ANNUAL REPORT

OF

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

THE

COMPREHENSIVE

ALABAMA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Alabama A&M University
Auburn University
Tuskegee University

FISCAL YEAR 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE: ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY / AUBURN UNIVERSITY

PART TWO: TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

CERTIFICATION

The Alabama Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results has been reviewed and approved by the1862 Extension Director - Auburn University, the 1890 Administrator - Alabama A&M University, and the 1890 Administrator - Tuskegee University. The 2005 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 reflect the program accomplishments of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) and of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program. This AREERA Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results provides detailed information that documents outcomes and impacts that result from Cooperative Extension programs in the State of Alabama. The programs and related outcomes and impacts, as contained in this report, reflect the positive and mutually supportive program-planning interface among the three institutions. Where appropriate, institutional identification associated with specific outcomes is noted. Given that the three institutions (Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, and Tuskegee University) cooperated fully in the development and implementation of the AREERA Plan of Work the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results is by definition, evidence of inter-institutional program planing, program implementation, and program accountability.

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

This Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results is constructed consistent with the design and format of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act (AREERA) Plan of Work from the State of Alabama. Alabama remains appreciative of the flexibility allowed in the design of our AREERA Plan of Work. Such flexibility of design was beneficial in that it allowed Alabama Cooperative Extension to produce a program plan that was foremost in addressing the critical needs of our citizens and that also met the stated needs of our Federal partner.

This Annual Report of Accomplishments and 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.

ETP10D. Alabama Row Crop Educational and Profitability Program
By Charles D. Monks

A. Description:

Cotton, soybeans, peanuts, and field corn continue to provide major economic revenue to the state of Alabama. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (www.nass.usda.gov), cotton is the most widely planted row crop in the state, followed by peanuts, field corn, soybeans, and wheat. Cash value to farmers has remained fairly constant over the past 5 years, as reflected in the following table:

Crop	Planted acreage	Yield/acre	Cash value to farmers*
Cotton	550,000	749 lbs/acre	$205,000,000
Peanuts	225,000	2,750 lbs/acre	$63,714,000
Field corn	220,000	119 bu/acre	$57,564,000
Soybeans	150,000	33 bu/acre	$36,243,000
Wheat*	100,000	50 bu/acre	$10,224,000
Totals	1,245,000		$372,745,000

While cash value has remained constant for most crops, with the exception of soybean (increasing), output is increasing slowly. For example, the trend line for cotton yield is positive at approximately 9.6 lbs/acre/year. This is likely due to genetic enhancement, technology advances, and improved information exchange. Similar trends hold true for field corn while the advances in production output are somewhat lower for soybeans and wheat.

The Alabama Row Crop Educational and Profitability Program is responsible for responding to the overall needs of the row crop industry in the state. The program is made up of 8 regional extension agents (1 position is currently vacant), 12 specialists, 4 county extension coordinators, and 2 county agents. These groups have worked together to secure funding and support from various sources to support on-going general and special projects. For example, special funding was secured for 2005 for projects involving on-farm variety evaluations, nematode management, and Asian soybean rust.

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. Included in this project were efforts to provide crop damage assessments and publications as a result of Hurricane Dennis and Hurricane Katrina. Crops in extreme southwest Alabama were severely damaged by these storms and extension personnel provided necessary assessments that have been utilized by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and the federal risk assessment agencies.

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 2005, agents and specialists participated in 86 crop production meetings (events that the participant either attended or initiated) with over 10,000 participant contacts. Specialists and agents participated in continuing adult and youth educational efforts through trainings and seminars (54).

Row crop demonstrations (146) and field tours (32 agent/specialist events attended or initiated) were conducted under this program in weed control, cotton defoliation, variety and cultivar evaluation, conservation tillage, nematode and pest management, and other areas. The following is a list of examples: effectiveness of burn-down herbicides in no-till cotton, cover crops for cotton production, cotton and soybean variety evaluations, use of strip-tillage to reduce soil compaction, and development of wheat varieties for bread quality. Entomologists also participated with scientists from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida in a regional project to evaluate the effect of stink bug migration from peanut fields into bordering cotton fields.

Funding for statewide projects that included Asian soybean rust and reniform nematode management were secured from state and national organizations. The Asian soybean rust project was part of a national effort to track and predict the severity of the disease. Team efforts resulted in 25 soybean sentinel plots on research or production farms and 15 kudzu monitoring areas. These areas were checked weekly for presence of rust by REA's, county extension agents, specialists, and county extension coordinators. Leaf samples were examined by the Auburn University Plant Diagnostic Laboratory for presence of the disease. Members of this ETP were part of a national monitoring program.

A state-wide reniform nematode management project was initiated through support from the Alabama Cotton Commission and Cotton Incorporated. Twelve on-farm locations were selected in five counties of central and north Alabama. An extensive nematode sampling program was conducted in conjunction with evaluation of three nematode management treatments. The data from this project is essential to the continued profitability of the cotton producers in the state. This information is currently being presented at winter production meetings, regional scientific meetings, and via the Internet.

Two multi-state regional conferences and tours that included speakers from Georgia, Florida, and Alabama were held in the southern areas of the state. The fifth annual Wiregrass Cotton Expo was held in February in Dothan and drew over 175 participants for the program from southwest Georgia, the Florida panhandle, and southern Alabama. The Southwest Alabama Field Crops Tour was held in Baldwin Co. and drew approximately 75 producers, industry representatives, and government employees from across south Alabama and western Florida. The North Alabama Field Crops Tour was held in Madison Co., Alabama and Lincoln Co., TN and included producers from across the northern region and southern TN. A statewide field corn conference funded by the Alabama Wheat and Feed Grains Committee was held in Mobile, AL in early December and included speakers from Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. 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.

Technology-based trainings were implemented in 2005, with participants from Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia. A scientist from the University of Minnesota presented information concerning on-farm demonstration and research in a telephone conference to agents and specialists. Specialists at AU participated in a nation-wide, web-based training on Asian soybean rust with other scientist from across

the U.S. A state-wide, multi-agency “Rapid responder” training was held spring 2005 that included the State Department of Agriculture and several academic/extension departments at Auburn University. In addition, the agronomy REA team traveled to Tifton, GA to participate in a conference on the feasibility of wireless systems in rural farming communities.

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 (i.e., 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:

Results from on-farm result demonstrations have had a great impact on local decisions and profitability as is evidenced in the following examples.

By providing reliable, unbiased information to growers, application of fungicides was avoided on approximately 50% of Alabama’s 150,000 acres of soybeans. This saved soybean producers approximately $2.25 million dollars ($30/A * 75,000 acres), while keeping losses to soybean rust to negligible levels. An even greater impact of the program was felt nationally, as teams from Alabama and other states tracked the disease northward. Alerts were not needed for mid-western states until the crop had matured. Assuming that 50 million acres of soybeans were not treated nationwide, Alabama’s cooperation in the National Soybean Rust Sentinel and Monitoring network potentially saved $1.5 billion dollars for American soybean producers.

The regional stinkbug management project, when applied to the cotton acreage in southern counties, has the potential to impact approximately one half (250,000 acres). The results were staggering, with cotton receiving no stinkbug treatment yielding 250 lbs lint/acre and cotton treated according to extension recommendations yielding approximately 1400 lbs lint/acre, an increase of 1150 lbs of lint/acre on the field borders. Simply monitoring stinkbugs across the state and making treatments according to extension recommendations could resulted in a yield increase of approximately 200 lbs of cotton lint (total gross revenue, assuming 250,000 acre are currently untreated is approximately $25,000,000).

A renewable energy project received a grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to fund “Biodiesel: Introducing Renewable Energy to North Alabama Farmers.” As a result of this project, Alabama farmers used 13,633 gallons of Biodiesel, saving 13,633 gallons of petroleum diesel or 1,722,290,000 BTU’s and a 43% reduction in carbon monoxide for the 13,633 gallons used. This project provides our team with a tremendous opportunity to benefit all row crop producers and the general public as well.

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 by 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, 12 specialists and 13 regional and county agents

participated in this project. A total of 2013 days were reported to this ETP 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 over $250,000, not including over $80,500 in “in-kind” supplies and $45,000 in meeting support.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

Information was made available through local newsletters, newspaper articles, radio and television interviews, various crop web sites (www.alabamacotton.com ; www.alabamasoybean.com ; www.aces.edu/dept/grain/), and publications in various journals. In addition, the renewable fuels project received a grant from the Alabama Soybean Commission and, working with the Alabama Petroleum and Convenience Marketing Association and the National Biodiesel Board, conducted a series of bio-diesel information meetings for Alabama’s petroleum distributors. Extension specialists are currently working with a group of investors to determine the feasibility of building a bio-diesel plant in north-east Alabama and another group to build a 50 million gallon per year ethanol plant in north-central Alabama.

The goal of this ETP in 2006 is to continue to provide the most up-to-date production and marketing information for the row crop producers of Alabama. In a questionnaire sent to all members of this project, participants were asked to provide the most urgent areas of concern for row crop producers in the state. The responses included variety evaluations, nematode management, conservation tillage improvements, stink bug and insect management, resistant weed management, and technology advancements. It is imperative that we continue to respond to the needs of the farming clientele in the state and to provide them with unbiased, up-to-date information.

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

A. Description:

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

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

1) 2005 BCIA Annual Meeting: The 2005 Alabama BCIA Annual Meeting and Awards Program was held on January 7, 2005 at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference in Auburn, AL. There were a total of 63 people in attendance. The BCIA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet included a yearly general membership meeting, the presentation of awards for the 2005 Commercial and Purebred Producer of the Year, Commercial Herd Awards, Gold Star Cow Awards, Bull Evaluation Awards, and the 2005 Richard

Deese Award. The BCIA Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the 2005 Beef Short course "Adding Tools to the Toolbox" sponsored by the Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Auburn University College of Agriculture, and Alabama BCIA. The two day short course presented a detailed look at a variety of essential topics in the beef industry. These essential topics included marketing, economics, reproduction, herd health, and current industry issues such as animal welfare and production records. A variety of speakers, representing some of the top experts in their fields from throughout the country, presented these essential topics. The first day of the short course provided Dr. Derrell Peel of Oklahoma State University presenting the "Issues That Will Shape the US Beef Industry," and Auburn's own Dr. Walt Prevatt presenting "Focusing of the Bottom Line of Alabama Cow/Calf Producers." Professors from both Auburn's Animal Science and College of Veterinary Medicine finished out the first day with Dr. Frank Owsley presenting "How Animal Welfare Issues will Affect the Beef Industry," Dr. Lisa Kriese-Anderson presenting "the Value of Records in Today's Beef Industry," and Dr. Dan Givens presenting "Health Concerns: BVD and Johne's Disease in Alabama." The second day provided Dr. John Lawrence of Iowa State University presenting "Beef Cattle Marketing: What's Next?" and Dr. Sandy Johnson of Kansas State University presenting "The Cost of Using AI and Natural Service Sires." The morning was completed by Auburn's own Dr. Dale Coleman presenting "Current Successful Estrous Synchronization Protocols" and Dr. Darrell Rankins presenting "Feeding Cattle when Forages are Not Adequate." Breakout sessions allowed for smaller group study of carcass evaluation, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA), and how to interpret feed and forage analysis reports, as well as, tours of the Auburn Bull Test to see bulls available for sale, the new Lambert-Powell Meats Lab and Stanley P. Wilson Beef Unit, and the ALFA Services Building.

2) BCIA Bull and Heifer Sales: In the calendar year of 2005, BCIA held 7 replacement heifer sales, selling a total of 296 open heifers and 281 bred heifers, and 5 bull sales, selling a total of 298 bulls. These results total to 12 total sales in sale locations throughout the state for an overall total of 875 head sold from BCIA members. These sales were possible through hard work by ACES personnel at the state, regional, and county level, and also BCIA producers.

3) BCIA Performance Records: The Red Wing Cow/Calf software has been utilized by the BCIA to maintain and evaluate member's commercial herds since 2000. The current 2004-05 state data included 60 total herds with 6,783 calf records processed for a state average weaning weight of 549 lbs and an average weaning frame score of 5.13 (n=967). The total number of records in the database for 2004-05 was 100,776, which included all calves, cows, and bulls. In the small herd category, which are herds of 5 to 29 animals, 6,955 total records were processed from 16 total herds for an average weaning weight of 549 lbs from 253 total calves. In the medium herd category, which are herds of 30 to 99 animals, 30,265 total records were processed from 26 total herds for an average weaning weight of 540 lbs from 1,385 total calves. In the large herd category, which are herds of 100 animals or more, 63,556 total records were processed from 18 total herds for an average weaning weight of 530 lbs from 5,145 total calves. These records were processed by ACES county coordinators, regional extension agents, the BCIA state office staff, and BCIA members.

The 2003-04 state data included 59 total herds with 5,015 calf records processed for a state average weaning weight of 545 lbs and an average weaning frame score of 5.45 (n=1718). The total number of records in the database for 2003-04 was 93,993, which included all calves, cows, and bulls. In the small herd category, which are herds of 5 to 29 animals, 6,620 total records were processed from 16 total herds for an average weaning weight of 547 lbs. In the medium herd category, which are herds of 30 to 99 animals, 28,728 total records were processed from 26 total herds for an average weaning weight of 540 lbs. In the large herd category, which are herds of 100 animals or more, 58,645 total records were processed from 17 total herds for an average weaning weight of 528 lbs. These records were processed by ACES county, regional, and state agents and also by BCIA members.

The results of the first three years utilizing the Red Wing software are detailed below for comparison to the highlighted year of 2004-05. The 2002-03 state data included a total of 81herds with 6,108 calf records processed for an average weaning weight of 560 lbs. The 2001-02 state data included a total of 97 herds with 8,091 calf records processed for an average weaning weight of 557 lbs. In 2000-01, a total

of 72 herds were reported to the state BCIA office for a total of 5,052 calf records processed for an average weaning weight of 565 lbs.

4) 2004-05 Alabama Pasture to Rail:

5) 2005 In-Service Training: An In-Service Training was held on April 6, 2005 at the Chilton Research and Extension Center for County Extension Coordinators (CECs) and Regional Extension Agents (REAs) within the Animal Science and Forages Priority Team who planned to process BCIA Performance Records through the Red Wing Cow/Calf software. With the new structure of the Alabama Cooperative Extension system into priority team areas and regional responsibilities, the plan of each CEC or REA to have the choice to process records for the BCIA program within their county or region was put into place. Ten agents agreed to process BCIA records and were invited to the In-Service Training. Three CECs and three REAs along with 1 private company instructor and 1 BCIA employee joined Michelle F. Elmore for the training. The training provided the installation of an updated version of the software, basic instruction, and review of data entry. Further instruction of data calculation, back-up, and restoring of databases was also provided. A session of helpful tips for database management and communication of data to cattle producers with a question and answer session was also provided.

The impact of this in-service training resulted in 2 REAs being initially trained in the software and 1 REA being further trained on the basics of the software. However, the remaining three REAs and CECs had the opportunity to gain further insight into the more advanced features of the program and how to best handle the data. A BCIA employee was initially trained to assist Michelle F. Elmore in processing the influx of data to be processed by the state BCIA office with the new structure. Success was achieved with this in-service by the service of each of these agents and the BCIA Office Manager in servicing BCIA clientele.

