reported days worked, 4 ACES employees allocated a total of 119 days to this project in 2003. From this total, 42.0% was allocated by agents in Tuscaloosa and DeKalb County.

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

A brief description of this project is available on our ACES website ([www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu))



under Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs. Furthermore, the 2002 results of this project were presented at the 2003 National Urban Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The poster presentation was made on May 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The poster included four individual success stories submitted by Extension Agents from Tuscaloosa, Calhoun, Tallapoosa, and Cullman County.

Any changes to the project will be based on the restructuring of ACES and any feedback that we receive from the county agents that respond to our request for suggestions for improvement.

### **SMP 19 The Urban Youth Initiative**

*By Jannie Carter*

#### **A. Description:**

Extension outreach focuses on programs and services that contribute to the positive development of youth. While statistics profiling young people of the 21st century are not always positive, there is no disputing the fact that the youth perspective on family and community issues is a valuable piece of any planned resolution. Youth serving organizations and educators have sought ways to take youth input to the next level of active involvement. When we consider the concept of positive youth development perhaps the most valuable skills we can pass on to our youth are those that generate involvement as motivated and committed community leaders. Leadership builds self confidence and breeds productivity. Contributions made by competent youth and adult leaders can lead to strong progressive communities, which is the guiding principle behind Extension outreach.

Through the Urban Youth Initiative or State Major Program (SMP 19), Extension educators seek to build skills, provide motivation and create opportunities for youth to develop their full potential as contributing citizens. The Urban Youth Initiative focuses on building and engaging the service and prevention skills of young people to promote positive citizenship and community development. During the 2003 program year, a number of approaches were used to engage youth.

#### **B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:**

The Madison County Urban Youth Initiative has partnered with Huntsville City Schools to provide youth development workshops and seminars. Four thousand four hundred and fifteen (4,415) inner city students, grades 3-5, were involved in 107 workshops at 12 city schools. Curriculum resources such as "Tackling the Tough Skills," and "Teen Leadership Connection" were used to educate youth in life skills development including decision-making, communications, career planning and responsible behavior. Reports from teachers reflect higher test scores, improved attendance, and teacher satisfaction. Twenty-five (25) teachers have adopted the

youth development training as a part of their lesson plan.

An urban youth development program in Tuscaloosa County targets troubled youth in inner city schools using positive reinforcement to help 614 youth significantly improve their in-school behavior. Fifty-two (52) sessions were conducted during the school year to provide lessons on concepts of respect, responsibility, trustworthiness and fairness. Pre and post measures used to monitor student's behavior showed improvements based on teachers' assessments.

A program in life-skills development at the Tuscaloosa Alternative Learning Center for the city of Tuscaloosa involved youth who were specifically recommended by the principal and counselor as having the greatest need for conflict resolution and anger management programming. The Urban Extension Agent in Tuscaloosa County met with the students under the guidance of the school counselor. The program was considered a success when the students' behavior improved to the point where they could be removed from the alternative system and returned back to the normal school system. Forty lessons were conducted with 110 youth with a 70% success rate.

The Dothan Chamber of Commerce supported an Extension youth entrepreneurship program where participating youth were required to submit a business plan and were not allowed to request additional funds to keep their businesses in operation. Beekeeping, bread making, web page design, lawn care services, babysitting, photography and computer hardware repair were some of the businesses associated with the program. The majority of the youth involved were successful in keeping their businesses operating while earning a profit. The Houston County Urban Extension Agent reported, "One young entrepreneur has started a beekeeping business in which he is selling honey, soaps, lotions, candles, and lip balm from his own bee hives. He also has plans to lease his hives to gardeners for pollination. He has taken a portion of the profits to increase his honeybee colonies. Another young man has created a web page design business that has been so successful that he has had to decline offers due to the excessive workload. His profits have been so high that he now has a rented office to conduct his work. Most of his clients are commercial accounts in the Dothan area."

The Oakville Community (birth place of Jesse Owens) was the site for the 2nd Annual Youth Fishing Rodeo in Lawrence County. The family oriented event represents a win-win situation for educators and participants. The event represents an innovative collaborative effort between a Lawrence County teacher and Extension to get high school students more involved in community service and aquaculture. With attendance of more than 1500 per year, the Extension staff has coordinated educational outreach efforts such as gun safety, snake education and taxidermy.

Creative and innovative thinking lead to Summer Fun-shops being organized in Lawrence County during the 2003 school vacation period to deter miss-use of free and idle time among school aged youth. The programs ranged in length from one day to one week and were strategically located across the county. Some were done in collaboration with local Boys and Girls Clubs. The fun-shops provided new educational experiences and wholesome fun to what might have otherwise been unsupervised and/or boring time for the youth involved. Programs were offered in environmental science, farmer safety, canoeing, football, soccer, cooking, sewing, swimming and tumbling based on recommendations from the 4-H County Council.

Thirty one (31) teen leaders involved in the Prudential Youth Leadership Institute in Morgan County received training in goal-setting, team building, decision-making and other leadership skills. Participants culminated their learning experiences with organized community service projects and a graduation ceremony. A "Senior Prom" targeting senior citizens and a "Parents and Children Together (P.A.C.T.) Picnic" were 2003 community services projects for the graduating classes. The goal is to help prepare youth 7th – 12th grade for leadership roles in their communities and to promote youth volunteerism.

The National Tree Trust provided funding to support a "growing and nurturing" program partnership between the Coosa Valley Youth Services and Extension in Calhoun County. The program addresses the need for additional urban forestry resources and provided opportunities for meaningful involvement of youth in community outreach. The Urban Extension Agent in Calhoun County reported " in 2003, over 200 youth-at-risk residents of Coosa Valley Youth Services participated in the process of potting, growing, and maintaining 11,000 trees that were dispersed free of charge to communities willing to plant them in and around public buildings and parks, schools and right of ways. The youth involved in the program were exposed to life skills and a sense of responsibility, trade skills, and a sense of civic responsibility. As a result, forty-one communities planted over 5,000 trees attributing to environmental and aesthetical betterment of all of Alabama."

Extension educators in Conecuh County created the Teen Leaders of Conecuh County (TLCC). The Goal was to get teens more involved in community projects, help them to learn about county and city government, develop decision-making and team building skills and improve self-esteem. The group conducts service activities each month and at least one community project each year. During 2003, the TLCC provided downtown decorations for the city of Evergreen at Christmas and visited with a local nursing home for caroling. Other activities include food drives and community clean-up projects. Through the program, participants have acquired practical life skills, physical and emotional health and maturity, leadership and personal development skills, to become positive and contributing citizens within their home, community, state and world.

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

More than 21,500 face-to-face and 112,644 non-face-to-face contacts were reported under the SMP for the 2003 program year.

Through programs and projects under this SMP (19), more than 7240 youth in five of Alabama's central cities in metropolitan areas and one rural county received leadership and personal development experiences. Other youth were provided opportunities for related program involvement under related ETPs including ETP 19A (Forefronting Youth) and 19B (Tapping at Postsecondary Schools- Student Volunteerism).

While measuring the impact and results of programs related to attitudinal and behavioral change generally involves longitudinal assessments, pre and post measures and observations by Extension and school educators did show general improvements in youth participating in leadership and personal development programs in Houston, Madison Lawrence, Morgan, Calhoun and Conecuh Counties.

Four thousand, four hundred fifteen (4,415) youth participating in the Madison County Urban Youth Initiative showed improved attendance and higher test scores based on teachers' feedback reports and twenty-five (25) teachers adopted the program as a part of their lesson plan.

Activities in Conecuh and Calhoun counties resulted in improved aesthetics for one of the states central cities and a small rural downtown area. The tree growing and nurturing programs in Calhoun County resulted in 5,000 trees being planted promoting environmental and human benefits associated with trees.

Leadership development activities in Morgan County improved the leadership skills of 31 participating youth and Tuscaloosa County programs with special needs students and alternative schools helped to improve behaviors of participating youth as measured by students' return to the normal school system.

### D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Twenty (20) Extension agents and specialists were signed up for this SMP. Reports were received from 7 County Extension Agents. Participants were signed up for 657 days, 486 days were reported.

The National Tree Trust provided 11,000 trees that were dispersed free of charge to communities willing to plant them in support of the Calhoun County "Growing and Nurturing Program." The Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Houston County received funding support from the Dothan Chamber of Commerce.

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

Non-project specific programming under the Urban Youth Initiative (SMP 19) will remain as an option for urban and rural Extension educators through the 2004 program year. Agents involved in this SMP should have outlined goals, objectives, implementation activities, evaluations and reporting information, particularly for those involving 10 or more sign up days.

### **SMP 21. Futuring, Technological Advancements and the Digital Divide**

*By Jannie Carter*

#### A. Description:

Extension's mission encompasses helping citizens who are at risk of exclusion due to the lack of information access, computer training and Internet awareness. Urban and nontraditional programs aimed at enhancing information access and retrieval offer resources and referrals for public access, technological delivery and a resource laboratory for state of the art best practices in communications.

In keeping with the vision of E-Extension to remove barriers to information access for many, resources such as Metro News, the WECAN4U job assistance network, the Programacion en Espanol web-site and the Urban Resource Center Inventory Catalog provide electronic links to Extension's research based information. These resources facilitate the delivery of urban and nontraditional programs to the larger community and help to address objectives aimed at identifying best practices in program design and delivery.

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

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

A state of the art communications laboratory housed at AAMU supports the Urban Affairs unit's efforts to deliver quality programs and resources across the state, nation and the world. The laboratory staff support, technicians and unit specialists help make available to the public on-going programs and activities such as:

- A Hispanic website ([www.aces.edu/urban](http://www.aces.edu/urban))
- Live satellite trainings
- Interactive video conferences
- Interactive in-service trainings
- An on-line resource directory
- Web-based publications

- A workforce education career assistance network (WECAN4-U)
- LifeSmarts (on-line consumer education programs partnership with the National Consumer League)
- Metro News

Hispanics are the fastest growing minority group in the US. Census data now puts the percentage of Hispanics in the country at about 12%. Extension educators in the Urban Affairs unit have continued to maintain and upgrade the unit's Spanish-only website. The Programacion en Espanol site has had over 114,000 visits, and represents one of the System's most frequently visited links. The user friendly site services youth and adults offering a wide variety of research-based information to the state's growing Hispanic population. The site currently links to more than 1, 200 research based Spanish publications from a variety of professional and educational sources including links to consulates and embassies for Spanish speaking countries in Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Extension educators presented a workshop on the web-site at the National Urban Extension Conference held in Chicago, IL in May of 2003. This conference is one of the largest gatherings of Extension and urban professionals in the country.

Metro News, an on-line quarterly newsletter written in English and Spanish, is in its second year as a publication. The bilingual newsletter can be accessed by the 3000 plus reviewers directly from the System's website at [www.aces.edu/urban.metronews](http://www.aces.edu/urban.metronews). Metro News is available in html or as a PDF file. There is an online subscriber list, and the hardcopy version is distributed to many Extension administrators and other constituents.

The Urban Resource Center Inventory Catalog is available through the System's webpage. It was designed to provide easily accessible on-line resources to educators for implementing programs to targeted urban audiences. Through technological delivery, the resource facilitates communication and collaborations among Extension professionals.

The System's WECAN4U website has had over 5700 accesses. Designed through a multi-state agreement between Alabama and West Virginia, the site provides 24-hour access to employment information and personal money management strategies. Citizens have saved thousands of dollars in travel expenses alone through this on-line, one-stop job shop tool. The WECAN4U website received national recognition at the Association of Extension Administrators meeting held in Atlanta, GA in June of 2003. Web-site partners for the program that developed as a multi-state agreement with West Virginia State College received AEA's 2003 "Innovative National Program Award."

More information about technology based programs such as LifeSmarts and

WECAN4U can be found under specific Extension Team project reports, ETP 30A and 33A.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

Seven specialists and agents signed up for 64 days under this State Major Program (SMP). At years end, 39 days were reported. No input was received for this report from county agents.

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

As sources of funding for Extension programs diminish, shift to more directed spending and evolve from grants and other sponsorships, we must pursue program delivery modes that correspond with clientele needs, state of the art technology and available resources. With Extension's focus on the use of technology and the whole E-Extension "movement", it is only logical that we engage program methodologies that are in-keeping with Extension's new directions. SMP 21, Futuring, Technological Advancements and the Digital Divide will remain a focus of the Urban unit for 2004. The unit is currently designing a new website to support 21st century needs of children, youth and families.

### **SMP 30 Urban Family Network**

*By Jannie Carter*

#### A. Description

Statistics present a complex definition of Alabama's families for the 21st century. Unlike the traditional concept of two parents and 2.5 children, today's family exists in a variety of forms. In fact, nontraditional families are currently more the norm. Across the nation, some 30-60% of youth in urban school districts live with caregivers that are not their biological parents. In Alabama, single parents head 29% of families with children. And, new forms of nontraditional families continue to evolve as social service agencies and kinship groups seek to ensure supportive and nurturing environments for parents and "displaced" children. Single-parent families are perhaps the most recognized form of the nontraditional family. But, nontraditional families may be single parents, foster parents, multiracial, grandparents raising grandchildren, and same-sex parents. Blended families created through divorce and remarriage are also on the rise.

The Urban Family Network (SMP 30) offers a comprehensive program and an annual Family Conference to advance families economically, socially and physically

in the 21st century. Establishing partnerships, networks and support groups to strengthen the resiliency of families in urban communities are primary objectives under this State Major Program (SMP).

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

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

Nearly two million non-face-to-face contacts were reported under SMP 30. Seven thousand five hundred and seventy three (7,573) face to face contacts were reported using the System's on-line reporting process.

Habitat for Humanity partnered with Urban Extension Agents in Anniston Alabama to provide educational training for Habitat clients. Habitat for Humanity has built thousands of homes for limited resource families and during the Jimmy Carter Work Project that was started in June of 2003, thirty six (36) houses were constructed in the Anniston area. Prior to moving into their new homes, recipients were required to attend and complete home management focused classes provided through Extension. This Extension training was a part of other Habitat for Humanities eligibility requirements for home recipients. The 36 families were provided training on financial management, meal planning and comparison-shopping. There was a 100% successful completion rate for families involved.

Youth in Mobile County were prepared for a full year of growth and development with a "Jump Start" program that was implemented in Mobile County at a local community center. The youth were led in sessions on improving reading and study skills, staying physically fit, healthy relationships, respecting authority, and staying drug free. One hundred and fifty two (152) students and twenty-three (23) parents and adult leaders attended the event. The event was designed to give students and parents tips on going back to school with a positive attitude about their studies, themselves and their health. One leader as "a good way to begin the school year helping students to be responsible and aware of ways to take care of themselves physically and emotionally" evaluated the program. A significant outcome of the program for youth and community leaders was enhanced awareness of the need for daily physical activity. As a result of the program, a weekly exercise class was developed and is ongoing at the center to encourage continued focus on physical health within the community.

Statistics indicate longer lives for the senior population of Alabama. With these extended years comes health, legal and financial security concerns for seniors. To address these growing concerns, the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit has established a partnership with the Alabama Bureau of Geriatric Psychiatry to provide outreach opportunities to underserved and hard to reach



seniors. The initiative supports a mutually beneficial agenda to better serve the aging population with legal, health and financial information through collaboration.

In Jefferson County, Urban Extension Agents organized a Successful Aging Summit to educate local senior citizens, caregivers, clergy and professionals on dementia, legal, health and financial issues of aging. The summit was held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens with over 350 participants. Another 17,000 received non-face-to-face training through radio programs. Major partners included the Alabama Bureau of Geriatric Psychiatry, Alabama Department of Senior Services, ACES Urban Center, and the Successful Aging Initiative Program Leader. Contributions included \$5,000 in monetary donations from local sponsors, and over \$10,000 of in-kind services from professional speakers, partners and supporters. Immediate impacts are relevant in dollars saved based on provided services and referrals. Donations of home safety kits (by the Jefferson County Fire Department) for improved health and safety of seniors is estimated at \$8,000.

Dr. Powell, Director of the Alabama Bureau of Geriatric Psychiatry, served as the keynote speaker for both the Jefferson County Successful Aging Summit and the summit that was held in Madison County in partnership with the faith based community, and the TARCOG-Area on Aging. More than 300 seniors were in attendance at the event held at Union Chapel Church in Huntsville. The summits have all had a similar program agenda with training sessions, informational exhibits and health screenings. On-site screenings and referrals by local health care agencies were valued at an estimated \$29,000. Approximately 25% of the attendees not having wills have indicated that they intend to get one.

One collaborating (financial management) agency with the Madison County Successful Aging Summit shared the following success story.

“Thank you so much for allowing me to be part of the Successful Aging Initiative. I enjoyed the morning speaker and met so many nice people. I heard many of the seniors attending say that this was the best thing they had been to. Last week I did meet with a widow who has two mortgages on her house and credit card debt. She is so excited because she will be able to eliminate her mortgage payments and have \$700 more in her checking account each month. She was at the point of not knowing what to do. We found out that the financial company holding her 2nd mortgage was charging her 29% interest! So, it was wonderful to know she has the opportunity to save her home and get her finances straightened out. I thought you might be interested.”

Partnering with the Jackson County Council on Aging and TARCOG-Area Agency on Aging, the Jackson County Extension Office also conducted a Senior Expo under the Successful Aging Initiative. Ninety seniors from across the county participated in the program. Speakers' topics ranged from dementia to elder law. Booths were also

provided containing educational materials. And, free health screenings were provided by health related agencies.

Long term impacts will be more apparent in follow-up data designed to assess variables such as the number of participants who followed through with developing wills, the number of clients who changed their eating behavior for healthier choices, the number who engage in a daily exercise routine, etc. based on observations of study groups and follow-up surveys.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources

The Successful Aging Initiative has continued to grow as a viable program in urban communities. The program coordinator (and legal consultant for the initiative) continues to build contacts with targeted senior citizens across the state. Expectations are to maintain the partnerships, particularly the one established with the State Bureau of Geriatrics to ensure the inclusion of a health and dementia component for seniors.

#### E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans

Fourteen specialists and agents were signed up for this SMP at the initial sign up period for a total of 338 hours. Two hundred and seventy three days were reported at years end with four agents providing input to this report. The Successful Aging Initiative received donations and in-kind contributions estimated at \$25,000 for Huntsville and Mobile senior summits/expos.

### **SMP 31. Urban-Rural Interface State**

*By Jannie Carter*

#### A. Description:

Metropolitan areas are characterized by high economic growth and development. Whether we label the growth as urban sprawl, urban interdependence, or the urban/rural interface, the fact remains that there is an outward movement into areas that were once identified as rural farmland. This movement brings about change and challenges that citizens must deal with in order to manage issues at the crossroads. Interface is defined as that common boundary between regions where diverse groups interact. Over the past decade, increased emphasis has been placed on decreasing farmland, air quality, water contamination, alternative animal and crop production, growing dependence on foreign trade, and community diversity.

Through urban-rural interface programming, Extension acknowledges the changing face of Alabama and recognizes the value of diverse programming to meet the needs of a socially, economically, and culturally diverse society. Interface programs such as the Urban-Rural Interface Conference provide links to agriculture, environmental sciences, family programs and community issues that engage all of Alabama's citizens in meaningful exchanges and learning partnerships.

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

The Urban-Rural Interface Conference takes an integrated approach to helping Alabama citizens define and address family, community and agricultural issues that impact those who live on the fringe or borders where urban and rural development merge. The Rural Revitalization Conference that had been implemented for several years at Alabama A&M as an Extension Conference was reframed in 1997 and re-named as the Urban/Rural Interface Conference in-keeping with the Extension mandate to expand Extension outreach to urban, new and nontraditional audiences. The Conference is offered each spring in collaboration with the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' Agricultural and Family Sciences Week. The purpose of the conference is to: 1) convene agencies, organizations and individuals that are addressing the needs of urban/rural communities; 2) establish common understandings of issues and needs in these communities and identify opportunities and resources that are available to address them; 3) develop understandings of reciprocal strengths and potential contributions of Conference participants, and 4) provide training models, information and educational resources that will prepare participants to build partnerships and plan successful programs to enhance their communities. Conference themes reflect the variety of issues that have been the focus of the conference over the past six years such as wildlife management, community gardening, pesticide management, biotechnology and genetically modified foods, water quality, land use and urban expansion.

The 2003 Urban/Rural Interface Conference (URI) was held on April 24 on the campus of Alabama A&M University. The Conference featured keynote speaker Michael Mullen, director of the Center for Environmental Research and Service at Troy State University. Dr. Mullen spoke on the theme "Research and Education Respond to Current Community Issues." Other speakers provided practical information on community gardening, the safety and risks of genetically modified foods (GMOs), and water and air quality. Presenters included County Extension Agents, the director for the Harvest Program with the Madison County Commission, director of CASA Community Gardens, and the deputy director for the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management in Huntsville. There were over 100 students, faculty, Extension educators, and community leaders in attendance. The impact of the conference has been assessed primarily at the awareness level where attendees have been asked to complete evaluation surveys. Participants have consistently indicated that the conference has helped them to better

understand urban/rural issues and has provided them with resources to help them take appropriate action.

The changing profile of Alabama's population is an important interface issue that has been recognized by many Urban Center offices. Since 1990, the Hispanic population in Alabama has grown tremendously with an estimated 95% of the Hispanics in the state dwelling in urban areas. To address the needs of Alabama's growing Hispanic population, Extension educators in Baldwin County (a part of the Mobile metropolitan area) worked collaboratively with La Clinica de Baldwin (a public health clinic for Hispanics) to design and publish a guide (in English and Spanish). The guide includes information about schools, health care, legal aid, how to obtain identification documents, literacy programs hurricane preparedness and more.

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

Discussed in B above.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Fifteen agents and specialists were signed up for 193 days of work under this SMP. Two hundred (200) days were reported at years end. One agent provided input for this report.

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

As the Alabama Cooperative Extension System moves into a new program cycle in the coming 5 years, we will continue to work to frame the Urban/Rural Interface Conference. The continuous merging of urban and rural communities is a reality and the audience created by this merging creates a new clientele with new issues that must be addressed.

The concept of programming to address urban/rural interface issues merits continuous consideration.

This conference has excellent potential as a regional and even a national event. The goal is to continue to expand conference partnerships to create advocates that can support program delivery, expansion and ultimately community impact.

### **SMP 33. Workforce and Economic Development**

*By Jannie Carter*

#### A. Description:

With Alabama's unemployment statistics fluctuating just under the national jobless rate of 6%, youth and adult populations are seeking workforce preparation guidance. In an attempt to move ahead, many Alabamians are polishing up their resumes, retooling, and gearing up for new careers. But preparing for a rewarding and productive career in the twenty first century workplace can be challenging as job trends continue to change. Employment as we know it with a full-time job, healthy benefits and a nice retirement package, is becoming more uncommon. On average, fewer jobs are full time or permanent. Roughly 3 out of 4 jobs are temporary. Statistics indicate that most people will change jobs at least twice in their lifetime. Many will become self employed to ensure greater job satisfaction and security. Whatever the employment status, employees are ultimately seeking the best candidate for the position. Most desirable skills include communication, critical thinking, technical, leadership and team building skills.

Extension's Urban unit Workforce and Economic Development programs: 1) explore entrepreneurship opportunities, 2) encourage partnerships, and 3) offer web-based resources, interactive curricula, and assessments, to help develop a skilled and ethical labor force that meets employer demands in a changing work environment.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

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

A Franchise Entrepreneurship Workshop was conducted in June of 2003 in Houston County, designed to encourage minorities to pursue business. The program was supported by a \$25,000 grant sponsorship from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. Two hundred (200) African Americans attended the training. Additionally, a follow-up or "Next Level" class was also conducted to educate participants on how to start their own business. A \$5,000 sponsorship grant from Troy State Business Center supported this training which was a collaboration between the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Troy State Business Center, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Twenty five participants completed this training. The Urban Extension Agent conducting the training reported the following results from this community development effort:

- Ten percent of the participants have started their own business
- Five attendees will be opening up their franchise business in the spring of 2004
- One attendee has a business contract with Wal-Mart Super Center nation-wide to promote his greeting cards
- One attendee is establishing his own telephone service

A series of leadership workshops was conducted in the Mobile metropolitan area

with a number of job search, job placement, volunteer and personnel board agencies and organizations to help them address various licensing, professional and workforce development or client service concerns. Programs are provided primarily in responses to request from participating agencies including organizations such as the Mobile Personnel Board, Volunteer Mobile and Mobile Works. During 2003, A total of seven (7) agencies and organizations participated in 27 training sessions on topics such as team management, diversity, stress management, dealing with difficult people, conflict management, organizational assessment, toxic relationships and others. Approximately 278 citizens benefited from the training designed to improve job search skills, improve success on the job, enhance leadership skills, increase knowledge of team building skills and increase involvement in leadership roles. Follow-up reports from collaborating agencies indicate a success rate of about 75% of the clients being placed on jobs and/or in leadership roles.

Extension educators in Lowndes County have been actively involved in community development efforts to promote industry and small farm production of alternative farm products including fish and goats. The County coordinator's participation on the local county industrial board has helped to bring two Hyundai Plants, two general stores and a mini business plaza into the county creating jobs and a stronger tax base for Lowndes County. These are examples of the results to be gained through community capacity building and partnerships. Meat goat production meetings were conducted in Lowndes County as an awareness effort to encourage small land owners to grow goats. Additional funding is being sought to support more detailed demonstration projects in this area.

The County Coordinator reported "Lowndes County Extension office assisted five pond owners in building tilapia cages. The owners were also assisted in purchasing fingerlings and designing a feeding program for the growers. There is also one commercial tilapia grower in Lowndes County. The commercial grower markets his fish for \$1.50 a pound and the small growers market their fish on the pond for \$2.00 a pound. This commodity impacts Lowndes County in the form of added income for small pond owners and the commercial grower."

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

Fourteen agents and specialists committed 279 days to this project at initial sign-up. Two hundred five (205) days were reported at years end. Three (3) agents provided input to this report.

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

As changes in our economy continues to create employment concerns among youth and adults, at all professional and skill levels, workforce development will continue as a program focus for the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit. The

services offered under this SMP are in response to the growing need for work force preparation information and resources. More specific input on Extension outreach in this area can be found under ETP 33A, Workforce and Economic Development. Educators in the System have identified and begun implementing a number of publications, curriculum resources and interactive programs. The impact of these efforts can be more effectively measured after the next year or two of observations and follow-up. Continued focus on marketing workforce preparation as an Extension programming effort for enhanced visibility is needed.

### **ETP 19A**

*By Edna T. Coleman*

#### **A. Description:**

As reported by the office of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services-Administration for Children and Families division, crime, violence, poverty, and neighborhood disintegration often are cited as the top concerns of Americans today. As a result, there is a growing sense of desperation about our ability to address key problems and rebuild America's communities.

Additionally, recent statistics reflected in the 2003 Alabama Kids Count Data Book indicate a grim 6.8% retention rate for first grade students. A startling dropout rate for 9th-12th grade was reported at 3.7% and Madison County's actual rate was 3.4%. In an effort to address the serious issues adversely affecting today's youth, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System continues to be a viable conduit for providing educational programs and resources to improve the quality of life for urban and rural families.

Under the auspices of 4-H Youth Development, urban communities were targeted through various innovative programs in the areas of youth leadership and mentor training. These programs were designed to reconnect youth to the larger community by engaging them in creative community service projects and activities while building life skills and promoting positive and healthy development. Program managers continue to work untireless to provide the challenges, experiences, support, and help youth need to develop their fullest potential.

#### **B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:**

Ms. Kimberly Anderson from the J. W. FANNING INSTITUTE for Leadership, University of Georgia, conducted FY 2003 in-service training for youth serving

agents across the State. Serving as a central university-based source of knowledge and information about leadership, the Fanning Institute services include: 1) identification of leadership trends and issues; 2) development of customized leadership programs; 3) creation and dissemination of leadership curricula and information; 4) teaching and training of leadership resources; and 5) evaluation in the effectiveness of leadership programs. The training provided information that would aid program managers in designing youth leadership programs. The Prudential Youth Leadership Training model was also used in the State of Alabama to conduct leadership programs and community service activities.

The Fame Mentor Project was used to provide training for the development of mentor groups for the Madison County District Six-Community Service Division, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System-Service Learning Network (SLN) Students Promoting Action: Community Education (SPACE) program. The mentor project continues to serve as a catalyst and guide for the development of responsible mentoring programs. Mentor training has proven to be very effective in a wide range of mentoring settings. Responsible mentoring programs are defined as those which meet the needs of both the mentored participants and the volunteer mentors according to the National Mentoring Group convened by United Way of America and One to One.

Numerous community and state agencies, private organizations, and collaborative partners were engaged across the state to maximize the effectiveness of Extension's programming efforts and to ensure that in every community "no young person is left behind."