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

1) 2005 Membership Impact: Alabama BCIA membership for 2005 totaled 407 members. This included 171 commercial producers, 176 purebred producers, 50 purebred/commercial producers, 1 corporate member, and 9 junior members. Membership in 2004 included a total of 439 members with 183 commercial producers, 204 purebred producers, 42 commercial/purebred producers, 2 corporate members, and 8 junior members. This displays a decrease of 32 members overall from 2004 to 2005.

2) 2005 BCIA Sales Impact: The impact from the 2005 BCIA Sales totaled 875 head sold to 291 different buyers all over the state of Alabama and into all the surrounding states. Economic impact for buyers of BCIA bulls was significant and figured to be a $357,600 benefit. This figure was calculated by analyzing 298 total bulls sold x 20 calves/year for an estimate of 3 years service for a total of 17,880 calves at an estimate of a premium of $20/calf to equal $357,800 dollar impact for BCIA bulls sold in 2005. For the sellers of these bulls, which are BCIA purebred producers, an economic impact of $652,250 was calculated for 2005. The average bull selling price was $2,188.76 /bull and the total bull sales gross equaled to $652,250. For commercial BCIA producers, 296 open heifers were sold for an average selling price of $881/heifer which totals to an impact of $260,735. Commercial BCIA producers also sold 281 bred heifers for an average selling price of $1269/heifer to make an impact of $356,610.

3) 2004-05 BCIA Cattle Buyer Survey Impact: An evaluation instrument was sent out to 291 buyers of BCIA cattle from the 2004-05 sale season. Forty-nine buyers responded to the evaluation survey for only a 16.84% response. Out of the 49 respondents, 73.47% or 36 individuals purchased bulls, 22.45% or 11 individuals purchased heifers, and 4.08% or 2 individuals purchased both bulls and heifers. When asked how did they learn of the sale the buyers responded by following answers: 75.51% by advertisement in a magazine; 40.82% by the Alabama BCIA newsletter; 57.14% by receiving a catalog; 2.04% by being contacted by a consignor; 6.12% by a radio advertisement; and 12.24% by other methods such as contact by an ACES agent, word of mouth, Alabama Livestock Auction (sale site), or by past buyers of a BCIA sale.

On a scale of 1 (very displeased) to 5 (very pleased), buyers were asked the 5 following type of questions. When asked how pleased the buyers were with their purchases, the average response was a 4.04, which indicates slightly pleased. When asked how pleased the buyers were with the presentation of the cattle at the sale, the average response was a 4.35, which is slightly pleased. When asked how pleased the buyers were with the ring men taking your bid, the average response was 4.41, which indicates slightly pleased. The average response to the question of how pleased were you with the auctioneer taking your bid was 4.34, which indicates slightly pleased. The average response to the question of being pleased with the amount of information provided in the catalog or supplemental sheets provided was 4.38 or slightly pleased. All of these 5 questions had a range in responses from 1 (very displeased) to 5 (very pleased). The readability of the performance data provided was asked of the respondents on a range of 1 (not clear) to 5 (very clear) with an average response of 4.24 and a range in responses of 1 to 5. The importance of performance data in selecting cattle for your beef operations was asked on a range of 1 (not important) to 5 (extremely important) with an average response of 4.61 with a range in responses of 3 to 5.

Of the responding buyers, 94.12% stated they were able to obtain additional information easily. All responding buyers stated they were treated courteously while registering for a buyer number and also while paying for purchases. All responding buyers stated that their transferred registration certificates were received in a timely manner and correct. The majority (75.61%) of the responding buyers did not have breeding problems with their purchases; however, 24.39% reported that they did indeed have breeding problems with their purchased cattle. Only 5 responding buyers supplied a response to whether or not a settlement was obtained from the BCIA consignor in the case of breeding problems. Three indicated they did not easily settle the problem with the consignor; however, one clearly noted that the problem was not the fault of the consignor. The remaining two responding buyers were able to settle any breeding problems with the BCIA consignor. When asked if the buyer would again purchase cattle from BCIA sales, 95.56% stated that they would. Only 4.44% (2 respondents) stated that they would not purchase cattle from BCIA sales in the future. The reason supplied from these 2 bull buyers were that they felt the bulls “were too fat and fell apart with the cows” and also “did not receive semen test results. Bulls were not pasture ready – too much feed and not enough grass.” These are issues that are currently being addressed by BCIA.

4) Impact of the ACES Agent Survey: An evaluation instrument was developed for ACES agents that participated in this ETP to provide insight and documentation for the Alabama BCIA and Pasture to Rail programs and to assist in future planning. Twenty-seven evaluation instruments were distributed via e-mail to participants in this ETP. Only two participants responded, which included 1 state specialist and 1 CEC, for a 7.41% response rate. This low response unfortunately does not provide a full review of the participants of this ETP. However, from these two respondents, a total of 22 meetings that incorporated performance and alternative marketing information were organized with a total of 369 participants. Twenty-five estimated farm contacts were also organized to further provide education on performance. In addition, seven total alternative marketing events were facilitated for a total of 260 participants. An estimated 6,800 feeder calves were marketed through alternative methods. An estimated gross sale of $4 million, with an improvement in gross sales of $250,000 due to documented performance principles, was reported. On a per head basis, a gain in net dollars of $75-$125/head was reported as compared to other marketing decisions, and decisions to improve cattle selection have been enhanced by record keeping tools. When asked to describe the impact of collecting carcass data on herd performance and profitability, the response was very positive. With the advancement of new market alternatives and opportunities, cattle producers have had a stronger economic reason to enhance emphasis on thoroughly understanding the US beef industry.

Respondents were asked to rate the support of state extension specialists and the state BCIA office on a scale of 1 (not helpful) to 5 (most helpful). The response for extension specialists were reported in the following support areas: 1) a rating of 4 in answering questions in a timely manner, 2) a rating of 3 in providing additional educational materials, 3) a rating of 5 in presenting a high quality educational program at organized meetings. The response for the state BCIA office were reported in the following

support areas: 1) a rating of 5 in providing materials on performance bull and heifer sales, 2) a rating of 4 in providing Red Wing Cow/Calf herd reports in a timely and comprehensive manner, 3) a rating of 5 in support for the use of Red Wing cow/Calf software, 4) a rating of 5 in providing support, information, and correspondence in coordinating BCIA sales, 5) a rating of 5 in presenting a high quality educational program at meetings organized. When asked to describe how helpful current resources are in implementing this program, the rating of 4 was given. Suggested comments expressed the need for a method for cattle producers to enter cow/calf performance data via the Internet into Red Wing herd databases. A specific suggestion in the area of commercial herd records was to further encourage the utilization of cow efficiency data in performance selection.

5) Impact of the 2004-05 Alabama Pasture to Rail Program:

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

Twenty-seven ACES employees allocated a total of 1,418.75 days to this project in 2005. To date, 1,398.12 days have been reported for this project.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans:

The journalism internship for Alabama BCIA was continued in 2005, with the adaptation for a qualified applicant to work as a student worker in the fall semester. A total of 9 newspaper articles were written and published in a variety of different Alabama local newspapers across the state. Topics of these articles included BCIA sale results, member consignments at BCIA evaluations and sales, and results of BCIA bull evaluations. The student worker also coordinated the publishing of the BCIA newsletter “Performance Tips, Topics, and Trails” that is sent to BCIA members, ACES agents, buyers of BCIA cattle, and BCIA board members. The internship/student job position has successfully expanded the content of the Alabama BCIA website, which receives heavy traffic.

Alabama BCIA was well represented at the 37th Annual Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium and Annual Meeting held on July 6-9, 2005 in Billings, MT. Eighteen individuals from Alabama represented the state at the international event. Two Alabama BCIA producers were particularly highlighted as nominees for the BIF Purebred and Commercial Producers of the Year. Dr. Billy S. Moore of Moore Farms in Huntsville was a nominee for purebred producer of the year, and Hank, Harold, Dianne, Kelly, and Ginger Gaines of Gaines Farm in Autaugaville were nominated for commercial producer of the year. Whereas, neither nominee from Alabama won the respective awards, they both represented the program very well. Alabama was also honored as Jimmy Holliman of Marion Junction conducted the convention as president of the Federation for 2004-05. Alabama is also the only southeastern state to have two members on the BIF board of directors with Tommy Brown of Clanton also serving. The educational event included 2 ½ days of educational seminars and 1 day tour of Montana with either a purebred or commercial production emphasis.

Future plans of the association have centered on the bull evaluation element of our program. A select bull evaluation planning committee was formed in 2005 to re-evaluate the effectiveness, need, and status of the current BCIA bull evaluation program and to plan for the future. The past statistics of BCIA bull evaluations and consignment sales were tabulated and reviewed to evaluate the effectiveness and need of the program. The reduced participation in the bull evaluation programs in the last few years has caused much concern and questions by BCIA members and ACES personnel. The committee is still currently discussing ideas and plans for the future to best address the needs of the BCIA members to insure the viability of our association into the future.

ETP 20 B1. Beekeeping
By CATHERINE SABOTA

A. Description:
Honeybees play a vital role in the pollination of many trees and plants in our environment. In fact, they are so important to the pollination of fruits and vegetables that domesticated colonies are leased to vegetable and fruit producers to increase fruit size and yield and to improve shape. In addition, beekeeping can supplement income with the sale of honey and the leasing of honeybee colonies to fruit and vegetable producers. Outdoor honey bee observation colonies and lectures can be a very valuable tool in educating the public about the benefits of honey bees to our environment and how we can help to ensure their continued survival.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
In January 2004 and November 2005, six individuals were recruited from Houston County and seven from Lawrence County, respectively. The 13 individuals participated in beekeeping trainings, institutes, conferences, etc. in preparation for training local persons in apiculture techniques and skills. The Dothan participants received three colonies and all the beekeeping equipment they needed to manage their colonies. The Lawrence County participants received two colonies and the same equipment as Dothan participants.
C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Some of the Dothan participants were able to produce enough honey to feed the bees through the first winter and prepare them for the pollination of watermelon, muskmelon and strawberries. In March 2005, four colonies were placed on three acres of strawberries. The first harvest of the berries without the bees resulted in berries with poor shape, taste and small fruit. The second harvest, after the bees were in place, yielded an improvement in the above fruit characteristics.
Six honeybee colonies were placed on approximately fifteen acres of watermelon and muskmelon in May 2005. Prior to this date, honeybees were not used and there was one harvest of muskmelons. The first muskmelon crop was monitored during this period for number of fruit set, shape and size. The second harvest, using honeybees, yielded significant improvements in number of fruit set, shape and size. A designated area monitored before using the bees yielded approximately 600 fruits with over 30% being odd shaped. Using honeybees yielded over 2,000 fruits with over 90% having near perfect shapes. Fruits matured quicker and were larger with honeybees. The grower was very pleased with the pollination and the increase in yields by 333%. He indicated that next year he would lease colonies from a local beekeeper.
After the pollination demonstration, colonies were brought back to their original location. One beekeeper managed to extract twenty gallons of honey from his three hives, which yielded 260 pounds of honey. He sold the honey for $910.00 and earned an additional $310.00 for the lease of his colonies for the pollination demonstration.
Honeybee educational programs were also conducted at Landmark Park in Dothan. The outdoor observation area allowed students, teachers and the public to listen to lectures on honeybee biology, their role in pollination, how to ensure their continued survival, and to observe the inside of a real colony up close through a protected screen. A pre-test and post-test were administered to approximately 200 children between the ages of 9 and 14. The pretest scores averaged 40% and posttest 85%. Students more than doubled their knowledge of bee production. The eight colonies placed at Landmark Park yielded 55 gallons of honey in 2005. Ten gallons were donated to the local food bank and the remaining honey is now being sold at the Park and around Dothan to raise funds for the continuation of the bee program at Landmark Park.
In Moulton, the participants will not begin pollination programs or honey production until 2006. However, beekeeping interest in the community is growing as a result of the newspaper articles published periodically throughout 2005 in area newspapers (as witnessed by increased calls for neophyte information on getting started in beekeeping and a 4-session beginning class held in Moulton in February of 2005 with 15 participants). The 7 new demonstrators also attest to this interest. A bulletin board, which advertised and promoted the bee program at East Lawrence High School, was viewed by over 125 students daily, for approximately 2 months, and 25 students attended the lecture of honey and bees taught by Extension staff.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources
Extension contributed 0.48 FTE to this project. The Madison County Beekeeper's Association has collaborated with us in developing and facilitating the training of the 7 new beekeepers. The training required 35 volunteer hours worth $525.00

E. Program visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
The program in Dothan will continue to educate and produce educators on beekeeping. The newest program in Moulton will begin honey/bee production and pollination in the spring of 2006.
Landmark Park in Dothan, advertises and promotes the UREA program and provides space and services for the training of students and teachers.

Annual Report 20 A1 Community Gardening
By CATHERINE SABOTA

A. Description:

Community gardens have given urbanites a place to garden for years. The Urban and New and Nontraditional Program of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is working in low income areas to boost the community's morale and to provide community strengthening activities at the same time. Community gardens play a role in creating a more food secure community. The national Community Food Security Coalition argues that community food security represents a concept that addresses many of the problems affecting our society and environment due to an unsustainable and unjust food system. The goals of this program area are to improve the nutrition of underserved communities, improve the local food system and create a self sustaining program that focuses on community needs while improving the connection people have with nature and the land.

Hurricane Katrina ravaged the southern coast of Alabama, leaving low-income families with little money for basic necessities and safe housing. Habitat for Humanity is building houses for these victims but is often delayed in handing them off because of landscape preparation and planting. Delays of over two months have occurred, forcing families to find shelter in substandard conditions.
The City of Prichard, Alabama received moderate damage to the city's urban forest from storm related winds associated with Hurricane Ivan. The primary ecological functions of the forested land in Prichard is reduction of air borne pollutants, shelter for wildlife, water quality and sediment stabilization. The city has proposed an urban tree replacement program as a mitigation strategy in the city's overall hurricane recovery plan. Grants were applied for through the city of Prichard for city employee and FEMA personnel training. The tree replacement program will concentrate on proper placement and maintenance of urban trees as recommended by guidelines of the Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Urban Forestry Commission and Alabama Nurserymen's Association.
The Anniston Museum of Natural History gardens have become an "outdoor extension" of the museum exhibits. The garden consists of numerous educational theme gardens that have been designed, installed and maintained

In Anniston, The School Landscape Initiative program goal is basic: to provide an outdoor educational aspect to the school landscape in addition to increased aesthetics and school pride. Many schools have little to no landscaping. The program encourages theme-based gardens that link with school curriculum. Currently, four schools are actively participating in the program with ACES support.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Seven community gardens were established in five urban Alabama communities. In Prichard, Alabama several elderly citizens (median age of 67), living on incomes below $450 per month came together to form the Willie Mae South Joseph Street Community Garden. This garden is intended to supplement diet

and income of these citizens by: providing additional nutrition through fresh garden vegetables; incorporating vermiculture into the garden plan to improve garden soil and to sell worms for fishing which will provide funds for sustaining the garden; sale of some of the produce to sustain the garden; and enhance community action and social behavior of citizens.
In Mobile county, the Urban and New and NonTraditional Program partnered with Habitat for Humanity to expedite home release by providing land preparation and landscape training and implementation for more than 100 homes being built in Bayou La Batre, Grand Bay, Coden and Ervington.
The Prichard tree planting effort was established to restore, recover and mitigate the damage from Katrina. The URE Agent assisted with the proposal development and provided tree care, maintenance and design training to city and FEMA employees for hurricane recovery and mitigation.
Two community gardens were located in Tuscaloosa, in low-income areas where 99% of the population is made up of minorities. These locations were chosen to provide fresh produce to families that could otherwise not afford it or to grow a garden. The goals of these gardens were to teach these families how to grow their own produce and provide additional nutrition to the diet. The gardens were planted in Alberta and on the west side of Tuscaloosa at the Seeds of Hope Community Garden site. Community members at both sites were informed of the establishment of the gardens using flyers, through church announcements and a start-up meeting. Families were asked to select garden plots and seeds for their own planting at the first meeting. The new gardeners were taught how to plant and maintain their garden plots. Both garden sites had water and hoses available for irrigation and tools were provided. Both sites were fenced to protect plots from theft and vandalism. The fall garden in West Tuscaloosa was planted in greens and all families could harvest from the entire garden.

Two community gardens and an educational garden were established in Morgan County. The educational garden was planted on the grounds of the WYAM TV 56 Cable station located in Decatur. The station provided space to grow grape tomatoes and provided TV air-time to give the project visibility. The goals of the project were to: educate homeowners about the health benefits of fresh vegetables and how they could produce them in small areas around the home; educate youth volunteers through hands-on experience about how food is produced; and to distribute the harvest of the garden to individuals who would not normally have access to fresh vegetables.

The Hartselle Youth Alive Garden was established at the Roberts Court apartment complex. The Hartselle Youth Alive is a summer program for disadvantaged youth that provides education and sponsors activities. An annual vegetable garden and a perennial fruit planting were established in 2005. The goals of this project were to provide hands-on gardening experience to youth and to distribute the produce from the garden to residents of Roberts Court and provide them with information about the health benefits of fresh vegetables.

The Tennessee Valley Outreach Mission garden was established to provide a source of fresh fruit to the Mission’s kitchen. The Mission is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of providing food and shelter to homeless and transient individuals, helping them become reestablished as productive members of society. The goals of this project are to help residents have access to fresh fruits and to be informed about their health benefits and to provide an opportunity for physical and mental stimulation via work in the fruit planting, maintenance and harvest. The fruit planting included muscadines, blackberries, blueberries and figs. All of these fruits are significant antioxidants and will prove beneficial to the health of the individuals at the mission.

The ECHO (Empowering Communities Helping Ourselves) program is a nonprofit organization that provides educational outreach and community revitalization to inhabitants of Westside Montgomery. With donations from local businesses a youth garden was established. Most of the participating youth are from single parent households and are being raised in extended families. Students were provided training on container gardening, plant growth and the benefits of gardening. Throughout the training math, reading, art, language and writing skills were incorporated into the experience of growing plants, measuring growth, drawing diagrams, keeping journals and reading planting information. This project was promoted with GroSouth and WAPZ radio. The Montgomery Advertiser visited the garden on occasion, taking pictures and interviewing participants.

The Anniston Museum gardens have been maintained through combined support of the museum staff, ACES, and volunteer activity. Mondays are the designated program workday and involve maintenance and installation projects. Collaboration with additional ACES programs such as CVYS Attention Home has provided avenues of additional development of the gardens. The annual plant sale is held in conjunction with the museum garden tour, strengthening the effectiveness of both programs.
The students in the Anniston school landscape initiative participate in the development, installation and maintenance of landscape projects. Students are encouraged to research garden aspects and participate in all stages of development of the gardens. In Piedmont Middle School, the “Gulf to the Mountains” garden featured unique plants of Alabama while incorporating geography, geology, botany, and environmental aspects. The garden pond has taught aquaculture to participating students at Alexandria High School.

In Anniston, the Median Garden is a 10-year ongoing community garden project that is well known as an urban demonstration garden. The garden focuses on promoting new and non-traditional planting for central Alabama. The garden is divided into four major sections including a perennial garden, a hummingbird and butterfly garden, a tropical garden and a xeriscape section. The garden is maintained with volunteer support and is supported by minor donations through local garden clubs.

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

The Willie Mae Community Garden is still in production, but about 100 pounds each of turnip and collard greens will be harvested in 2005. While the monetary value of these crops is $189, the nutritional and medicinal benefits to the 30 participants include antioxidants, cholesterol reduction, relief from rheumatoid arthritis, prevention of colorectal cancer and emphysema. In addition, garden participants get moderate exercise and are involved in social activities.

Land preparation and landscape training saves Habitat for Humanity $300 per home and allows 2 additional families per year to move into homes. In 2005, two families were able to move into new homes prior to Christmas as a result of the efforts of this project.

The replacement of downed trees by Live Oaks in Prichard could reduce atmospheric pollutants by 50% due to year round sequestering and filtration processes. The training provided to city employees will reduce time and effort in replanting, maintenance and pruning of city trees. It will also save the city approximately 30% in losses due to injury and reduce their insurance risk. Tree plantings will save the maintenance crews 25 minutes per 1000 square feet of greenspace. The cost savings is 7623 hours or $60,008 per year.

The Alberta Community Garden produced 60 pounds of tomatoes, 15 pounds of okra, 100 pounds of cucumbers, 30 pounds of bell peppers 40 pounds of butterbeans, 30 pounds of squash and 35 ears of corn all worth $330. Since 2004 approximately 900 pounds of vegetables were grown and saved the families $1,030.

The Seeds of Hope Community Garden produced 180 pounds of tomatoes, 100 pounds of okra, 40 pounds of bell peppers, 30 ears of corn, 60 pounds of eggplant, 60 pounds of butterbeans and 50 pounds of jalapeno peppers worth $740.

In Decatur, the Grape Tomato project supplied enough tomatoes to include a serving on 2900 meals served through Meals on Wheels. The value of these tomatoes was $1,832. The project’s success resulted in 5 appearances on “Valley Happenings” where information on gardening and the project were provided to 300,000 potential viewers. Girl Scouts donated over 100 hours of labor to this project valued at $1,500.

The 55 youth involved in the Hartselle Youth Alive Garden produced 650 pounds of produce valued at $846. Pre and post evaluations of youth resulted in an increase in basic gardening knowledge.
One major impact of the ECHO garden in Montgomery was the change in behavior of the participating

youth. On the initial visit to the office it was noted that the students were more interested in playing video games and listening to music than actively participating in the program. After providing hands-on gardening activities, the number of hours spent playing games was reduced by more than 50% and those students that played games and downloaded music began using the computer to research seeds, growing techniques, light and fertilizer requirements of their new crops. A tragedy of the gardens and a disappointment to the participants was that all the garden crops were stolen before they could be harvested. The issue of security will be addressed in future gardens, but the project was still successful in changing attitudes and behavior and providing more exercise for the youth involved.

According to the Anniston museum director, Cheryl Bragg, the gardens have boosted museum attendance due to the seasonality of garden change and general horticulture interest. The gardens have encouraged community donations including a $50,000.00 gift for a conservatory and funds for a tractor from county commissioner R. D. Downing. The gardens are an outdoor educational laboratory utilized by local and regional schools, ACES programs, and other museum programs. The gardens have expanded to include the Berman Museum grounds encouraging additional community donations to that museum and promoting numerous positive comments according to museum staff. The gardens received the community beautification award, botanical garden status and recognition as a state tourist destination. According to teachers involved in the Anniston school landscape initiative, students develop skills, benefit from therapeutic aspects, and inherit an increased sense of school pride. School grounds had fewer incidences of vandalism to landscaped areas. The efforts have encouraged additional parental volunteers and donations from local organizations.

The Anniston Median Educational Garden was maintained with 162 hours of volunteer time and donations of $150 for mulch and chemicals. The demonstration garden educates clientele on proper use of plants in various environments and for specific situations. It demonstrates the use of low maintenance plants for reduction of water use and time requirements. This garden can be used to refer clientele to visit when they call for information on specific plants and want to know what they look like in the garden or at various stages of growth. These gardens save the agent time and travel because they can refer the client to a location and he does not have to make a home visit, spend extensive time on the phone, or locate these plants for the clientele to view.

Summary of Results and Impacts. This project resulted in the production of $3,691 worth of produce and topsoil for clientele and Meals on Wheels. While these monetary savings were important, the social, health and life change benefits were significant. Fifty youth involved in a garden project began spending 50% more of their time researching and working in the garden rather than playing games or downloading music. Thirty low-income elderly citizens increased their activity level to produce collard and turnip greens in a community garden. These greens not only provided a fresh vegetable in their diets, but also reduced the amount they had to spend on groceries. The greens also provided significant health benefits that target the elderly, including reduction of blood pressure, reduction of the affects of rheumatoid arthritis, antioxidant activity and prevention of colorectal cancer and emphysema. Participants in the Meals on Wheels program fell in love with the fresh grape tomatoes that provided lycopene, an antioxidant and anticancer component of the tomatoes. In Tuscaloosa community gardeners are learning self-sufficiency as one gardener said “I didn’t know I could grow anything…now I know I can.” Two families were provided a home prior to Christmas as a result of the Habitat for Humanity cooperative efforts. The Anniston Museum has recognized the botanical garden impact as a result of increased tourism, local dollars spent and a $50.000 grant.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

All of the gardens except those in Montgomery and Anniston were funded by mini-grants sponsored by a state funded grant. The mini-grants were funded at levels between $10,000 and $25,000 and varied by Urban Region. Donations from garden clubs and local businesses of materials, chemicals, mulch and other supplies exceeded $750. The time commitment of urban agents and specialists on this ETP was 2.25 FTEs. Volunteers provided 1,052 hours of volunteer time saving $15,780 in labor expense. Besides in-kind services of Anniston museum and ACES staff, the program primarily relies on donations

and volunteer actions. The Green Team is the volunteer group that provides general maintenance responsibilities. Gifts and grants have suddenly become an interest among the community. At participating Anniston schools, funding and implementation was provided through donations, gifts, and parent volunteers.

E. Program visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

As the “mini-grant” projects are completed over the next 2 years a compilation of the results of all projects will be presented to the sponsor of this grant. However, most of these reports have been compiled as success stories and are available online. Some of the programs have received extensive press coverage and include WYAM TV 56 in Decatur and GroSouth, WAPZ and the Montgomery Advertiser in Montgomery and several articles have been published in local Mobile newspapers. Agents continue to make presentations to county councils, commissioners and garden clubs. Photographs of most of these projects are available for publication.

Some of these projects are just getting started as 3 new agents were hired in 2005. Some of the projects that deserve special attention include the fruit and vegetable gardens established in Decatur and Hartselle by Mike Reeves; the youth gardens established by Roosevelt Washington, the community gardens in Tuscaloosa created by Michelle Mobley, the Median Garden in Anniston developed by Hayes Jackson and the Habitat for Humanity efforts in Mobile.

Future Plans:

Mobile metro: The Willie Mae South Joseph Street Community Garden has fruit trees and vegetables. In 2006, summer crops, better weed control and more passive garden aspects will be added. In addition, two community gardens in Pritchard will be added. They include Reverend Glover’s Mount Calvary Baptist Church Gardens and the city of Prichard’s community center garden. These gardens will provide an additional acre of space for food production.

Approximately 100 Habitat Homes will be constructed over the next 2 years in Mobile County. Cooperative efforts will save over $30,000 in construction costs and provide more rapid housing for hundreds of residents. Future plans also include construction of a small greenhouse for plant propagation for future landscaping of Habitat homes, reducing further the cost of plants by as much as $50,000.
Tuscaloosa metro: Due to lack of security and safety the Alberta garden will be discontinued. The Seeds of Hope Community garden will be continued in 2006.

Morgan County Gardens: Because of the success of the projects, and the interest of the groups participating, all of the 2005 projects will continue with some expansions. Other projects may also be identified as worthwhile to add to the existing projects. Plans are for the Grape Tomato Project to increase in size by at least 50 percent. This will also increase the need for volunteers.

The Hartselle Youth Alive Garden will expand its crops to include more food suitable for processing. Additional plants will be added to the fruit planting, and some harvest is expected in 2006.
New plantings will also be added at the Tennessee Valley Outreach Mission in 2006. The original planting will be used in a workshop to demonstrate pruning techniques and provide other cultural information to individuals who want to produce home fruit.

Due to the increasing interest in the benefits of fresh fruit and vegetables we have made this project readily accessible to the public. The project’s target audiences are individuals or groups who would be less likely have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. This project is important because it not only provides these to the target audience, but gives them training and information to help them produce their own food.

Montgomery metro: There are plans to continue the youth garden, but on a larger scale and with more security. During this program year, the site used for the youth garden was on property where we could not

“break ground” (the youth garden was located at a former Southtrust Bank, now a Wachovia Bank with underground wires). The garden was grown in containers. Many of the containers or the produce growing in them were stolen. Although we purchased more containers, seeds, plants, and materials, this made the ECHO Youth Garden costly in some aspects. With the next location of the ECHO Youth Garden, we will be allowed to break ground and perhaps have some form of security (fenced in area, well lit, etc.). It has been proposed that the former Kershaw YMCA garden site be used for the ECHO Youth Garden. It is a fenced area and highly visible; plus, we are able to plant in the ground instead of in containers. We may be able to have some form of security provided by the Montgomery Police Department or local Sheriff’s Department. Since the Kershaw area is fairly large, some theft may still occur, but there should still be plenty of produce available for distribution.

Anniston Museum of Natural History
The gardens simple visibility as an entity of the museum has been the greatest mode of exposure. The museum newsletter, the publication of the Southeastern Palm Society, and Alabama tourist pamphlets have contained articles praising and providing information to potential visitors. The garden has become well-known to many horticulturists nation-wide and is often a travel destination to those interested in the varied horticultural components resulting in an economic impact to the community.

School Landscape Initiative in Anniston
The gardens have been self-promoting. Gardens located at school entrances promote positive comments from parents, visitors, and students. Future plans include increased school participation and implementation of new theme gardens including a “Dinosaur Garden” that highlights prehistoric plants like ferns, gingko, dawn redwood, and cycads. The program will also encourage more collection gardens of species suitable for Alabama landscapes.

Median Educational Garden:
The Gardens existence may be in jeopardy due to planned construction and growth. The garden is located at the city’s major intersection. The mayor of Anniston supports relocating the garden to the Anniston Museum, where the plants will be incorporated into the existing gardens. The city will provide labor and machinery needed to complete the relocation.

Birmingham metro: The future plans of the two community gardens scheduled for Birmingham are to have them planted in the spring and begin working on future programs within the gardens. Within the next year, BUGS hopes to reorganize itself with the help of JVUF to become more active with the community gardens of the Birmingham Metro area. The Jefferson County Food Security Coalition hopes to kick off the food assessment publicly this spring. This program will be a highly visible program in Jefferson County with the hopes of producing a model that can be used in other counties.