#### C. Results, Impact and Benefits To Direct clientele and to the Public:

As a result of intense youth leadership development training, several agents/programs managers serving youth audiences were able to involve hundreds of youth in statewide activities. Organized under various leadership models throughout the state, county agents were successful in leading youth to make invaluable contributions to their respective neighborhoods through community service projects. The Colbert County 4-H/Teen Leadership connections members assisted the Shoals Diversity Council in a citywide clean-up campaign in observance of World Environment Day. The Shoals Diversity Council is a group of leaders representing many of the ethnic groups who make up the Shoal's area population. The 4-H Teen Leadership Connection group also received outstanding recognition at the Annual Youth Leadership Conference at Alabama A&M University for their service project, "Relay for Life: Shoals Cancer Society." This group supported this event through their preparation of luminaries and an organized youth fundraiser. The teens assisted with raising \$2,532.00 in donation for the Relay for Life: Shoal Cancer Society. Proceeds were directed to help cancer victims through research. Additional programs conducted under the Teen Leadership model included:



- A County-Wide Teen Weekend at the Mobile Civic Center in conjunction with the Mayor's Youth Leadership Team and the Urban 4-H Teen Leaders.
- The White Ribbon Campaign Youth Advisory Committee sponsored a Community Teen Pregnancy Prevention Workshop in the Jefferson County area engaging thousands of youth.
- The Calhoun County Leadership Group partnered with local youth serving agencies to sponsor the "All for the Children" program. The program was designed to educate inner city youth on the dangers of drug use; and to promote positive community involvement through youth leadership projects.

Leading the way under the guidance of the Prudential Youth Leadership Institute (PYLI) program model, the Morgan County youth agents lead a winter and summer session of the PYLI's community service activities. A diverse group of youth from across the City of Decatur and Morgan County were involved in developing a community service project highlighting issues of concern to local youth. The winter session group conducted their project around the issue of intergenerational communication. "Spring is in the Air...A Prom for Senior Citizens" was held in April at the Riverside Senior Living Center in Decatur. The summer session group focused on the issue of child abuse and neglect. Upon consulting with a local agency, Parents and Children Together (PACT), the group decided to reinvigorate a previously sponsored community program that had been abandoned due to financial constraints. Working with the caseworkers, "PACT Family Picnic" centered on the Hispanic community and their families. This collaborative project of PYLI and PACT was sponsored in celebration of the United Way Day of Caring.

Impact data from pre and post evaluations strongly indicate that participants' involvement in leadership programs enhances academic achievement, improves social development skills including critical thinking, decision making, goal setting, listening, moral reasoning, problem-solving, reading/comprehension, speaking, value clarification, and etiquette. The leadership training modules are prevention-based, experiential, interactive, and community oriented. Participants learn the value of cooperation and teamwork through a variety of educational and entertaining activities that reflect today's youth culture.

The county youth development and leadership program activities culminated in a statewide Youth Leadership Conference held on the campus of Alabama A&M University. The conference was sponsored with shared partnerships including the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce and the Office of Madison County District Six. Approximately three hundred fifty (350) participants and volunteers were in attendance at this event. The conference 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 service projects that were researched, planned, and implemented by youth-lead teams.

Through the Mentoring project, Fostering Achievement Through Mentoring Education (FAME), Student Volunteers participating in SPACE, Students Promoting Action/Community Education received intensive mentoring training that was used at various community service sites. During FY 2003, SPACE partnered with the Alabama A&M Service Learning Network in an effort to unify the volunteer work of various academic entities at AAMU. As a result of this unified effort, more than five hundred thirty-eight (538) student volunteers (field experience, class requirement community-based work, and independent community service providers) attended a combined program orientation with mentor training and tutorial observation. The SSLN/SPACE program volunteers partnered with twenty give (25) agencies generating eight thousand (8,070) community service hours, reaching a total of thirty-two thousand, two hundred and eighty (32,280) citizens in Madison County. Impact data reveal that more than forty percent (40%) of the students receiving tutorial assistance under the SLN/SPACE volunteer/mentor program showed a significant improvement in learning by demonstrating better listening skills; changing behavioral patterns; improving reading comprehension/skills, and improving overall grade point averages by thirty percent (30%)-forty five percent (45%). Because of the enthusiasm of the mentors, participants' self-esteem was significantly improved, which resulted in better attitudes toward learning.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Fifteen (15) Extension agents and specialists were enrolled in this ETP accumulating a total of 25,580 contacts and expending 578 reported workdays. 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 county activities and the Youth Leadership conference totaled approximately \$12,000 which was partially used to defray the cost of the two-day event and to subsidize University housing expenses.

#### E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans

The urban youth development leadership program area will be expanded in 2004 to be included as an educational tract for the Annual 4-H State Congress. Plans have already begun through the development of a 4-H Showcase and Leadership Community Service Guide. The first combined statewide event is scheduled for July 12-14, 2004 and to be hosted on the campus of Alabama A&M University. It is anticipated that participation and enrollment should increase due to program unification and expansion.

Additionally, 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 2003 and forwarded to respective county agent's county commissioners.

## **ETP 30A**

*By Marilyn S. Johnson*

### 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 \$75,000 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 to the work of county agents with their domestic violence prevention councils.

Progressively, more grandparents and other relatives are being required to act as parents. The phenomenon of grandparents and other relatives raising children is nothing new. However, the number of children being raised by grandparents and other relatives has increased dramatically over the past 25 years.

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 data further illustrates 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.

Today more than 80% of the United States population lives in large metropolitan areas. The greatest socioeconomic challenges facing our nation will be in these growing metropolitan areas. This challenge is not going unnoticed the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit continues to make a difference in consumer education and family resource management in the metropolitan areas.

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, (Barbara O'Neill, 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 the 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 )

Further research by the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy showed many young American adults have displayed difficulty understanding basic financial ideas. These findings from a survey of high school senior conducted by JumpStart concluded high school students leave school lacking the basic financial knowledge to become successful adults money managers.

“Congress finds that although the evolution of our financial system has offered families in the United States many new opportunities to build wealth and security, the ready availability of credit, an overwhelming array of investment and savings options, and the shifting of responsibility for retirement savings from employer to employee has made the understanding of personal finance ever more important.”

Building upon research in personal finance, the 108TH Congress of the United States (2003) has drafted a bill to establish the Financial Literacy Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to serve to improve the financial literacy of persons in the United States by overseeing, implementing and reporting upon the effects of the performance of the duties of the Commission set forth in Section 102.

Financial literacy in this bill means basic personal income and household money management and planning skills, including:

Saving and investing

Building wealth

Managing spending credit, and debt effectively

Tax and estate planning

The ability to ascertain fair and favorable credit terms and avoid abusive, predatory, or deceptive credit offers

The ability to understand, evaluate and compare financial products, services and opportunities and

All other related skills

The Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit's programmatic thrusts are in synchronization with the Federal initiatives relating to personal finance. Through our programs, we are striving to teach urban audiences the basic financial skills they will need to become better managers of their money, and have them display the knowledge gained by practicing basic financial skills.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

A collaborative arrangement begun in 2002 has continued in 2003 with Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and Alabama A&M University, along with Calhoun Community College an additional partner. Three elementary schools in North Alabama- Johnson in Limestone County, West Mastin Lake in Huntsville, and Summerville Road in Decatur-agreed to allow all of their 5th grade students to participate in a tree education program through Calhoun Community College, the subcontractor. The theme of the multi-county program, "Trees Are Our Friends," involved the installation of a mini-arboretum, tree education classes for four weeks and an Arbor Day celebration at each school. Each school devoted an exit class to the link between trees, their arboretum and the value of trees to character, values and performance in all aspects of life. A ribbon cutting for the arboretum took place as part of the celebration. The overall purpose of this activity was to focus the youth attention on various tree-plant-people interactions that might have a positive impact on their school performance, behavior and identity formation. This activity is supported by research from the Human-Environment Research Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Madison African-American Group (MAAG) celebrated their first annual Arbor Day celebration on October 4, 2003 with over 125 residents, city officials, and other invited guests in attendance at Stewart Street Park in Madison, Alabama. This community resource development (CRD) event was the culmination of over 500 man-hours of volunteer work from community volunteers and MAAG advisory board members committed to the revitalization of the historic Pension Row neighborhood in Madison. Prior to association with Extension, MAAG did not know about the resources available through the national arbor foundation, including the value of having a neighborhood arbor celebration as a means of promoting community pride and team spirit. Extension assumed a key role in all aspects of strategic planning, program design, idea development and project implementation.

Domestic violence prevention training was delivered to all the cosmetology classes at the Huntsville Center for Technology. Over 95 students seeking a cosmetology career learned the importance of their participation in the campaign to end domestic violence in Alabama. Information was provided through a custom-designed Extension video, with related training materials. Additionally, 25 members of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority chapter in Tuskegee, AL participated in a domestic violence prevention training.

A collaborative agreement was developed with the Heritage Studies Program at Arkansas State University to provide a doctoral student to develop a media community resource development project with Madison African American Alliance Group (MAAG) on behalf of the Pension Row community. A media kit,

grant possibilities, and a heritage improvement plan was provided to the organization at the end of the student's independent study course. Urban Extension took responsibility for the development and oversight of this initiative.

#### Five Years of Excellent Programming...Annual Urban Family Conference

1999 – The State of Urban Families in the New Millennium

Keynote Speaker: Ms. Naomi Haines Griffith on “Strengthening Families in the New Millennium”

2000 – Making Family Connections

Keynote Speaker: Ms. P. K. Beville on “making Family Connections Through Senior Lifestyles”

2001 – Unlocking & Sharing Resources for Urban Families

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Romando James on “Your Roots Control your Fruits”

2002 – Strengthening Family Relations: Models for Change

Keynote Speaker: Dr. H. Wallace Goddard on “We, the Family...”

2003 – Strengthening Family-Centered Communities

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lonnie Edwards, Sr. on “Reaching Beyond Boundaries”

#### Impressive Anniversary Conference and Family Expo

According to Dr. Virginia Caples, Provost, Academic Vice President & 1890 Administrator, Alabama A&M University the 5th Annual Family Conference “denotes five years of dialogue sharing on how to better serve nontraditional families through Extension programming with the help of local, state, and national partnerships.” The action to carry out our commitment to enhance client delivery services through professional development training is further crystallized with the following comments from the Provost:

We have designed a comprehensive program format for your education ...complete with ...a family expo as well as pre-post conference events. It (conference) represents our commitment to build upon previous accomplishments...and to seek new programmatic initiatives in a service delivery climate with limited resources. For Extension, it is essential to demonstrate a keen understanding of the challenges in the lives of families and individuals, and to provide them with the tools or resources they need to bring about self-empowerment and change.

The annual urban family conference is an Extension medium to address issues



affecting families, children, and individuals residing in Alabama. The family conference combines the voices of communities and professionals in a number of fields with an interest in families and children.

The major activity to accomplish the overall goal of the family conference was the selection of three dynamic speakers. These speakers provided a holistic framework for the conceptualization of how family-centered communities can strengthen family development.

Dr. Lonnie Edwards, Sr. keynote speaker, presented on the topic, "Reaching Beyond Boundaries," based on his extensive experience as an educator, at-risk youth foundation organizer, workshop presenter and national motivation speaker. His book, *A Teacher's Touch: Reaching Beyond Boundaries*, is well read within the southeast region. Currently, he continues his work with youth as the assistant superintendent for the DeKlab County School System.

Mr. Resmaa Menakem, director of holistic programs for the Tubman Family Alliance in Minneapolis, MN, highlighted his life work with families and individuals facing complex and difficult life circumstances, including youth, the elderly and both male and female victims of domestic violence. He spoke on the topic, "Holistic Programming: An Ethical Approach to Family Development."

Dr. Galo Torres, southeast regional migrant health and dental consultant with the Human Resources & Services Administration in Atlanta, spoke on the topic, "Accessing Dental Health for Resource Limited Audiences."

Dr. Virginia Caples, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, delivered an address entitled, "New Directions for Family-Centered Communities."

### 2003 Family Conference Expo

The goal of the Expo, a new concept encompassing more than simply "exhibits," is to expand registrants' participation ...with resources, ideas, and hands-on-experiences that participants can take back to their respective communities. This portion of the Conference has grown over the years, and for the fifth anniversary year, there were over 43 family development agency representatives and community-wide exhibitors. This was a 14% increase in participation from 2002.

### Pre-Post Conference Events

Dr. David Malebranche, internist and clinical instructor of medicine, Emory

University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA and a recognized expert on HIV/AIDS in the African-American community delivered a pre-conference lecture on "HIV/AIDS & Women."

"Dementia & Successful Aging" was led at a post-conference lecture by Prof. Joanne McLinn, School of Social Work, Alabama A&M University.

### Anniversary Celebration and Highlights

Pre-conference nontraditional entertainment by "The Whistling Baritone," Mr. Dan Gilliland; a book signing by Dr. Edwards; and exhibition with commentary of one of the famous Gee's Bend quilts, The Nine Patch Quilt, with Mrs. Mary Lee Bendolph.

Using the play, "A Matter of Choice: Ethics in the Workplace," the Bank Street Players of Decatur, AL fulfilled the motto of Plays for Living, Inc. of "opening minds to new solutions" through the dramatization of ethical issues associated with change in the workplace and individual integrity.

Reports from the following counties highlight end-of-year performance by county agents working under ETP 30A:

Jefferson County – County Agent Cynthia Whittaker offered continuing education units (CEUs) to licensed social workers attending the Successful Aging Summit 2003 in November through arrangements with ETP 30A..

Mobile County – Elizabeth Phillips, county agent, reported the following:

stress and time management programming was presented to families entering the Family Village, a homeless shelter program for women and their children. Referrals to the shelter come from the Department of Human Resources, Penelope House, Home of Grace, the Salvation Army and other agencies. The women entering the shelter find themselves homeless for a variety of reasons. Some may have left violent home situations. Others may be recovering drug or alcohol addicts. Many of the women have multiple issues rather than just one challenge to overcome. Stress and Time Management workshops are presented. Delivery of content includes a brief presentation, activities, and exercises. The two year program at the Family Village is designed to improve women's life skills and to develop independence. Some of the women are counseled to begin a training program, or a college degree or diploma program. Others may enter the workplace immediately to begin the process of establishing a job record, credit, learning to manage a household, and parenting effectively.

Planned and implemented programs with the Civitan Club of Mobile and 26 member agencies of the Alliance Against Abuse. Planning and implementing began in January as the President-Elect for the annual abuse conference. Coordinated with a five-member conference planning committee with members from MARC, the Civitan Club, and the University of South Alabama Knollwood Hospital. Developed educational program content and theme: Preventing Abuse. Led the chair of the of the committee to contact speakers, panelists and solicited biographical material for CEU conference credits. Enhanced and enlarged database of Mobile and Baldwin County professionals for mass mailing of program registration material. Advised committee on the receipt and monitoring of incoming registration and forwarded registration material to volunteer at USA Knollwood Hospital for CEU credit preparation. Advised chairperson on agency vendors to staff educational and informational booths at the conference.

Candlelight Vigil-Memorial Park, April 7, 2003: Planned, implemented, publicized and evaluated a full program for the Alliance Against Abuse. Coordinated committee volunteers and handled site logistics. Media coverage included newspaper and a television station. Attendants included several dozen Boys and Girls Club children, agency representatives and community representatives.

Planned and participated in all other Alliance Against Abuse activities including: A finale at the Hank Aaron Stadium, poster contest, celebration breakfast, and tree planting.

Domestic Violence Conference-President, of the Mobile Domestic Violence Task Force. Planning and the implementation of the conference plan spanned the Fall 02, 2002, and Winter, Spring and Summer of 2003-for the August, 2003 event. The event was scheduled for August 21, 2003 at the Mobile Convention Center and sponsored by the Mobile Domestic Violence Task Force (50+organizations with over 100 individual members from an agency coalition of law enforcement representatives, judicial and political professionals, human and health services practitioners and domestic violence clinical interventionists).

Planning and the implementation of the plan for an August 2003 Gulf Coast Regional Conference began in the Fall of 2002 with the Task Force Conference Planning Committee. The target audience was to include professionals who work with domestic violence cases in law enforcement, health care, education, women & family shelters, the legal field, in counseling and social work, and other areas. Planning and implementing included site arrangement meetings, selecting educational content and theme, speaker research, speaker and panelist contact, scheduling and confirmation, brochure development, budgeting, CEU delegation, mass mailing and distribution of conference materials and many other functions. The 2003 event was bolstered by some \$13,000 in grant money from District Attorney John Tyson's office and with the support from Dick Cashdollar (Mayor

Dow's Office) who helped secure the convention center at no cost, lowering the monetary risk of planning the conference. As suggested by the D.A.'s office, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission administered the grant, and conference financial matters and expenditures.

Mobile Domestic Violence Task Force Presentations-As President, and programmer for all quarterly meetings including the November 14, 2003 meeting at Government Plaza 7th Floor District Attorney's Conference Room, I arranged the following: speakers: Angelo Trimble of the Alabama Coalition of Domestic violence and Lt. Steve Searcy, of the Montgomery Police Department Investigative Unit on Domestic Violence who both presented to the task force on the topic of: Fatality Review Boards. Some 30 individuals attended the presentation. The local Mobile task force will now determine if a review policy should be adopted locally and a core committee formed to provide a community coordinated response to review local fatalities as an inter-agency, inter-organizational team. Community coalitions across the country are adopting similar models to better coordinate community services and interventions to prevent future domestic violence deaths. After two terms as President of the Domestic Violence Task Force, the November 2003 meeting ended my team and local Chief of Police, Sam Cochran will succeed me as President.

County Agent Amanda Outlaw reported the following for ETP 30A:

Target audience:

- All organized youth groups
- Youth who are not a part of a formal organization
- Community leaders
- Parents
- Schools (public and private)

Activity Used:

1. Youth Walking to Make a Difference-National Youth Violence Prevention Month activity.

Two-mile walk students carrying banners and signs on violence prevention to Renaissance Park. Purpose to bring the message of violence prevention to a high crime area Toulminville Community and Prichard, Alabama. Teen leaders performed skits on what to do in a dating situation when conflicts arise due to jealousy. Displays were used depicting how not to be a teen victim. Words of encouragement from Community partners: clergy, city council and clergy.

2. Week without Violence Poster contest-YWCA Week without Violence. Twelve community partners scheduled an event for the week. The Mobile County Urban Center sponsored a poster contest along with the Mobile County School System. All students were encouraged to submit a poster depicting ways to be non-violent at home, school and the community. Posters were judged and displayed at the fair. Winners were part of the County Agents and Friends radio show.

Talladega County's Wanda Jurriaans reported – The Share My World program used with “Boot Camp” facility with 17 young males, ages 17-23 years.

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 in 2002 and updated in 2003 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.

The Alabama Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) was an active component of ETP30A during 2003. The Annual Family Conference, sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in October presented an opportunity to contact approximately 160 professionals who work with families from around the state. For Alabama RAPP, these contacts were made through an exhibit that was manned during all open sessions for exhibits and the Expo that ran in conjunction with the conference. Attendees learned about issues facing relatives as parents in the state of Alabama, they learned about Alabama RAPP and how they can benefit by becoming involved with RAPP. At the exhibit participants completed a short survey; the survey information is being used to create a database of professionals in the state who are working with grandparents and relatives who are serving as the primary parent as well as a database of grandparents.

In May, September, and November RAPP was a highly visible aspect of the Alabama Successful Aging Initiative, that is also sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, through in-service training sessions, and the

Successful Aging Summit. Successful Aging Initiative Summits were held in Birmingham and Huntsville, two of the largest metropolitan areas in the state. Approximately 625 seniors and professionals attended the summits. Presentations on RAPP were presented at concurrent sessions at the summits. The Alabama RAPP exhibit was displayed as well. As an additional segment of the Birmingham Summit, Dr. Wilma J. Ruffin was the featured guest on a one-hour call in radio talk show. She gave information about the status of Alabama families in kinship care, research based information on kinship care and legislation that affects Alabama families and answered questions from the callers. The listening audience for the show is 17,000.

Additional activities during the year included numerous presentations across the state.

Alabama AARP, one of the partners in our inter-system task force, is providing the leadership for regional conferences on Grand Parenting. The task force decided during a state task force/steering committee meeting early in 2003 to focus on regional conferences because of state budget cuts. The original idea was to conduct one state meeting during 2003. Consequently, regional conferences emerged as an alternative. Possible state sites were identified and conferences were planned. Two conferences were conducted during 2003 (June and October) that reached over 250 seniors and professionals. The conference is designed for professionals working with Alabama families—specifically grandparents raising grandchildren. The day-long conference addresses the unique issues these “new” families face and provide a forum for professional to exchange ideas and form partnerships. The conferences target professionals who interact with grandparents and grandparent caregivers; agency, organizations and church affiliates interested in the issues faced by grandparent and relative caregivers; grandparents 50+ raising grandchildren or adults raising other kin; and the general public who would like to learn more about the issues facing grandparents and relatives today and how they might help. The regional conferences will continue in other regions of the state during 2004.

Alabama RAPP presentations were made across the state with a variety of audiences through Cooperative Extension sponsored events as well as events sponsored by other agencies. Information was disseminated through a statewide Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit combined in-service training where agents received information about the program procedures for receiving technical support for implementing the program. As a result, agents frequently programmed around these issues. County Agent Mary Andrews reported five meetings for grand parents with an attendance of 990 and 2 meeting for grandparents raising grandchildren with an attendance of 188. These meetings were special “Grandparent Day” celebrations. County Agent, Cynthia Whitaker

provided leadership for the Birmingham Successful Aging Summit, which resulted in many follow-up calls to her, and Janice Harper about issues grandparents and relatives face while serving as caregivers for children.

Local support groups conducted a myriad of activities with 98 families during the year. For example, support group meetings may focus on helping children with homework or learning to make scrapbooks with grandchildren to provide treasured memories of family events or even an attorney as guest speaker to discuss legal issues, as reported by county agent, Dr. Carol Reid. Florence City Schools RAPP support group facilitators Rena Roy and Sandra Butler reported on a very timely meeting they planned for their group. "World Events" was the title of the session with active military personnel speaking to the grandparents; they provided information to them on coping with the stress (for themselves and the grandchildren) of their children and relatives being actively involved in the war.

County Agent, Mary Malone, hosted an information meeting in Decatur, Alabama where grandparents and professionals received information about RAPP as well as information on legal issues from Attorney Kevin Crenshaw. The Madison County RAPP held its second Holiday Luncheon on December 15th at Romano's Macaroni Grill in Huntsville, Alabama. The grandparents and relatives raising children were treated to lunch and dessert, as well as door prizes. The Florence City Schools RAPP hosted a Holiday Luncheon on December 5, for their program participants.

Collaborative efforts with State Representative Laura Hall during the year resulted in an examination of a legislative bill, she sponsored on Relative Foster Care. This work is continuous, after research and review recommendations were made to Representative Hall.

#### LifeSmarts

- LifeSmarts On-line, and In-person State competitions, test the consumer knowledge of teens in grades 9-12 about personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities. LifeSmarts continues to increase the consumer knowledge of teens. The Alabama LifeSmarts winning team came from Morgan County. Urban Extension Agent Mary Malone identified the volunteer coach and encouraged her to become a LifeSmarts coach. Austin High School's LifeSmarts team from Decatur represented Alabama in Orlando, FL at the National LifeSmarts competition.

#### Resource Management

- Urban Extension County Agent Mary Malone, in Morgan County, reported that by using various financial planning methods she has been successful in getting at least twenty low-income families in Morgan County to show improvements in

personal finance behaviors.

- Agent Malone was not able to find out if electronic fund transfer accounts were being used and if so, whether there was an increase in their use.
- Agent Janice Harper of Jefferson County presented two family budgeting workshops to Jefferson County Community for Economic Opportunity Headstart parents and family court offenders. Additionally, she presented money management workshops to Ensley High School young mothers. Agent Cynthia Whittaker also of Jefferson County provided family resource management materials to participants of the Successful Aging Summit.

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

Over 100 students, staff and teachers participated in various aspects of the Calhoun Community College program. High school volunteers from a local technology high school assisted in the development of the arboretum at the schools.

Prior to Extension's participation the Stewart Street Park was not usable because of the extent of disrepair; with Extension's participation Stewart Street Park is 100% usable by community residents. Additionally, the CRD efforts of Extension has enabled Madison African American Group (MAAG) to:

- seek statewide grant solicitations,
- advocate before the Madison Bikes and Trails advisory committee for sidewalks and biking trails into Pension Row,
- enhance their support from the Alabama Historical Commission based on their 2003 Places in Peril designation and
- seek consultation from AAMU's Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

In the area of community revitalization and improvement, MAAG has experienced a 50% increase in collaborations initiated with key stakeholders in their revitalization efforts and 100% increased the number of residents living in Pension Row involved in various aspects of their community improvement work.

Both cosmetology teachers at the Huntsville Center for Technology expressed a 100% satisfaction level with the level of training and indicated student perceptions of their link to the domestic violence chain had significantly increased.

Impact:

1. Two hundred students and fifteen adult leaders attended the Youth Walking to make a difference event. According to parents, youth and community partners the event brought to the community the problem of youth violence. Youth organization leaders from the Boy Scouts and Boys and Girls Clubs are now partnering with Extension on ways to keep students involved in helping to



alleviate the problem of crime among their peers in the community. The Boys Scouts that participated want to repeat the event every year to keep the problem in the minds of the community.

2. Sixty-posters were submitted for the contest. Teachers stated that this was an activity that they used in their social science and art classes and it helped increase creative thinking. Each student had to state their reason for the artwork and what activities they could engage in to avoid violence at home, school and the community. The students from Williamson High School SECME team who won first place would like to put the posters in a calendar format to distribute to all students for the New Year.

Presented continuous workshop throughout 2003 for new resident groups at the facility. Dates include January 31, June 20, August 7, and November 14. Group size: approximately 5-6 females. Evaluations indicate that the content delivered adds knowledge and skill that the women report they will use in their daily lives as new habits form new behaviors.

Twenty-five individuals registered for the seminar. Evaluations were favorable and the impact was positive. The conference goals of high community visibility, quality educational content, and inclusive participation from the political, judicial, law enforcement, and social services community in Mobile were met. Pre-conference radio and television news spots helped promote the event.

In total over 200 participants engaged in the various activities of the 5th Annual Family Conference during the month of October, 2003. These events and activities had been the culmination of over eight months of planning and design strategies with the entire Urban Unit serving on at least one of thirteen sub-committees. While the data presented to demonstrate impact and benefit does not represent all attendees; it does represent all those who submitted an evaluation form. The following program evaluation summary for the October 15, 2003 conference shows a 4.5 composite satisfaction score on a 5-point scale.

Specifically, the following data provides detailed feedback on the extent of impact and benefit to the audience for the 2003 family conference. Components (5-pt. Scale):

A Matter of choice: Ethics in the workplace The Play - 4.4  
Holistic Programming for Family Development, 4.3  
Accessing Dental Health for Resources Limited Audiences 4.1  
Reaching Beyond Boundaries 4.8  
New Extension Directions for Family-Centered Communities 4.5  
Family Expo 4.6

## Impact Data 2002 Conference

Family in Crisis (Play) 4.1

Financial Management 4.1

Grandparents parenting Grandchildren 4.5

Strengthening Family Relationship a Model for Change 4.6

New Directions for Models of Change 4.6

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. One local support group submitted a proposal and was awarded an incentive grant from Alabama Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP). A portion of the grant along with local sponsorship was used to help defray the cost of respite opportunities for grandparents and relatives before the Christmas holidays and to support local

activities. Approximately 40 grandparents and relatives participated in respite type holiday functions along with an additional 12 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.

Grandparents and children benefit greatly from involvement with RAPP. Grandparents have reported a greater understanding for helping children with homework, they have learned money management skills, and how to recognize disabilities their children may have, and more importantly where to find the help they need to resolve these and other problems. Two facilitators/coordinators who are school counselors in the Florence City Schools, Mrs. Rena Roy and Mrs. Sandra Butler, reported they have observed a remarkable increase in school involvement by the grandparents in their support group. After participating in several field trips they provided for the grandparents, the grandparents are more confident and have reported revisiting the sites with their grandchildren. Other outcomes reported by county agents are the direct benefits grandparents reported receiving.

- Financial resources and support (gift cards & Christmas gifts).
- Current child development and parenting information that helps them to provide a healthy environment for their grandchildren.
- How to screen and select entertainment for this new generation of children.
- How to recognize the different needs and personalities of the children.
- The importance of and how to prepare for their grandchildren's future.