Annual Report 20 B1 Beekeeping
By CATHERINE SABOTA

A. Description:
Honeybees play a vital role in the pollination of many trees and plants in our environment. In fact, they are so important to the pollination of fruits and vegetables that domesticated colonies are leased to vegetable and fruit producers to increase fruit size and yield and to improve shape. In addition, beekeeping can supplement income with the sale of honey and the leasing of honeybee colonies to fruit and vegetable producers. Outdoor honey bee observation colonies and lectures can be a very valuable tool in educating the public about the benefits of honey bees to our environment and how we can help to ensure their continued survival.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

In January 2004 and November 2005, six individuals were recruited from Houston County and seven from Lawrence County, respectively. The 13 individuals participated in beekeeping trainings, institutes, conferences, etc. in preparation for training local persons in apiculture techniques and skills. The Dothan participants received three colonies and all the beekeeping equipment they needed to manage their colonies. The Lawrence County participants received two colonies and the same equipment as Dothan participants.

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

Some of the Dothan participants were able to produce enough honey to feed the bees through the first winter and prepare them for the pollination of watermelon, muskmelon and strawberries. In March 2005, four colonies were placed on three acres of strawberries. The first harvest of the berries without the bees resulted in berries with poor shape, taste and small fruit. The second harvest, after the bees were in place, yielded an improvement in the above fruit characteristics.
Six honeybee colonies were placed on approximately fifteen acres of watermelon and muskmelon in May 2005. Prior to this date, honeybees were not used and there was one harvest of muskmelons. The first muskmelon crop was monitored during this period for number of fruit set, shape and size. The second harvest, using honeybees, yielded significant improvements in number of fruit set, shape and size. A designated area monitored before using the bees yielded approximately 600 fruits with over 30% being odd shaped. Using honeybees yielded over 2,000 fruits with over 90% having near perfect shapes. Fruits matured quicker and were larger with honeybees. The grower was very pleased with the pollination and the increase in yields by 333%. He indicated that next year he would lease colonies from a local beekeeper.

After the pollination demonstration, colonies were brought back to their original location. One beekeeper managed to extract twenty gallons of honey from his three hives, which yielded 260 pounds of honey. He sold the honey for $910.00 and earned an additional $310.00 for the lease of his colonies for the pollination demonstration.

Honeybee educational programs were also conducted at Landmark Park in Dothan. The outdoor observation area allowed students, teachers and the public to listen to lectures on honeybee biology, their role in pollination, how to ensure their continued survival, and to observe the inside of a real colony up close through a protected screen. A pre-test and post-test were administered to approximately 200 children between the ages of 9 and 14. The pretest scores averaged 40% and posttest 85%. Students more than doubled their knowledge of bee production. The eight colonies placed at Landmark Park yielded 55 gallons of honey in 2005. Ten gallons were donated to the local food bank and the remaining honey is now being sold at the Park and around Dothan to raise funds for the continuation of the bee program at Landmark Park.

In Moulton, the participants will not begin pollination programs or honey production until 2006. However, beekeeping interest in the community is growing as a result of the newspaper articles published periodically throughout 2005 in area newspapers (as witnessed by increased calls for neophyte information on getting started in beekeeping and a 4-session beginning class held in Moulton in February of 2005 with 15 participants). The 7 new demonstrators also attest to this interest. A bulletin board, which advertised and promoted the bee program at East Lawrence High School, was viewed by over 125 students daily, for approximately 2 months, and 25 students attended the lecture of honey and bees taught by Extension staff.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Extension contributed 0.48 FTE to this project. The Madison County Beekeeper’s Association has collaborated with us in developing and facilitating the training of the 7 new beekeepers. The training

required 35 volunteer hours worth $525.00

E. Program visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

The program in Dothan will continue to educate and produce educators on beekeeping. The newest program in Moulton will begin honey/bee production and pollination in the spring of 2006.
Landmark Park in Dothan, advertises and promotes the UREA program and provides space and services for the training of students and teachers.

Annual Report 20B2 Vermiculture

A. Description:

Vermiculture can reduce the amount of waste going to landfills by 60 to 80%. It can also replace chemical fertilizers and increase crop productivity by 50%. Worms have also been used to reduce PCB levels in sludge by 80%. Producers of worms can benefit from the sale of worms for bait and the sales of compost to gardeners.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

In 2005, 8 demonstrators in Lawrence County received vermiculture/vermicomposting units. Six of the units are in school classrooms (6th grade), one is at the Wetlands Edge Environmental Center, where it will be viewed by numerous students every year and the other unit is at the home of a retired teacher and volunteer educator in Town Creek for use in group education and private entrepreneurship.

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

The vermiculture program reached 125 sixth grade students via presentations done by Extension staff in their classes. The Wetlands Edge Environmental Center educates about 75 students per day. At the Environmental Center, the excess worms are being fed to animals at the Center for a cost savings of $1,600 per year. The units were placed late in 2005 and results will not be available until 2006.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Extension contributed 0.15 FTE to this project.

E. Program visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

Newspaper articles on vermiculture have generated at least two more requests for vermiculture production assistance. The program will be expanded in Lawrence County in 2006.

New programs are planned for Mobile County and Birmingham in 2006.

Annual Report 20B3 Shiitake Mushroom Commercialization

A. Description:

There are over 200 types of mushroom with medicinal properties. Shiitake is the second most consumed mushroom in the world and the literature describes it as the “King of Mushrooms.” Research has proven that shiitake should be used in cancer therapy, that it lowers cholesterol and blood pressure, has antibacterial and antiviral properties and is an immunopotentiator. One of the medicinal components of shiitake is lentinan. It is an extract from high-molecular-weight polysaccharides found in the mushroom. Lentinan is used in Japan for AIDs and cancer patients on a regular basis.

The US produced almost 9 million pounds of shiitake mushrooms worth over $27 million last year. However, most of the US production is sold as fresh or dried product and is rarely sold in the value-added marketplace.

The shiitake mushroom project was established at Alabama A&M University to determine which substrates (what the mushroom grows on) and production inputs would maximize lentinan content. The higher the lentinan content of the mushrooms, the more they are worth in the value-added market. The primary objective was to determine if log-grown mushrooms contained higher lentinan content than those grown on artificial substrates. Most of the mushrooms grown in the US are produced on artificial substrates and this production method is more costly than log grown mushrooms. Also, log grown production is easier to establish and can utilize hardwood trees not harvested in timber operations.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

In 2004-5, several experiments were conducted to maximize shiitake production and to determine the production methods that will optimize lentinan content. Several substrates were evaluated and include bark, poultry litter, and logs.

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

The log grown mushrooms produced 284% more lentinan than sawdust substrate mushrooms. The results essentially imply that it takes three sawdust grown mushrooms to produce the lentinan content in one log grown mushroom. This is significant considering that economically it has been more efficient to grow sawdust block mushrooms, but this required a much higher initial capital input, which scared many producers away from this crop.

Another significant factor is that the market for mushroom products has increased over 800% in the past few years. The more popular items include teas, low caffeine coffees and dried encapsulated mushrooms. Our concern about these products has been the issue of the amount of lentinan the consumer is really getting, as there is almost no literature indicating how production inputs affect lentinan content.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

Extension contributed 0.51 FTE to this project.

E. Program visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

Posters were presented at the National ASHS meetings and at the Deep South Fruit and Vegetable Conference in 2006.
A Functional Foods Conference, which includes a significant amount of information on mushrooms, is being planned for April 2006. This conference will include results from research projects and nationally recognized medicinal mushroom researchers.
Projects scheduled for 2006 include oyster mushroom evaluation and marketability as a value-added product.
At least 5 manuscripts will be prepared for publication in 2006.

ETP22A. ***HORTICULTURE***
By KERRY PARKER SMITH

I. Description:

A. What was the need, problem, issue, or opportunity that this project addressed, and how was it identified?

Extension agents estimate that 75 – 80% of their requests for horticultural information and assistance are home horticulture/gardening related. The Master Gardener Program is designed to recruit applicants who are interested in committing the time to go through a minimum of 40 hours of intensive horticultural training and return a minimum of 40 hours of recommended volunteer service activities.

This ETP is part of the ACES SMP in the Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests in Alabama and is supported by an interdisciplinary team of Extension Specialists in the AU College of Agriculture and Alabama A & M University School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences as well as Regional and Local Extension Agents.

B. What was the goal of the project? What were the objectives?

The objective of this specific ETP is to recruit a core group of volunteer leaders who will assist county offices of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in disseminating knowledge and information to a greater percentage of the general public interested in landscaping and gardening information that is applicable to their area of Alabama.

The service of Master Gardener volunteers will directly benefit the community as Master Gardeners provide leadership and involve others on beautification projects, school landscape and outdoor learning activities, environmental stewardship projects, community gardens and other horticulture related assistance provided to the community.

C. Who is (are) the audience(s) that the project is intended to reach? Give the total number of people that you were hoping to reach through this project.

Many of the Master Gardener class participants (Interns) are retirees wishing to volunteer in their communities. They are a voluntary segment of the general population in several metropolitan and also smaller cities in various Alabama counties (Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Blount, Calhoun, Chambers, Covington, Cullman, Dallas, DeKalb, Elmore, Etowah, Hale, Houston, Jackson, Jefferson, Limestone, Madison, Marengo, Marshall, Mobile, Montgomery, Morgan, Pike, Randolph, Russell, Shelby, Lauderdale, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, and Walker).

Demographics:
Rural 52%
Urban 48%
Male 40%
Female 60%

D. What is the expected or desired change in clientele/participant behavior that you were hoping for as a result of the project?

1. Increased horticultural/gardening knowledge and skills gained by Intern and Certified Master Gardeners, as well as the general public with whom they share information.
2. Horticultural assistance provided by Master Gardeners in the county, allowing Extension agents greater time and flexibility to respond to commercial agricultural clientele.
3. Benefits provided to communities from the work of Master Gardeners include:
a. Improvements to home landscapes, community properties and schools, and better stewardship of the environment and natural resources.
b. Healthier eating through home and community gardens which provide fresh vegetables and fruits for homeowners and distribution through food banks, churches, and other civic projects.
c. People are living longer, retiring earlier and are more health conscious. Gardening promotes improved quality of life and healthier living as the number one leisure time activity. Health benefits of gardening include:

II. Actions & Activities Carried Out

A. What activities and/or educational methods were used to deliver this project? List and explain the specific activities that were carried out to support this project.

Master Gardener classes were hosted in 29 counties of Alabama in 2005. Instruction of volunteers ranged from 40 to 52 hours depending on Extension agent sponsor and location needs. Volunteer projects ranged from work with Jr Master Gardener training youth in the science of gardening to "horticulture help-line" work to community beautification projects to botanic garden assistance to garden information programs in the general public.

All classes hosted were a cooperative effort between CEC's and REA's.

Local radio and newspaper were used to publicize the class information and promote class applications to 45 counties. Word of mouth was also employed (i.e. Certified Master Gardeners from previous classes invite their friends and family to apply). The volunteer spirit is often shared among social units – family and friends. The Master Gardener Association is a tremendous tool used to recruit Intern Master Gardeners each year.

Advanced training classes were continued for previously certified Master Gardeners (Urban Trees). This class was hosted in Fairhope at the Research Center and was supported by various community and state professionals as well as ACES Specialists.
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III. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:

A. What were the short-term or immediate outcomes/benefits of the project?
1. New volunteers were trained and previously certified volunteers were retained for continued assistance with county Extension programs and community outreach.

B. How were these measured?
1. Impact was measured by numbers of volunteers, both newly trained and previously trained, and by the number of people they contacted in their communities.
a) 550 Intern Master Gardeners completed training to become certified in 2005.
b) 1,407 Certified Master Gardeners continued to volunteer in their communities.
c) Combined, they contacted 203,797 people in their various communities.
d) Combined, they reported 134,827 hours of volunteer effort

C. What are the anticipated or desired long-term impacts or results of the project? How will or can these be measured?
1. The long-term result of this program is to continue recruiting and training community volunteers to assist Extension with the delivery of non-biased, research-based information.
2. Volunteer activities benefit the county Extension office both directly (assist with 4-H, answer public inquiry, host informative public programs, make home visits related to public inquiry, write newspaper articles, assist in training classes of Intern MG's, assist in other office related work) and indirectly (public beautification projects, work with flower shows, demonstration gardens at botanic gardens, county/community fairs, teach other public classes related to gardening).
Directly their volunteering assists Extension programs, horticulture related and other, while indirectly they are an outreach of Extension increasing our visibility and accessibility.

D. Were there direct or indirect benefits provided the general public by this project? Will there be benefits to people who may not be directly involved in the project (i.e., those who did not participate directly in any of the activities)?
1. The general public benefits from this program on two levels. Intern Master Gardeners trained in this program learn to be better stewards of their environment, its resources and their own resources. Citizens

not directly trained by the program benefit through the outreach of volunteers associated with the program. Intern Master Gardeners are required to report 40 hours of volunteer work to become certified. Previously certified Master Gardeners report 20 annual hours of volunteer work to remain in active standing.

E. How did you define and measure the success of this project?
1. Success of the Master Gardener program is measured by the number of volunteers reporting volunteer time each year (134,827), by the number of new volunteers recruited and trained (550) as well as the number of contacts these volunteers make in their communities (203,797).

IV. Fiscal and Human Resources:

A. How was this project funded?

This program is funded through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and locally through fees charged to participants.
1. State funding for this program comes through ACES in the following forms.
a) mileage allowance to Specialists assisting with training classes
b) salary support to Specialists assisting with training classes
c) salary for a state Program Coordinator responsible for state wide organization of the program's policies, curriculum and training events.
2. Local Extension offices (MG Program hosts) are additionally supported by participants' fees.

B. Were any special funding sources such as grants, contracts, etc. used to support this project? If so, tell the sources and amounts of all special funding?

A grant in the amount of $3,890 was received from the Urban & Community Forestry Financial Assistance program for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. These funds supported Advanced training classes for previously certified MG volunteers.

C. How many ACES-funded FTEs were involved in planning, implementing and evaluating this project?

1. State MG Program Coordinator support = 233 days
2. Local & Regional MG Program support = 2,062 days from 43 agents
3. State Specialists MG Program support = 155 days from 11 Specialists

D. Were volunteers (people not paid by ACES) used in carrying out any activities that were a part of this project? If so, how many hours did they contribute?

Many Master Gardeners support the training of new Interns each year. In 2005, 18 counties benefited in this way with a total of 1,286 hours donated to Program support.

V. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

A. Have you already presented or communicated the impacts/success of this project to others (commodity groups, legislators, congressmen, etc.), or do you plan to do this in the future? If so, when and to whom?

A report of this program is available upon request. Copies are sent to the county offices, Regional agents, Extension Associate Director and Extension Assistant Director.

B. Please provide the names of some agents who were involved in this project and who based upon your knowledge did an outstanding job in supporting the project and/or carrying out the expected activities.
1. Charles Andrews
2. Ken Creel
3. Rick Beauchamp

4. Stan Roark
5. Shane Harris
6. Charles Pinkston
7. Nelson Wynn
8. Sallie Lee
9. Doug Chapman
10. Dan Porch
11. Chip East
12. Gary Gray
13. James Miles
14. Willie Datcher
15. Tom Dougherty
16. Mike McQueen
17. Amy Winstead
18. David Koon
19. Joyce Simendinger
20. Danielle Carroll

C. What plans do you have for continuing or improving this project in the future?

We anticipate continuing to train new volunteers (Interns) in 25 to 30 counties each year. Volunteers are more dedicated to local programs due to familiarity and understanding of local needs and events. Recruitment and training is, therefore, more efficient for long-term volunteer retention when provided at the local level. Minimum class size of 15 is required for a hosting county to conduct class with Specialist support.

We are pursuing wider use of electronic delivery methods such as video conference technology in class and training delivery.

Additional advanced training classes for certified Master Gardener volunteers are being planned. This will prepare them for specific assistance tasks related to local Extension office needs. This will also inspire additional outreach projects in the volunteers' local communities. The Alabama Master Gardener Association has been helpful in developing this training level.

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.

ETP10C. **Extension Meeting Needs of Alabama Peanut Farmers**
By DALLAS L. HARTZOG

The Problem/Issue:
The number of acres planted to peanuts continues to expand at a healthy rate. Peanuts acres have increased from 185,000 acres in 2002 to 223,000 in 2005. Peanut acreage has been historically located primarily in the 10 southeastern counties known as the Wiregrass counties. Recent development of a peanut industry in southwest Alabama now accounts for about 33 percent of the state's acreage. Peanut production and the supporting industries result in approximately $900 million of value-added income to the state.

What's been done?
Education efforts by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System reached more than 2,500 peanut farmers. In addition to research conducted at both the Wiregrass and Gulf Coast Regional Research and Extension Centers, more than 50 on-farm demonstrations were conducted so farmers could see how new varieties perform in their area. Specialists and agents have conducted a Peanut Scouting School for more than 20 years, focusing on correct identification of pest problems and the timely applications of pesticides. In 2005, six Scout training Schools were held, with three being held in non-traditional peanut belt. Extension targeted the non-traditional peanut belt with meetings to reach new peanut producers with the latest information on insect pests and management options. A new method of pod-blasting technology has been developed to identify the optimum time for peanut harvesting. This new method uses readily available pressure washers and was introduced to regional extension agents, county extension agents and growers in peanut-producing areas. The peanut agronomist purchased six of these machines for use by county extension agents. The advantage of this method is that is quick, inexpensive and readily available on most farms.

Why We Care:
On-farm demonstrations illustrated that new varieties would out-yield old favorite varieties. Farmers have changed to the new varieties rapidly. Scouting Schools and other Extension efforts helped farmers reduce input costs by teaching them how to choose varieties that are resistant to Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus, correct tillage and planting methods, correct pesticides and to apply them on a timely basis. Planting of varieties that are resistant to tomato spotted wilt virus continues to increase because of Extension efforts. In 2005, it is estimated that an additional 15 percent of the crop was planted in TSWV-resistant varieties, boosting the overall acreage to almost 98 percent planted in these varieties. This change has increased agricultural income by more than $10 million in the region. Free pod-blasting has helped farmers dig their crops at the proper time for optimum yield and grade. These efforts resulted in a substantial support network for Alabama peanut growers. By changing cultivation practices and selecting better varieties, growers are increasing their yields. By improving weed and pest management practices, growers are reducing their input costs. By digging at optimum harvest time, growers are receiving more money for their crops.

ETP17a. Food Safety Training for Food Service Workers
By SONDRA JEAN WEESE

A. Description:
It is estimated that over 60 % of all food bourne illnesses in this country comes from restaurants or other food service establishments. The state of Alabama Department of Public Health has instituted a policy

that will encourage every food service establishment to receive food safety training and certification. The course that gives certification recognized by the state is Serv Safe a program from the National Restaurant Association. Also, this year brought the requirement of the Food Safety Program, Serving It Safe, from the National Food Service Institute for all the Child Nutrition Program Managers.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:
Between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005, over 2500 Food Service Workers were trained in a 1.5 day training course on food safety practices. The initial trainings for over 1200 CNP Managers took place in 5 locations (Decatur, (Morgan County), Bay Minette (Baldwin County), Opelika, (Lee County), Gadsden (Etowah County), and Alabaster (Shelby County). This intensive training was accomplished by 8 Regional Agents in the area of Food Safety, Food Preparation and Food Preservation. The pre and post tests were developed by the ETP team, as well as, power-point slides to accompany each section of the Serving it Safe manual. After the 5 regional trainings our ETP team was contacted by individual school systems to train all the food service workers in their school system. Over 25 individual school systems received the Serving it Safe training for a total of over 1300 individuals trained. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is now noted as the trainers for the Food Safety Programs in the Child Nutrition Program in the state of Alabama.

In addition to the Serving it Safe Training for the Child Nutrition Programs in the State, all of the ETP Team members are Serv Safe certified. We have spent the year in training and setting up cooperation between the Alabama Department of Public Health to train food service workers in the Food Safety Certification Program. Serv Safe training has already taken place throughout the state and although the numbers in attendance are low for this year, we have positioned ourselves to increase participation in the future.

With these two programs in place Alabama Cooperative Extension System will become the premier Food Safety trainers for food service workers in the state of Alabama.

C. Results, Impacts and Benefits to Direct Clientele and to the Public:
Results from the Food Safety Trainings have shown an increase in food safety knowledge ranging from 40 to 80 % in the Serving It Safe program. In the Serv Safe classes over 85% of the participants have succeeded in passing the intensive food safety course.
In addition to the direct benefit to the food service workers gaining important knowledge in food safety, this ETP looks to reduce the numbers of food bourne illnesses in the state of Alabama.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
Dr. Evelyn Crayton and the ETP Team members were able to receive a grant from the Alabama State Department of Education to cover the cost of the travel and books for the Serving It Safe course offered to the Child Nutrition Programs. The $30,000 also allowed us to purchase equipment to help in our program delivery. Since the Serving It Safe classes were offered at 5 locations around the state, it took all 9 of the ETP Team members to accomplish this task. These 9 ACES employees allocated 225 days to the regional grant project. The value of this professional time is approximately $36,000. With travel and other expenses the total cost of the program to ACES was approximately $52,000. With the grant money, ACES was able to leverage its funding for this program by over 57% and generated an increase in food safety and security in the child nutrition programs for the state of Alabama.
Since the initial program, the ETP team has presented approximately 35 additional Serving It Safe Programs to individual school systems. We have charged each participant for this 1.5 day class a fee of $25 per person. The cost of presenting the program to ACES is approximately, $250 the professional to deliver the program. This is in addition to travel and per-diem expenses. Therefore, for the program to cover the cost of the professional to present the program it will take ten members in the course but when the numbers increase the total cost of the deliver of the course is recovered. The average size of the classes was 25 individuals, which produced an income of $625. With this class size and more the ETP team was able to recover all the cost of the program for ACES.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:
The ETP team has become noted as the group to contact for Food Safety and Food Service Education training. Also, as mentioned above ACES is seen throughout the state of Alabama, truly as the Food Safety Experts.

Our future plans are to continue this program within the state of Alabama. We want to reduce food bourne illness by at least 10% in the first five years of this program and to continue this increase for over the next 20 years. We will continue to offer food safety programs in addition to the intense courses to any group of individuals that wish to use our services.

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.

EPT21C. Human Nutrition, Diet and Health
By Donnie L. Cook,

A. Extension Team Project Title: Cardiovascular Health Awareness

B. Extension Team Project Code Number: ETP-21 C

C. Program Description: The purpose of this project is to create an awareness of cardiovascular disease and how to prevent or control risk factors associated with the development of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are heart and blood vessel diseases grouped together (primarily, coronary heart disease and stroke). Causes of CVD can be grouped in to two classifications: 1) Major risk factors and 2) contributing risk factors. Contributing risk factors (obesity, hypertension, cigarette smoking, physical inactivity, diabetes, and elevated blood cholesterol) can be changed.

This ETP focused primarily on encouraging individuals, families, and/or communities to make lifestyle behavior changes that research confirms are protective of cardiovascular health. Emphasis was placed on educational activities that provided an awareness of cardiovascular disease risk factors, symptoms, and protective behaviors.

Educational programs addressed health risk factors that have been directly or indirectly linked to cardiovascular diseases: obesity, physical inactivity, diet (high total fat intake, saturated fat, high cholesterol, high sodium and high caloric intake), hypertension, diabetes and smoking.
Purpose

To improve overall cardiovascular health through creative educational programs, workshops, seminars, food demonstrations, food preparation and cooking classes, hands-on activities, and printed materials. Audiences targeted are underserved individuals, families, and communities.

Action and Activities

Through out the state workshops and seminars were conducted to build awareness of cardiovascular diseases and to promote lifestyle changes in dietary, physical activity, social, and personal health habits at all levels: individual, family, and community. Educational workshops and seminars focused on identifying risk factors, how to control and /or prevent them. Illustrations were provided to show the negative effects of each risk factor and how more risk factors increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Behavior changes and lifestyle modification are the keys to controlling cardiovascular health. The UREAs partnered with communities and faith-based groups, and allied health agencies to promote lifestyle changes.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources

The UREAs and specialist partnering with allied health agencies and community leaders in planning and implementing special activities: such as heart health groups, walking clubs, and group weight lost challenges, etc. Through the workshops, seminars, and special activities group one thousand three hundred and twenty three (1,323) persons reduced risk factors and improved health and general well-

being. As we increase the number of days (70) devoted to cardiovascular awareness, we will broaden outreach efforts more people will benefit by improving their health.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans
Extension is committed to helping our underserved populations by continuing to provide the educational programs, materials and other needed resources to improve their status.

NATIONAL GOAL 4:

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

ETP11G - Environmental Management Systems Providing AFO and CAFO Manure and Environmental Management Education.
By TED W. TYSON

A. Description:
Alabama farmers who have an animal feeding operation (AFO) are subject to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Rule since 1999. These farmers have been bombarded with programs to help them “follow the rule”. Sometimes “follow the rule” has taken a backseat to programs that help the farmer manage his farm operation to make a profit AND be environmentally responsible. An environmental management system (EMS) is an organized voluntary approach to managing environmental impacts. An EMS helps AFO/CAFO operators clarify their farm environmental “policy” — how environmental concerns are identified and addressed. The EMS guides the farm through planning, implementing, evaluating and reviewing farm decisions that affect the environment. With an EMS the operator identifies and prioritizes environmental risks, and develops an action plan to address them. An EMS follows a Plan-Do-Check-Act Cycle, or PDCA, and has similar elements to quality programs farms now use. Following a PDCA model leads to continuous improvement, an important feature of an EMS. As a precursor to an EMS ETP that will follow in succeeding years, this ETP had the FOUR major thrusts of the Plan-Do-Check-Act Cycle and utilized knowledge gained from previous animal waste management in-service training and the experience of existing agents and specialists.

PLAN - develop or expand the manure/nutrient system management plan to address all pertinent sources of animal manure/manure products in a practical manner that protects water quality and "meets or exceeds" NRCS standards and guidelines and the ADEM AFO/CAFO Rule.
DO - carry out the plan, recording sufficient information to document to anyone that implementation is according to the plan, understanding available forms and deciding appropriateness for their operation.
CHECK - do operator weekly and monthly inspections, prepare for ADEM inspections, understand the ADEM requirement for annual inspections by private unrelated Qualified Credentialed Professionals (QCPs) for quality assurance purposes, select an appropriate QCP for the inspection, and routinely understand the importance of following the plan.
ACT - to improve the operation based on daily, weekly operator inspections, annual QCP inspections, and any ADEM inspections that may occur.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

CAFO Continuing Education -
Regional and County ANR agents used CDs and FTP-able Power Point presentations with appropriate ACES Circulars and Timely Information Sheets prepared by specialists on the ACES Waste Management Task Force to provide CAFO Continuing Education training on the county level. Material 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.

Alabama Animal Waste Management Web Site -
Regional and County Agents used information from the Alabama Animal Waste Management web site and other appropriate sources to teach operators to understand and properly DOCUMENT the Best Management Practices in their Nutrient Management, Comprehensive Nutrient Management, or Waste Management System Plan. Agents offered "mock inspection" visits at the request of any AFO or CAFO to provide additional education that helped prepare the operation for periodic operation reviews and inspections. These periodic operational "snapshots" can identify 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.

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

1) Extension Starts “24/7” Certified Animal Waste Vendor Training on Internet:
Two specialists developed an “on-line” WebCT CAWV Training and Education Verification Site that would be available over any internet-connected computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The WebCT CAWV program was released in mid-April, 2005 on “A WebCT Based CAWV Training and Education Verification Site” (http://www.aces.edu/dept/aawm/WebCTCAWV.php?ACAWV) , a new page on the Alabama Animal Waste Management (http://www.aces.edu/dept/aawm/index.php) aawm website. A special edition of the CAWV newsletter, “The SCOOP on Litter”, and an individual letter from ADAI announced the program. Instructions “How to Use WebCT for CAWV Training and Testing“ by Henry Dorough, Tim Reed, and Ted Tyson were mailed to each current CAWV and put on the WebCT CAWV website. A 2-hour “Certified Animal Waste Vendor Training on Open WebCT” course precedes a “fee-based” “CAWV Education Verification FINAL EXAM on Open WebCT”. WebCT grades the exams and collates results for question effectiveness analysis. Results are forwarded to ADAI. ADAI certifies the individual, assigns CAWV#, and mails a certificate and pocket card with expiration date to each CAWV. ACES maintains a current CAWV list on the aawm website. County Extension offices were enlisted to provide computer access and help to any CAWV-student who did not have home internet access. Regional Agents also helped CAWV clients with the training and education verification.

By year-end, over 500 had taken the CAWV training and 142 CAWVs recertified using WebCT. The WebCT CAWV training and education verification program has allowed the CAWV program to continue to function with “state-of-the-art” training and testing available “24/7”. Training content can be updated and delivered on demand to reach serious students with the latest information. More of the 2 million or so tons of poultry litter produced annually in Alabama will be moved “off-farm” with the legal protection of a CAWV.

Environmental and economic benefits are enormous. Continuation of the CAWV program because of the timely, up-to-date, available WebCT CAWV Training and Education Verification program has contributed to “off-farm” litter transfer from most of the 4000 poultry AFOs in Alabama. This litter replaced commercial fertilizer on pasture, hay, and row crops. For example, in the Franklin, Lawrence, and Blount County area in 2005, 13,800 tons of litter from 27 poultry farms was transferred by CAWVs or CAWV program-trained farmers to 5750 acres of row crops in the Franklin, Lawrence, and Colbert County areas. This litter replaced commercial fertilizer on these row crops and saved over $342,000 in fertilizer costs. 13,800 tons is about 17% of the litter produced from 165 poultry houses in Franklin County. The CAWV program encourages off-farm transfer, particularly to row crops. Extrapolating from this example of saving $24.78 in fertilizer cost/ton of litter applied to row crops, over $495,000 would be saved with just 1% of the 2 million tons of Alabama litter produced annually. Transferring 15% of that annual total to row crops amount to over $7,400,000 in saved fertilizer costs. And this accounts for litter cost and handling. Litter transferred to row crops is not over-applied to pastures where it might wash off into Alabama rivers and streams.