#### LifeSmarts

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. LifeSmarts data for the year 2003 indicated six coaches registered, three coaches had teams. Twenty-six students participated in the on-line competition. Seven students from the on-line competition qualified for in-person competition. The average team score was forty. Additional data for the 2003 LifeSmarts team will be reported in 2004. Most of the team members for 2003 will compete again in 2004. These results show LifeSmarts' awareness is increasing.

Evaluations from the 2003 In-person Competition suggested: most of the participants were female, age ranges were 15 and 16, and the grade levels were 10th -12th. Survey results showed all team members felt more competent about

their understanding of consumer education since participating in LifeSmarts. All participants stated LifeSmarts is teaching important information about personal finance and consumer rights and responsibility matters. Since teens have been participating in LifeSmarts data reveal, 41% did not know it was best to pay more than the minimum payment on credit cards until they began participating in LifeSmarts. Eighty-three percent are beginning to compare prices before buying, and 83% have begun to track their money to see where it is going. When compare with other teens their ages, 42% of these LifeSmarts teens believe they know more about managing their money since participating in LifeSmarts than teens who have not participated in LifeSmarts, and 33% think they know about the same as most students in managing their money. Forty-one percent said they were doing a better job of managing money since participating in LifeSmarts. Seventy-five percent said they were more disciplined in their spending decisions. Participants stated LifeSmarts offered a great learning experience.

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.

Urban Extension County Agent Mary Malone, in Morgan County, reported by using various methods of financial planning she has been successful in getting at least twenty low-income families in Morgan County to show improvements in personal finance behaviors. Such behavior demonstrates the setting of long and short-term financial goals. These families reportedly, now understand the difference between needs and want. Agent Malone can measure this behavior change through their verbal behavior. These families did not have any investment products, nor was their evidence of any retirement planning. She has evidence to suggest that credit is being use wisely. Although there is no evidence that, they reduced the use of credit within the last year. Agent Malone was not able to detect if these families have ever requested a credit report. There was no indication that these families have reduced their debt load, due to time constraints and the ability to offer follow up classes. Four percent of these families had a budget or spending plan. Agent Malone observed that 2% of these families used financial records for decision-making, though they did not include their children in the financial decision-making. Twenty-five percent of these families have a way of tracking money they spend. They are keeping records of how they are spending their money. Agent Malone did not experience problems with these families keeping their appointments. Most of these families fulfilled their record keeping responsibilities at the end of the month. According to Agent Malone, they planned well. While some families used, financial institutions, most of them tended to pay their bills using cash. Most of these families do not have a Will, but the few that have Wills stated they needed updating and will have the

updating done. Agent Malone was not able to determine whether these families had made sound decisions about insurance, or had gone through a bankruptcy. These families had some understanding of income taxes. There is evidence of more family involvement in discussing money matters. Eighteen percent of these families may be having open discussions about money, whereas 15% of the families are not having family discussions about money. The families that are discussing money matters have these discussions once per month. Twenty percent of the families are saving regularly and do it by following a saving plan. Reportedly, these families have increased their savings within the last year. Nevertheless, these families indicated they do not have a savings account and execute on a cash only basis. One can only deduce they are saving by using methods other than financial institutions. Going further, these families did not save for emergencies, and indicated they did not believe they could “afford” to save.

In conclusion, urban families are practicing basic financial planning skills, i.e., setting short and long term goals, and budgeting. They use a budget or another type of spending plan to guide them in managing their money. These families did not include their children in the household discussion about money. They have no investments, alternately; they are saving money but are not using financial institutions in the process. Most of them are, what they call “unbanked”, or “cash” consumers. Their financial affairs are handle-using cash. They also do not understand the relationship of saving overall and saving for emergencies. They believe they cannot afford to save for emergencies. Cooperative Extension should strive to educate these individuals about saving and investing. The risk involved in not using financial institutions and using much cash, as compared with the advantages of using financial institutions, and not using much cash. They also need to be educated about how goals, budgeting and saving yield financial success. Clearly, it is demonstrated here that they do not understand the connections made by money in their financial lives. Therefore, they do not understand how to make financial planning work for them. These are some areas and issues where Cooperative Extension should strive to provide more educational programs to teach limited resource families.

All of the financial indicators disclosed these families were using some of the skills at the basic financial planning level. These indicators revealed that financial literacy education through the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit is reaching urban clients and improving the financial well being of families. Conversely, these financial indicators brought to light other areas in personal finance that the Urban Unit of The Alabama Cooperative Extension System should address.

Reportedly, none of these families indicated they had encountered fraud, or had been victims of financial exploitation.

Articles:

Two articles were submitted to the Journal of Consumer Affairs

1. Employers Perspectives on Identified Social Factors as Predictors to Workforce Entry
2. Identity Theft

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

The estimated value of the Heritage Studies independent study project is in excess of \$5,000 (2 site visits from Arkansas State University, PhD student, community volunteer man hours and consultations/materials from PhD student).

Over \$10,000 in internal support, fees, and in-kind donations were generated for the conference and related events. Based on an average meeting of one group every two months (4 over the cycle of the conference planning), an estimated 25 Extension staff (program brochure) met in the Dawson Building for planning meetings of 1 1/2 hours per session for fifth annual conference.

The Alabama RAPP received a big surprise in December—Annhauser Busch donated \$4,000.00 to the Alabama RAPP through Alabama AARP, one of our state partners, for use by grandparents and relatives raising children. Ruth Rambo, Associate Director of Alabama AARP contacted us with the exciting news just before the Christmas holiday. Each grandparent or relative (98) involved in programs throughout the state received a \$32 Wal-Mart or Sam's Supercenter gift certificate for each child in their care. The grandparents and relatives who participate in RAPP support groups across the state were elated. Funds are still being expended from our original \$10,000.00 seed grant.

In total over 1,23,561 received face-to-face and non-face-to-face contacts by through ETP 30A.

Again this year, the Madison County local group sponsored a Christmas Angel tree for two families. A singles group at a local church provided Christmas gifts for a family of five children; the gifts were valued at \$1200.00.

The in-kind and monetary resources donated to LifeSmarts for 2003 is valued at \$2000.00.

#### 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.

T V Channel 19 News in Huntsville featured the Madison County RAPP in a news story. Gail Ballyntine, news anchor and writer, taped footage at a local support group meeting where she met some of the grand parents and received their permission to come to their homes to conduct in-depth interviews. Dr. Ruffin, Family & Human Development Specialist and state director of RAPP was featured in the series, as she was presenting the workshop for the local group in November. Alison Couch, Data Analyst and State Coordinator of RAPP was interviewed for the news story and discussed Alabama RAPP, its goals and successes in the Madison county area and across the state. The feature aired a full day in different segments of the news. The RAPP exhibit continues to show case the work being done with relatives and grandparent caregivers and the children in their care. The continuation of RAPP presents a bright future for children and families in Alabama.

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.

An Alabama web site supports LifeSmarts on-line competition.

Our goal is to continue to market LifeSmarts in the future. We envision LifeSmarts becoming the statewide leading consumer education program for teens in grades 9-12. We hope that Lifesmarts attract more teams in 2004 than it captivated it 2003.

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 2004 based on the feedback that we have received from the county agents that responded to our request for suggestions for improvements.

## **ETP 30A**

*By Wilma J. Ruffin*

### 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 \$75,000 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 to the work of county agents with their domestic violence prevention councils.

Progressively, more grandparents and other relatives are being required to act as parents. The phenomenon of grandparents and other relatives raising children is nothing new. However, the number of children being raised by grandparents and other relatives has increased dramatically over the past 25 years. 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 data further illustrates 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.

Today more than 80% of the United States population lives in large metropolitan areas. The greatest socioeconomic challenges facing our nation will be in these growing metropolitan areas. This challenge is not going unnoticed the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit continues to make a difference in consumer education and family resource management in the metropolitan areas.

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, (Barbara O'Neill, 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 the 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 )

Further research by the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy showed many young American adults have displayed difficulty understanding basic financial ideas. These findings from a survey of high school senior

conducted by JumpStart concluded high school students leave school lacking the basic financial knowledge to become successful adults money managers.

“Congress finds that although the evolution of our financial system has offered families in the United States many new opportunities to build wealth and security, the ready availability of credit, an overwhelming array of investment and savings options, and the shifting of responsibility for retirement savings from employer to employee has made the understanding of personal finance ever more important.”

Building upon research in personal finance, the 108TH Congress of the United States (2003) has drafted a bill to establish the Financial Literacy Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to serve to improve the financial literacy of persons in the United States by overseeing, implementing and reporting upon the effects of the performance of the duties of the Commission set forth in Section 102.

Financial literacy in this bill means basic personal income and household money management and planning skills, including:

Saving and investing

Building wealth

Managing spending credit, and debt effectively

Tax and estate planning

The ability to ascertain fair and favorable credit terms and avoid abusive, predatory, or deceptive credit offers

The ability to understand, evaluate and compare financial products, services and opportunities and

All other related skills

The Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit’s programmatic thrusts are in synchronization with the Federal initiatives relating to personal finance. Through our programs, we are striving to teach urban audiences the basic financial skills they will need to become better managers of their money, and have them display the knowledge gained by practicing basic financial skills.

## B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

### Five Years of Excellent Programming...Annual Urban Family Conference

1999 – The State of Urban Families in the New Millennium

Keynote Speaker: Ms. Naomi Haines Griffith on “Strengthening Families in the New Millennium”

2000 – Making Family Connections

Keynote Speaker: Ms. P. K. Beville on “making Family Connections Through Senior Lifestyles”

2001 – Unlocking & Sharing Resources for Urban Families

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Romando James on “Your Roots Control your Fruits”

2002 – Strengthening Family Relations: Models for Change

Keynote Speaker: Dr. H. Wallace Goddard on “We, the Family...”

2003 – Strengthening Family-Centered Communities

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lonnie Edwards, Sr. on “Reaching Beyond Boundaries”

Impressive Anniversary Conference and Family Expo

According to Dr. Virginia Caples, Provost, Academic Vice President & 1890 Administrator, Alabama A&M University the 5th Annual Family Conference “denotes five years of dialogue sharing on how to better serve nontraditional families through Extension programming with the help of local, state, and national partnerships.” The action to carry out our commitment to enhance client delivery services through professional development training is further crystallized with the following comments from the Provost:

We have designed a comprehensive program format for your education ...complete with ...a family expo as well as pre-post conference events. It (conference) represents our commitment to build upon previous accomplishments...and to seek new programmatic initiatives in a service delivery climate with limited resources. For Extension, it is essential to demonstrate a keen understanding of the challenges in the lives of families and individuals, and to provide them with the tools or resources they need to bring about self-empowerment and change.

The annual urban family conference is an Extension medium to address issues affecting families, children, and individuals residing in Alabama. The family conference combines the voices of communities and professionals in a number of fields with an interest in families and children.

The major activity to accomplish the overall goal of the family conference was the selection of three dynamic speakers. These speakers provided a holistic framework for the conceptualization of how family-centered communities can strengthen family development.

Dr. Lonnie Edwards, Sr. keynote speaker, presented on the topic, “Reaching Beyond Boundaries,” based on his extensive experience as an educator, at-risk

youth foundation organizer, workshop presenter and national motivation speaker. His book, *A Teacher's Touch: Reaching Beyond Boundaries*, is well read within the southeast region. Currently, he continues his work with youth as the assistant superintendent for the DeKlab County School System.

Mr. Resmaa Menakem, director of holistic programs for the Tubman Family Alliance in Minneapolis, MN, highlighted his life work with families and individuals facing complex and difficult life circumstances, including youth, the elderly and both male and female victims of domestic violence. He spoke on the topic, "Holistic Programming: An Ethical Approach to Family Development."

Dr. Galo Torres, southeast regional migrant health and dental consultant with the Human Resources & Services Administration in Atlanta, spoke on the topic, "Accessing Dental Health for Resource Limited Audiences."

Dr. Virginia Caples, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, delivered an address entitled, "New Directions for Family-Centered Communities."

#### 2003 Family Conference Expo

The goal of the Expo, a new concept encompassing more than simply "exhibits," is to expand registrants' participation ...with resources, ideas, and hands-on-experiences that participants can take back to their respective communities. This portion of the Conference has grown over the years, and for the fifth anniversary year, there were over 43 family development agency representatives and community-wide exhibitors. This was a 14% increase in participation from 2002.

#### Pre-Post Conference Events

Dr. David Malebranche, internist and clinical instructor of medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA and a recognized expert on HIV/AIDS in the African-American community delivered a pre-conference lecture on "HIV/AIDS & Women."

"Dementia & Successful Aging" was led at a post-conference lecture by Prof. Joanne McLinn, School of Social Work, Alabama A&M University.

#### Anniversary Celebration and Highlights

Pre-conference nontraditional entertainment by "The Whistling Baritone," Mr. Dan Gilliland; a book signing by Dr. Edwards; and exhibition with commentary of one of the famous Gee's Bend quilts, The Nine Patch Quilt, with Mrs. Mary Lee Bendolph.

Using the play, "A Matter of Choice: Ethics in the Workplace," the Bank Street Players of Decatur, AL fulfilled the motto of Plays for Living, Inc. of "opening minds to new solutions" through the dramatization of ethical issues associated with change in the workplace and individual integrity.

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 in 2002 and updated in 2003 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.

The Alabama Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) was an active component of ETP30A during 2003. The Annual Family Conference, sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in October presented an opportunity to contact approximately 160 professionals who work with families from around the state. For Alabama RAPP, these contacts were made through an exhibit that was manned during all open sessions for exhibits and the Expo that ran in conjunction with the conference. Attendees learned about issues facing relatives as parents in the state of Alabama, they learned about Alabama RAPP and how they can benefit by becoming involved with RAPP. At the exhibit participants completed a short survey; the survey information is being used to create a database of professionals in the state who are working with grandparents and relatives who are serving as the primary parent as well as a database of grandparents.

In May, September, and November RAPP was a highly visible aspect of the Alabama Successful Aging Initiative, that is also sponsored by the Alabama

Cooperative Extension System, through in-service training sessions, and the Successful Aging Summit. Successful Aging Initiative Summits were held in Birmingham and Huntsville, two of the largest metropolitan areas in the state. Approximately 625 seniors and professionals attended the summits. Presentations on RAPP were presented at concurrent sessions at the summits. The Alabama RAPP exhibit was displayed as well. As an additional segment of the Birmingham Summit, Dr. Wilma J. Ruffin was the featured guest on a one-hour call in radio talk show. She gave information about the status of Alabama families in kinship care, research based information on kinship care and legislation that affects Alabama families and answered questions from the callers. The listening audience for the show is 17,000.

Additional activities during the year included numerous presentations across the state.

Alabama AARP, one of the partners in our inter-system task force, is providing the leadership for regional conferences on Grand Parenting. The task force decided during a state task force/steering committee meeting early in 2003 to focus on regional conferences because of state budget cuts. The original idea was to conduct one state meeting during 2003. Consequently, regional conferences emerged as an alternative. Possible state sites were identified and conferences were planned. Two conferences were conducted during 2003 (June and October) that reached over 250 seniors and professionals. The conference is designed for professionals working with Alabama families—specifically grandparents raising grandchildren. The day-long conference addresses the unique issues these “new” families face and provide a forum for professional to exchange ideas and form partnerships. The conferences target professionals who interact with grandparents and grandparent caregivers; agency, organizations and church affiliates interested in the issues faced by grandparent and relative caregivers; grandparents 50+ raising grandchildren or adults raising other kin; and the general public who would like to learn more about the issues facing grandparents and relatives today and how they might help. The regional conferences will continue in other regions of the state during 2004.

Alabama RAPP presentations were made across the state with a variety of audiences through Cooperative Extension sponsored events as well as events sponsored by other agencies. Information was disseminated through a statewide Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit combined in-service training where agents received information about the program procedures for receiving technical support for implementing the program. As a result, agents frequently programmed around these issues. County Agent Mary Andrews reported five meetings for grand parents with an attendance of 990 and 2 meeting for grandparents raising grandchildren with an attendance of 188. These meetings

were special “Grandparent Day” celebrations. County Agent, Cynthia Whitaker provided leadership for the Birmingham Successful Aging Summit, which resulted in many follow-up calls to her, and Janice Harper about issues grandparents and relatives face while serving as caregivers for children.

Local support groups conducted a myriad of activities with 98 families during the year. For example, support group meetings may focus on helping children with homework or learning to make scrapbooks with grandchildren to provide treasured memories of family events or even an attorney as guest speaker to discuss legal issues, as reported by county agent, Dr. Carol Reid. Florence City Schools RAPP support group facilitators Rena Roy and Sandra Butler reported on a very timely meeting they planned for their group. “World Events” was the title of the session with active military personnel speaking to the grandparents; they provided information to them on coping with the stress (for themselves and the grandchildren) of their children and relatives being actively involved in the war.

County Agent, Mary Malone, hosted an information meeting in Decatur, Alabama where grandparents and professionals received information about RAPP as well as information on legal issues from Attorney Kevin Crenshaw. The Madison County RAPP held its second Holiday Luncheon on December 15th at Romano’s Macaroni Grill in Huntsville, Alabama. The grandparents and relatives raising children were treated to lunch and dessert, as well as door prizes. The Florence City Schools RAPP hosted a Holiday Luncheon on December 5, for their program participants.

Collaborative efforts with State Representative Laura Hall during the year resulted in an examination of a legislative bill, she sponsored on Relative Foster Care. This work is continuous, after research and review recommendations were made to Representative Hall.

#### LifeSmarts

- LifeSmarts On-line, and In-person State competitions, test the consumer knowledge of teens in grades 9-12 about personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities. LifeSmarts continues to increase the consumer knowledge of teens. The Alabama LifeSmarts winning team came from Morgan County. Urban Extension Agent Mary Malone identified the volunteer coach and encouraged her to become a LifeSmarts coach. Austin High School’s LifeSmarts team from Decatur represented Alabama in Orlando, FL at the National LifeSmarts competition.

#### Resource Management

- Urban Extension County Agent Mary Malone, in Morgan County, reported that by using various financial planning methods she has been successful in getting at least twenty low-income families in Morgan County to show improvements in



personal finance behaviors.

- Agent Malone was not able to find out if electronic fund transfer accounts were being used and if so, whether there was an increase in their use.

- Agent Janice Harper of Jefferson County presented two family budgeting workshops to Jefferson County Community for Economic Opportunity Headstart parents and family court offenders. Additionally, she presented money management workshops to Ensley High School young mothers. Agent Cynthia Whittaker also of Jefferson County provided family resource management materials to participants of the Successful Aging Summit.

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

In total over 200 participants engaged in the various activities of the 5th Annual Family Conference during the month of October, 2003. These events and activities had been the culmination of over eight months of planning and design strategies with the entire Urban Unit serving on at least one of thirteen sub-committees. While the data presented to demonstrate impact and benefit does not represent all attendees; it does represent all those who submitted an evaluation form. The following program evaluation summary for the October 15, 2003 conference shows a 4.5 composite satisfaction score on a 5-point scale.

Specifically, the following data provides detailed feedback on the extent of impact and benefit to the audience for the 2003 family conference. Components (5-pt. Scale):

A Matter of choice: Ethics in the workplace The Play - 4.4  
Holistic Programming for Family Development, 4.3  
Accessing Dental Health for Resources Limited Audiences 4.1  
Reaching Beyond Boundaries 4.8  
New Extension Directions for Family-Centered Communities 4.5  
Family Expo 4.6

#### Impact Data 2002 Conference

Family in Crisis (Play) 4.1  
Financial Management 4.1  
Grandparents parenting Grandchildren 4.5  
Strengthening Family Relationship a Model for Change 4.6  
New Directions for Models of Change 4.6

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. One local support group submitted a proposal and was awarded an incentive grant from Alabama Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP). A portion of the grant along with local sponsorship was used to help defray the cost of respite opportunities for grandparents and relatives before the Christmas holidays and to support local activities. Approximately 40 grandparents and relatives participated in respite type holiday functions along with an additional 12 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.

Grandparents and children benefit greatly from involvement with RAPP. Grandparents have reported a greater understanding for helping children with homework, they have learned money management skills, and how to recognize disabilities their children may have, and more importantly where to find the help they need to resolve these and other problems. Two facilitators/coordinators who are school counselors in the Florence City Schools, Mrs. Rena Roy and Mrs.

Sandra Butler, reported they have observed a remarkable increase in school involvement by the grandparents in their support group. After participating in several field trips they provided for the grandparents, the grandparents are more confident and have reported revisiting the sites with their grandchildren. Other outcomes reported by county agents are the direct benefits grandparents reported receiving.

- Financial resources and support (gift cards & Christmas gifts).
- Current child development and parenting information that helps them to provide a healthy environment for their grandchildren.
- How to screen and select entertainment for this new generation of children.
- How to recognize the different needs and personalities of the children.
- The importance of and how to prepare for their grandchildren's future.

### LifeSmarts

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. LifeSmarts data for the year 2003 indicated six coaches registered, three coaches had teams. Twenty-six students participated in the on-line competition. Seven students from the on-line competition qualified for in-person competition. The average team score was forty. Additional data for the 2003 LifeSmarts team will be reported in 2004. Most of the team members for 2003 will compete again in 2004. These results show LifeSmarts' awareness is increasing.

Evaluations from the 2003 In-person Competition suggested: most of the participants were female, age ranges were 15 and 16, and the grade levels were 10th -12th. Survey results showed all team members felt more competent about their understanding of consumer education since participating in LifeSmarts. All participants stated LifeSmarts is teaching important information about personal finance and consumer rights and responsibility matters. Since teens have been participating in LifeSmarts data reveal, 41% did not know it was best to pay more than the minimum payment on credit cards until they began participating in LifeSmarts. Eighty-three percent are beginning to compare prices before buying, and 83% have begun to track their money to see where it is going. When compare with other teens their ages, 42% of these LifeSmarts teens believe they know more about managing their money since participating in LifeSmarts than teens who have not participated in LifeSmarts, and 33% think they know about the same as most students in managing their money. Forty-one percent said they were doing a better job of managing money since participating in

LifeSmarts. Seventy-five percent said they were more disciplined in their spending decisions. Participants stated LifeSmarts offered a great learning experience.

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.

Urban Extension County Agent Mary Malone, in Morgan County, reported by using various methods of financial planning she has been successful in getting at least twenty low-income families in Morgan County to show improvements in personal finance behaviors. Such behavior demonstrates the setting of long and short-term financial goals. These families reportedly, now understand the difference between needs and want. Agent Malone can measure this behavior change through their verbal behavior. These families did not have any investment products, nor was there evidence of any retirement planning. She has evidence to suggest that credit is being used wisely. Although there is no evidence that they reduced the use of credit within the last year. Agent Malone was not able to detect if these families have ever requested a credit report. There was no indication that these families have reduced their debt load, due to time constraints and the ability to offer follow up classes. Four percent of these families had a budget or spending plan. Agent Malone observed that 2% of these families used financial records for decision making, though they did not include their children in the financial decision making. Twenty-five percent of these families have a way of tracking money they spend. They are keeping records of how they are spending their money. Agent Malone did not experience problems with these families keeping their appointments. Most of these families fulfilled their record keeping responsibilities at the end of the month. According to Agent Malone, they planned well. While some families used, financial institutions, most of them tended to pay their bills using cash. Most of these families do not have a Will, but the few that have Wills stated they needed updating and will have the updating done. Agent Malone was not able to determine whether these families had made sound decisions about insurance, or had gone through a bankruptcy. These families had some understanding of income taxes. There is evidence of more family involvement in discussing money matters. Eighteen percent of these families may be having open discussions about money, whereas 15% of the families are not having family discussions about money. The families that are discussing money matters have these discussions once per month. Twenty percent of the families are saving regularly and do it by following a saving plan. Reportedly, these families have increased their savings within the last year. Nevertheless, these families indicated they do not have a savings account and execute on a cash only basis. One can only deduce they are saving by using methods other than financial institutions. Going further, these families did not

save for emergencies, and indicated they did not believe they could “afford” to save.

In conclusion, urban families are practicing basic financial planning skills, i.e., setting short and long term goals, and budgeting. They use a budget or another type of spending plan to guide them in managing their money. These families did not include their children in the household discussion about money. They have no investments, alternately; they are saving money but are not using financial institutions in the process. Most of them are, what they call “unbanked”, or “cash” consumers. Their financial affairs are handle-using cash. They also do not understand the relationship of saving overall and saving for emergencies. They believe they cannot afford to save for emergencies. Cooperative Extension should strive to educate these individuals about saving and investing. The risk involved in not using financial institutions and using much cash, as compared with the advantages of using financial institutions, and not using much cash. They also need to be educated about how goals, budgeting and saving yield financial success. Clearly, it is demonstrated here that they do not understand the connections made by money in their financial lives. Therefore, they do not understand how to make financial planning work for them. These are some areas and issues where Cooperative Extension should strive to provide more educational programs to teach limited resource families.

All of the financial indicators disclosed these families were using some of the skills at the basic financial planning level. These indicators revealed that financial literacy education through the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit is reaching urban clients and improving the financial well being of families. Conversely, these financial indicators brought to light other areas in personal finance that the Urban Unit of The Alabama Cooperative Extension System should address.

Reportedly, none of these families indicated they had encountered fraud, or had been victims of financial exploitation.

Articles:

Two articles were submitted to the Journal of Consumer Affairs

1. Employers Perspectives on Identified Social Factors as Predictors to Workforce Entry
2. Identity Theft

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Over \$10,000 in internal support, fees, and in-kind donations were generated for

the conference and related events. Based on an average meeting of one group every two months (4 over the cycle of the conference planning), an estimated 25 Extension staff (program brochure) met in the Dawson Building for planning meetings of 1 1/2 hours per session for fifth annual conference.

The Alabama RAPP received a big surprise in December—Annhauser Busch donated \$4,000.00 to the Alabama RAPP through Alabama AARP, one of our state partners, for use by grandparents and relatives raising children. Ruth Rambo, Associate Director of Alabama AARP contacted us with the exciting news just before the Christmas holiday. Each grandparent or relative (98) involved in programs throughout the state received a \$32 Wal-Mart or Sam's Supercenter gift certificate for each child in their care. The grandparents and relatives who participate in RAPP support groups across the state were elated. Funds are still being expended from our original \$10,000.00 seed grant.

Again this year, the Madison County local group sponsored a Christmas Angel tree for two families. A singles group at a local church provided Christmas gifts for a family of five children; the gifts were valued at \$1200.00.

The in-kind and monetary resources donated to LifeSmarts for 2003 is valued at \$2000.00.

#### 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.

T V Channel 19 News in Huntsville featured the Madison County RAPP in a news story. Gail Ballyntine, news anchor and writer, taped footage at a local support group meeting where she met some of the grand parents and received their permission to come to their homes to conduct in-depth interviews. Dr. Ruffin, Family & Human Development Specialist and state director of RAPP was featured in the series, as she was presenting the workshop for the local group in November. Alison Couch, Data Analyst and State Coordinator of RAPP was interviewed for the news story and discussed Alabama RAPP, its goals and successes in the Madison county area and across the state. The feature aired a full day in different segments of the news. The RAPP exhibit continues to show

case the work being done with relatives and grandparent caregivers and the children in their care. The continuation of RAPP presents a bright future for children and families in Alabama.

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.

An Alabama web site supports LifeSmarts on-line competition.

Our goal is to continue to market LifeSmarts in the future. We envision LifeSmarts becoming the statewide leading consumer education program for teens in grades 9-12. We hope that Lifesmarts attract more teams in 2004 than it captivated it 2003.

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 2004 based on the feedback that we have received from the county agents that responded to our request for suggestions for improvements.

### **ETP 30A**

*By 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 \$75,000 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 to the work of county agents with their domestic violence prevention councils.

Progressively, more grandparents and other relatives are being required to act as parents. The phenomenon of grandparents and other relatives raising children is nothing new. However, the number of children being raised by grandparents and other relatives has increased dramatically over the past 25 years.

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 data further illustrates 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.

Today more than 80% of the United States population lives in large metropolitan

areas. The greatest socioeconomic challenges facing our nation will be in these growing metropolitan areas. This challenge is not going unnoticed the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit continues to make a difference in consumer education and family resource management in the metropolitan areas.

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, (Barbara O'Neill, 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 the 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 )

Further research by the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy showed many young American adults have displayed difficulty understanding basic financial ideas. These findings from a survey of high school senior conducted by JumpStart concluded high school students leave school lacking the basic financial knowledge to become successful adults money managers. "Congress finds that although the evolution of our financial system has offered families in the United States many new opportunities to build wealth and security, the ready availability of credit, an overwhelming array of investment and savings options, and the shifting of responsibility for retirement savings from employer to employee has made the understanding of personal finance ever more important."