2) Extension Enhances Farm Environmental Stewardship in Franklin County -
The Extension office responded to numerous requests by farmers seeking information about specific

ADEM requirements. Information was provided regarding the specific records that had to be maintained and forms that could be used to show how manure and mortalities were managed. Visits were made to 7 CAFO operations to provide environmental stewardship training and to assist in solving unique compliance concerns. Franklin County Extension Coordinator Tim Reed conducted the QCP inspection on 5 of these farms to insure that concerns were properly addressed. Significant assistance was provided to one CAFO operation, which had been fined for non-compliance and was facing imminent closure. Extension assistance allowed this farmer to work out a favorable payment schedule for his ADEM fine and to continue to grow chickens.

Extension assistance provided two farmers enabled them to document that they had corrected previous non-compliance issues and their farms were removed from the ADEM CAFO list. These two farms were no longer required to have annual QCP inspections. Seven CAFO farmers who were provided on-farm educational training earned a total of 21 continuing education units, which helped them, comply with another ADEM requirement. Franklin County CAFO operators were able to contact several QCPs and obtain their inspection for a reasonable price. Extension assistance helped one farmer to avoid closure and to continue to make loan payments to his banker. Efforts to make University personnel and government agencies aware of the problems created by the current guidelines for the “Farmers Map” have generated interest in conducting additional research to ascertain actual rainfall requirements to cause nutrient runoff from litter-treated pastures. Conversations with farmers indicated they were very grateful to the Extension office for helping them to comply with ADEM regulations. The management team of the largest poultry integrator in the county expressed appreciation for Extension efforts to help their farmers become better environmental stewards.

3) Merging the Crenshaw and Butler County Poultry & Egg Associations into the CENTRAL ALABAMA POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION -
The Butler and Crenshaw County Poultry & Egg Associations were merged into the Central Alabama Poultry & Egg Association (CAP&EA) in order to increase attendance at meetings, have a larger pool of growers to select officers and directors from, have more influence in getting quality speakers for programs, spread out the responsibility on setting up quarterly meetings in terms of getting up the program, sponsors, facility and notifying the membership. By merging, the AP&EA (Alabama Poultry & Egg Association) was better able to provide support in advertising and mailing out letters to reach larger numbers of growers. This will also better allow announcing the CAP&EA meetings on the Animal Waste Management Web Site. This notifies all poultry growers and Certified Animal Waste Vendors, CAWVs. The quarterly meetings provide growers, especially Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), the opportunity to obtain their required minimum of six CE’s (Continuing Education Units) per year. A grower is considered a CAFO if he or she has 120,000 or more birds on their farm at one time. An AFO grower has less then 120,000 birds. These rules have been established by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, ADEM.

Because of merging of the associations the CAP&EA will represent 160 growers. This includes growers in Crenshaw, Butler, Conecuh, Monroe, Wilcox, Lowndes and Montgomery Counties. The above were notified of the January meeting through the AP&EA mail out.

4) Temporary Storage of Poultry Litter Key to Better Distribution -
Some producers complain that maintaining a 6-mil polyethylene cover on poultry litter following NRCS Temporary Field Storage Guidelines is difficult. Ripped plastic sheeting creates problems with picking and ginning cotton. Intuitively, farmers argue, covered piles do not leach so placing the litter on a concrete or clay pad is unnecessary. Some have observed that properly stacked litter will shed water once a crust is formed so covering may be unnecessary. In order to evaluate and demonstrate alternative methods of litter storage, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is working with the Alabama Mountains, Rivers, and Valleys RC&D Council in North Alabama and the USDA-ARS Soil Dynamic Laboratory at Auburn. A test/demonstration was conducted for producers on the grounds of the cotton gin at Shorter, Alabama (Central Alabama) with the cooperation of Mr. Greg Pate, Gin Manager, and Mr. Shep Morris, local cotton farmer. Mini-piles of fresh broiler litter were established on frames to collect potential runoff so it could be analyzed. Storage techniques evaluated included (1) an uncovered pile (the worst case), (2) a

cone-shaped, uncovered pile, (3) a cone-shaped pile sprayed with a liquid polymer to repel water, (4) a traditional, polyethylene covered pile, and (5) a pile covered with a commercial Hay-Gard® fabric.

High rainfall from early December through May provided excellent conditions for evaluating and demonstrating storage techniques. The Alabama Interagency Animal Waste Management Team toured the site in February. While different treatments on the exposed piles had some effect with the initial rainfall event, in general exposed piles only absorbed water. They did not shed it. Once the piles became saturated, nutrient-laden runoff continued throughout the 6-month evaluation period. Litter quality degraded rapidly. As a result of this effort, we can confidently recommend that all litter piles follow current NRCS guidelines for proper temporary storage. Litter piles must be covered! Producers may not like it, but covering temporary litter piles in the field is the only way to protect the fertilizer value of the litter and prevent nutrient-laden runoff.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

The fourteen (14) participating agents and five (5) participating specialists reported 505 days of effort making 3,837 face-to-face contacts and 582,344 non-face-to-face contacts working in this project.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans:

A similar ETP11g has been submitted for FY2006. Plans are to continue to present the environmental education that Alabama farmers need to both make a profit and be good environmental stewards.

ETP 18C Increasing Alabama Forest Productivity
By KENNETH L MCNABB

This Team Project reaches out to the more than 200 thousand Non-Industrial Private Forest owners (NIPFs) in Alabama and the cadre of over 1000 professional resource managers that work with them and forest industry to maintain and improve the productivity of Alabama's largest industry. Unfortunately only a fraction of all NIPFs participate in natural resources educational programming and much needs to be done to motivate this sector of our population to achieve the maximum benefit from their lands. NIPFs need to recognize the benefits of using professional forestry help to manage their lands and since they control over 70% of Alabama's forest land and 50% of the annual wood harvest, they are essential to the forest sector of the state. In addition, the professional cadre of Alabama foresters providing management services to NIPFs must stay abreast of technological changes and the continuing education requirements to maintain their license in the State - both consultants and industry foresters.

One of the most successful ways of reaching NIPFs is through active County Forestry Planning Committees. These Committees are an extension of the Alabama Natural Resources Coordinating Council and have a proven track record of providing coordination among natural resources agencies and reaching out to NIPFs with relevant programming. Recently, however, the number of county committees has declined. ACES recently cooperated with the ANRCC to revitalize county committees by reviewing and revamping the Purpose and Operating Principles, surveying the activity level of county committees, and participating in six regional agency personnel training sessions on the TREASURe forest program, which is closely associated with successful county planning committees.

It is too often assumed that men make the decisions regarding forest management by NIPFs. Auburn research has found this may not be true and more emphasis should be given to the female perspective. In this regard, Forestry and Wildlife Sciences conducted its first "Female Landowner" seminar in Monroe county. Attended by over 50, the program covered topics on Wetlands, Herbicides, and Urban Forestry. It has been shown that female landowners tend to more interested in continued family ownership, environmental quality, and social functions than their male counterparts. More of these types of programs are planned for the future.

One of the key aspects of modern silviculture is the control of unwanted weeds in forest stands. Professional forestry herbicide applicators as well as professional foresters are regularly involved in the application of herbicides to forest stands. Professional applicators have a requirement of at least 10 continuing education points each year to maintain their license. Extension personnel coordinated two continuing education events in 2005 that was attended by over 150 people, helping them maintain their professional licenses. Utilizing speakers from industry, pesticide manufacturers, and government, information was provided to participants about pesticide application, environmental safety, personal safety, regulations, and new technologies.

Professional foresters in Alabama must also attend continuing education events if they are to maintain their license as professional foresters. Extension initiated a continuing education program in 2005 for professional foresters, organizing 11 continuing education events (not counting pesticide applicators training) at nine different venues which covered topics of wildlife management, wetlands delineation, urban forestry, and forest law, providing more than 40 total hours of non-repeating classroom forestry continuing education credit. More than 250 professional foresters attended one or more of these events, representing approximately 1500 accumulated hours of continuing professional education.

There are between 2,000 to 3,000 professional loggers in Alabama who harvest and transport wood to supply Alabama's largest manufacturing industry. Under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of the American Forest and Paper Association, a national organization that represents the major timber purchasers in Alabama, professional loggers are required to complete 6 hours of continuing education each year if they are to continue supplying AF&PA members. In 2005 over 150 new loggers completed the "Professional Logger Management" program and over 2000 completed the minimum continuing education requirements. Professional logger continuing education programs cover topics on logging safety and first aid, business, management, forest management, water quality, and stream protection. Competent, well-trained loggers are essential to maintain a fiber supply for Alabama's forest products industry in an environmentally responsible manner.

ETP 18C worked with a broad Extension clientele across the state to enhance forest productivity in Alabama. Extension personnel lead the way in an effort to revitalize local forestry planning committees and provide exciting new programming opportunities for female forest landowners. Extension has made a commitment to professional foresters and loggers in the state by providing a number of high quality continuing education events, and helped to ensure the public's safety and professional pesticide competence through applicator training. These activities benefit non-industrial private landowners who rely on professionals for their natural resources management needs. All of these activities positively contribute to the quality of life for Alabama citizens and help ensure the sustainable management and utilization of the state's forests.

ETP 20D. Termite Management
By XING PING HU

Project Description:
Objectives: Termites are the most damaging structure pest with an estimate of about $3 billion loss annually in damage and control. Consecutive 4-year survey of Alabamians indicates knowledge on termite infestation the most needed educational program, the introduced Formosan subterranean termites, in particular, which not only destroy homes, but also feed viciously urban plants.
Accomplishments: ETP-20D is a subprogram under PPA20. It is the program dedicated to deliver needed research-based knowledge to residences across the state through multi-methods including instructional training, technical assistance and outreach publications.
1. In-Service Training, named "Updates in Termite Management" was conducted in June 2006 on AU campus. Trainees included extension agents, pest control professionals, and homeowners. The training was designed to educate trainees with a variety of new aspects. New findings on control-related termite biology and behaviors were presented by university research professors. Termite control regulations and

building codes were presented by government officers. New technologies and products (non-repellent slow-acting termiticides, baiting systems, safer wood preservatives, new physical barriers, and new termite detect tools) for termite control were presented by industry representatives. Pest control professionals talked their aspect on termite control. Extension specialists talked about the importance of educational program and the role of our extension staff in the program. We discussed the practical methods on house and landscape management to minimize termite infestation. Finally, the "Mobile Termite University" delivered educational materials and demonstrated the EPA proved application of non-repellent termiticide around buildings. Each extension agent are expected having delivered similar "termite management workshops/trainings" for their clients to multiply the impact of this project. Such education was done either cooperatively at local events/activities and fairs, or stand-alone. News media tools, such as TV talks, radio shows, news papers, and web news release were used.

2. Technical assistance. Extension agents signed onto this project dedicated to help their clients with termite problems. Numerous calls and emails on termite problems were answered, suspicious termite or termite-infestation samples were identified, visitors asking termite information were received, and interview by TV, radio, or News papers were granted.
No contact by ETP on campus office
Year No. telephone contacts No. insect identifications No. e-mail contacts No. visitor received No. on-site visits Total No. contacts
2005 923 94 1530 75 47 7,022

3. Instructional activities.
Some presentations provided by ETPL at national, state, or local-levels.
1) Extension entomologists' passion. Entomological Society of America's annual meeting. Fort Lauderdale, FL. December 15-18, 2005.
2) Termite biology breakthroughs and integrated termite management. PestWorld 2005, National Pest Management Association's annual convention, Nashville, Tennessee, October 14-17, 2005. 4,280 attendees.
3) Understanding termites, understanding trees in storms. Workshop of Alabama Urban Forestry Association. Mobile, April 28, 2005. 54 trainees
4) Impact of termite infestation on homeowners' life and economy – stop termites from recycling houses. Alabama Realtor Association Annual Meeting, Saugahatchee Country Club. Feb. 18, 2005. 134 attendees.
5) Options and technologies available to Alabamian and pest control industry. AL Pest Control Association Winter meeting. Feb. 3-4, 2005 396 attendees.

Some field demonstrations provided by ETPL or EPT members:
1). Listen to termites – using Acoustic Emission Device for termite detection. Collaborator: Charles M. Simon, Covington County. June – July, 2005
2). Eating live trees – Formosan subterranean termites. Opelika. April – August 2005
3). Cooperating application of nonrepellent termiticides in integrated termite management. Lee county, Calhoun county, Jefferson county, May-June 2005.
Some of the outreach publications by ETPL:
1) 2005. Subterranean termite control products for Alabamians. ACES Circular ANR-1252 http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1252/ANR-1252.pdf.
2) Need vigilance to stop infestation. The Birmingham News. Commentary 5C. December 11, 2005
3) Dr. Hu's Bugs. http://www.hgtradio.net
4) Formosan termite problem made worse by Ivan. Interviewed by James Langcuster, June 22, 2005 http://www.aces.edu/department/extcomm/npa/newsline/archives/001313.php
5) Bedbugs back after long hiatus – or are they? May 23, 2005. http://www.aces.edu/department/extcomm/npa/newsline/archives/001260.php
6) What happens now? July 3, 2005. Opelika-Auburn News. www.oanow.com
7) Three Mosquito Repellents Recommended. September 7, 2005. http://www.aces.edu/department/extcomm/npa/newsline/archives/001453.php
8) Thrips: What are the tiny flying bugs biting people? Birmingham Radio Station. September 19, 2005.

9) A serious nuisance pest for motorists on highways – love bugs. Montgomery TV station interview, Channel 12. September 27, 2005.
10) September 28, 2005. Love bugs not so loveable in September. Communications and Marketing, AU, TV
11) Cooler Temperatures May Bring Ants Indoors. Oct. 27, 2005
http://www.aces.edu/department/extcomm/npa/newsline/archives/001517.php
12) Dec. 1, 2005 Park Avenue Bedbugs.
http://www.aces.edu/department/extcomm/npa/daily/archives/001572.php
Some of the timely information sent out by ETPL:
1) Removal of hurricane debris abets the spread of FST in AL. Oct. 7th, 2005
2) Three mosquito repellents recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). September 6, 2005
3) The effects of hurricane Katrina and flood on Formosan subterranean termites. August 31, 2005.
4) What fly am I? July 20, 2005
5) Increasing mosquito problem in and around homes. June 16, 2005
6) Formosan subterranean termite alarm. June 13, 2005
7) Bedbugs Back After Long Hiatus --- Or Are They? May 5, 2005
8) New products release from Bayer Environmental Science. Feb. 10, 2005
Some of the magazine articles by ETPL:
1) Hu, X. P., Appel, A. and Vester, R. 2005. Asian cockroach “invades” Alabama. Pest Control. 2005 January: 41-42
International activity:
Acting interpreter and presentation on How AL Extension System Works for Chinese Agro-Tech Delegation visiting the College of Agriculture at AU, Oct. 19, 2005
4. Obtaining contracts, grants and gifts
1). EPA grant of $62,000 fro, 2004 – 2005
2). Extension education workshops with emphasis on tree protection, maintenance and pest management. Alabama Urban and Community Forestry Program. September 2005 – August 2006. $48,148
5. Other Extension Accomplishments
Periodically forward news and updates on urban pests and control from National Pest Control Association, Pest Control Technology, USDA and EPA to Extension agents, with commentary on how the materials related to Alabama

Impacts and Benefits to a clientele of diversity
Clients were made awareness of the termite problem and new options of better control technologies and products. The awareness motivated public surveillance that monitors the range expansion of the exotic Formosan subterranean termite and reduce its range expansion rate. Thanks to our extension agents and residence, 14 counties have been detected with infestation of the Formosan subterranean termites up to the year of 2005. The carriers aiding termite spread and the spread pattern were identified, all are very important in helping make control strategies.