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Building wealth

Managing spending credit, and debt effectively

Tax and estate planning

The ability to ascertain fair and favorable credit terms and avoid abusive,

predatory, or deceptive credit offers

The ability to understand, evaluate and compare financial products, services and opportunities and  
All other related skills

The Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit's programmatic thrusts are in synchronization with the Federal initiatives relating to personal finance. Through our programs, we are striving to teach urban audiences the basic financial skills they will need to become better managers of their money, and have them display the knowledge gained by practicing basic financial skills.

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

Five Years of Excellent Programming...Annual Urban Family Conference

1999 – The State of Urban Families in the New Millennium

Keynote Speaker: Ms. Naomi Haines Griffith on “Strengthening Families in the New Millennium”

2000 – Making Family Connections

Keynote Speaker: Ms. P. K. Beville on “making Family Connections Through Senior Lifestyles”

2001 – Unlocking & Sharing Resources for Urban Families

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Romando James on “Your Roots Control your Fruits”

2002 – Strengthening Family Relations: Models for Change

Keynote Speaker: Dr. H. Wallace Goddard on “We, the Family...”

2003 – Strengthening Family-Centered Communities

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lonnie Edwards, Sr. on “Reaching Beyond Boundaries”

Impressive Anniversary Conference and Family Expo

According to Dr. Virginia Caples, Provost, Academic Vice President & 1890 Administrator, Alabama A&M University the 5th Annual Family Conference “denotes five years of dialogue sharing on how to better serve nontraditional families through Extension programming with the help of local, state, and national partnerships.” The action to carry out our commitment to enhance client delivery services through professional development training is further crystallized with the following comments from the Provost:

We have designed a comprehensive program format for your education ...complete with ...a family expo as well as pre-post conference events. It

(conference) represents our commitment to build upon previous accomplishments...and to seek new programmatic initiatives in a service delivery climate with limited resources. For Extension, it is essential to demonstrate a keen understanding of the challenges in the lives of families and individuals, and to provide them with the tools or resources they need to bring about self-empowerment and change.

The annual urban family conference is an Extension medium to address issues affecting families, children, and individuals residing in Alabama. The family conference combines the voices of communities and professionals in a number of fields with an interest in families and children.

The major activity to accomplish the overall goal of the family conference was the selection of three dynamic speakers. These speakers provided a holistic framework for the conceptualization of how family-centered communities can strengthen family development.

Dr. Lonnie Edwards, Sr. keynote speaker, presented on the topic, "Reaching Beyond Boundaries," based on his extensive experience as an educator, at-risk youth foundation organizer, workshop presenter and national motivation speaker. His book, *A Teacher's Touch: Reaching Beyond Boundaries*, is well read within the southeast region. Currently, he continues his work with youth as the assistant superintendent for the DeKlab County School System.

Mr. Resmaa Menakem, director of holistic programs for the Tubman Family Alliance in Minneapolis, MN, highlighted his life work with families and individuals facing complex and difficult life circumstances, including youth, the elderly and both male and female victims of domestic violence. He spoke on the topic, "Holistic Programming: An Ethical Approach to Family Development."

Dr. Galo Torres, southeast regional migrant health and dental consultant with the Human Resources & Services Administration in Atlanta, spoke on the topic, "Accessing Dental Health for Resource Limited Audiences."

Dr. Virginia Caples, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, delivered an address entitled, "New Directions for Family-Centered Communities."

### 2003 Family Conference Expo

The goal of the Expo, a new concept encompassing more than simply "exhibits," is to expand registrants' participation ...with resources, ideas, and hands-on-experiences that participants can take back to their respective communities. This portion of the Conference has grown over the years, and for the fifth anniversary year, there were over 43 family development agency representatives and

community-wide exhibitors. This was a 14% increase in participation from 2002.

#### Pre-Post Conference Events

Dr. David Malebranche, internist and clinical instructor of medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA and a recognized expert on HIV/AIDS in the African-American community delivered a pre-conference lecture on "HIV/AIDS & Women."

"Dementia & Successful Aging" was led at a post-conference lecture by Prof. Joanne McLinn, School of Social Work, Alabama A&M University.

#### Anniversary Celebration and Highlights

Pre-conference nontraditional entertainment by "The Whistling Baritone," Mr. Dan Gilliland; a book signing by Dr. Edwards; and exhibition with commentary of one of the famous Gee's Bend quilts, The Nine Patch Quilt, with Mrs. Mary Lee Bendolph.

Using the play, "A Matter of Choice: Ethics in the Workplace," the Bank Street Players of Decatur, AL fulfilled the motto of Plays for Living, Inc. of "opening minds to new solutions" through the dramatization of ethical issues associated with change in the workplace and individual integrity.

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 in 2002 and updated in 2003 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.

The Alabama Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) was an active component of ETP30A during 2003. The Annual Family Conference, sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in October presented an opportunity to contact approximately 160 professionals who work with families from around the state. For Alabama RAPP, these contacts were made through an exhibit that was manned during all open sessions for exhibits and the Expo that ran in conjunction with the conference. Attendees learned about issues facing relatives as parents in the state of Alabama, they learned about Alabama RAPP and how they can benefit by becoming involved with RAPP. At the exhibit participants completed a short survey; the survey information is being used to create a database of professionals in the state who are working with grandparents and relatives who are serving as the primary parent as well as a database of grandparents.

In May, September, and November RAPP was a highly visible aspect of the Alabama Successful Aging Initiative, that is also sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, through in-service training sessions, and the Successful Aging Summit. Successful Aging Initiative Summits were held in Birmingham and Huntsville, two of the largest metropolitan areas in the state. Approximately 625 seniors and professionals attended the summits. Presentations on RAPP were presented at concurrent sessions at the summits. The Alabama RAPP exhibit was displayed as well. As an additional segment of the Birmingham Summit, Dr. Wilma J. Ruffin was the featured guest on a one-hour call in radio talk show. She gave information about the status of Alabama families in kinship care, research based information on kinship care and legislation that affects Alabama families and answered questions from the callers. The listening audience for the show is 17,000.

Additional activities during the year included numerous presentations across the state.

Alabama AARP, one of the partners in our inter-system task force, is providing the leadership for regional conferences on Grand Parenting. The task force decided during a state task force/steering committee meeting early in 2003 to focus on regional conferences because of state budget cuts. The original idea was to conduct one state meeting during 2003. Consequently, regional conferences emerged as an alternative. Possible state sites were identified and conferences were planned. Two conferences were conducted during 2003 (June and October) that reached over 250 seniors and professionals. The conference is designed for professionals working with Alabama families—specifically grandparents raising grandchildren. The day-long conference addresses the unique issues these “new” families face and provide a forum for professional to

exchange ideas and form partnerships. The conferences target professionals who interact with grandparents and grandparent caregivers; agency, organizations and church affiliates interested in the issues faced by grandparent and relative caregivers; grandparents 50+ raising grandchildren or adults raising other kin; and the general public who would like to learn more about the issues facing grandparents and relatives today and how they might help. The regional conferences will continue in other regions of the state during 2004.

Alabama RAPP presentations were made across the state with a variety of audiences through Cooperative Extension sponsored events as well as events sponsored by other agencies. Information was disseminated through a statewide Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit combined in-service training where agents received information about the program procedures for receiving technical support for implementing the program. As a result, agents frequently programmed around these issues. County Agent Mary Andrews reported five meetings for grand parents with an attendance of 990 and 2 meeting for grandparents raising grandchildren with an attendance of 188. These meetings were special "Grandparent Day" celebrations. County Agent, Cynthia Whitaker provided leadership for the Birmingham Successful Aging Summit, which resulted in many follow-up calls to her, and Janice Harper about issues grandparents and relatives face while serving as caregivers for children.

Local support groups conducted a myriad of activities with 98 families during the year. For example, support group meetings may focus on helping children with homework or learning to make scrapbooks with grandchildren to provide treasured memories of family events or even an attorney as guest speaker to discuss legal issues, as reported by county agent, Dr. Carol Reid. Florence City Schools RAPP support group facilitators Rena Roy and Sandra Butler reported on a very timely meeting they planned for their group. "World Events" was the title of the session with active military personnel speaking to the grandparents; they provided information to them on coping with the stress (for themselves and the grandchildren) of their children and relatives being actively involved in the war.

County Agent, Mary Malone, hosted an information meeting in Decatur, Alabama where grandparents and professionals received information about RAPP as well as information on legal issues from Attorney Kevin Crenshaw. The Madison County RAPP held its second Holiday Luncheon on December 15th at Romano's Macaroni Grill in Huntsville, Alabama. The grandparents and relatives raising children were treated to lunch and dessert, as well as door prizes. The Florence City Schools RAPP hosted a Holiday Luncheon on December 5, for their program participants.

Collaborative efforts with State Representative Laura Hall during the year

resulted in an examination of a legislative bill, she sponsored on Relative Foster Care. This work is continuous, after research and review recommendations were made to Representative Hall.

#### LifeSmarts

- LifeSmarts On-line, and In-person State competitions, test the consumer knowledge of teens in grades 9-12 about personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities. LifeSmarts continues to increase the consumer knowledge of teens. The Alabama LifeSmarts winning team came from Morgan County. Urban Extension Agent Mary Malone identified the volunteer coach and encouraged her to become a LifeSmarts coach. Austin High School's LifeSmarts team from Decatur represented Alabama in Orlando, FL at the National LifeSmarts competition.

#### Resource Management

- Urban Extension County Agent Mary Malone, in Morgan County, reported that by using various financial planning methods she has been successful in getting at least twenty low-income families in Morgan County to show improvements in personal finance behaviors.
- Agent Malone was not able to find out if electronic fund transfer accounts were being used and if so, whether there was an increase in their use.
- Agent Janice Harper of Jefferson County presented two family budgeting workshops to Jefferson County Community for Economic Opportunity Headstart parents and family court offenders. Additionally, she presented money management workshops to Ensley High School young mothers. Agent Cynthia Whittaker also of Jefferson County provided family resource management materials to participants of the Successful Aging Summit.

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

In total over 200 participants engaged in the various activities of the 5th Annual Family Conference during the month of October, 2003. These events and activities had been the culmination of over eight months of planning and design strategies with the entire Urban Unit serving on at least one of thirteen sub-committees. While the data presented to demonstrate impact and benefit does not represent all attendees; it does represent all those who submitted an evaluation form. The following program evaluation summary for the October 15, 2003 conference shows a 4.5 composite satisfaction score on a 5-point scale.

Specifically, the following data provides detailed feedback on the extent of impact and benefit to the audience for the 2003 family conference. Components (5-pt.



Scale):

A Matter of choice: Ethics in the workplace The Play - 4.4  
Holistic Programming for Family Development, 4.3  
Accessing Dental Health for Resources Limited Audiences 4.1  
Reaching Beyond Boundaries 4.8  
New Extension Directions for Family-Centered Communities 4.5  
Family Expo 4.6

Impact Data 2002 Conference

Family in Crisis (Play) 4.1  
Financial Management 4.1  
Grandparents parenting Grandchildren 4.5  
Strengthening Family Relationship a Model for Change 4.6  
New Directions for Models of Change 4.6

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. One local support group submitted a proposal and was awarded an incentive grant from Alabama Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP). A portion of the grant along with local sponsorship was used to help defray the cost of respite opportunities for grandparents and relatives before the Christmas holidays and to support local activities. Approximately 40 grandparents and relatives participated in respite type holiday functions along with an additional 12 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.

Grandparents and children benefit greatly from involvement with RAPP. Grandparents have reported a greater understanding for helping children with homework, they have learned money management skills, and how to recognize disabilities their children may have, and more importantly where to find the help they need to resolve these and other problems. Two facilitators/coordinators who are school counselors in the Florence City Schools, Mrs. Rena Roy and Mrs. Sandra Butler, reported they have observed a remarkable increase in school involvement by the grandparents in their support group. After participating in several field trips they provided for the grandparents, the grandparents are more confident and have reported revisiting the sites with their grandchildren. Other outcomes reported by county agents are the direct benefits grandparents reported receiving.

- Financial resources and support (gift cards & Christmas gifts).
- Current child development and parenting information that helps them to provide a healthy environment for their grandchildren.
- How to screen and select entertainment for this new generation of children.
- How to recognize the different needs and personalities of the children.
- The importance of and how to prepare for their grandchildren's future.

#### LifeSmarts

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. LifeSmarts data for the year 2003 indicated six coaches registered, three coaches had teams. Twenty-six students participated in the on-

line competition. Seven students from the on-line competition qualified for in-person competition. The average team score was forty. Additional data for the 2003 LifeSmarts team will be reported in 2004. Most of the team members for 2003 will compete again in 2004. These results show LifeSmarts' awareness is increasing.

Evaluations from the 2003 In-person Competition suggested: most of the participants were female, age ranges were 15 and 16, and the grade levels were 10th -12th. Survey results showed all team members felt more competent about their understanding of consumer education since participating in LifeSmarts. All participants stated LifeSmarts is teaching important information about personal finance and consumer rights and responsibility matters. Since teens have been participating in LifeSmarts data reveal, 41% did not know it was best to pay more than the minimum payment on credit cards until they began participating in LifeSmarts. Eighty-three percent are beginning to compare prices before buying, and 83% have begun to track their money to see where it is going. When compare with other teens their ages, 42% of these LifeSmarts teens believe they know more about managing their money since participating in LifeSmarts than teens who have not participated in LifeSmarts, and 33% think they know about the same as most students in managing their money. Forty-one percent said they were doing a better job of managing money since participating in LifeSmarts. Seventy-five percent said they were more disciplined in their spending decisions. Participants stated LifeSmarts offered a great learning experience.

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.

Urban Extension County Agent Mary Malone, in Morgan County, reported by using various methods of financial planning she has been successful in getting at least twenty low-income families in Morgan County to show improvements in personal finance behaviors. Such behavior demonstrates the setting of long and short-term financial goals. These families reportedly, now understand the difference between needs and want. Agent Malone can measure this behavior change through their verbal behavior. These families did not have any investment products, nor was their evidence of any retirement planning. She has evidence to suggest that credit is being use wisely. Although there is no evidence that, they reduced the use of credit within the last year. Agent Malone was not able to detect if these families have ever requested a credit report. There was no indication that these families have reduced their debt load, due to time constraints and the ability to offer follow up classes. Four percent of these families had a budget or spending plan. Agent Malone observed that 2% of these

families used financial records for decision making, though they did not include their children in the financial decision making. Twenty-five percent of these families have a way of tracking money they spend. They are keeping records of how they are spending their money. Agent Malone did not experience problems with these families keeping their appointments. Most of these families fulfilled their record keeping responsibilities at the end of the month. According to Agent Malone, they planned well. While some families used, financial institutions, most of them tended to pay their bills using cash. Most of these families do not have a Will, but the few that have Wills stated they needed updating and will have the updating done. Agent Malone was not able to determine whether these families had made sound decisions about insurance, or had gone through a bankruptcy. These families had some understanding of income taxes. There is evidence of more family involvement in discussing money matters. Eighteen percent of these families may be having open discussions about money, whereas 15% of the families are not having family discussions about money. The families that are discussing money matters have these discussions once per month. Twenty percent of the families are saving regularly and do it by following a saving plan. Reportedly, these families have increased their savings within the last year. Nevertheless, these families indicated they do not have a savings account and execute on a cash only basis. One can only deduce they are saving by using methods other than financial institutions. Going further, these families did not save for emergencies, and indicated they did not believe they could “afford” to save.

In conclusion, urban families are practicing basic financial planning skills, i.e., setting short and long term goals, and budgeting. They use a budget or another type of spending plan to guide them in managing their money. These families did not include their children in the household discussion about money. They have no investments, alternately; they are saving money but are not using financial institutions in the process. Most of them are, what they call “unbanked”, or “cash” consumers. Their financial affairs are handled using cash. They also do not understand the relationship of saving overall and saving for emergencies. They believe they cannot afford to save for emergencies. Cooperative Extension should strive to educate these individuals about saving and investing. The risk involved in not using financial institutions and using much cash, as compared with the advantages of using financial institutions, and not using much cash. They also need to be educated about how goals, budgeting and saving yield financial success. Clearly, it is demonstrated here that they do not understand the connections made by money in their financial lives. Therefore, they do not understand how to make financial planning work for them. These are some areas and issues where Cooperative Extension should strive to provide more educational programs to teach limited resource families.

All of the financial indicators, disclosed these families were using some of the skills at the basic financial planning level. These indicators revealed that financial literacy education through the Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit is reaching urban clients and improving the financial well being of families. Conversely, these financial indicators brought to light other areas in personal finance that the Urban Unit of The Alabama Cooperative Extension System should address.

Reportedly, none of these families indicated they had encountered fraud, or had been victims of financial exploitation.

#### Articles:

Two articles were submitted to the Journal of Consumer Affairs

1. Employers Perspectives on Identified Social Factors as Predictors to Workforce Entry
2. Identity Theft

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Over \$10,000 in internal support, fees, and in-kind donations were generated for the conference and related events. Based on an average meeting of one group every two months (4 over the cycle of the conference planning), an estimated 25 Extension staff (program brochure) met in the Dawson Building for planning meetings of 1 1/2 hours per session for fifth annual conference.

The Alabama RAPP received a big surprise in December—Annhauser Busch donated \$4,000.00 to the Alabama RAPP through Alabama AARP, one of our state partners, for use by grandparents and relatives raising children. Ruth Rambo, Associate Director of Alabama AARP contacted us with the exciting news just before the Christmas holiday. Each grandparent or relative (98) involved in programs throughout the state received a \$32 Wal-Mart or Sam's Supercenter gift certificate for each child in their care. The grandparents and relatives who participate in RAPP support groups across the state were elated. Funds are still being expended from our original \$10,000.00 seed grant.

Again this year, the Madison County local group sponsored a Christmas Angel tree for two families. A singles group at a local church provided Christmas gifts for a family of five children; the gifts were valued at \$1200.00.

The in-kind and monetary resources donated to LifeSmarts for 2003 is valued at \$2000.00.

#### 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.

T V Channel 19 News in Huntsville featured the Madison County RAPP in a news story. Gail Ballyntine, news anchor and writer, taped footage at a local support group meeting where she met some of the grand parents and received their permission to come to their homes to conduct in-depth interviews. Dr. Ruffin, Family & Human Development Specialist and state director of RAPP was featured in the series, as she was presenting the workshop for the local group in November. Alison Couch, Data Analyst and State Coordinator of RAPP was interviewed for the news story and discussed Alabama RAPP, its goals and successes in the Madison county area and across the state. The feature aired a full day in different segments of the news. The RAPP exhibit continues to show case the work being done with relatives and grandparent caregivers and the children in their care. The continuation of RAPP presents a bright future for children and families in Alabama.

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.

An Alabama web site supports LifeSmarts on-line competition.

Our goal is to continue to market LifeSmarts in the future. We envision LifeSmarts becoming the statewide leading consumer education program for teens in grades 9-12. We hope that Lifesmarts attract more teams in 2004 than it captivated it 2003.

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 2004 based on the feedback that we have received from the county agents that responded to our request for suggestions for improvements.

## **ETP 19B TAPPING AT POST-SECONDARY/SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

*By Mary Williams Hurt*

### **A. Description:**

According to 2003 Alabama Kids Count Data Book (2002 data), the State of Alabama retention rate for first grade students were 6.8% (397 students). Madison County had a 4.6% (163 students) retention rate. The State's event (actual) drop out rate for 9th-12th grade was 3.7% (7,427 students) and Madison County actual event rate was 3.4% (423 students). The projected dropout rate for the 9th grade class was 14.1% and 8,498 (students) statewide, compared to 12.4% and 488 students in Madison County.

The juvenile violent-crime arrest rate (under age 18) for violent offenses (homicide, manslaughter, robbery or aggravated assault) per 1,000 (ages 10-17) for Madison County was 163.6% (53 juveniles). The Juvenile Violent Court Referral Crime rate for the State of Alabama was 638.1% (3,029 Juveniles).

To address the social problems of society, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is taking a proactive approach by utilizing the service of volunteers to conduct educational programs, provide tutorial and mentoring assistance and educational research based information.

### **B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:**

Tapping at Post-Secondary Schools (TAPS) is an organized Community service outreach student volunteer program implemented at the post-secondary and secondary levels. During FY 2003, TAPS made a great impact on the lives of families, adults and children in the State of Alabama. The program was implemented in one four-year college, three two-year community colleges, one high school and one Juvenile Justice System, generating a total of 1,035 volunteers.

TAPS 2003 had a total of 69 collaborative partnerships with various community-based agencies through the implementation of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) Service-Learning Network (SLN)/Students Promoting Action: Community Education (SPACE) program. At least 18 volunteer programs were implemented statewide generating 15 site managers, 71 volunteer leaders, 27,529 volunteer hours and a grand total of 41,752 customer contacts.

In Madison County, ACES formed a 1997 collaborative “Statement of Understanding” with six administrative academic schools at Alabama A&M University to form a Service-Learning Network. The purpose of the Service-Learning Network was to unify the volunteer efforts of the various entities at Alabama A&M University. Also the District 6 County Commissioner and the Alabama A&M University Community Resource Development (CDC) office, provided manpower training hours and one VISTA volunteer worker to enhance the implementation process. As a result of this unified effort, more than 538 student volunteers (field experience, class requirements community-based work study and independent community service providers) attended a two hour orientation and training session. The SLN program is under the auspices of the Alabama Cooperative Extension SPACE program.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has been a collaborative partnership with the Madison County Juvenile Court System PHOENIX Program since its inception in 1992. PHOENIX is a ten weeks (three cycle per year) mandatory juvenile attendance program where first time offenders get an opportunity for a “second chance by successfully completing the program without re-offending. If no re-offenses occur, the Juvenile records are wiped clean which gives them a second chance. Parents of the Juvenile are also required attending a parenting class, which is taught by a team of professional trainers. PHOENIX meets weekly (once per week) from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Judge’s courtroom. The chief probation officer, Ms. Charlotte Camper, Neaves/Davis Detention Center for Children, facilitates the program.

The SPACE program was facilitated at Bishop State College (Mobile County), Talladega College (Talladega County), University of North Alabama UNA, (Lauderdale County), Alabama A&M University (Madison County), Ramsay High School (Jefferson County) and the Madison County Juvenile Court System. SPACE is a volunteer driven program proven to be successful through impact data evaluation information from school systems, agencies, community-based, youth development programs, and the student volunteers.

#### C. Results, Impacts and Benefits To Direct clientele and to the Public:

According to impact data evaluation instruments from 15 site managers, 71 volunteer leaders, 5 extension agents and the chief probation officer follow-up records, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is making a difference and changing the lives of Alabama families, children, teens and adults.

As a result of the students, 907 volunteer community service hours in Madison County, at least 2,506 contacts were made to community-based organizations. SPACE was committed to working with tutorial school based agencies to improve the educational skills of students who attended four caution/alert labeled schools



in North West Huntsville. Caution/Alert terms are used to describe schools that were performing below standards. The newest terminology is Watch. There were 9 educational entities, with 723 participants k-12, receiving tutorial and mentoring assistance. According to report cards 180 report cards improved 35%, 135 participants significantly improved by 45%, 155 students behavior changed from negative rebuttal attitudes to positive self-image and 65 students significantly improved their behavior by 50%. The Huntsville City School System reported that several of the schools classified Caution/Alert had changed due to the improvement of student's scores.

The SLN/SPACE trained 538 professional/student volunteers partnered with 25 agencies generating 8,070 community service hours reaching a total of 32, 280 citizens in Madison County. According to evaluation impact data forms, more than 40% of the students showed a significant improvement in learning by demonstrating better listening skills; changing behavioral patterns; improving reading comprehension/skills, and improving academic grade point averages by 30%-45%. Because of the enthusiasm of the mentors, the participants self-esteem were significantly boosted, which resulted in better attitudes toward learning in the classroom.

The Talladega County Extension Coordinator launched a successful SPACE community outreach program at Talladega College. Thirty five students were trained and mentored by eight volunteer leaders, two site managers, producing 1,090 volunteer hours and reaching 700 Talladega customers. As a result of this effort, participants grade point averages improved by 30% -65%, One Hundred (100) of the children showed a significant improvement in attitudes and overall behavior patterns.

A Lauderdale County Extension agent formed collaborative partnership with two agencies, (The American Cancer Society and UNA), One hundred and eight (108), Nursing students (3) site Managers, (50) volunteer leaders, generated a total of 1,050 community service hours and 5,190 customer contacts. As a result of this effort, 50 volunteer leaders worked with over 1,000 cancer survivors (relay for life) and their families to raise over \$250,000.00 to be used to conduct research and find a cure for cancer. Thirty-two UNA student volunteers and two instructors assisted training with 25,250 (K-3) students on proper hand washing technique to keep from spreading germs.

Mobile County Extension Agent recruited 86 volunteers (youth, teens, adults), three site managers and three volunteer leaders. The total number of volunteer hours conducted was 15,350, reaching a clientele of 750 citizens. Two partnerships were formed with Bishop State College (Students in Free Enterprise Team) and the Drug Education Council. As a result of these collaborative partnerships, the volunteer leaders assisted with the development and

implementation of a skit for “Week without Violence” for over 300 students and adults. The volunteer leaders incorporated concepts in the play to deter violence in the home, workplace, and school. As a result of the play, techniques were presented on the ways the control and manage anger and how to walk away. The county extension agent and volunteers presented a display and presentation on “Energy Star” to Fair attendees.

Jefferson County Extension Agent formed a collaborative partnership with Ramsay High School Principal, counselors and teachers to develop and implement a volunteer fair for high school students. A total of 500 students and 50 volunteers leaders and teachers participated in planning and implementation. At least 35 non-profit agencies set up volunteer recruitment booths in an effort to greet and recruit student volunteers. As result of this effort 105 volunteers were placed with community-based agencies. Fifty (50) volunteers worked at the Children’s Hospital reading stories, playing games, and conducting puppet show and telling stories. Thirty-five (35) volunteers performed volunteer service at MacWane Science Building providing service and assistance to scientific representatives. Twenty (20) volunteers served as tutors and mentors for two after school programs. According to the after school program representatives, 30% of the grade point average increased from grade C to B.

The PHOENIX program is a Madison County Juvenile Justice System successful program coordinated by the Chief Probation Officer, Ms. Charlotte Camper, Probation Officer, Ms. Evon Webster, the County Commissioner, District 6, Dr. Prince Preyer Jr., in Cooperation with the Madison County Alabama Cooperative Extension System Urban program. The PHOENIX program has proven to be successful for twelve (12) years in Madison County. The program leaders are making plans to introduce the concept statewide/ nationwide. The overall objectives of PHOENIX 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 consequence of inappropriate behavior and 3) To promote Family Unity and cohesiveness by encouraging family-based activities. PHOENIX is a 10 weeks/three cycle program which meets weekly, in the Judge’s court room from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (one night per week). The State Extension Specialist is a volunteer and team instructor for self-esteem development. According to the Chief Probation Officer Charlotte Camper and Probation Officer, Evon Webster , since the inception of the program in 1992-2001 court’s records indicate 70% of the Juveniles do not return to court or have not been repeat offenders. For FY 2002, a total of 76 juveniles graduated from the 10 weeks (3 cycle per year). PHOENIX program. Only twenty-four (3.1%) juveniles re-offended and 52 (70%) did not re-offend. According to impact data evaluation, the participants felt that the PHOENIX program had made a difference in their lives. Ninety (90) of the parents felt they had learned new parenting skills and knew how to better deal

with discipline problems. The PHOENIX publication is completed; however, a complete curriculum guide and 10-15 minute videotape need to be developed and completed. The publication is going through the system's process.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to reported days worked by Extension Team Project ETP19B, (TAPS), a total of seven (7) extension employees reported working on this project. Program Results, Impacts and Benefits direct to the clientele and to the public at an estimated value of 27,529 (community service) volunteer hours at \$ 7.00 per hour, which totals \$192,703.00.

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

The Madison County Juvenile delinquent resource booklet is in the System's publication process. Because of added responsibilities, the Service-Learning Network specialist did not complete planned goals.

### **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:

This is the second year of implementation of the PAYD program. In January 2003, 26 extension agents were signed up for ETP 13C (this number has reduced due to recent retirements). Most of the agents signed up for ETP 13C in 2003 had participated in the training held in February 2002. All employees signed up for this ETP in 2003 received CDs containing updates for the PAYD program. The few who were new to ETP 13C in 2003 also received the CD containing the original PAYD curriculum.

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

Feedback regarding the implementation of PAYD in 2003 has been somewhat limited. Of the feedback received, agents indicate that they have implemented the program with a range of youth groups, including: in-school 4-H groups, after-school 4-H groups, in-school groups with students at risk for academic failure, alternative schools, other in school groups. The adolescents with whom PAYD has been used range from middle school to high school students. Student responses to the module activities were positive (i.e., students were engaged and viewed the activities as beneficial and enjoyable). The program is reported to be flexible and easy to facilitate. Agents also report that teachers are asking them for copies of the PAYD materials.

Evaluation forms were received from one group (n=15; 8th and 9th graders, all but 2 were African American, 7 males, 8 females) for Module 4 (goal setting and planning). The students reported that they were highly satisfied with the activity (mean=3.6 on a 4 point scale) and that they experienced gains in knowledge about future planning by participating in the activity (pre-knowledge score = 3.0; post-knowledge score=3.8 on a 4-point scale). The difference between pre and post activity knowledge was significant at p=.001. These outcomes are consistent with the larger evaluation study conducted in 2002.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to the reported days worked, 23 ACES employees allocated 360 days to this project in 2003. The cost of this project is primarily the specialist's or agent's time and the purchasing of a relatively small number of supplemental materials, as well as duplication of a few forms. 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.

#### 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. This website is used by youth and family professionals within the state of Alabama, as well as by professionals in other states. These professionals have contacted Dr. Kerpelman to discuss the use of the PAYD program with their clients. Some have also purchased the Game of Real Life Game board from ACES for use with PAYD module 4. PAYD also has been presented at national conferences during the last two years. Future plans are to continue this program for at least the next 4 years.

### **ETP13d. Stay Connected**

*By Jennifer L. Kerpelman*

#### A. Description:

Stay Connected is a flexible program designed to enhance communication and interactions between parents and adolescents. This program can be used in a broad range of settings with diverse audiences. The core of the program includes: 10 goals for teens, 10 goals for parents, and joint parent-teen activities. Each goal addresses an area that is of current concern and importance for contemporary families and communities. The parent and teen goals are designed to complement one another so that programs can focus on building parent and teen strengths independently, as well as bringing parents and teens together for joint activities that enhance communication and understanding.

The goals for teens, as well as parents focus on both small and large parent-teen relationship issues. Parents and teens are helped to take each others' perspectives on a range of topics. Examples of areas covered with both parents

and teens include: effective communication, dealing with conflict, discussing sensitive topics, rules, and tolerance and diversity. Teens also address: understanding why parents worry, responsibility taking, and identifying trustworthy adults in their support system. Additional goals for parents include: recognizing when teens need help, including teens in family decision-making, and gender stereotypes. Collectively the goals for parents and teens and the joint activities promote positive parent-adolescent relationships and effective relationship skills for all participants. Some of the main program objectives include:

#### Objective 1

Participants' knowledge in areas of: parent-adolescent communication, conflict management, perspective taking, balancing privileges with responsibility, and tolerance for diversity will be increased.

#### Objective 2

Adolescent participants will be able to engage in:

- a. more effective communication with their parents generally, as well as about sensitive topics.
- b. improved perspective-taking with regard to why their parents worry about them, set and enforce rules, and want to spend time with them.

#### Objective 3

Adult participants (i.e., parents) will engage in:

- a. more effective communication with their adolescents generally, as well as about sensitive topics.
- b. improved perspective-taking with regard to why their teens push for autonomy and need a balance of boundaries and freedom, need to have a voice in decisions, and might choose interests and future paths that may differ from what the parents want or expect.

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

The Stay Connected Program was given to 12 ACES agents in March 2003 who signed up for the ETP (although this number has dropped to 5 due to retirements and other recent changes in ACES). In addition Dr. Kerpelman and Auburn University students implemented the program with adolescents attending George Washington Carver High School in Montgomery Alabama during February-April 2003. All ten goals for teens were addressed.

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

A total 185 adolescents from George Washington Carver High School participated in the Stay Connected program. All of these adolescents were African American students (60 males and 135 females) who were taking Family and Consumer Science courses. The majority of participants were in the ninth grade (n=104), followed by the tenth grade (n=50), eleventh grade (n=23), and twelfth grade (n=8).

Results of the retrospective pre/post-evaluation of knowledge gained from participation in the Stay Connected program indicated that across the group of participating adolescents, perceived increases in knowledge were observed for nine of the ten goal areas addressed. Table 1 shows the means for knowledge at pre- and post-session (range is from little knowledge (1) to a great deal of knowledge (4)). All gains in knowledge were significant with the exception for goal 3 (however the change in knowledge was in the expected direction).

Table 1. Knowledge Gains of Stay Connected Participants

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Goal 1. responding appropriately when parents need to think about a decision.  
#participants=14 Pre-knowledge score=3.1 Post-knowledge score=3.6

Goal 2. understanding why parents worry.  
#participants=13 Pre-knowledge score=3.1 Post-knowledge score=3.5

Goal 3. why the adolescent's behavior matters.  
#participants=14 Pre-knowledge score=3.2 Post-knowledge score=3.3

Goal 4. the link between privileges and responsibilities.  
#participants=18 Pre-knowledge score=3.1 Post-knowledge score=3.5

Goal 5. why rules are necessary.  
#participants=12 Pre-knowledge score=3.0 Post-knowledge score=3.6

Goal 6. identifying trustworthy adults.  
#participants=17 Pre-knowledge score=3.2 Post-knowledge score=3.6

Goal 7. parent-adolescent conflict.  
#participants=18 Pre-knowledge score=2.7 Post-knowledge score=3.4

Goal 8. talking about sensitive topics.  
#participants=18 Pre-knowledge score=2.7 Post-knowledge score=3.7

Goal 9. spending time with parents.  
#participants=15 Pre-knowledge score=3.0 Post-knowledge score=3.7

Goal 10. tolerance and diversity.

#participants=25 Pre-knowledge score=3.1 Post-knowledge score=3.6

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Feedback provided by ACES agents regarding Stay Connected indicated intentions to employ the program in the future, although most had not used the program with clients yet. One agent reported that she had plans to implement the program with teen groups, group homes, youth organizations and churches. She also planned to use some of the information in a bimonthly newsletter. Another agent plans to use some of the materials with younger adolescents as part of a 21st Century grant.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to the reported days worked on this project, 6 ACES employees allocated 84 days to this project in 2003. The cost of this project is primarily the specialist's or agent's time and the purchasing of a relatively small number of supplemental materials, as well as duplication of a few forms. Once all supplies for Stay Connected are purchased/created, some of these supplies can be reused indefinitely, lowering the cost of the program for subsequent groups.

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

Stay Connected was used at Auburn University as part of the Personal Growth and Development Courses offered to Auburn employees. Parents of adolescents attended a two-hour workshop on parenting teens. This same workshop will be offered in February 2004. Stay Connected also was presented at the 2nd Biennial Southeast Regional Conference on Family Support (October, 2003) in Birmingham, Alabama. Approximately 50 educators attended the Stay Connected: A Flexible Program for Enhancing Parent-Teen Relationships session. Finally, ACES agents were made aware of the Stay Connected program at the Family Matters conference held in April 2003 (approximately 23 agents attended this 2-day meeting). During 2004, the Stay Connected program will be added to the (<http://www.aces.edu/teens/>) web site which will make it widely accessible to ACES employees and other youth and family professionals across the state and country. Future plans are to continue this program for at least the next 3-5 years and to increase the number of ACES employees who are aware of this program and how to use it. Its flexibility makes it a valuable resource for a wide range of programs addressing many different topics of interest to youth and parents. Presentations of the Stay Connected program at the state and national level are planned.



## **ETP14A – Leading with Character**

*By Mary H. Gregg*

One of the most pressing issues facing the United States and its youth serving organizations today is how to best facilitate the leadership development of our youth. The future of the nation, and the future of world civilization, will soon rest in the hands of today's young people. To become productive and contributing individuals who can be effective and proactive in determining the course of tomorrow's world, Alabama's youth must develop positive leadership knowledge, attitudes, skills, and aspirations. Preparing today's young people for their roles as tomorrow's leaders is a challenge we all face.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is committed to the integration of leadership development and character education into all 4-H programming. Alabama 4-H's Leading with Character program 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.

ACES introduced a new curriculum in 2003 Workplace Ethics. The curriculum contains a series of activity-based lessons for business or industrial settings. The materials are also appropriate for high school audiences in support of character development and career and vocational education. These materials may be borrowed from any local county extension office or by contacting the state office.

ACES employees devoted 967 days to Character education during 2003. ACES staff reported 296,165 non face-to-face contacts and 33,112 face-to-face contacts all attributed to Leading with Character programming. Leading with Character programming assists 4-H youth in developing leadership skills and ethics. This program teaches youth to exercise character and leadership in their actions, words, and associations with others.

## **ETP33A**

*By Rosalie M. Lane*

### A. Description

According to the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Alabama's unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in December 2003, higher than the 5.7 percent experienced by the U.S. during the same period. 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 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." 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 about three issues that 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, and the cause of the gap, is prevalent in Alabama, as it is in the rest of the nation. There is also 'disconnect' between the increases of new "unmanned" jobs that demand new skills, and the large numbers of unskilled workers not ready to use new technology. There is also a digital divide that separates our nation into technological "haves" and "have nots." Large numbers of workers now compete in decreasing traditional job markets, such as manufacturing, while the unemployment gap increases." 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." Workforce training professionals are challenged by Secretary Chao 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 nation's 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 is providing programs and

resources that focus on assisting Alabama families in realizing a better quality of life.

## B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

Alabama Cooperative Extension Systems' Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit provides the Extension Team Project "Workforce Preparation & Economic Development, 33A," with the potential venture capital to focus on preparing workers with attributes that employers want. This team project has adapted, developed, and created such workforce preparation programs to answer the challenge. The project's Job Readiness Programs and Youth Career Summits, as well as curriculums such as Welcome to the Real World and Works for Me, and an employment Internet website WECAN4U, continuously delivered in MSA's and rural areas to hard to reach audiences. Using these and other tools serve as value added enhancements to increase client's opportunities for hire.

The Youth Career Summits are designed for unique audiences, such as senior high female 11th and 12th graders, to get a broader view of the nontraditional careers available to them in the high wage and high tech fields. Recent data reveals that women are under represented in the high-paying technical fields. 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. The following are statistics gathered to confirm the need for Youth Career Summits:

- \* Women comprise 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.

The Summit has seen approximately 8,000 male and female participating high school students in Houston, Mobile and Madison, since its 2000 inception. This past year, over 2,225 students attended in Houston and Madison Counties. Although, the Summit was developed to increase the 15 percent female

presence in unique technological fields, young men are now given the same opportunities and to date approximate 2000 have attended. Over 3000 workforce related handouts were given in the Madison County Summit youth.

Welcome to the Real World reached approximately 1,834 participants in 2003, in Alabama. The curriculum delivers a proactive and exciting workforce training and educational program to youth and adults. It renders a proactive and holistic view of real life that must be made by self-sufficient 25-year-old adults regarding career, budget, emergency and other life considerations. 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 (a) Calhoun, partnering with DHR, AMS, SHS, CCCTC, etc. (1,025); (b) Jefferson (100); (c) Lowndes Money Management Workshop (20); (d) Lauderdale County with partnerships from Adult Education, DHR, Housing Authority, and Food Stamps (350); (e) Lawrence in partnership with the following high schools Tennessee Valley, Hatton, Parents and Children and Teachers (PACT) facilitating five presentations (124); (f) Mobile (350) in partnership with Drug Education Council, University of South Alabama, Bishop State Community College (SIFE Team); (g) Madison County (163) in partnership with local youth agencies; and (h) Talladega, in partnership with Senior High School economic and Project Impact (52).

Following are some comments that facilitators and clients made about the activity:

- \* "Please include me in the next simulation."
- \* "The simulation should be a requirement for high school seniors."
- \* "I don't have enough money."
- \* "The WTTRW really helps students to have a better appreciation for the value of money: this is an excellent way to teach money management."
- \* "They enjoyed the class and learned a lot. Some expressed that they wish to class could be shorter."

The WTTRW is curriculum is so widely used throughout the state by Extension facilitators who do not report impact to ETP 33A, Workforce Preparation and Economic Development; therefore, the Specialist designed an impact measurement-reporting instrument for all users. The form is on the Extension website under Urban New and Nontraditional Programs for reporting. WTTRW has amassed over 9,000 contacts to date.

Job Readiness Programs were delivered under various topics including Dress for Success programs, It Works for Me curriculum, Career programs and one

Forefronting Youth Initiative. "The Job Hunting Kit", a workforce and career enhancement is also added this year under Job Readiness. During the year, on an ongoing basis, county agents and the Specialist have provided non-formal education and training to 1,671 hard to reach audiences. Partnership formations and community based initiatives, enabled the programs to occur in (a) Job preparation classes for Project Impact and Senior High Economics (285) in Talladega County; (b) two workshops and conference - Career Image and Economic Empowerment for Youth (963) along with "Forefronting Youth Initiative (963) in Madison; (c) Dress for Success Programs (150) and Job Readiness (100) in Jefferson County; (d) Workshops on interviewing, success on the job and other workplace topics to help clients in obtaining and job retention. The following partnerships were very unique as this was a cloistered audience of participants that were confidential/closed to the public/settings/activities, and outsiders were not used in the training. However, the partners included Volunteer Mobile, Mobile works, Ross Enterprises, Goodwill Ester Seals, Sybil Smith Family Village, University of Mobile Mgmt Class, Penelope House, Mobile Co Personnel System, U.J. Robinson Adult Day Care Center (278 adults); (e) four-hundred (400) Job Hunting Kits for Youth Summits and three exhibits - two of which took place at National Conferences (SRDC) and AEA (500), and (f) four Job Readiness programs for Sr. High student (30 in Morgan County. (2,622 contacts, plus 400 resources disbursed).

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 5,800 hits since its inception in May 2000. The site designers have been awarded a \$10,000 grant for site enhancement. The Specialist also received an Innovative Program Award in the Technology & Data Management category and exhibit of "WECAN4U" website at the June AEA National Conference in Atlanta. (5,800 contacts)

Senior Programs: The Specialist provided support in other ETPS to promote seniors in the workforce and volunteering. Partnered with Area Agency of Aging at TARCOG to train thirty seniors at the "Successful Aging Initiative: A Senior Expo," to be aware of current and future employment volunteering opportunities. (300 brochures) "Employment & Volunteer Opportunities for seniors," Also exhibited at the Urban Rural Interface Conference in April on same subject (100.) Distributed 200 brochures at the "4th Annual Family Conference". Exhibited at the "Grandparents" Conference. Distributed 150 brochures. (150 contacts).

Economic Development Programs are programs that inspire economic

empowerment. Although, many of the workforce programs could easily fit into this category, programs such as entrepreneurship and direct economic focused programs are highlighted. (a) Houston County in partnership with Toy State Business Center presented a complete entrepreneurship program; NxLevel Business Class to 29 potential minority business owners, with 21 completing the ten week course; Houston County also partnered with Schmitz Auto Group, Minority Business Development Committee and Dothan Chamber of Commerce to present a national seminar "Race for Success", which 229 potential minority business owners attended to assist in minorities exploring more opportunities in the Southern region of Alabama and or create a business incubator. Montgomery County presented a six-month hands on entrepreneurship-financial independence-business ethics program for "Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)", Carver and William Elementary Schools and the Montgomery Job Corp (500) There were 758 contacts.

### C. Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public

Counselors and Board of Education Officials continue to be very positive about the influence of the Youth Career Summits. Hierarchical surveys of Counselors find that Counselors agree that most students who have not made up their mind about careers usually consider one of the careers presented at the Summit. Surveys show that seventy-five percent of the student surveyed after the Youth Career Summit answered "yes" to the question: "Do you think you will pursue a career in one of the technical areas you learned about during the Youth-Career Summit?" A fraction more than three fourth responded "yes" to the question "Will your involvement in the Youth Career Summit influence your decision to pursue a technical career." The fact that 15% of women in 2000 held the high wage high skilled jobs that the Summit promotes is an indication of the immediate need for the program.

Welcome to the Real World continues to get between 95 and 97 percent approval rating from the participants, the professionals and the volunteers. This instrument is a wake up call to the youth that think they can manage money and make earnest decisions about their lives, career choices and financial well-being. Two-thirds of the students overall have considered a career change after the activity. Instructors often use this curriculum in conjunction with financial management, career development and mathematics classes. A County Agent from Lowndes County commented in her success that the students " . . . learned Money Management practices, how to write a check, the importance of saving and to be aware of salesmen." A Talladega County Extension Agent noted comment: "The WTTRW really helps students to have a better appreciation for the value of money; this is an excellent way to teach money management."

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" is used as a requested resource to radio listeners in one of the local employment related radio programs in conjunction with the University's TV station program. Over 1000 were given away last year by request and accompanying job readiness programs.

Internet Based Program: The WECAN4U workforce preparation Internet website is being used. The majority (one half) of the hits are occurring in Alabama in the employment sector, followed by 250 hits in the area of workforce certification and education training programs. The CSREES \$10,000 grant 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 and at the AEA Conference in June 2003. A copy of my article is attached that was featured on the ACES home page in July. 250 manuals and 300 brochures were given out)

Senior Programs: The Specialist partnered with Top of Alabama Regional Councils of Government (TARCOG) and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) programs and have developed a brochure that focus on Senior volunteerism and employment. This brochure is given to professionals and clients during conferences and tables of exhibits. Approximately 1200 have been distributed to senior related programs.

Economic Development Programs have been awarded both financial and other gifts to present programs: They were: The City of Dothan donated the use of the Civic Center, Wallace Community College provided \$10,000 Technology Grant, local colleges, business and industry donated \$300.00 for exhibit space, Schmitz Auto Group provided 26,000 to host Franchise Seminar in Dothan, Dothan Chamber of Commerce provided \$10,000 to assist hosting Seminar Race for Success, and the Seminar itself provided speakers from the National Small Business Administration from Washington, DC.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Six reporting ACES employees worked with the WTTRW Project using over 650 volunteers. Each volunteer spends 3 hours at each activity, based on the average time that it takes for each WTTRW activity. The amount of money that you would pay for the volunteer time amounts to over \$1,800 at the \$10.00 an hour cost. Industry and Social Service agency also donated, by proposal and gift, the amount of \$5,000, along with facilities and manpower, to present the Youth

Career Summit. Drake Technical College provided the facility, Virginia College provide lunch for 300 for Summit 2003, along with \$900 in grants from Boeing and Community Action. Houston County's total donations for the Youth Career Summits and the Economic Development programs were \$50,000, plus the cost of speakers.

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

A videotape of the Madison County Mayor's interview regarding the Youth Career Summit, in which she took part, is available. This broadcast ran on Huntsville's WHNT. It will be a part of a marketing video that will be used for further exposure of the Youth Career Summit. The "Works for Me" curriculum, co-authored with Dr. Carol Centrallo, published in January of 2003, is being used by agents and community facilitators (Calhoun). Further marketing feedback is expected within 2004. It was exhibited at the National SRDC-CRED Conference in Orlando, Florida in March and many orders were taken. Welcome to the Real World has been updated with current IRS charts, job titles, and transportation, housing, utilities, etc. information.

In 2003, over 300 of the WECAN4U Internet website training guides have been given out at conferences, exhibits and the AAMU radio station, which also has a supply of the Job Hunting Handbook for listeners. It is also available as a value-added tool to enhance job readiness programs in several counties. Presented Inservice Training in March 2003, where the Works for Me completed curriculum was presented to the Agents as well as the updated sections of the WTTRW manual.

In summary, the following contacts occurred: WTTRW 1,834, Youth Career Summit 2,225, Job Readiness 2,622, Seniors Programs, 150, Economic Development 758 (7,589). The WECAN4U website has amassed over 5,800 hits. The following totals have the non face-to-face contacts factored in the numbers: Urban Contacts were 111,593 and the rural contacts 124,625. Total Contacts 236,218.

### **ETP 31A (Diversity & Multicultural Affairs)**

*By Celedonio Gapsin*

#### A. 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.

## B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

Living in Harmony, was the theme of the Extension staff in-service training conducted on Thursday, March 13, 2003 at the Dawson Cooperative Extension building at Alabama A&M University campus

Two seminars were presented for the morning activities. Mr. Dwight Faulkner, Interim Manager of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, Atlanta, Georgia was the speaker for Changes in Immigration Laws. At around 10:30 that morning, Dr. Jerome Roberts, Vice President for Student Affairs at Alabama A&M University,

deliberated on the topic Fraternities and Sororities: Do You Join Them? Following the two seminars was a question-answer session, which lasted for about 20 minutes.

At noontime lunch was served. There was a Taste of Culture, where foods from different countries like Pakistan, Peru, Nepal, Iran, China, Philippines and others were served.

The other activity in the afternoon was the Celebration of Diversity: Rainbow of Cultures. Various talents from different cultures were presented. There were folk dances from Spain called Flamingo, from Peru, Festejo, from Africa, Kpalongo and Song for You, and from the Philippines, Bulaklakan, and a flower dance. Three poems were presented, one from Miss Alabama A&M 2003, The Mother and two others from the Virgin Islands and from India. A graduate student from the Department of Agribusiness also delivered the Caste System of Nepal. A group composed of five singers from the Philippines sang a patriotic song, Bayan Ko, which means my country. The rest of the activities that afternoon included Parade of Nations where costumes from various countries were presented. Some participants explained when and how to wear their costume. There was also audience/public participation where they sang two American patriotic songs: God Bless American and America the Beautiful.

Cultural exhibits of arts and crafts including pictorials were shown representing countries from Africa by the International Student Association of A&M, including Indonesia and the Philippines.

To nurture a recognition and respect for diversity within communities, to create a greater appreciation for the value of diversity and to establish an environment that promotes unity, a Diversity Council for Madison and Limestone Counties was organized on Tuesday, August 12, 2003 at the Interactive Video Center, Dawson Cooperative Extension Building, Alabama A&M University. More than 20 organizations representing religious groups, service agencies, military personnel, police departments, academic institutions and international clubs were represented in the organizational meeting. Prior to the election of officers for the council, the group was briefed on the Cooperative Extension program of Alabama A&M and Auburn universities, the need for a Diversity Council was explained, and examples of diversity programs including law enforcement seminars conducted in the past by Extension was also presented..

The elected officers of the Diversity Council were: President, Maria Taylor, originally from Peru, now residing in Athens, Alabama, a Logistic Management Specialist from the Security Assistance Management Directorate at Redstone Arsenal; Vice President, Barbara Williams, Administrative Officer and in charge of Pupil Services of Huntsville City Schools; Secretary, Frank Broyles, Program

Director of the National Conference for Community and Justice, Huntsville; and Treasurer, Kimberly Crutcher-Williams, Officer of Multicultural Affairs, University of Alabama in Huntsville. Three working committees were formed with chairmen: Public Relations Committee, Khalil Alim, a freelance writer-lecturer and member of the An-Nur The Light Lectures and Books organization, Huntsville; Membership Committee, Ms. Lateisha Alein, AIDS Action Coalition/Faith Community Gathering, Huntsville; and Program/Activities Committee, Gloria Vergara, Past President of the International Womens Club of Huntsville together with Otha Tucker of the Madison County Health Department, Huntsville. The Program/Activities committee had already prepared a draft of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Council and copies were provided to the members for review. A motto, "We are One," was suggested and adopted by the council members. A regular monthly meeting was scheduled every second Tuesday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

In Lauderdale County, the Shoals Diversity Council which was organized under the leadership of Mary Andrews, County Extension Agent of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, co-hosted with the Office of Multicultural Affairs of the University of North Alabama, a Global Cultural Night which celebrated the cultures from around the world. The purpose of the program was to create awareness about different cultures especially those represented that evening to an audience of over 500 people residing in the Shoals area.

The Father of the Blues, W.C. Handy, was remembered and honored during the W.C. Handy Parade in observance of the week-long celebration to honor a notable musician. More than 200 youth and adults carrying flags of about 25 countries participated in the parade. The Diversity Council actively participated.

More than 70 individuals, majority of them from Hispanic families in the Shoals area, were invited to a community outreach to participate in an educational program held in a local school in Florence. The topics/activities included in the program were: free health insurance for Hispanic women; insurance for children; domestic violence: rights for women; special needs for an attorney, services provided in the hospital's emergency room and their rights as citizens in a free society.

The Shoals Diversity Council co-sponsored the "Handy History Tea" on February 1, 2003 to honor the Handy Cabin Committee and the 2003 recipient of the James T. Rapier Black History award, Mrs. Delores Nash, an outstanding citizen of the community. The activity was held at 2:00 p.m. in the Florence Public Library Meeting Room.

The youth group of Colbert County, Teen Leadership Connection (TLC) program, assisted the Shoals Diversity Council in the clean-up campaign in observance of

World Environment Day on June 5, 2003 held in Sheffield, Alabama. The 12 youths who participated, cleaned up a portion of the community by picking up litter along Avalon Avenue in the city. Through this activity, the youth group demonstrated that they could make a difference by providing service to rid a community from trash pollution. They also showed that they could manage and provide leadership to youth groups; work with other members of community organizations like the Shoals Diversity Council and assist in clean-up activities to celebrate World Environment Day.

As part of their community service projects, the TLC youth group of Colbert County also assisted in fund raising to help cancer victims from different cultural backgrounds. On May 16-17, 2003, during the North Alabama State Fair in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, this youth group assisted in raising \$2,532.00 by selling food items, preparing luminaries, and also, helping in the clean up of the fairground facilities. The money raised was donated to the Shoals Cancer Society under the program, Relay for Life.

During the Colbert County 4-H Roundup, the TLC youth group participated in the educational and cultural diversity activities where they learned leadership, social and citizenship skills. The 118 individuals who were involved in this program provided leadership, secured facilities, acted as judges and coordinated volunteer activities.

The first Celebration of Diversity Awards Program in Dothan City, Houston County was managed and coordinated by Rosalind James, an urban agent of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. She initiated the idea and provided leadership in planning, coordinating, recruiting volunteers, and looking for sponsors for this program. She also recruited volunteers to help in the various committees created. The committees included the following: committee on recruitment of applicants for the following award categories - business, youth, adult, agency, and religion; committee on development and design of the Celebration of Diversity Awards Application; public relation committee for television, radio and newspaper advertisement; sponsorship committee to raise \$15,000 speaker fees for the renowned motivational speaker, Willie Jolly; reception committee in charge of entertaining the honorees after the program; awards committee who will be in charge of selecting the awards - Huge Golden Cups, including engraving; and the stage decoration committee.

Over 200 people attended the awards program. It was a formal black/tie affair and was planned like the prestigious Oscar Awards. No one knew who the winners were until the night of the program. It was truly an excitement in the air. The program was televised on the local television station for the entire month. Because of the success of the affair and the overall program, the City Manager had asked Ms. Rosalind James to have this activity as an annual event during

the month of February with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System as the lead agency.

Law Enforcement related programming continued in FY 2003. First, Cultural Diversity Training for Alabama police officers was conducted for the Huntsville and Ft. Payne Police Departments. In Huntsville, all new Academy cadets are required to take a four-hour course that focused on generating positive, non-adversarial, interactions between law enforcement officers and the diverse populations within the jurisdiction. The training, taught by the Extension Head, Program Planning and Development / Law Enforcement Programs, seeks challenge new and existing officers to appreciate, and work in a positive manner with, the very diverse audiences they are sworn to serve and protect. Given the population dynamics of the north Alabama region, a central focus of the training is on interactions with the rapidly increasing Hispanic (Mexican and Guatemalan) populations. Officers receive specific instruction on the impact of cultural differences in between traditional and Hispanic residents-and of the potential for less than positive outcomes. Central to the success of this training is the integrated curriculum of the Academy experience. Equally important as the courses on legal issues, arrest and control techniques, officer survival skills, lethal and non-lethal training weapons, hazardous materials, vehicle skills, etc., are modules that deal with diversity, basic Spanish for police officers, and communications skills. While quantitative assessments are difficult to obtain, HPD administration is confident that the training has generated positive qualitative effects.

As second major effort was the result of a most unfortunate occurrence. The Ft. Payne, Alabama Police Department experienced an accidental shooting involving one of their officers and a Hispanic resident. Community tensions were high and potential conflict between the police and the Hispanic Community was apparent. Acting in a proactive mode, the Extension Head, Program Planning and Development / Law Enforcement Programs initiated contact with the Ft. Payne Police Chief and offered to conduct diversity-community oriented policing training for the entire department. Extension is also coordinating other training for the department, to include basic Spanish for police officers with actual scenarios designed to give officers the opportunity to execute both adversarial and non-adversarial contacts with Hispanic subjects and receive objective evaluations of their performance. In conjunction with positive overtures by the department to the Hispanic community in the area Extension will continue to assist the department by serving as an educational moderator for police-Hispanic citizen forums.