The awareness also inspirited property owners to do proper house and landscape management, which significantly assisted in, mitigate termite problems. Especially aftermath Katrina, one of our extension agents and one of our extension specialists immediately raised concerns over relocation and re-use of fallen trees and wood debris in Mobile areas. This voice was sent out statewide and to the state government. This invaluable voice has saved our AL from spreading Formosan termites to new areas and from consequent serious damages and economic loss. (for both the county agent and specialist, I hope you have written a successful story on it).

Those pest control professionals who adopted new technology and gained knowledge of termite biology provided better termite service that 1) cuts off call-back service – more profit, 2) control termite problems more effectively – benefiting to homeowners, 3) used less-toxic technologies – protect environment and public health, and 4) build a reputation of good professional.

Program visibility, exposure and future plan
This program is very visible to and demanded by the clientele statewide and nationwide. Frequent new media and field demonstrations exposed this program to extremely broad clients, and caught attentions from USDA, researchers, and chemical manufactures, which are seeking collaboration with AL. This project is to extend to include termite detections and termite infestation on urban forest to help our citizens manage termites.

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.

ETP13A. The Beginning Education Early (BEE) Program
By ELLEN ELIZABETH 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 and December 31, 2005, agents in six 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: Choctaw, Macon, Perry, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, and Wilcox counties. Choctaw, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa received their program funding through the Alabama Children's Trust Fund. Macon, Perry, and Wilcox counties were funded through the USDA's Children, Youth, and Families at Risk initiative.

BEE educators in these counties had worked with and graduated a total of 169 children and their parents. Each adult and each child in participating families received a minimum of 10 hours of education over 3 months. With parents, educators used the APrinciples of Parenting@ and ABasic Parenting@ curricula, supplemented, as appropriate, with the ABuilding Strong Families@ and/or AParents as Teachers@ curricula. With children, educators used either an original, developmentally appropriate early childhood curriculum, or the AParents as Teachers@ curriculum.

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 169 participating indicated that our targeted audience (rural, low-income families with at least one preschool aged child) was successfully reached. Of the 124 individuals for whom data was available to answer this question, 83% reported being eligible for services based on low income status. Participants were primarily African American (90%), rural (84%), single parents (50%), and had a high school education or less (68%).

After the program 97% of the parents reported that they knew more about parenting and child development now than before the program. In open-ended questions, 97% of the participants were able

to identify a specific way in which their relationship with their children had been positively influenced by the program, such as increased involvement, attention or affection (46%), increase in understanding or patience with the child (12%), increase in use of positive discipline (12%), or increase in interest and activity in their child's learning (12%).

The three items assessing parental attitudes about the use of guidance strategies showed an average increase of 10% in appropriate responses from pre- to post-test. When asked initially how they prepare their preschool-aged children for school, relatively few parents described behaviors other than teaching young children basic 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 24% to 25%; reports of social skills-related behaviors increased from 16% to 32%. Reports of behaviors motivating children to learn (such as doing special projects together, and getting involved in P.T.O.) and reports of self-control related behaviors did not show an increase.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
According to the reported days worked on this project,11 of the 14 ACES employees signed up for this ETP reported devoting 855 days to this project. In addition, 7 program assistants worked an estimated 5200 hours directly with the families. Work in three counties was supported by grant funds received from the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama. $134,000 in grant funds from USDA supported BEE programming in Wilcox, Macon, and Perry counties. A third year of funding has been applied for to begin May 2006.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans
Future plans are to continue to seek external grant funding from Children's Trust Fund and from other agencies to support county programs. Programmatic efforts with the expanded BEE program in Wilcox, Macon, and Perry counties are proceeding with new assessment tools having been piloted and now being used. Applications for continuing USDA funding will be submitted as necessary.

ETP 13B. Child Care Providers
By ELLEN ELIZABETH ABELL

A. Project Description

With the steady rise in the number of working parents of children--from infancy through preschool-age--comes an increasing need for safe, affordable, quality child care. Parents must rely on child care providers to care for their children, and the need to know that their children will be well cared for. The ability of child care providers to meet State of Alabama licensing requirements and, most importantly, to provide children and families with high quality child care depends upon the accessibility and availability of quality education and training. Early childcare settings are increasingly responsible for the care and early learning opportunities that young children need in order to be ready to succeed in school.

The purpose of this project is to address the educational needs of child care providers licensed to care for children in center-based or home-based businesses. Research shows that providers who are well-trained are more effective at providing the early learning and care experiences that contribute positively to young children's healthy development. In this project, Extension agents provide training intended to produce a gain in knowledge and understanding of child care practices in 5 key areas designated by the Alabama Department of Human Resources: Child Development, Language Development & Learning, Discipline, Quality Child Care, and Caring for the Professional and the Family.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out

Between January 1 and December 31, 2005, agents in three regions of the state conducted training workshops using one or more of the following facilitative, group-session formats: The Alabama Child Care

Training Manual (ACCTM), the Better Kids Care satellite/video series (BKC), and the Caregivers Caring for the Future workshop series (CCF). Educators provided training for 135 child care professionals in workshops ranging from 1.5 – 2 hours in length.

C. Clientele, Results, and Impacts:

Program evaluation strategies consisted of a post-/pre- questionnaire completed by each participant at the end of the workshop. Three to four statements were presented about the provider's knowledge relating to the workshop's key learning goals. Participants were asked to assess the level of their knowledge about each learning goal both before and after they participated in the workshop. Workshop impact is reported on the increase of knowledge from before to after in terms of the proportion of participants who indicated that their knowledge was either "limited" or "adequate" and then increased to either "good" or "excellent" levels
For workshops focusing on increasing knowledge about best practices that support healthy child development, 60% said their understanding was good or excellent before training while 96% said their understanding was good or excellent after training for an increase of 34%.

For workshops focusing on increasing knowledge about best practices in developmentally appropriate guidance strategies, 13% said their understanding of discipline issues was good or excellent before the workshop and 87% said it was good or excellent after the workshop, for an increase of 74%.

For workshops focusing on increasing knowledge about best practices that support children's language development and learning, 71% said their understanding before the workshop was good or excellent, but 100% said it so after the workshop, for an increase of 29%.

For workshops on focusing on increasing knowledge related to general Child Care quality issues, 30% said their understanding was good or excellent before, while 97% said their understanding was good or excellent after training, for an increase of 67%.

For workshops on focusing on increasing knowledge about managing working relationships with families, 67% said their understanding was good or excellent to begin with, but 100% reported that their understanding was good or excellent after training, for an increase in understanding of 33%.

Of the 135 rural participants, all were female, 123 were black, 40 were white, and 2 were hispanic.

ETP13E. SUCCESSFUL AGING INITIATIVE

By WILMA J. RUFFIN

A. DESCRIPTION

The elderly population is growing, having doubled three times since 1900. It is expected to double again within 50 years. A growing generation of older adults means a greater demand for policies, programs and services to meet their needs. Already evident are increased needs for programs that address home care, the law, health and financial security for America's senior population.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit (System) has partnered with the state of Alabama's Bureau of Geriatric Psychiatry (Bureau)to deliver educational and training programs designed to address issues relevant to aging/dementia and associated health, financial and legal education. These collaborative efforts are called the Successful Aging Initiative ("SAI").

B. ACTION & ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT; RESULTS, IMPACT & BENEFITS TO CLIENTELE AND TO THE PUBLIC

Through assessment and collaboration, Extension educators at the county and state level engaged in educational and training outreach to provide older adults, their families and caregivers with resources to make more informed decisions and to provided valuable resources to meet their increasingly changing needs. From its inception in the fall of 2002, the SAI continues to targets underserved, limited resource older adults, their families and caregivers in our state's under-served urban and rural communities. Other local, statewide and national co-sponsors included the Huntsville/Madison County Area Agency on Aging, the American Association of Retired Person (AARP) state and local offices, The Links, Incorporated—Greater Huntsville Chapter, Kroger, Incorporated, Rural Senior Services, Incorporated and various local faith-based organizations.

Programmatically in 2005, the System selected the SAI as Extension Team Project 13E. The Seniors Can curriculum, developed by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension System, was selected as an educational resource and guide. ETP13E team members participated in an extensive two-day training that involved the following: 1) 2005 Madison County SAI, and 2) a satellite conference training with curriculum authors, Dr. Claudia C. Collins and Ms. Heidi Petermeier.

First, the 2005 Madison County SAI was held Thursday, September 22, 2005 at the Union Chapel Baptist Church. Upwards of four hundred participants registered, including presenters, Extension specialists and support staff from the City of Huntsville, and Madison, Limestone and Jackson counties. The featured keynote speaker was Dr. Maxine Hammonds-Smith, President-elect National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). NCFR in the only professional organization focused solely on family research, policy, and practice. In her presentation "The Four F's for Healthy Aging", Dr. Hammonds-Smith provided practical information and resources for meeting the growing needs of older adults and promoting intergenerational family well-being.

From our SAI partners, the Bureau of Geriatric Psychiatry, Joanne McLinn, a dementia & Alzheimer educator, spoke to the audience on the growing number of cases of dementia. Ten percent of Alabamians over the age of 65 and almost one-half of people over age of 85 are dealing with dementia and seniors caregivers need to know how to deal with and to identify resources available for coping with the disease. Other health and nutrition-related speakers include Dr. Nina Blackburn, Alabama Department of Health, Mr. John Coon, Social Security, who addressed the 2006 Medicare Prescription Drug Changes, Suzanne Sizemore and Kathy Boswell of Blue Cross Blue Shield presented Journey to Wellness, a program that promotes increased physical activity for older adults.

In concurrent sessions, participants attended sessions ranging from finance to laughter therapy in the following: Fitness and Nutrition with Cora N. Lightfoot, a certified geriatric physical therapy trainer, Elder Care Issues and Planning Strategies, in which Patrick Sanders, a financial investment consultant with Edward Jones Investment Group discussed methods for financial security later in life, Legal Issues Associated with Aging, presented by Attorney Connie Glass and System legal consultant Attorney Kevin H. Crenshaw, Older Adult Services with Mrs. Betty Dixie of the Area Agency on Aging, Pre-Need Funeral & Burial Arrangements presented by Mrs. Karen Jones Smith of Royal Funeral Home, Incorporated.

In the final sessions, certified laugher therapist, Ms. Diane Leisure captivated the audience by demonstrating the physical and emotional benefits of laughter. She engaged the audience with various day-to-day exercises and techniques. In addition, presenters and panelists discussed fundamental issues surrounding estate planning, Advance Directives (formerly known as a Living Will), Powers of Attorney and Medicaid. A special door prize, Twenty-five attendees won Advance Directives with a pecuniary value of three hundred dollars ($300) each providing a total savings of seven thousand five hundred dollars ($7,500). This session was facilitated by Extension's Attorney Kevin Crenshaw and Attorney Walter Parker.

A major highlight of the one-day program was the free health screening by health care professionals for

blood pressure, bone density, cholesterol and glucose. One of the impacts of the SAI is that these health screenings saved participants several thousands of dollars in medical costs. This is assessed as a significant impact for this audience since fixed incomes often place many in the position of choosing between medical needs and other core survival needs. Additionally, many underserved older adults were afforded access to health screenings and assessments that may no have been available. The faith-based community partnered in this effort to assist with the registration fees to support the participation expenses and transportation needs of very limited resource attendees. The value of the services provided through the organizations and churches including the facility use is estimated well over three thousand dollars ($3, 000).

For a second year, Kroger, a national grocer, sponsored the “Healthy Cooking Demo” presented by the famed “Chef Jeff” of the Kroger Cooking School. The audience responded favorably to his colorful presentation on healthy ways to prepared traditional meals. As part of that demonstration, attendees dined on a healthy meal Chef Jeff prepared onsite.

Second, on Friday, September 23, 2005, Extension Team Project members participated in day two of the ETP13E in-service training via satellite with Dr. Claudia C. Collins, Seniors Can curriculum developer. From this training members will began to disseminate SAI resources and conduct SAI educational meeting statewide.

C. FISCAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM VISIBILITY

Thirteen specialist and agents were signed up for the ETP 13E-Successful Aging Initiative for a total of 359.50 days. To date, the SAI has conducted two in-service trainings and hosted three Senior Expos. In the spring of 2003, County Agent Emily Campbell spearheaded a Jackson County SAI with over one hundred attendees. In the summer of 2003 ACES’ Urban Affairs New Nontraditional Programs partnered with the CARES, a faith-based non-profit organization, to host a SAI: Community Expo in the Madison/Limestone Counties.

D. EXPOSURE AND FUTURE PLANS

As we enter a new year, implementation of the existing SAI structure and plan of work is well underway. This year, however, our efforts will expand to incorporate the SAI’s Family Caregivers component. Not only is the population aging, but changing social trends are affecting families’ ability to care for their older adults. Most older adults with long-term care needs live at home. They do so with the assistance of family caregivers, informal and formal. Some 22.4 million house-holds (23%) currently provide care at some level to family members age 50 and older. The SAI will continue expanding programming in this area.

ETP14A. Alabama Radon Education Program
By J. THOMAS CHESNUTT

A. Description

Radon is a national health risk that, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is estimated to cause 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the United States. The EPA also estimates that 1 in 15 homes across the U.S. have 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 $1,962,000 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 14 Zone 1 (highest radon incidence) counties, Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Colbert, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Morgan, Shelby and Talladega.

The challenge is not only to provide radon education, but 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, over 21,000 Alabama citizens have received radon test kits through Extension. Last year, almost 4,000 test kits were distributed to Alabama citizens, with 2,2440 (62%) 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.
The following are specific activities or events the program has completed in FY-05.

Radon booth at Huntsville Home Show

Alabama Radon Education Program staff members developed and exhibited a booth at the 2005 Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association's annual Building, Home and Remodeling Show on March 4-6, 2005. The ACES staff members involved were Tom Chesnutt, Extension Specialist and Radon Program Director, Susan Roberts, Extension Associate and Assistant Director of the Radon Program, Pat Smith, Radon Regional Extension Agent, Laura Booth, Extension Associate, Betty Ann Broman, Madison County CEC, Walter Rodgers, Madison County Urban Agent, Shirley Whitten, North Alabama Region 2 REA, and Jim McNees, State Radon Program Director, Alabama Department of Public Health. The booth highlighted the dangers posed by radon and contained a working model of a radon reduction system.

The purpose of the Alabama Radon Education Program is to increase the public's awareness to the

health risks of radon, motivate those in high risk areas to test for radon, encourage individuals to mitigate the problem when high levels are detected and build new homes radon-resistant. Since it's beginning, 9,126 short-term radon test kits distributed by the Program have been utilized. Also, almost 700 long-term radon test kits have been utilized. Results indicate that 23% of the short-term kits yielded high results, and 39% of the long-term kits had high results.