Last, the Extension Head, Program Planning and Development / Law Enforcement Programs, as a member of the Madison County Law Enforcement Coalition, continues to work with police and the Partnership for a Drug Free

Community in a combined educational effort to combat the significantly escalating incidence of the manufacture, importation, sale, and abuse of Club Drugs and Methamphetamines. The Extension Head, Program Planning and Development / Law Enforcement Programs developed the original PowerPoint program (now co-authored by Sgt. Winn of the specialized area drug task force). This educational resource has been used to train many of the narcotics officers and selected school resource officers in the state and, a civilian version has been the primary training tool used with civilian audiences. In addition, emergency medical personnel and hospital staff have been trained using the PowerPoint program. Pretest and posttest measures clearly indicate that both patrol and school resource officers and civilian audiences were very much in the dark concerning the availability, usage, and effects of these illegal substances in their community. Respondents report a much greater capacity to assess signs of substance abuse and a better understanding of how to successfully deal with these issues. Also, given the great increase in methamphetamine production and use in North Alabama, the Extension Head, Program Planning and Development / Law Enforcement Programs has been heavily involved in the design of a series of educational community forums to be implemented in FY 2004.

In Morgan County, Mary P. Malone, County Extension Agent, spearheaded the organization of the Tennessee Valley Council on Diversity. The organizational meeting was publicized on the local cable talk show. The newspaper ran a story and picture of the council in session, which attracted new members. The council had already conducted five meetings with 17 members.

Council members participated in three Christmas walking/riding parades with participation from senior citizens, children from Head Start carrying red balloons while Christmas carol music was played, and students attending the class, English as a second language, carried flags of various countries and wearing their native dresses. The council decided to join this kind of parade again next year.

The council members include: the seeing impaired, senior citizens, Head Start director, Association for Retarded Citizens director, members from the El Centro Legal Latino, religious groups, and other Caucasian and African-American men and women.

Ms. Malone also served as member of the Education Committee for the Hispanic Fiesta, which was held in Huntsville with more than 200 Hispanics participating. The committee met four times during the planning period and once for the evaluation and wrap-up. In addition, she also conducted four classes for new Hispanic parents on Prenatal Nutrition with 20 participants; three parenting classes for Head Start parents using a Spanish interpreter; and two classes at Even Start with seven to eight Hispanic women and men attending.

## **ETP16C Alabama Radon Education Program**

*By Susan H. Roberts*

### A. Description

Radon is a national health risk that, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is estimated to cause between 15,000 and 22,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the United States. The EPA also estimates that 1 in 5 homes across the U.S. has elevated levels of radon. Backed by extensive research, the U.S. Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer behind smoking in the U.S. today. It is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers.

Radon is called the "silent killer" because it is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that cannot be detected without specifically testing for it. It occurs naturally in most soils and is in the air you breathe. Although radon gas dissipates in the air outside, it can enter a home or building through foundation cracks and openings around pipes. Once inside, it gets trapped and can build to high levels. This build-up increases the risk of lung cancer. Testing is the only way to determine if a home has elevated levels of radon. The Surgeon General recommends testing all homes because the home is where families spend the most time.

Although this serious, life-threatening indoor air pollutant is a health risk of national concern, Alabama does not have legislation pertaining to radon or its elimination from buildings, homes or other structures. Prior to 1997, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) was solely responsible for educating the citizens of Alabama about the radon health risk. However, recognizing Extension's ability to reach the public, the ADPH entered into a grant partnership in October 1997 to further educate the citizens of Alabama about radon risk. Since the program was implemented, it has been funded through the ADPH, with a pass-through grant from the EPA, with over \$1,464,000 provided in support since the ACES program's inception.

The Alabama Radon Team began with 20 county agents in 15 counties and 4 Extension support personnel based at Auburn University. Although the program has evolved and included other counties, the program currently concentrates its efforts in 13 Zone 1 (highest radon incidence) counties, Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Colbert, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Madison, Morgan, Shelby and Talladega, and one Zone 2 (moderate radon incidence) Marshall county.

The challenge is not only to provide radon education, but also to get people to take action to reduce the risk of radon-related lung cancer. Testing is highly encouraged as well as mitigating homes with high radon levels, building new homes radon-resistant and testing in real estate transactions. While no amount of radon is considered "safe," the EPA recommends remedial action when tests indicate 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/l) of air.

#### B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Since October 1997, Extension has worked with the ADPH in conducting an extensive educational effort of radon-risk awareness to homeowners, homebuilders, Realtors, home appraisers, home inspectors, code officials, medical professionals, policy makers and the general public.

Testing for radon is highly encouraged so Extension offices in the Radon Program counties offer short-term radon test kits at a nominal price of \$5. Although test kits are available at hardware stores and other retail outlets, 14,000 Alabama citizens have received radon test kits through Extension. Last year, 3,422 test kits were distributed to Alabama citizens, with 2,064 (60%) of the tests utilized.

Information is distributed in a variety of ways including mass media, exhibits, seminars, letters, the Internet, Extension programs to businesses, community groups, medical professionals, homebuilders, home inspectors, appraisers, Realtors, 4-H youth and school science classes.

Since October 1997, more than 20 million potential viewers, listeners and readers have been reached using mass media outlets. Over 385,000 citizens viewed displays or exhibits at special events, public offices, libraries, hospitals, doctors' offices, real estate offices, county courthouses, senior centers and county Extension offices and more than 200,900 programming contacts were made.

In FY-2003, a potential audience of 2,841,501 was reached through mass media, which included 12 television shows, 37 radio PSAs, 24 news articles, and 37 county Extension newsletters. Visitors numbering 76,681 viewed 125 exhibits, and 30,715 contacts were made through programs and face-to-face contact. Agents distributed over 10,000 test kit coupons.



In 2003, an acrylic brochure display was created with the assistance of the Extension Communications Department, and was placed in radiation oncologist offices, as well as county health departments. Over 356 free test kits were distributed to Alabama citizens as a direct result of those displays.

Cooperating partners have grown over the past three years. In addition to the granting partners, the EPA and the ADPH, the program has also worked with the Southern Regional Radon Training Center at Auburn University, USDA/CSREES, the American Lung Association, Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association, Building Code Officials of Alabama, American Society of Home Inspectors, American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists, National Speleological Society, Habitat for Humanity International, National Environmental Health Association, Conference of Radon Control Program Directors, Helen Keller Hospital, Decatur General Hospital, Parkway Hospital, Russellville Hospital, Huntsville Hospital and radiation/oncologist, Dr. Lane M. Price of Decatur.

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

Since the ACES Radon Education Program began, more than 5,500 or 39% Alabama homes have been tested for radon with test kits purchased from Extension, with 23% having elevated levels of radon. In the Zone 1 counties, where radon awareness programs are concentrated, 24% of the homes tested have shown high levels of radon. In FY-03, of the 3,422 test kits distributed to Alabama citizens, homeowners utilized 2,064 or 60% of the tests, an increase of over 100% from the previous year's testing numbers.

Over 795 homes have been built radon-resistant since the ACES program began. In addition, the Alabama Radon Team was responsible for referring 332 homeowners to mitigators, amounting to almost half of the 786 homes that were reported mitigated. More than 732 homes have been tested for radon in real estate transactions.

In FY-2003, 460 homes were built radon-resistant, 165 homeowners were referred to mitigators, and with 363 homes mitigated and 224 homes were tested for radon in real estate transactions.

The Radon in Alabama Web site has attracted over 7,000 visitors since its inception in July 2000. Over 300 test kits have been purchased through the Web site, with 55% of the test kits utilized by homeowners.

In FY-2003, there were 4,362 visitors to the Web site. About 257 radon test kits were ordered with 129 (50%) utilized for testing.

In June 2003, 36 Habitat for Humanity homes in Anniston, Alabama were built with radon systems. Extension's radon program and radon industry volunteers donated the equipment and supplies, as well as sweat equity.

In 2002, the City of Decatur, in Morgan County, became the first Alabama municipality to voluntarily adopt radon control methods as part of its building code. Shortly thereafter, two nearby cities, Hartselle and Falkville, also adopted radon control methods into their building code. ACES radon team members were instrumental in educating Decatur City Council members, which led to the eventual adoption of the code.

Extension's response to the state's critical need to create awareness about the dangers of radon has won national acclaim. USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service issued one of its four 2000 Flagship awards in Natural Resources and Environmental Management to Alabama Extension's Radon Awareness, Mitigation, and Radon-Resistant New Construction program. The program also won a 2000 EPA Environmental Merit Award for outstanding efforts in improving the environment in the Southeast. In 2002, three Radon Team members were awarded Extension's Superior Service Award for their part in the Newborn Project, a program where newborn infants' families are provided a free radon test kit certificate to redeem.

#### D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to the reported days worked on this project, 21 ACES employees allocated a total of 1,124 days to this project in 2003. There were also 21 employees who attended the one-day in-service training meeting in September.

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

Radon gas will continue to invade Alabama homes and we will continue to educate and try to bring about awareness and action to the citizens of Alabama as long as the EPA will support radon awareness and action within state programs. We will continue to seek new ways to reach more citizens with the radon risk message and produce new marketing and educational materials for the Radon Team.

An Agent Advisory Committee was formed in 2001. Their suggestions and input

were instrumental in providing program administration with valuable guidance. The ideas implemented as a result of the committee's input were well received by the entire Radon Team. We will continue with an Agent Advisory Committee, with regularly scheduled rotations made.

We will continue to seek partnerships and new media, programming and exhibit outlets.

#### F. Funding Sources

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
USDA/CSREES  
Conference of Radon Control Program Directors

#### G. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
Southern Regional Radon Training Center at Auburn University  
USDA/CSREES  
American Lung Association  
Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association  
Building Code Officials of Alabama  
American Society of Home Inspectors  
American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists  
Habitat for Humanity International  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Speleological Society  
Conference of Radon Control Program Directors  
Montana State Healthy Homes for Indoor Air  
Helen Keller Hospital  
Decatur General Hospital  
Parkway Hospital  
Russellville Hospital  
Huntsville Hospital

#### H. Contact Information:

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## ALLOCATION OF FISCAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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

<b>PRGM AREA</b>	<b>\$ ALLOCATION</b>	<b>FTEs</b>
4H&YD	\$ 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 Stakeholder Input Process for the programs contained in the Alabama Cooperative Extension ARRERA Plan of Work remains essentially unchanged. 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). One or more Extension specialists who have responsibility for the specific subject matter area(s) addressed within the ETPs chair each ETP. 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 current System program priority areas of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources, Family, Urban, Community and Economic Development, and Youth stratified the clientele sample. 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 the two associate directors for programs and the four state program leaders reviewed 8,000 current and/or potential clientele. 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 remains 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](http://www.aces.edu/department/acesadm/plan/ACES_program_planning.htm)

# INTEGRATED RESEARCH & EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AND MULTISTATE EXTENSION 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.

'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.

Fiscal shortfalls have negatively affected our capacity to realize significant percentage increases in the amount dollars expended for Multistate and Integrated Research and Extension activities. In spite of fiscal shortfalls some increase in the total dollar amount of Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) funds expended on Multistate and Integrated Research and Extension Activities has been realized. Expenditures for FY 2003 were \$715,288.20, exceeding the target by \$76,796.20.

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, and Aquaculture sections.

***NOTE: 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, the summary below is for BOTH!***

***CSREES continues to cite 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 ACTIVITIES AND  
MULTISTATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2003  
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 are \$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 are \$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 are \$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 are \$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.

In the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures there is currently one extension faculty member with multi-state interdisciplinary research and extension efforts. Dr. Russell A. Wright, Statewide Extension Specialist / Associate Professor, has projects relevant to recreational fisheries and economic development that meet these criteria.

**Development of a biodegradable replacement for soft plastic fishing lures.**

Dr. Wright has worked with Drs. Weese and Bell from the Department of Nutrition and Food Science to develop a food-based soft lure with appropriate fishing

characteristics. This project was conducted funding and collaborative efforts of a private company from Georgia. The lures are now produced, marketed, and distributed by a new Alabama Company Foodsource Lures.

- **Multi-state pond management research and education.** Dr. Wright is presenting a series of recreational pond management presentations in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. The workshops will provide information from multiple disciplines including land management, fisheries science, and economic development. These workshops grow out of the research conducted in small impoundments in Alabama.
- **Dynamics of largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.** While the field research associated with this project is in Alabama, a portion of the laboratory research, otolith microchemistry analyses, is being developed in Windsor, Canada, with a geochemist from University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research and a fisheries ecologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Extension efforts include outreach to anglers in Mobile and Baldwin Counties in Alabama and the adjacent coastal counties in Mississippi and Florida.

Total expenditures for both the integrated research and extension activities and multi-state activities are \$7435.80 each.

# **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT, 2003**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) completes its sixth year of implementing Extension Team Projects—a series of related activities which take place throughout South Central Alabama, and involves one to several Extension funded employees working together to achieve specific goals and objectives. Specialists and agents contribute a significant amount of their time to work unique to their counties and areas, known as State Major Programs, and this work may not be a part of pre-defined, state-wide Extension Team Projects. In this document State Major Programs are described following the ETP that they complement. These Extension educational processes, Extension Team Projects and State Major Programs, provide for diversity and measurable impacts in the conduct of outreach programming.

The six Extension Team Projects for 2003 were:

1. **Assisting Small-Scale Farmers and Landowners to Manage Change in Agriculture (ETP 28D).** The objective of ETP 28D is to increase profitability and sustainability for small-scale farmers and landowners. This audience continues to face production, financial and marketing challenges due to the size of their operations and other historical and environmental factors.

ETP 28D seeks to address the issues of declining numbers of small-scale producers, land loss by small-scale farmers, strategies for the survival of small-scale farmers, the challenge in organizing and maintaining small-scale farms, new marketing opportunities, new technology, and a growing concern relative to the use of chemicals, preservation methods, and food safety.

2. **Enhancing Citizens' Capacity to Transform Their Communities (ETP 15A).**

ETP 15A 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 leadership development track. The objective of the business development track is to assist individuals and businesses with business plan preparation and/or improvement, and to help them with tools for sound decision-making. The objective of the leadership skills development track is to enhance the leadership capacity of individual and community leaders by providing them with requisite skills in leadership.

3. **Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Education (ETP 16A).** ETP 16A addresses a variety of environmental issues in natural resources, water quality and environmental management, as well as, environmental justice. The goals of the ETP are to increase environmental awareness and promote responsible environmental stewardship among Alabamians with focus on the rural minority population. Special emphasis is placed on youth and young adults in this target population.
4. **Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): A Strategy for Workforce Development (ETP 33B).** ETP 33B 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 curriculum, programs and models for teaching and/or conducting an entrepreneurial education project, (b) allow participants to examine on-going programs and curriculum that emphasize entrepreneurial education and encourage 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 (ETP 411).** ETP 411 addresses 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 and (d) ensuring food quality and safety.
6. **Promoting Healthy Behavior (ETP 413).** The objective of ETP 413 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.

### **Comprehensive Program and Compliance Reviews**

Three Comprehensive Program and Compliance Reviews were conducted this year in conjunction with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. These reviews included Bullock, Hale, and Wilcox counties.

### **TUCEP Professional Development Activities**

An important part of TUCEP is professional development. Specialists, agents, and

support personnel update their knowledge and skills through continuing education and regular academic course training. TUCEP specialists, agents, and support personnel participated in a variety of professional development programs, such as Serving Your Customers with Excellence, Negotiation and Conflict, Stress Management, Time Management, and Office Administration.

### **TUCEP Quarterly Conference**

Three TUCEP quarterly conferences were held in 2003. The purpose of the quarterly conference is to bring together the Cooperative Extension and Continuing Education Program staff to review issues that are pertinent to its mission and train for specific work-related job skills. The specific objectives are to: (1) review the strategic plan and action items in the Plan of Work, (2) identify new challenges and opportunities for the Cooperative Extension program, (3) provide needed in-service training, and (4) review pertinent issues relative to Equal Employment Opportunity-Affirmative Action affecting personnel and program development.

The Spring Quarterly Conference focused on an overview of USDA, 1890s, and TUCEP structure and programs, and the publication entitled **Persistent Poverty in the South: A Community-Based Perspective Report**. This report is part of a larger presentation, *It's A Matter of Wealth: Dismantling Persistent Poverty in the Southeastern United States*, documenting the need for a federal commission or authority to address critical issues facing those who live in persistently poor counties in the Black Belt Region of the United States.

The Summer Quarterly Conference dealt with the issues of Extension's role in the Export (Health) Project, theory and practice of impact writing, risk management, and strategic planning.

The Autumn Quarterly Conference was devoted to strategic planning for organizational effectiveness.

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

Program areas, accomplishments, results and impacts are reported below. Participatory methodologies -- demonstrations, group meetings, workshops, seminars, clinics, mini-conferences, annual farmer's conference, annual economic development summit, visits, and technical assistance, to families in their homes, farms, and Extension sites -- were initiated to achieve these accomplishments, results and impacts.

## **National 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 objective of ETP 28D 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, as well as, other historical and environmental factors. ETP 28D addresses: the issues of declining numbers of small-scale producers; land loss by small-scale farmers; rural communities controlled by and/or left in the hands of a few; strategies for the survival of small-scale farmers; the challenge in organizing and maintaining small-scale farms; new marketing opportunities; new technology; a growing concern relative to the use of chemicals, preservation methods and food safety.

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. ETP 28D focused on farm techniques and strategies, farmer's markets, management of cattle and small ruminants, forest land management, and risk management, particularly in regards to adaptability and adoption for small and limited resources farmers and landowners primarily in south central Alabama.

### **B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:**

**Plasticulture/Horticulture.** Plasticulture is being promoted and encouraged among small-scale vegetable producers in Barbour, Bullock, Dallas, Perry, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, and Wilcox Counties.

Small and large-scale vegetable production is a major source of income for many farmers. However, many of these producers encounter production problems such as a lack of water for their crops, weed control, insect devastation, diseases, record keeping, and marketing.



Therefore, plasticulture is being promoted and encouraged among small-scale vegetable producers in Barbour, Bullock, Dallas, Perry, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, and Wilcox counties.

In Barbour and Bullock counties, plasticulture has enabled farmers to continue to produce quality vegetables regardless of the availability of rain.

In Dallas and Perry counties, TUCEP, in collaboration with the Alabama State Department of Agriculture and Industries, has assisted twenty-four (24) fruit and vegetable growers this year to adopt the technique/technology of growing vegetables with the use of plasticulture. Also, TUCEP, in partnership with the George Washington Carver Research Experiment Station, Alabama A & M University, and Southern Agbiotech Consortium for Under-served Communities (SACUC), offered assistance to commercial vegetable growers with production problems by introducing them to genetic engineering. In recent years, biotech is being exposed to and used by small producers. The goal is to increase the farmer's knowledge of biotechnology. Increased knowledge and resources for teaching agricultural biotechnology and related sciences, as well as, lowered disparities in dispersal of science based information have aided in rural sustainability through workshops, demonstration plots, and first-hand experience with biotech crops. In Barbour, Bullock, Macon, and Montgomery counties experiments were conducted where the farmers used Transgenic Seeds for sweet corn and squash production.

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program continues to build on its working relationship with the Health Department of Dallas and Perry counties and the Alabama Farmer's Market Authority. This working relationship continues to assist fruit and vegetable growers with marketing concerns and by keeping the Selma/Dallas County Farmer's Market active. This market has sustained fresh fruits and vegetables for the people for four years.

Several plasticulture projects were conducted in Lowndes and Wilcox counties. A variety of vegetables were planted, including okra, squash, pepper (bell and hot), and tomatoes. Farmers sold their produce at the farmer's market in Lowndes and Wilcox counties as well as made direct sales from the farm.

One plasticulture project was installed in the Furman Community in Wilcox County at Carter's Farm. This project consisted of 12,000 collard plants.

Two plasticulture projects were installed in the Lowndes County area. One of the projects is located in the Mt. Willing Community at Garden Gate Produce. It consisted of 5,000 collard plants. The second project was installed at Horace Jackson's Farm in White Hall. This was a 10,000 collard plant project.

Plasticulture, as a new technology for limited resource or small-scale farmers, provides

for increased production, better quality of fruits and vegetables, conservation of water, conservation of fertilizer, and conservation of farm land.

In Macon and Montgomery counties, collaborating with other agencies, 15 home garden visits were made. This Extension activity included eight home horticulture meetings on fruits and vegetables, and passing out information on various cultural and production practices.

Agents have assisted in conducting fruit tree clinics, planning and ordering fruit trees for home orchards, assisted with County Farmers' Markets, assisted homeowners, churches, businesses, schools, and landscapers with landscape designs and information for beautification to increase the value of property.

**Livestock Production.** Livestock production projects were carried out in Barbour, Bullock, Dallas, Perry, and Macon counties. In an effort to assist beef producers with production management, TUCEP conducted six group meetings, five method and result demonstrations, and made home and farm visits to assist beef producers in improving livestock production in Dallas and Perry counties.

In Lowndes and Wilcox counties, several beef cattle management clinics were held. The major topics of these clinics included: Basic Herd Health Management Practices, Parasite Control—External and Internal, Dehorning, Castrating and Vaccinating, and Pasture Management. In support of these clinics, a Farmer's Work Conference was held in Wilcox County. Topics for discussion on livestock were: USDA Program Updates, Meat Goat Updates, Mix Grazing Beef Cattle and Goats, and Co-Mingling Cattle. Sixty-eight farmers attended these workshops and demonstrations. In Macon County, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jodie Blackwell Beef Management Clinic was held. A 4-H Beef Calf Show was conducted as well as two method demonstrations on herd health and castration for beef cattle. The Tuskegee University Goat Day was held on the campus with 200 participants attending hands-on workshops, seminars and demonstrations. Topics included parasite control, grading of goats, as well as a review of goat research at the George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station.

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

**Plasticulture/Horticulture.** One Macon County producer who participated in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) sold fresh vegetables, such as corn, squash, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, collars, turnips, mustards, field peas, lima beans, green beans, cucumbers, okra, peppers, strawberries, and watermelons over the growing season. The sales from these products generated 325 coupons amounting to \$15,004. The same producer was able to sell \$13,000 in cash sales in Macon and surrounding communities.

Approximately 100 home gardens were planted in Montgomery County. These gardens provided fresh vegetables that enabled 100 families to provide nutritious meals for their families on a daily basis throughout the summer months.

A second Macon County producer, who participated in the FMNPS, sold fresh vegetables to people in Macon County and surrounding areas. He received 225 coupons. This translates into approximately \$9,000.

In Dallas and Perry counties, vegetable farmers continue to make major improvements in production and family income. Twenty-four (24) commercial vegetable farmers in Dallas and Perry counties increased their crop production yields utilizing plasticulture by 6 to 8 bushels per acre. The increase in production is a direct result of crops having enough water during different stages of growth, as well as, a decrease in weed and pest control.

An additional twenty-one (21) commercial vegetable producers were certified in Dallas and Perry counties in 2003 to sell fresh fruits and vegetables at the Dallas and Perry counties Farmer's Markets. Thus, a total of fifty-eight (58) farmers were certified. In 2002, \$84,000 was available between the Senior Citizens and WIC Nutrition Programs. However, with the success of the 2002 program farmer's market activities, an additional \$13,000 were made available from the WIC (Women, Infant and Children) Program, totaling \$97,000 in 2003 for farmer's market activities.

In 2003, it was estimated that the farmer's market served 900 senior citizens and 1,800 WIC mothers with fresh fruits and vegetables. This process aided in the efforts to improve family nutrition.

The sale of fruits and vegetables at the farmer's markets had a major financial impact on the local economy of farm families in Dallas and Perry counties. Local farmer's markets, the plasticulture program, and the use of agriculture biotechnology, have changed the outlook for many small-scale and limited resource commercial fruits and vegetables farmers. New technology, within the last two years, caused an increase in the number of new and younger fruit and vegetable farmers in these counties.

The numbers of new fruit and vegetable farmers in Dallas and Perry counties were 17 and 19 years of age, respectively. The average age of the old farmers was 73, but with the addition of new farmers the average age is approximately 51 years old. An increase in this trend is expected. Also, these new farm producers brought into production approximately 250 acres of land that had been taken out of production due to a lack of farmer's markets and annual crop failures.

Another impact is that farm employment has slightly increased in Dallas and Perry counties. Employment of new technology in small-scale farming has helped to save some family farms.

Succinctly, results, impacts, and benefits of this program were that Senior Citizens can now afford to have their prescriptions filled, a balanced diet for more than 900 Senior Citizens and 1,800 WIC mothers, a decrease in low birth weight infants to low income mothers due to improved nutrition, additional job creation because of increased fruit and vegetable growers, continued decrease in pesticides by farmers, continued reduction of pesticide in the environment, 36 new farmers adopting new and different technology in crop production, \$97,000 made available through Food Vouchers to local farm families, and an increase in farmers' income from the sale of fresh fruits and vegetables.

The use of biotechnology in agriculture involves genetic engineering to alter crops for the benefit of mankind. However, there are some concerns with biotech products. Farmers, as well as consumers, should know the process of transgenic crops in order to be better stewards of the environment. Products of biotechnology include the development of crops that will fight off insects and diseases with little or no use of pesticides, while actually replenishing the soil, preventing soil erosion and reducing environmental pollution. These factors are very important to limited resource or small-scale farmers, due to the fact that most pesticides are needed to produce quality and quantity produce are very costly to most small farmers. Thus, they cannot afford the pesticides, and their crops do not produce quality yields.

The use of genetic engineered crops will assist small-scale farmers overcome aged old problems encountered in the history of yesterday's small-scale farming in the Black Belt counties of Alabama. More specifically, the use of biotechnology will deliver a safe effective and inexpensive vaccine for Hepatitis B with Vitamin A added as beta-carotene to help fight blindness in infants in developing countries and the Black Belt counties with biotechnology produced crops.

**Livestock Cattle Production.** In Dallas and Perry counties, 16 beef cattle producers developed and implemented a herd health program and a good record keeping system. Four producers followed Extension recommendations two years ago to start their brood cow herd over in an effort to get quality blood lines into their herds. By following the recommendations, they were able to sell most of their calves over six hundred pounds for the first time since starting their beef business. This practice increased their family income. Thirteen (13) beef producers renovated and replanted their pastures with improved grazing grasses in an effort to improve the nutrition levels of their herds without purchasing high cost feed.

Twelve (12) of the beef producers in Dallas County followed Extension recommendations to use a control breeding system to unify their calves in age, size, and weight. By adopting this system, they were able to change their marketing system from the sale at auction barns to being able to enter into a hedge forwarding contract with an out of town buyer. By entering into this contract, they were able to sell 360

calves at an average price of 10 cents more per pound than being offered at the auction barn. This marketing strategy brought these producers thousands of dollars more in net income from the sale of their calves. Traditionally, most small farmers have small numbers of brood cows in which to produce quality calves. Therefore, co-mingling calves is a good management tool for producers, because it allows them to put their calves together in order to have a large number to sell to private buyers at a higher price.

In Lowndes County, sixty-eight (68) farmers attended the workshops and demonstrations relative to animal management system. Participating farmers are saving replacement heifers to increase herd numbers, weaning weights are increasing and farmers are selling and marketing higher quality calves, and there is more uniformity in the herd.

**Meat Goat Production.** The number of small-scale meat goat producers in Barbour and Bullock counties is increasing. By partnering with others, such as Heifer Project International and animal science specialists from Tuskegee University Caprine Research Unit, training and resources were acquired by the producers. Small landowners were able to obtain breeding stock and improve their hands-on management skills. One farmer has been established as a legitimate producer of Boar Goats.

Training programs on goat production were attended at Tuskegee University's Goat Day, Florida's Transition into Organic Livestock, as well as Pasture Management Workshops in West Alabama. A goat purchase of \$2,475 was made, including 2 registered purebred Boar Bucks and a LGD Great Pyrenees Guard Dogs. Facility improvement (approximately \$1,200 per farm) for handling livestock was integral to receiving these animals. The program initiating this activity with goats was reported in the **Tuskegee News**, the local newspaper. As a result of conducting the activities above, small scale farmers have increased their knowledge base on goat production in Macon County.

In Dallas and Perry counties, the agent reported:

There is a significant increase in the number of younger men and women taking advantage of the opportunity to capitalize on what is an added money-making alternative enterprise. Three small-scale farm families in Perry County, who have been in the meat goat business for several years, have been able to sell an average of 35 to 40 goats each month, with an average price of \$45.00 per goat. This adds an average additional \$600 per month to their family income.

With the opportunity for this amount of income to be added to their income, TUCEP and local youth groups are working with approximately 25 youth in Dallas and Perry counties teaching them basic management and youth entrepreneurial skills for the purpose of starting their own meat goat business. This will also increase family income.

During the last six months, there has been an increase in the number of meat goat producers in Dallas and Perry counties. With the financial assistance from Heifer Project International, three limited resource farmers in Perry County have begun a family meat goat business. Small meat goat business has the potential to add \$5,000 - \$6,000 annually to the family income.

TUCEP collaborates with goat specialist from Tuskegee University, the Alabama Farmers' Federation, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Alabama Meat Goat Producers Association, Heifer Project International, and others to address the rapid increase for information and workshops in regards to meat goat production. TUCEP conducted several group meetings, holidays and tours on goat production.

#### **D. Fiscal and Human Resources:**

Some small grants were received to supplement the activities of this ETP 28D, especially workshops and demonstration projects in plasticulture.

Extension agents, specialists, and agency personnel were utilized to carry out these activities. Personnel from the Community Action Agency, the Alabama Farmers' Federation, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Alabama Meat Goat Producers Association, Heifer Project International, the WIC Programs, the Senior Citizen's Nutrition Programs, Alabama Farmers' Market Authority, the Southern Agbiotech Consortium for Under-served Communities, Barbour County Farmers' Association, Macon County Farmers' Organization, Alabama State Department of Agriculture and Industries, ACES, ALA-TOM RC&D Council, Student Education Program SEEP, Wilcox County Soil and Water Conservation District, and County Commissions.

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

Program visibility for ETP 28D is excellent based upon contacts, attendance at workshops, and conferences. This ETP will be continued throughout 2005. It is almost certain that this ETP will continue beyond 2005, because it represents the heart of agricultural extension. However, the components of the ETP may change.

The following state major programs are associated ETP 28D:

**A Research Project on Integrated Pest Management.** Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is one way that the risk of pesticide exposure can be mitigated or substantially reduced. This approach relies quite heavily on the use of alternatives to pesticides such as resistant varieties, natural enemies and plain common sense. IPM encourages farmers to learn more about safer methods of food production that do not always begin with, or rely solely on, pesticide application. There are alternatives to pesticides which are more sustainable, and quite appropriate for small farm enterprises. These pesticides neither create, nor add to, health and environmental pesticide risks.

Research reports that food safety can be viewed from several points of view: the problem of pesticide residues in food, water resources, and the environment. Consumers are concerned with pesticide and fertilizer residues in food products and in drinking water. Public trust in the ability of farmers to use pesticides has declined over the years.

A research study entitled, **Gaps in IPM Knowledge among Limited Resource Farmers in Southeastern USA: a Preliminary Report**, was conducted in 2003. The purpose of the study was to analyze the perceptions of small farmers (of all races) on IPM. The specific objectives of the study were to: identify general pest management practices by the farmers; identify safety concerns of the farmers; assess farmers' views on benefits of IPM and identify marketing characteristics of the farmers.

A questionnaire was developed to collect data for the study. This questionnaire sought information on demographic characteristics, crop and livestock protection practices, safety issues, benefits of IPM, new interventions, and marketing. To ensure clarity and understanding of the statements in the questionnaire, it was first pilot tested for content validity. After the pilot test, the questionnaire was finalized and administered using face-to-face interviewing procedure. Small farmers were interviewed in eleven Black Belt Counties of Alabama. These counties included: Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Perry, and Sumter. Purposive sampling was used. A total of 82 farmers were interviewed. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics.

The following six findings were reported by the study. (1) The age distribution among black/minority farmers is skewed towards older individuals, with most farmers in the age range of 40 to 65 years old. (2) The educational level among farmers was generally good, most with at least a high school diploma. (3) The farm size was highly variable among the survey group, the majority being 1-100 acres. (4) Most farmers grow cucumbers, sweet potatoes, peas/beans, and also keep livestock (cattle). (5) Males still dominate (greater than 90 percent) farming among LRFs. More women ought to be involved in farming. (6) Most farming (ca. 80 percent) is done for family income and home consumption. This finding is consistent with studies that have indicated farming is a part-time occupation.

Conclusions drawn for this study are as follows. (1) Minority farmers are an important part of the food production network in the U. S. The food they produce reaches different parts of the country irrespective of where it is produced. (2) There is a worrisome gray area among this target group in the awareness level and application of IPM strategies for the control of farm pest problems. (3) The knowledge and practice of IPM that currently exists among black/minority farmers falls far short of national expectations. Apparently, not much attention has been paid in the past to pest management problems confronting small, minority farmers. Meanwhile, pesticides are relatively easy to get, and these farmers will continue to resort to them as their main respite. To change this trend, something must be done to take IPM to the small farm. As roadside stands and farmers' markets continue to increase in popularity we could all become victims of pesticide exposure if the use of pesticides by these farmers is not carried out in the context of IPM. Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension and its partners are committed to making sure that the small farmer adopts IPM strategies.

### **The TUCEP Annual Farmers' Conference**

The first Farmers' Conference was held at Tuskegee University on February 23, 1892. The purpose was to arouse public sentiment among the farmers and create a real interest in the common, mundane and practical affairs of life. The morning was spent identifying problems, while the afternoon portion of the conference focused on solutions. Today, this conference still focuses on the problems and remedies for small-scale farmers, landowners, and their communities in managing change in agriculture.

The theme of the 111<sup>th</sup> TU Farmers' Conference was: **Transforming and Building Sustainable Rural Communities**. The objectives of the conference were: (1) to share up-to-date information relevant to small-scale farmers and landowners involved in production of traditional and alternative agricultural products; (2) to create awareness about family health, nutritional challenges, and existing resources for rural families; (3) to provide research-based information on food safety, including Hazards Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP); and (4) to strengthen networks and partnerships that address problems of small-scale agriculture and rural communities. Over 450 participants attended this conference.



## **National 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 (ETP 411): *Promoting Healthy Living Environments for Under-served and Hard to Reach Audiences***

### **A. Description:**

The objective of ETP 411 is to assist participants in the process of using what they have learned to change behaviors positively. Four content modules are used to address the critical subject matter area related to nutrition, health and wellness. They are: (1) balancing food preferences with knowledge of nutrition, (2) health status and age-related nutrition, (3) enhancing management skills and (4) ensuring food quality and safety. This year, the focus of ETP 411 was on Module 1 - Ensuring Food Quality and Safety and Module 3 - Food Service Management.

Food processing and food preservation are major concerns for minority rural families and small gardening entrepreneurs. Families are concerned with food borne illness, insect and pest control management, processing and preserving foods. The need for educational programs in food safety (practicing proper personal hygiene, cooking foods adequately, avoiding cross-contamination, keeping foods at safe temperature and avoiding foods from unsafe sources) is essential to help reduce food borne illnesses that continue to occur among consumers. In many rural areas, local churches have increased their participation in cooking and serving dinners, summer feeding programs, and family reunions. The church members were concerned about the issues of food borne illness, kitchen safety and sanitation. Also, research-based nutritional health education information was needed to assist clients in making adequate decisions on well balanced diets.

### **B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:**

In Greene and Hale Counties, workshops were conducted on training in kitchen sanitation, personal hygiene and basic food preparation for nutrient retention, appropriate cooling and heating of foods, ways to avoid cross-contamination to church members, youth and adult participants. These church members, youth and adults, consisted of 75 rural families/individuals, 35 church youth, 8 limited resource part-time farmers and 2 small-scale gardening entrepreneurs.

Workshops were conducted to illustrate content to youth by planting “theme” gardens that offered experiential learning in identifying the hazards and risk across the food

chain from the garden to the table. The youth were encouraged to become peer educators and extend food safety training to families at home, in school settings and in other counties.

An advisory board was appointed to assist with ETP 411. The board consisted of representatives from the local churches, Extension county staff, Extension specialists, church volunteers, youth and participants from local agencies.

In Dallas and Perry Counties, a total of 2,340 individuals were contacted. Of the 2,340, three hundred and seventy-nine (379) participants attended the programs. Two hundred and nine (209) reported change in their daily nutritional practices.

In Bullock and Greene Counties, six groups of middle and high school students were recruited to participate in the food safety program. Students recruited from neighboring churches assisted in planting, cultivating and harvesting the vegetable gardens. The harvested produce was taken from the gardens and stored in a local church kitchen for hands-on demonstration and marketing. At harvest, community members were invited to help and use some of the produce to supplement their grocery income. Participants met classes twice a week for an hour to study the four principles of food safety and for demonstrations on how to safely handle food. The proper way to wash hands was demonstrated, allowing students to see the importance of personal hygienic practices. Issues were discussed about the importance of practicing good personal hygiene and cleanliness when handling various types of food. How to provide safer ways to handle food and how cleanliness can reduce the outbreak of some food borne illnesses were of concern to the group. There were 128 youths and 15 adults participating in this program.

One hundred and seventy-five adult females (175) and forty-one (41) males, for a total of two hundred and sixteen (216) participants were recruited from eight counties across the state of Alabama for the FF-News Program. The group consisted of managers and employees from various departments in hotels and restaurants. Classes were conducted twice a week for 12-weeks in each county with comprehensive lectures and demonstrations on the four principles of food safety, gardening and food service business development. Classes were conducted in the following areas: (1) Sanitation and Health, (2) Serving Sanitary Food, (3) Keeping a Sanitary and Safe Food Environment and (4) The Manager's Role in a Food Service Establishment.

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

In Dallas and Perry Counties, as a result of the workshops and seminar training, 100 percent of the 43 clients reported that they understood the recommendations for dietary practices, but, that they did not always follow recommended practices. Seventy-five percent of the participants reported modification in their diets, preparation of foods and time spent washing their hands before handling food. The professional staff reported

consciousness in the preparation of food cooked in mass quantities and how the participants interpreted reading food labels for nutrition facts.

In Bullock and Greene Counties, as a result of ETP 411, the 15 adults were employed in the fast food industry, while many of the remaining participants plan to be employed at a later date.

Seventy-five rural families in Greene and Hale Counties were impacted by this ETP, including 35 churches, and 379 participants in Dallas and Perry Counties. Participants were able to identify the various causes and symptoms of food borne illnesses, apply the use of appropriate techniques to prevent any possible food borne outbreak and understand the basic hygiene practices to ensure food safety.

#### **D. Fiscal and Human Resources:**

ETP 411 was funded by TUCEP under the leadership of the Family Life Development specialist, agents, and community partnerships.

#### **E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plan:**

ETP411 has high visibility and exposure. This ETP will be continued. The FF-NEWS is a multi-state project.

Four State Major Programs are associated with ETP 411 in 2003:

#### **Extension's Annual Report in Food Service Management in Ghana**

A Hotel Managers and Training Workshop was held in Ghana for three weeks. The purpose of this workshop was to assist participants in the food service industry, particularly those in the hotel/restaurant arena. Classes were conducted five days a week for two weeks and included comprehensive lectures and demonstrations in the four principles of food safety, gardening and food service business development. Classes were conducted in the following areas: (1) Front

Office/Reception, (2) Security and Maintenance, (3) Housekeeping, (4) General Management, (5) Foods and Beverages and (6) Customer Service.

Subsequent training of participants in knowledge of service delivery front line staff was implemented through hotel site visits and by face-to-face small group discussions. Handouts were distributed and transparencies, illustrations, worksheets, activities, as well as, group participation were utilized. Participants were evaluated with pre and posttests, student demonstrations and through instructor and peer observations.

Participants learned the basic functions of hotel departments, roles and responsibilities

of a manager within those departments. Participants were able to identify the various front desk guest accounting services, effective ways of handling housekeeping, procedures for the importance of security and maintenance in a hotel, applications and use of appropriate techniques to prevent food borne illness to consumers.

As a result of this training, 77 (64 males and 13 females) were able to use techniques and steps of cleaning a guest room and making the guest bed. Seventy-five percent of the participants were able to make a sanitizing solution for cleaning and dishwashing.

In the posttest, participants responded that training and knowledge of kitchen sanitation would be implemented within their establishments. Many of the hotel managers plan to join the hotel association as a result of this training.

Several accessories/items were ordered by managers for the guest such as shower caps, mini sewing kits, smaller and larger bars of soap, depending on the hotel guest demand. Plans to rearrange and redecorate restaurants, lobby areas, and guest rooms were made and will be implemented within the next six month. Extension education training for employees will now be ongoing and made mandatory for most managers.

### **Extension Veterinarians' Annual Report in Food Safety/Public Health**

Following a successful completion of training programs in Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), TUCEP has impacted the community based on the number of calls and requests for training new farmers who have gone into goat production, slaughtering, and marketing in the past two years. HACCP is a new rule on food safety enacted by the US government. It is a plan or series of science-based regulations that were established to eliminate or reduce the risk of food borne illnesses such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Campylobacter* and *Listeria*. 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.

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/her plant to keep his/her business legally open. 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 afford the cost of the hands-on HACCP course training, and they, therefore, could not comply with the new HACCP requirements. TUCEP took the challenge and opportunity to train them with a grant provided by USDA/CSREES. With this grant from USDA/CSREES, Tuskegee University provided the leadership for a consortium of experts from Fort Valley State University and Southern University to conduct hands-on training workshops covering five contiguous states, including Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina. There was no cost to the participants. Impact from the training has been positive.

While the survey is incomplete at this time, there has been an increase in the number of goat producing farmers in Alabama. In Macon County, six new goat farms have been established. Extension agents and specialists have done an excellent job at county fairs and other community meetings in encouraging farmers to participate in goat production. As a result of these new farms, jobs have been created. The Southeastern Region of the United States has 63 active large packing plants and 970 small and very small packing plants. Many of these plants closed when the government enacted HACCP rules. Only a few packing plants that remained open processed goat meat. Many of the very small processing plants are located in our target areas in Alabama and they serve the small-scale goat farmers.

In 2003 it was made known that "HACCP Plans" were not required for custom slaughter of goats. In other words, farmers can sell and process goats to individuals for backyard slaughter and family consumption and not have to comply with HACCP rules. However, in order to keep the consumers safe, they must ensure that meats are well cooked before eating.

New farmers who come into livestock producing cooperatives and will be slaughtering their animals for public consumption will need HACCP training. A hands-on HACCP training program is now available as a 2-credit unit course at Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension and Continuing Education Program Center.

### **Food Security, Fiber Supply, and Public Health**

New farmers interested in goat production, slaughtering, and marketing sought assistance from the TUCEP veterinarian as to how to comply with the HACCP requirements. They were advised and asked to take the HACCP course.

### **Surveillance, Prevention, and Education**

Serious attention was and is still being paid to the fears of possible terrorist attacks. Bio-terrorism, agriterrorism, and biosecurity preparedness were given serious attention. During the last TU Farmers' Conference, the twenty-two farmers who attended the workshop were informed and educated on how to detect foot and mouth disease (FMD) and mad cow disease in their cattle populations. Discussions focused on bio-terrorism in arable crops, livestock and fish farming.

Follow-up workshops will be organized for the 112<sup>th</sup> TU Farmers' Conference in 2004. Certain livestock diseases of economic and public health importance (especially Zoonotic diseases) that can be used as weapons of mass destruction by terrorists will be discussed. All of these diseases were not discussed at the 111<sup>th</sup> TU Farmers' Conference held in 2003. Because of their economic and public health importance, they will be discussed at the 2004 TU Farmers' Conference.

### **National Goal 3:**

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

**Extension Team Project (ETP 413): *Promoting Individual Health***

#### **A. Description:**

Many African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and other under-served minorities do not have the financial ability to afford regular medical care, and they are unable to discuss their health concerns with a health care provider or understand the available health education information available to them.

The goal of ETP 413 is to provide resources and services to enhance the health and well being of all racial/ethnic and other under-served population groups.

The objective of ETP 413 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. Therefore, several approaches were employed in assisting the clients to change their lifestyle: appropriate health care services, screening, education, referrals, counseling, and collaborating with related health care agencies.

*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 cardiovascular disease. The data also show that many minorities face significant deterrents that make it difficult to adopt recommended lifestyle changes.*

Obesity and the risk for the metabolic syndrome are rapidly increasing in Alabama. The metabolic syndrome increases one's risk of cardiovascular diseases by 50 percent. Additionally, 11 percent of people with the metabolic syndrome progresses to Type 2 diabetes each year. Persons with diabetes have a two to fourfold increase in cardiovascular risk in addition to the complications of diabetes.

Cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, is by far the largest killer in the TU targeted twelve Black Belt Counties in Alabama. In 1998, almost half of all deaths in these counties were due to cardiovascular disease (CVD). African Americans are twice as likely as Caucasians to have diabetes and experience higher rates of hypertension, a risk factor for heart disease.

The risk factors for the high incidence of this disease include: high level of bad cholesterol, high blood pressure, and 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 lifestyle interventions resulted in a 58 percent relative reduction in the incidence of diabetes.

Expected outcomes for ETP 413 are that the clients 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, and (4) control diabetes through diet, exercise, medication, and stress management; (5) reduce the incidence of breast and cervical cancer in 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:**

Several outreach strategies were used to accomplish the goals and objectives of this ETP. They were:

Eight county wide health fairs, one dental clinic, three organized coalitions, one train-the-trainer workshop, two in-service training seminars, one Senior Olympics, 10 broad-based comprehensive programs on diabetes education, four programs on prostate cancer, distribution of 200 publications and other activities (short presentations, home and office visits, mailing information, telephone calls, etc. These actions and activities were carried out in Barbour, Bullock, Macon, Montgomery, Sumter, Marengo and Lowndes Counties. One Olympic Torch was awarded to the Macon County Senior Olympic Committee for their continuous promotion of diabetic education. Two hundred people were reached to raise their awareness level of diabetes through churches by distributing brochures and posters. Cable TV and health fairs were also utilized.

*Listed below are other broad-based comprehensive programs on diabetes, heart disease, cancer education programs in Barbour, Bullock, Lowndes, Sumter, Marengo, and Montgomery Counties.*

1. **Diabetes Prevention.** A total of 73 males and females with diabetes were reached through five different groups. Each group attended a series of 10-12 classes on diabetes education.
2. **Early Detection of Prostate Cancer Education Seminar.** TUCEP contacted and educated 121 male individuals on prostate cancer in Sumter, Macon,

Bullock, and Barbour Counties.

3. **Coordinated broad-based comprehensive weight loss programs.** A total of 20 females were reached through two different groups. Each group attended a series of 8 to 10 classes.
4. **Grant Programs: Appalachian Diabetes Control and Translation Project.**  
*Diabetes Today: A broad-based comprehensive program on diabetes education in Macon County:*

A total of 673 males and females with diabetes or without diabetes were reached through this program in Macon County.

One train-the trainer workshop was conducted and twelve volunteers were trained in Macon County.

One local coalition consisting of 10 members was organized to promote the awareness of diabetes.

Two in-service training seminars were offered to Macon County Head Start instructors and to the staff of Magnolia Nursing Home employees. Ninety-one individuals were trained on basic factors of diabetes.

One diabetes education class was offered in collaboration with the Alabama Exchange Bank in Tuskegee. A series of 10-12 classes on diabetes education were offered to 10 individuals with diabetes.

TUCEP, working with local leaders and collaborating with organizations, conducted the Senior Olympics in August, 2003. The focus of the Senior Olympics of 2003 was to help the elderly to control their diabetes for life.

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

Approximately 2057 people were contacted through the activities of ETP 413. As a result of the activities on the broad-based comprehensive programs on diabetes education in Macon County, 12 volunteers were trained on diabetes education, a 10 member coalition was organized to promote awareness of diabetes, 91 participants were trained on the basic factors of diabetes, seven individuals were able to develop an ongoing food plan and learn diabetes self-management skills, which included maintaining a blood glucose level below 120 in the morning and 140 at bedtime, keeping blood pressure below 130/80, keeping blood cholesterol levels in the desirable range, and weight regulation. Relative to the Senior Olympics, 350 older Americans participated in this activity from five senior centers in the Black Belt of



Alabama. To further raise the awareness level of diabetes prevention, 350 lunch bag coolers, with the message "Helping You Control Diabetes for Life," were given to each attendee. It was anticipated that those coolers would improve the quality of food storage for the elderly. Further, two parents of children with Type I diabetes were educated on diabetes meal management.

As a result of the broad-based comprehensive programs on diabetes, heart disease, and cancer education programs, the following impacts are reported: 25 individuals were able to develop an ongoing food plan and learn diabetes self-management skills. Twenty individuals lost an average of 5 to 15 pounds of extra body weight. Approximately 1020 people were reached through the health fairs.

Improved Quality of Life: Through the health fair screening 325 people were tested for Lipid Profile (blood cholesterol and triglycerides). Out of 325 participants who participated in cholesterol testing, 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 participants had high blood pressure, and 75 participants were identified with abnormal blood sugar levels. Appropriate referrals were made for all high-risk participants. By controlling the above-diagnosed risk factors, these individuals may be able to slow down or stop hardening of the arteries.

Other tests included sickle cell anemia, hearing, vision, osteoporosis, body fat analysis, blood hematocrit, depression screening, and height and weight. Approximately, another 465 individuals participated in other tests. Two referrals were made for sickle cell anemia. Five referrals were made for hearing impairments, and forty-two individuals were referred to their eye doctors for further evaluations. Additionally, six referrals were made to the House of Ruth for domestic violence. Follow-up classes, seminars, and referrals were made for each individual. Through the classes, participants received information and learned skills for a healthier lifestyle.

The approximate money value was \$225 for these tests and information per person. For 700 individuals, who actually participated in the screening, at \$225 per person, it is estimated that \$157,500 of free screening was provided to needy and under-served Extension clientele.

#### **D. Fiscal and Human Resources:**

1. \$10,000 was received from Diabetes Today, a grant for diabetes education programs from the Appalachian Diabetes Control and Translation Project.
2. \$2,000 was received from Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company.
3. \$500 was received from the United Way of Barbour County.

4. \$120 was received from the Bullock County Chamber of Commerce.
5. \$200 was received from Best Choice Medical.

The activities of ETP 413 were implemented through a collaboration of multiple organizations. These included: 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, ACES, Magnolia Nursing Home, REACH Program Participants, Macon County Head Start Program, Alabama Exchange Bank, and TUCEP.

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

ETP 413 has excellent public visibility and exposure. Several of the activities of the ETP have been published in the local newspapers. TUCEP will co-sponsor **Diabetes Today: A Community Discussion**, on March 18, 2004, in the Kellogg Conference Center at Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama. The purposes of this Community Discussion are to: (1) enhance local community organizations' collaborative efforts, (2) effectively build the community's competence to prevent diabetes, and (3) highlight successful programs and the local response to diabetes.

This activity is sponsored by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region IV, in cooperation with Emory University Regional Training Center, Alabama Department of Public Health, and Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

Below is a state major program related to ETP 413.

#### **Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension's Hispanic Initiative**

In 2003, the Barbour County Hispanic Coalition was established in Barbour County. As a result, several Extension activities have been undertaken. A strategic plan of work on health education has been developed and the following action taken: collaborated and enrolled the low income and uninsured Hispanic population to Central Alabama Comprehensive Health's Patient Assistance Program in Eufaula, Alabama; identified all free clinical services offered to Hispanics by local health department; dental assistance was offered to approximately 100 Hispanics, and 50 low income Hispanics registered with the Central Alabama Comprehensive Health's Patient Assistance Program. The Barbour County Hispanic Coalition received

\$30,000.00 from the Minority Health Council of Alabama in 2003.  
Now, many of the Hispanics participate in the services offered by their local community, especially, health education programs.

## **National Goal 4:**

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

**Extension Team Project (ETP 16A):** *Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Education*

### **A. Description:**

As defined by USDA, "The goal of the Natural Resources and Environmental Education is to ensure the health of the land through sustainable management." The goals of ETP 16A are: (1) to increase environmental awareness and (2) promote responsible environmental stewardship among Alabamians, especially, its rural minority population. Special emphasis is placed on youth and young adults in this target population. Emphasis on water resource safety was the main focus of most of the meetings and training sessions.

### **B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:**

In 2003, 68 contacts were made regarding water quality issues to families in Dallas and Perry Counties. These contacts were made by field demonstration, group meetings, farm and home visits and office phone calls. Fifteen homeowners were assisted in testing their private well water systems in Dallas and Perry Counties, where water systems needed to be upgraded with public water systems. Extension trained and certified or re-certified 18 farmers and landowners for restricted pesticide use during 2003.

The Alabama Water Watch Association reported that more than 172 families living in the Cahaba River Water Shed have received educational material and training concerning waterquality issues for the Cahaba River and the many streams that run into the river.

Tuskegee University Water Quality Testing Program tested 25 samples from 14 counties around the State of Alabama for nitrates, pH, coliform bacteria, and total dissolved solids (TDS). The results were sent to each participant with recommendations on how to protect well heads. Participants supplied information on their property regarding well head protection, which is being used as part of a database for private wells in the State of Alabama. During this period of time, the excel database was modified to ensure greater access to relevant data.

As part of the Lower Tallapoosa TMDL and watershed initiative, four creeks in

Macon County (Choctafaula Creek, Uphapee Creek, Calebee Creek, and Cubahatchee Creek) are being monitored for nitrates, phosphorus, total nitrogen, total phosphorus and physical parameters like TDS, temperature and dissolved oxygen. Information from these creeks is being used to design a model using P-load to predict nutrient loading on these creeks. The model will allow managers in the county to control agriculture and domestic non-point source pollution.

Other water quality activities include technical assistance in the Lower Tallapoosa Water Quality Initiative and working with shrimp farmers in Lowndes County in water quality.

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

As a result of testing private well water for the fifteen participants, fortunately all of the wells tested were found to be below the EPA Standard for Water Contamination. As a result of the training, certification, and re-certification of farmers and landowners for pesticides, they improved their skills and knowledge on proper calibration of spray equipment, calculating recommended amounts of pesticide to use, proper disposal and storage of pesticides and pesticide containers.

With the assistance from the local Natural Resource and Conservation Service, landowners continue to use the minimum till or no-till method for crop cultivation, thus reducing erosion and soil nutrient loss. Most large cotton and soybean farmers are using dehydrated poultry manure for fertilizer. Therefore, landowners and farmers are using less chemicals and fertilizers on soils. All row croppers that farm near the Alabama and Cahaba Rivers use the no-till method of planting. This methodology helps to eliminate sediment contamination into the rivers as a result of soil erosion.

The Water Watch Environmental Committee reported that 65 percent of the Cahaba and Alabama Rivers have increased in water quality for recreation and wildlife enhancement.

### **D. Fiscal and Human Resources:**

TU Extension funded ETP 16A. Partners in this ETP were: Alabama Forest Commission of Lowndes/Wilcox Offices, Resurrection Elementary School, and NRCS.

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

This ETP will be continued to meet the needs of small-scale farmers and landowners.

The State Major Programs associated with ETP 16A in 2003 were:

**Forestry and Landowners Management Reports:** In Dallas and Perry Counties, 48 contacts were made to landowners through forestry and wildlife tours, group meetings, farm and home visits. Some landowners were contacted by letter. As a result, 20 limited resource landowners in Dallas and Perry Counties were able to make contact with the NRCS relative to developing Natural Resource Management Plans for timber, wildlife, and recreation on a total of approximately 1,800 acres of land. Nine of these landowners have leased approximately 1,300 acres for lease fee hunting rights for this hunting season in the year 2003. It is estimated that each family will earn about \$5,000 to \$6,000 in hunting fees.

In Lowndes County the TUCEP agent collaborated with the Alabama Forestry Commission and Outreach Coordinators in assisting landowners with detailed forest management plans— information summary, property map stand description, resulting in the development of a 10-year forest management plan.

In 2003, soil testing, soil preparation, location of wildlife food plots, and seed selection for food plots were among the actions and activities carried out in Lowndes County in forestry and wildlife. Also, information was provided to clients on reforestation. Several referrals were made to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Alabama Forestry Commission relative to “cost share” assistance for forestry land improvements. Sixty-three participants were contacted in this endeavor.

In Macon, Tallapoosa, Montgomery, Chambers, Russell and Perry Counties, forestry assistance has been provided to ten landowners. This assistance included timber sale preparation, forest management planning, supplying marketing information, contract advice and forest type mapping.

Forestry service source information has been provided to approximately fifty local forest landowners through the Macon County Forestry Committee and the Farmers’ Association. Assistance has been provided for the development of a forestry vendor source directory with basic forest product standards, timber sale marketing, contract provisions, planting guides, and forest health prescriptions.

As a result of these activities, landowners are made aware of the resources available to them. The information and knowledge gained assisted them to realize more income for their forest products, thus practicing better stewardship and management of their land.

Sivicultural prescriptions that were developed in 2002-2003 for Tuskegee University are currently being implemented through timber sales. Prescriptions developed for Camp Atkins will result in a facility for forestry education of youth as well as a conveniently located demonstration area for multiple use management for

landowners and educators. This prescription will be implemented over the next three years. Additionally, the facility will offer significant recreational opportunities for students, faculty, and staff at Tuskegee University, Macon County and surrounding areas.

The implementation of these prescriptions will produce significant income for University operations and programs over the next six months. The Camp Atkins restoration projects impact cannot be assessed until the project has progressed towards completion.

**Forestry for Kids (Our Day on the Farm):** Forestry for Kids (Our Day on the Farm) was held April 17, 2003 in Lowndes County. This event was held to address and answer general questions and to increase the knowledge of students between the grade levels of K-3 about life on the farm and natural resources and environmental education. Learning stations were set up in four areas: (1) dendrology and basic forestry, (2) water quality, (3) fire safety and fire prevention, (4) farm safety, and (5) a wagon tour of the farm.

**Alabama Forestry Camp – Epes, Alabama:** Forestry education has been provided in several youth based programs, including the Alabama Forestry Camp, local prep-schools, 4-H forestry judging teams, churches, and boy scouts. Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program participated in Alabama's Seventh Annual Statewide Forestry camp held June 1-5, 2003, at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives in Epes, Alabama. The Alabama Forestry Camp is designed to teach basic forestry concepts through classroom instruction and outdoor activities to both males and females who are 15 years of age and have not reached their senior year in high school.

A total of 48 students from nine counties within each district throughout the state of Alabama were selected to participate in this summer camp experience. Students received instruction in tree identification, compass reading, forest management, forest products and wildlife, soil and silver culture, water quality, and urban forestry. Also, students attended career night to learn more about the requirements for jobs in the area of agriculture and natural resources. Participants and instructors received certificates at the close of the camp.

Several in-county forestry camps were implemented for student in grades 4-11th. Local Extension agents produced a forestry camp newsletter published in six newspaper articles.

A total of 220 forestry camp newsletters were distributed to Extension agents throughout the state of Alabama, and this newsletter was also posted on the TUCEP website @ [WWW.TUSKEGEE.EDU](http://WWW.TUSKEGEE.EDU)

Based on a survey given, 27 of the 40 participants indicated that the forestry camp experience was a great success and that it gave them an advantage in pursuing a career in forestry or related agriculture.

The overall impact from these activities involves approximately 350 youths being exposed to some aspect of forest and natural resource management.

Partners in this collaboration include: ACES, Alabama Forestry Foundation, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, NRCS, University of West Alabama, the USDA, TUCEP, and others.



## **National Goal 5:**

***Enhance 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 (ETP 15A):** *Enhancing Citizens' Capacity to Transform Their Communities*

### **A. Description:**

ETP 15A has two tracks -- Business Development Track and the Leadership Development Track.

There is a need to teach and constantly update the leadership skills of community leaders and residents in rural Alabama. The communities need effective leadership to extricate them from their problems. The objective of the Leadership Development track is to enhance the leadership capability of individuals and community leaders by providing them with requisite skills in leadership.

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 individuals who want to enter into business, but many times do not start on the right footing because a lack of know-how. In addition, residents of rural communities need current information on issues, such as personal financial management, tax planning, and insurance planning that affect their daily lives. The Business Development track is intended to assist businesses with business planning, as well as, equip individuals with tools for sound personal decision-making.

The target audiences are adults, agricultural clientele, non-agricultural clientele, and community leaders and officials. With better business and individual skills come better productivity and with better leadership comes better communities. The Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program got involved in these types of activities because of the constant requests for such help from the community groups. The intended outcomes are to improve business, leadership, and individual skills of community residents and leaders. The effective implementation of these tracks is expected to help the communities grow.

### **B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:**

Contacts were made with a total of 12,081 persons; 5,149 males and 6,932 females; 9,145 African Americans, 2,912 Whites, and 24 Hispanics.

*Leadership Skills Development Track:* The workshops with the Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship, Christian Light Development Center, and Love in Action, Inc. alluded to in the 2002 Report were completed in 2003. The graduation ceremony was held February 4, 2003. Also, a series of leadership development workshops were conducted in Dallas County (Orrville; Selma), Barbour County (Eufaula), and Montgomery County (Montgomery). The participants in the Orrville workshops were comprised of residents from Orrville and the Beloit Community, whereas, the participants in the Selma workshops were from several communities in Dallas County, including Selma. The participants in the Eufaula workshops were made up of members of the Christian Alliance, an alliance of four churches in Eufaula and surrounding areas. Subject matter focused on included: (1) Establishing a Non-Profit Organization, e.g., 501c, (2) Organizational Planning and Development, (3) Nuts and Bolts of Writing Successful Grant Proposals, (4) Fundamentals of Leadership, and (5) Leadership for Advancing Organizations. The participants in Montgomery were the members of the leadership team in Stone Chapel AME Zion Church. The workshops focused on (2), (4), and (5) mentioned above.

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.

In Dallas County, of the 14 community groups (Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship; Selma/Dallas County Veteran Transitional Home, Inc.; Beloit Community Association; Potter Station Community Association; Love In Action, Inc.; Prince of Peace Ministry; Selmont, Sardis, Minter CDC; Christian Light Development Center; 4-Rivers Global Leadership Association; Bouguechitto Community Organization; Orrville Community Organization; Fathers; Robes & Gowns; B. L. House of Refuge) trained by or worked with TUCEP, 7 (Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship; Selma/Dallas County Veteran Transitional Home, Inc.; Beloit Community Association; Potter Station Community Association; Love In Action, Inc.; Prince of Peace Ministry; Selmont, Sardis, Minter CDC) have obtained their 501c (3) status. Collaborative arrangements have been made with six community groups (Selmont, Sardis, Minter CDC; Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship; Christian Light Development Center; Love In Action, Inc.; Selma/Dallas County Veteran Transitional Home, Inc.; 4-Rivers Global Leadership Association) to establish a technology center. The Selma Housing Authority and other entities are donating equipment for the technology center. Also meetings are on-going between the G. C. Wallace Community College, Selma, and the Selma/Dallas County Veteran Transitional Homes Inc. to help in this effort. The Selma/Dallas County Veteran Transitional Homes, Inc. will develop the curriculum for the computer technician course at the G. C. Wallace Community College (the technology center) and downlink the course to two rural sites. In addition, arrangements are being made to include adult education and GED at the designated sites. The rural sites will be the Tipton Middle School,

Selmont (operated by the Selmont, Sardis, Minter CDC), and a center in Sardis (operated by the Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship).

*Business Development Track:* Supplementary training was also provided for the Barbour County Improvement Association (BCIA) in Clayton, Barbour County. This training was provided as a result of a special request made by the members of the Association. Topics covered were public speaking, budgeting, and business planning. Again, materials were provided to the participants.

*Other Activities:* In addition, there was a one-day in-service training workshop for those who had signed up for ETP 15A. The training focused on (1) The Basics and Current Issues in Insurance Planning, (2) The Basics and Current Issues in Leadership Development, (3) The Basics and Current Issues in Business Planning, and (4) Issues and Important Considerations in Tax Planning.

Several other organizations have collaborated with Tuskegee University in implementing this program. Our partners include Auburn University, University of Georgia, Auburn Alive Program, St. Paul Episcopal Church, R&R Enterprise, the G.C. Wallace Community College, Selma Housing Authority, Selma/Dallas County Veteran Transitional Home, Inc., the Congressional District 7 Representative, and the State Representative District 67. One publication entitled, "Financial Ratios Made Simple: The Series," was developed and distributed through agents' offices and at the Annual B.T. W. Economic Development Summit held on Tuskegee University campus. This publication focused on profitability, liquidity, solvency, and efficiency ratios. The publication's intended audience is small business owners. It emphasizes to this audience the importance of ratio analysis as a business tool for sound decision-making.

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

With the assistance of TUCEP, three community groups (Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship; Love In Action Inc.; Christian Light Development Center) received grants in the amount of \$15,000 @ \$5,000 each to set up at-risk youth programs. The Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship, in addition, received a \$3,000 grant from International Paper Inc., and submitted a proposal to the Dallas County School Board for a grant of \$28,000 to implement aspects of its At-Risk Youth Program. The proposal passed the first review by the Board. The 4-Rivers Global Leadership Association through partnership agreement with the Selma School Board received a grant in the amount of \$375,000 for three years to work with Clark Elementary At-Risk Youth After-School Program. The Association also submitted a \$500,000 grant to Next Generation for seed money for additional leadership training, employment training, and equipment. Furthermore, the Selma/Dallas County Veteran Transitional Homes Inc. submitted three proposals: one to the Weave Parish Foundation for \$38,000 for scholarships for students who enroll in the computer technician course, one to Continuum of Care (HUD) for \$92,000 for services, and

another to Capital Grant for \$800,000 and two vans. Robes & Gowns, another community organization, submitted two proposals for \$20,000 through the Faith-Based Initiative. Community and economic development efforts generated \$392,500 in grants for four community groups (Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship; Love In Action, Inc.; Christian Light Development Center; 4-Rivers Global Leadership Association).

Additionally, 150 youth attended summer enrichment camps organized by three community groups (Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship; Love In Action, Inc.; Christian Light Development Center) in three (3) communities. These three groups have established computer centers in their respective communities for at-risk youth and the Alabama High School Exit Exam tutorial classes.

Results from surveys of participants (BCIA members) in the Clayton, Barbour County workshops (alluded to in the 2002 Report) reveal that 10% rated the workshops good and above; 90% indicated workshops met their expectations (ratings of good and above). The results also indicate that 60% had used the information they received from the workshops. Of this, 50% said they now worked more with people. When asked about beneficial aspects of the workshops; 90% of the participants rated five aspects, with 20% each for the categories all, sources of grants, sharing information, and leadership styles. Ten percent rated "care and interest showed" as a beneficial aspect. On the issue of one thing they had done differently, 60% said they communicate better and 20% said they are focusing more on grants and donations. Finally, when asked about suggestions for future workshops, 50% said the workshops should continue as they are and 20% indicated they would want more information on business management and public speaking. On the whole, the results reflect satisfaction with the workshops and also that participants were using the information received.

In addition, part of the mini-grant funds received by the BCIA has been used to purchase computers and accessories, and a computer center has been established (Saturday, October 4, 2003) in Clayton. The Shiloh Baptist Church is providing the space for the computer center. This center will cater to the youth focusing on after-school programs (e.g., help with home work, learning computer techniques, Alabama High School Exit Exam) during the school year and summer activities (e.g., learning how to use computers and other software packages) during the summer. Part of the mini-grant funds was also used to organize the BCIA as a 501c organization. There is no doubt that the contact of TUCEP with BCIA is going to affect youth lives.

From the results of the survey on the Hayneville, Lowndes County workshops (also alluded to in the 2002 Report), 25% of those surveyed said they have used the information received to develop business plans, 25% said they have used the information received to help friends or family members, and another 25% said they used material received to find sources of information. Also, 50% said how to write a

business plan was the most beneficial aspect of the workshops and 50% indicated they are now keeping proper records, something they were not doing before the workshops were offered.

Results from the Sardis, Dallas County workshops (referred to in the 2002 Report) indicate 100% of the participants rated the workshops as either very good or excellent; 50% said they have used the information to help the youth or in general operations, and 80% stated that the leadership skills and grant writing were beneficial to them.

#### **D. Fiscal and Human Resources:**

Extension personnel and other university personnel were used to carry out these activities. According to the reported days worked on this project, three TUCEP employees allocated 445 days, one Tuskegee University Center for Continuing Education (TUCEP) employee allocated 40 days, and one Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) employee allocated 25 days to this project in 2003. The total days allocated was 510 days.

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

Our future plans are to continue this program ETP 15A over the next two years. Beyond this period, the program may be kept or amended as the situation dictates.

Two state major programs associated with ETP 15A are:

#### **The Eighth Annual Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit, 2003**

The Eighth Annual Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit was held on the campus of Tuskegee University in the Kellogg Conference Center, October 8-10, 2003. The long-term goals of the BTW Economic Summit are to: (1) enhance the leadership development and citizenship education in order to build a cadre of competent citizens who can strengthen and transform their communities, (2) create economic environments that support employment, productivity, diversification, and industrial expansion in rural and other target communities, and (3) educate and strengthen youth, families, and communities to build home and community environments which support business and economic development in Alabama and the rural South. The theme for this year was: **Economic Development in Persistent Poverty Communities: Best Practices, Programs and Policies.** The tracks of the Summit were:

Doing Business with the Federal and State Governments, Faith-Based Initiatives, BTW Case Studies, Information Technology, Local Partnerships for Community Development, Personal

Finance and Wealth Creation, and Small Business Organizations, Taxes, and Record Keeping. The attendance at this conference was 220 participants.

The Eighth Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit was co-sponsored by: The US Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Cooperative Service, AM South Bank, Birmingham, Alabama, The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, Inc., Tuskegee University DBE/Entrepreneurial Development Institute, and Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

### **Report on Rural Housing Development in Greene and Hale Counties**

Family housing provides protection, security, and an environment where individuals and families develop, socialize, and establish their values. From an economic development standpoint, housing represents the largest financial investment most people will make in their lifetime.

Rural Black Belt areas, such as Greene and Hale Counties, continue to have a greater percentage of poor or inadequate houses than the average surrounding counties. The high cost of housing, low per capita income, social changes, increase in the aging and disable population are of grave concerns to the problem of adequate housing.

There is a need for families, especially the elderly and disabled citizens, to know about the housing assistance programs offered by governmental funding agencies.

To this end, seminars and workshops were offered in the areas of home management, credit and debt management, financial management, and household budgeting.

Eight individuals attended weekly training for 10 weeks. Twenty participants attended public area meetings to create an awareness of the different federal programs, funding sources, budget and financial management.

As a result of these participants participating in the training sessions, positive changes have occurred. All of the participants have been able to reach their short-term financial goals and are presently maintaining their financial management plan. Four of the individuals have been able to acquire funding from the local Rural Development Office. Six of the individuals have been able to restructure their current debts and consolidate. Before attending these classes, all six of the participants were considering bankruptcy, or they were living from "check to check" without any savings.

One family, who lived in a two-bedroom apartment, qualified for a loan in the amount of \$91,000 through the local Rural Development Office. One elderly family qualified

for a \$35,000 grant to make repairs through the Rural Development Office. One family qualified for a \$95,000 loan for a new house. That family was living in the housing project prior to receiving this loan. One family qualified for a loan of \$20,000 to renovate the family dwelling.

Collaborating partners are the USDA Rural Development Office, West Alabama Community Action, HERO/Family Resource Center (Hale County), West Alabama EZ-EC Program, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Epes, Alabama.

**Extension Team Project (33B).** *Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): A Strategy for Workforce Development*

**A. Description:**

Persistent poverty in the Black Belt Counties of Alabama is perpetuated by financial distressed school systems, lack of economic development, an unskilled labor force, high unemployment rates, high school drop out rates, and a high rate of social service participants. In response to these issues, TUCEP implemented the Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative in an effort to provide informal community-based experiential educational opportunities to youths and adults interested in exploring entrepreneurial endeavors.

The specific objectives of ETP 33B are to: (1) provide youths and adults exposure to a variety of entrepreneurial curriculum, programs and models for teaching and/or conducting an entrepreneurial education project, (2) examine on-going programs and curricula that emphasize entrepreneurial education and partnering with local businesses, (3) engage participants in experiential *hands-on-learning* activities, and (4) explore the development of entrepreneurship education and its impact on economic development.

**B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:**

The ETP 33B has been implemented in TUCEP's 12-county programming area. This ETP has been delivered in school settings, community centers, faith-based organizations, and summer camps.

In school settings, elementary students, age 8-12, were introduced to the Kaufman Foundation Mini-Society program. Students were given an opportunity to create their own society and explore entrepreneurship, economics, law, government and ethics. The Mini-Society Curriculum has proven to be successful in Sumter, Greene, and Dallas Counties. The curriculum is viewed as expanding the student's knowledge outside the classroom in the areas of mathematics and leadership.

In community centers, high school students enrolled in OIC general education programs received training in the National Foundation for Teaching

Entrepreneurship. While the summer program was designed for high school students, a small group of WIC mothers attended the training.

In Dallas and Perry Counties, 10,005 contacts were made. Of the 10,005 contacts made, 3,640 youth were reached through six weeks of Summer Enrichment Programs. Of the 3,640 youth who attended the Summer Enrichment Programs, 2,940 attended Entrepreneurial Education Classes. A total of 3,222 adults were contacted through workforce strategic planning classes. Twenty-four classes were conducted over a period of six months. An additional 114 youth attended Summer Enrichment Camps. These youths were introduced to the principles of entrepreneurial education.

The Summer Youth College, a summer enrichment camp, conducted annually at Tuskegee University, has focused its training on entrepreneurial education based on the Mini-Society curriculum for the past two summers.

During 2003, in Dallas County, seven community development corporations and CBOs were organized and are in the initial stages of developing business plans. Five of these organizations have their facilities, and four of the five have working staff. Four CDC's have formed a business alliance with local colleges, city and county officials, and city government to combat the economic conditions of Dallas County by establishing technology learning centers, transitional shelters for the homeless, and community centers for youths and adults in rural areas.

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

With the assistance of TUCEP, three community groups received funding in the amount of \$15,000 from the George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station and the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program. These funds were used to establish a computer center for tutorial programs. Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship has received \$3,000 from International Paper, Inc., and has submitted a proposal to the Dallas County School Board for \$28,000 for after school at-risk programs. Selma/Dallas County Veteran Transitional Homes, Inc. submitted proposals to: (1) The Weaver Parrish Foundation for \$38,000 for scholarships for a computer technician class, (2) The Continuum of Care (HUD) for \$92,000 for services, and (3) an \$800,000 Capital Grant for a homeless shelter and two vans for transportation.

Eighty-two participants who were unemployed and received training in Entrepreneurial Education have established their own business ventures and are serving on CDC and CBO boards and are networking to develop a stronger and marketable workforce.

Of the 15 OIC students and WIC mothers who attended the 6-week summer training program, six have started small businesses.



#### **D. Fiscal and Human Resources:**

TUCEP personnel collaborated with Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship, Christian Light Development Center, Love in Action, Inc., Selma/Dallas County Veteran Transition Home, Inc., G. C. Wallace Community College, Selma University, UGMO Enterprise, LLC, and R&R Enterprise, Alabama Alive Program, Selmont Sardis Minter CDC, University of Georgia, Set Free Ministries, OIC-Montgomery, and St. Paul CME Church, Selma.

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

The ETP programs were featured in some of the local newspapers. This team project will be continued.

**A Special Needs Program.** Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, in collaboration with the Sumter County Board of Education/Area Vocational Center, conducted a 10-day special needs program for 12 students in resume preparation for the labor force. The objective was to teach the students how to create and organize a resume' to present to employers for employment.

At the close of the ten day session, nine, or 75 percent of the students had successfully completed their resume', which was typed and formatted. Also, the 12 students had completed their job applications with no misspelled words, no abbreviations, and there were no un-answered questions.

Below are State major programs associated with ETP 33B:

1. *Power-Up in Lowndes County.* Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program continues to assist the Lowndes County Community Life Center with its Power-Up 4-H partnership program. This program provides computer training for elementary and high school students of Lowndes County. The major focus of the program is to narrow the digital divide.
2. *TU Power-Up on Campus Site.* Fifteen 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students were recruited from the Macon County School System for an after-school program which was held Monday through Thursday, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Spring Semester of 2003. Students were taught how to assess the computer and use information effectively to support their home and school work. They created their own e-mail addresses and web sites in addition to using word processing and Power Point in the class program presentations.

As a result of this after-school program, students orally reported a good understanding of the use of computers as a tool for their academic work. It was observed that the word processing and power point demonstrations helped them

in their school presentations. Five of the students improved their grades, because teachers were able to read their work. Five students retained their e-mail addresses and still communicated with the program director.

3. *Wil-Low Dollars for Scholars Project in Lowndes County.* Participation in this foundation is totally voluntary. 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 scholarships, and giving encouragement, in a fair, equitable and nondiscriminatory way to deserving students.

This foundation is supported by local citizens, churches, schools, businesses, fraternal organizations, and other well wishers.

From 1995 to 2003, Wil-Low Dollars for Scholars has awarded ninety-five scholarships to graduating high school students. Recipients of these awards have studied at four-year universities, and two-year community and technical colleges in Alabama.

4. *The Summer Youth College.* The concept of "Youth College grew out of the need to provide rural youth with alternative educational opportunities for academic preparedness. Tuskegee University Summer Youth College (TUSYCP) was implemented to encourage rural youth to develop favorable attitudes toward pursuing higher education.

In 2003, thirty youths from Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Oklahoma attended the Summer Youth College Program. These participants were exposed to various careers in science and computer technology. Non-traditional careers and hands-on experiences were a part of the program, and provided 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 Summer Youth College Program. Subject areas ranging from design and manufacturing, animal and plant science, environmental, forestry and natural resources, foods and nutrition, entrepreneurship, to computer applications are offered. Youth finances, reading, observational study skills, cultural studies and field trips are also included in the program.

5. *Effective Parenting.* The need for this educational program grew out of a request for effective parenting from the Sumter County District Court Judge and the DHR supervisor. Some adults and teen mothers did not have the necessary parenting skills needed to properly support their child or children.

As a result of this request, effective parenting classes were established. The goal of this class is to teach skills relative to goal setting, models, self-esteem, courage, responsibility and cooperation, promote interpersonal family relationships, build strong parent-child relationships and to understand traditional discipline methods, as well as, modern discipline methods.

To implement the goal of this class, workshops and seminars were conducted, using videos, handout materials, group discussions and homework activities. Participants were given opportunities to demonstrate or model positive ways of handling their newly acquired parenting skills.

A \$20,000 grant from the Children Trust Fund and Children of the Village Network was utilized in carrying out this class. TU agent collaborated with the Sumter County District Court, DHR and Children of the Village Network.

Eleven families and 22 individuals attended weekly training for 10 weeks using recommended practices for effective parenting. From observations and demonstrations, behavioral changes were noted. It is concluded that this training has enhanced effective parenting skills and practices.

## ALLOCATION OF FISCAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Programs' allocation of fiscal and human resources among program areas for 2003 are listed below. Data do not reflect FTE's for clerical and administrative support. However, these factors are reflected in the dollar amounts.

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<b>Program Area</b>	<b>\$Allocation</b>	<b>FTE's</b>
<b>4-H &amp; Y</b>	<b>\$157,527.29</b>	<b>4.25</b>
<b>AG</b>	<b>\$253,886.61</b>	<b>5.70</b>
<b>C &amp; ED</b>	<b>\$ 55,263.05</b>	<b>1.35</b>
<b>F &amp; IWB</b>	<b>\$166,576.29</b>	<b>3.90</b>
<b>IN PEST MGT</b>	<b>\$ 22,639.90</b>	<b>.50</b>
<b>U &amp; NNTP</b>	<b>\$ 5,477.57</b>	<b>.10</b>

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## **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY – STAKEHOLDER INPUT PROCESS**

The Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Plan of Work provides continuous opportunities to assure relevance and quality in Extension program planning, implementation, delivery and evaluation. Since 1997, TUCEP has strengthened its relationships with the various interest groups in the communities it serves and throughout the State of Alabama.

TUCEP has a functioning State Advisory Board Counsel. The State Advisory Board is a committed staff of lay and professionals that team up with the agents, specialists, and administrators to advise and devise strategies to strengthen and improving the quality of lives of all Alabamians. Representation on this council is diverse. This State Advisory Board provides advice in the following broad areas:

- Mission statements and policy-setting
- Long and short-range planning
- Resource development
- Fiduciary care
- Assuring compliance
- Image development
- Linkage and Sanctioning
- Advocacy
- Assuring the quality of Extension personnel
- Extension Evaluation

The various committees of the TUCEP State Advisory Board include: agricultural assistance, community and 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 the council members to identify and communicate critical need areas for TUCEP, identify better ways and means to cooperate, review State and Federal Plans of Work, as well as Extension Team Projects and state major programs proposed and implemented by TUCEP.

The Extension State Advisory Board holds its annual meeting every year in February, normally before the Annual Farmers' Conference on the Tuskegee University Campus, Kellogg Conference Center.

TUCEP has six County Advisory Boards, consistent with its six units. Each local county advisory board consists of representatives from the county in which agents and Specialists serve. Membership on these boards consists of established and emerging leaders of existing and targeted clientele organizations.

Each Extension County Unit has PAC Committees. These committees assist in program planning, implementation, and evaluation for the individual county. Also, the PAC Committees identify specific issues and local concerns that Extension has committed itself to address. These committees assist in the development of long range and short term goals for the Annual Plan of Work in the area of agriculture, natural resources, community economic development, business development, leadership development, volunteer development, and other areas in Extension.

## TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, in collaboration with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Plan of Work, 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 Specialist and agents, as well as Advisory Board Council members. Each Extension Team Project implemented by Tuskegee University is specialist driven, and has various evaluative and review process periods.

The State Extension Advisory Board Council members and the local County Advisory Board Council members are at liberty to participate in the program review process. Some of these entities have fiduciary responsibilities.

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, is committed to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent acts to provide educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, veteran status, disability, or national origin. Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program establishes and sustains the criteria of equal opportunity in providing educational programs, information and other services on a non-discriminatory basis, and detects and eliminates any elements of discrimination which may be found to exist. Program and Compliance Reviews are conducted annually in selected counties by an internal review group.

*The Program Review Process encompasses:* an overview of the local county, a review of the last county review, program leadership, coordination and teamwork, program relevance and content, program planning and content, program implementation and quality, networking and support groups, and future staffing needs. In 2003, three program reviews were conducted in Bullock, Hale, and Wilcox Counties.

*The Compliance Review encompasses:* Title VI - Civil Rights Act of 1964, relative to program access, Title VII - Civil Rights Act of 1964, relative to unlawful employment practices, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, relative discrimination against program participants on the basis of sex/gender or blindness, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Alabama Cooperative Extension System Non-Discriminatory Policy in Federally Assisted Programs, Equal employment Opportunity Policy, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, March 28, 1991, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, USDA Departmental Regulation 4330-1 for Program Compliance Review, June 27, 1986, Auburn University Affirmative Action Newsletter, Tuskegee University Affirmative Action Plan, Commitment and Accountability for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In 2003, three Compliance Reviews were conducted in collaboration with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. These reviews were held in Bullock, Hale, and Wilcox Counties.





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**APPENDIX B**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF**  
**ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS**  
**MULTISTATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AND INTEGRATED**  
**ACTIVITIES**

**ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM**  
**AUBURN UNIVERSITY--1862**

**MULTISTATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**  
**INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES (SMITH-LEVER ACT FUNDS)**

**NOTE:** The programs listed below serve to address both Multistate Extension Activities and Integrated Activities. Consistent with the Final Guidance issued by CSREES, the portion of the Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) funds that are used by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for Integrated Research and Extension Activities are also employed to satisfy the Multistate Activities requirement. Therefore, only one table is included.

It should be further noted that the figures below represent only salary. The estimated fringe benefit costs related to the above salary base is an additional \$169,754.25 that is not charged to the Multistate/Integrated account.

**By separate, signed, correspondence the Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System certifies that the cited data below 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.**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service  
 Supplement to the Annual Report of Accomplishments and results  
 Multistate Extension Activities and Integrated Activities  
 (Attach Brief Summaries)**

**Institution** Auburn University--1862

**State** ALABAMA

**Check one:**     **Multistate Extension Activities**  
                    **Integrated Activities (Hatch Act Funds)**  
                    **Integrated Activities (Smith-Lever Act Funds)**

Title of Planned Program/Activity	Actual Expenditures				
	FY 200	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
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	_____
Aquaculture	_____	_____	_____	\$ 7,435.80	_____
<b>Total</b>	_____	_____	_____	<b><u>\$715,288.20</u></b>	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service  
 Supplement to the Annual Report of Accomplishments and results  
 Multistate Extension Activities and Integrated Activities  
 (Attach Brief Summaries)**

**Institution** Auburn University--1862  
**State** ALABAMA

**Check one:**     \_\_\_     **Multistate Extension Activities**  
                   \_\_\_     **Integrated Activities (Hatch Act Funds)**  
                   X    **Integrated Activities (Smith-Lever Act Funds)**

**Actual Expenditures**

Title of Planned Program/Activity	FY 200	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
<b>Agricultural Economics</b>	_____	_____	_____	\$ 90,732.00	_____
<b>Agronomy</b>	_____	_____	_____	\$170,150.00	_____
<b>Animal &amp; Dairy Science</b>	_____	_____	_____	\$198,427.00	_____
<b>Horticulture</b>	_____	_____	_____	\$ 39,873.00	_____
<b>Pest Management</b>	_____	_____	_____	\$ 55,933.00	_____
<b>Poultry Science</b>	_____	_____	_____	\$ 39,763.00	_____
<b>Wildlife</b>	_____	_____	_____	\$ 93,122.00	_____
<b>Aquaculture</b>	_____	_____	_____	\$ 7,435.80	_____
<b>Total</b>	_____	_____	_____	<u>\$715,288.20</u>	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Form (CSREES-REPT (2/00))