Over 10,000 individuals attended the Building, Home, and Remodeling Show, many of whom visited the Radon Program's booth. Over 8,000 pieces of literature were distributed to the many visitors to the booth, as well as radon test kits. Almost 500 test kits were sold at this three-day event. As of March 31, about 200 people (41%) who purchased short-term test kits at the home show have tested their homes and 19% of them have indicated high radon levels.

In addition to the ACES staff, the booth was staffed by volunteers that included North Alabama certified radon measurement specialists, Jim Manley, Ed Collier and Andy Harrison, and certified radon mitigators, Ken Lightsey and James Porter.

The Building, Home, and Remodeling Show was sponsored by the Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association for the purpose of promoting the building industry and providing the consumer with an opportunity to view the newest in building technology. This Association is a non-profit trade association, which has a membership of over 1,000 business firms employing more than 30,000 persons in Madison County and the adjunct areas. Chartered in 1957, the Association is comprised of builder, associate and affiliate members. These members include builders, remodelers, developers, subcontractors, suppliers, financial institutions, Realtors and other trades that are connected with the home building industry. The Alabama Radon Education Program is a member of the Association.

City councils recognize Radon Poster Contest winners

A radon poster contest was promoted in the Zone 1 counties of North Alabama to promote National Radon Action Month (NRAM) in January. The contest was primarily carried out through Alabama 4-H with 9 to 14-year-olds. Six posters were selected as county winners. Blake Bryan, a 6th grader from Lauderdale County was selected the state winner for this contest. His poster was then sent for judging at the national level. A mini-grant from Montana State Extension helped support this effort.

The objective of the radon poster contest is to increase awareness among youth of the potential health effects of radon gas. County winners of the poster contest receive certificates, a monetary reward and recognition in their communities of their efforts. County Extension agents sponsoring the youth recognized participants in the contest via different means, including display of posters in public areas in the community, news articles, recognition ceremonies, and distribution of radon test kit order forms to youth to encourage them to test their homes.

In Lauderdale County, 84 youth poster entries were displayed at the local mall for four weeks. County agent Melanie Allen and Regional Radon Agent Pat Smith attended a meeting with the Probate Judge and County Commissioners where a Proclamation for NRAM and three resolutions for the radon poster winners were signed. Also, articles in the TimesDaily and East Lauderdale News covered these events.

This is the second consecutive year that the radon poster contest has been promoted to youth in Alabama with the sponsorship of EPA and Montana State Extension. With the addition of a full-time radon Extension agent, plans are to increase participation for the next year and to include more youth in the contest.

January NRAM efforts increase radon awareness
January is traditionally National Radon Action Month (NRAM) and Extension's Radon Alabama Team increases its efforts on increasing radon awareness during the month. Efforts include radio and press releases, television programs, city council proclamations, exhibits, newsletters, presentations and poster displays.

As a result of these increased efforts, a surge in radon test kit sales occurs during the months of January and February. As a result of this year's efforts, county offices sold more than 600 test kits in January and February.

"A high number of test kits sold sounds impressive, but it is also important that they be utilized," said Tom Chesnutt, program director of the Alabama Radon Education Program.

"As a result of our efforts for NRAM, over 50% of the test kits sold in those two months were used. But what is more significant, is that out of those tests, at least 31% of the homes with valid results show high radon levels."

The following is a summary of programs or events that each Radon Team county promoted toward radon awareness in January.

• ADPH
On Friday, Jan. 7, Jim McNees gave a presentation on radon at the annual meeting of the Alabama Chapter of the Health Physics Society. The meeting was attended by radiation safety professionals including the radiation safety officers of many of the major users of radioactive materials in Alabama. Printed materials on radon and coupons redeemable for radon test kits were distributed for these individuals to distribute to their staffs upon their return from the meeting.

Among the other presenters was Dr. Steven Becker of the UAB School of Public Health. This contact resulted in a request that ADPH do an annual presentation to the graduate students in UAB's Masters in Public Health program.

• Clay County
Lung Health was the focus of study in 24 classrooms in Clay County during National Radon Action Month. The objective of the lesson was to learn the long-term effects of radon exposure and smoking on the lungs. Students were asked to breathe through a coffee stirrer for 20 seconds, an activity that simulates what it feels like to breathe with lung disease. Students also observed the differences in appearance and function between a healthy lung and a diseased lung with "Lou-Wheeze Smoker's Lungs Comparison Model." Radon facts were presented and students participated in follow-up discussion on ways to preserve and protect the health of their lungs and their family. Students were given radon test kit order forms and encouraged to have their homes tested.

A news release was prepared and printed in the Jan. 13 issue of The Clay Times Journal.

A Radon Poster Contest was offered to youth in the county. A framed certificate was presented to the winner of the Radon Artwork Contest sponsored by Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes.

The Clay County Commission signed a proclamation declaring January as National Radon Action Month.

Radon exhibits were set up at Clay County Office Building and Clay County Medical Clinic.
Four short-term and one long-term test kits were sold in January.

• Cleburne County
Cleburne County Radon Agent Deborah Mathews sent a newsletter to 700-plus homes, encouraging testing.

A Radon Awareness exhibit was set up at the Calhoun County Administration Center Jan. 12, and test kits were sold.

A Radon Action Month proclamation was signed during the Jan. 27 Calhoun County Commission meeting and the Leadership Calhoun County Class was there, too. Folders with test kit coupons and the A

Citizen's Guide to Radon were presented to each.

• Colbert County
The local news station, WAFF, in the Shoals area, aired a piece about Radon and mitigating it, then posted it to their Web site. http://www.waff.com/Global/story.asp?s=2771408.

Teresa McDonald, Colbert County Radon Agent, and Pat Smith, Regional Radon Extension Agent, worked with a reporter for the Times Daily over Christmas break. As a result, two front page articles dealing with radon were published Jan. 2. Over 17 test kits were sold the first week of the article. A radon news article was featured in the county paper.

Radon Action Month was featured in the Home Economics newsletter.

Small radon exhibits were featured at Sheffield Utilities and the county courthouse.

• Lauderdale County
The National Radon Poster Contest was advertised earlier in September. In January, over 84 youth poster entries were displayed at the local mall for four weeks, with over 450 viewing the exhibit.

Radon Agent Melanie Allen and Regional Radon Agent Pat Smith attended a meeting with the Probate Judge and County Commissioners where a Proclamation for NRAM and three resolutions for three state level radon poster winners were signed, with 21 present at the meeting. The Times Daily featured a story on this meeting; circulation 40,000.

East Lauderdale News released a news article and photo about the 4-H poster contest winners on Jan. 27, circulation 5,000.

Thirty-four test kits were sold in January.

When posters were returned to youth, each of the 84 youth received a "Radon Awareness Bag" filled with educational information, coloring books, crayons, ink pens, magnets, etc. The top seven poster entries received free test kits with instructions on how to test their homes.

Radon Regional Extension Agent Pat Smith was interviewed by the Times Daily newspaper for an article that appeared in the Jan. 2 article, "Natural Danger." She worked with Teresa McDonald CEC in Colbert County in terms of information submitted about the Radon Newborn Program information packets.

Three radon education presentations were scheduled as a result of people reading the Jan. 2nd Times Daily newspaper article. These presentations will be made at the Rogersville Public Library, The National Association of Retired Federal Employees and The Academy of Life Long Learning.

Two radio programs featuring radon were done in Colbert County. The first program was done at WZZA Radio's, "A Look At The Shoals." The listening audience includes Colbert, Lauderdale. Franklin and Lawrence counties. The second radio program was done at WVNA for "Shoals View." The listening audience includes Colbert, Lauderdale, Franklin and Lawrence. These programs were done as a result of PSA communications sent out to various radio stations.

Two TV programs on Radon Awareness were completed. The first program done was "In The Know," featuring radon information and how to use a test kit. The second program done was "For Your Information" a partnership formed between Lauderdale County Extension and Northwest Shoals Community College located in Muscle Shoals. The Radon Education Program was one of the first shows to be taped in the series of future programs to be done in Extension. The TV show has a viewing audience of 47,000.

Radon displays were placed in the Lauderdale county courthouse.

• Jackson County
Jackson County Radon Agent Themika Sims submitted an article to two local papers, Daily Sentinel and the Jackson County Progress, for Radon Awareness month. The audience for both papers is approximately 15,000.

As a result of the article, Sims gave a program for a sixth grade science class and the teacher gave students extra credit points for purchasing and completing a radon test. About 30 test kits were sold to students or their parents as a result.

Radio programs for Radon Awareness Month were submitted to four radio stations in the county.

• Jefferson County
Radon Agent Cynthia Whittaker provided an interview on "The Time of Your Life" cable TV show during National Radon Awareness Month on Jan. 4. According to the station, "The Time of Your Life" reaches 250,000 potential viewers each time it airs: 250,000 times four airings equals 1million potential viewers.

• Lawrence County
Lawrence County Radon Agent Linda Robinson presented 35 4-H Club programs on radon, making over 1,500 youth aware of radon and its harmful effects.

Four adult programs were conducted on radon awareness reaching over 125 people.

Radon exhibits were set up at the local health department, agriculture center, and two local real estate offices, with over 500 pieces of information distributed.

One article was submitted to The Moulton Advertiser in January. It ran Feb. 2.

Six radon kits were distributed to senior citizens and senior centers.

Two radon home visits were done, instructing clients on how to perform radon tests.

Informed over 300 livestock homeowners about radon and the availability of test kits at the office.

• Limestone County
Radon Agent Mack Pugh distributed 48 radon test kit coupons with a radon display.

A news article ran in the Times Daily Jan. 11 edition. It was submitted to the paper by Agent Pugh. Reader subscription is 6,000.

• Madison County
Radon Awareness programs were presented to youth in 28 4-H Clubs in the following locations in Madison County, Madison City and Huntsville City School Systems in January:
• Monrovia Elementary (4 clubs - 230 students)
• Heritage Elementary (1 club - 10 students)
• Mt. Carmel Elementary (1 club - 25 students)
• Home School (1 club - 30 students)
• Chapman Middle School (6 - 80 students)
• Central Middle School (3 clubs - 70 students)
• Meridianville Middle School (1)
• Harvest Elementary (4 clubs - 110 students)
• Sparkman Middle (7 clubs - 180 students)
Free radon test kits were provided for nine schools during the month.
189 short term and 10 long-term test kits were sold during January.
Approximately 150 radon brochures were distributed during January.

• Morgan County
Morgan County Radon Agent Julie Dutton submitted PSAs to six radio stations.

Radon information was included in a monthly newsletter to 1,200 people.

Radon Action Month posters were displayed in the public meeting room of the Extension office, reaching approximately 350 viewers.

Six radon test kits were sold in January.

• Talladega County
During the National Radon Month Talladega County Radon Agent Wanda Jurriaans gave a program for 30 youth, ages 8 to 18 years.

A radon exhibit was provided for the Homemakers Council meeting, with 22 homemakers attending the meeting.

• Auburn University
The Alabama Cooperative Extension System News department at Auburn University issued a news release pertaining to National Radon Action Month.

Training center provides radon training to Alabama educators
The Alabama Radon Education Program sponsored a special Radon Measurement and Mitigation Training for Alabama Educators on May 12 at Joe Wheeler State Park. Area public health employees and radon mitigator and measurement providers were invited. Harry Grafton, a trainer for the regional radon training center consortium, conducted the class training, and was assisted by Jan Carrington, program manager for the Southern Regional Radon Training Center.

Since the group included newcomers to the radon group as well as those in the program since its 1997 beginning with Extension, the training encompassed all facets of the radon training from the basics to the physics, epidemiology studies, radon measurement, mitigation, and building new homes radon-ready.

Thirty-four attended the training meeting. Alabama Radon Team members attending were Randall Armstrong and Melanie Allen, Lauderdale, Betty Ann Broman, Walter Rodgers, Madison, Ricky Colquitt, Shelby, Julie Dutton, Morgan, Deborah Mathews, Cleburne, Teresa McDonald, Colbert, Mack Pugh, Limestone, Linda Robinson, Lawrence, Themika Sims, Jackson, Cynthia Whittaker, Jefferson, Patricia Smith, Shirley Whitten and Karen Thompson, Regional Radon Extension Agents, Tom Chesnutt and Susan Roberts, Auburn, and Clarene Johnson, Extension District Director.

County health department attendees were James Congleton and Jamie Medley, Colbert, Barry Glass, Bonnie Howard and Lucy Rudolph-Toney, Madison, Patricia Lindsey, Cullman, Ann Stephens, Marshall, Fred Vengrouskie, Morgan, Matthew Warner, Winston, Nancy Webb, Jackson and Philip Wright, Franklin.

Kevin Hicks, Alabama Dept. of Public Health Radiation Control, and Jim Manley of Radon Finders, also attended.

Radon in Alabama Web site offers wide variety of radon resources
The Radon in Alabama Web site, introduced in July 2000, offers a multitude of resources for those wishing to learn more about radon in Alabama.

Jamey White, an Auburn University computer science graduate student, is the site's current web master. White, who is working on his master's degree, has worked in the Radon Education program since 2003. Besides updating and improving the site's features, White, along with Assistant Program Director Susan Roberts, produced and installed the interactive game, "Who Wants to Breathe Radon Air?" on the web

site as an educational resource. Other educational resources are also available on the Alabama Radon Program page, including a radon workbook, Radon Bingo and Radon Quiz Bowl.

The Radon Basic Information page offers radon facts, medical resources, national organization links, other state radon program links, streaming videos, and other radon-related resources.

In addition, the site features a specific zip code lookup page, which offers testing instructions geared specifically for the zip code entered.

Although test kits cannot currently be ordered online, citizens can print out a coupon featuring the special Alabama residents' price for ordering test kits by mail or fax.

Finally, for those seeking information on mitigating radon, there is a list of certified mitigators available as well as resources for those wishing to learn how they can become certified in radon measurement or mitigation.

NEHA recognizes Alabama program
The Alabama Radon Control Program was selected as one of two finalists in the nation for the Environmental Protection Agency/National Environmental Health Association Individual Achievement Award for Radon Risk Reduction.

The award was presented for real estate outreach efforts, the most significant and innovative part of which are the Radon-Ready yard signs placed by builders in front of houses built using Radon Resistant New Construction Techniques which are described in the model residential building code. The use of radon control methods in construction is voluntary in most of Alabama.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon enters the home from the soil below and occurs in hazardous concentrations in many homes, mainly in northern parts of the state.

By installing a radon escape stack from the soil below the slab to the open air above their new houses, contractors are helping to reduce future lung cancer rates in high radon counties. If the radon escape stack is installed during construction it is far less costly than having to put one in after the home is finished in response to high radon levels.

Kirk Whatley, radiation control director, said, "This recognition is reflective of the work, dedication and innovative ideas of Jim McNees towards reducing the levels of radon (the second leading cause of lung cancer) in homes and other buildings in Alabama."

"Despite the slow progress in having Radon-Resistant New Construction Techniques required, we are making considerable progress with voluntary use of these techniques," said McNees, State Radon Contact.

"Believing that radon testing in real estate transactions and building new houses RRNC are keys to effective radon risk reduction, Alabama is placing major emphasis in these key areas. We have found that there is a widespread radon problem in the Tennessee Valley."

"While the award was presented to me, it was actually about the Alabama Radon Program's efforts to promote radon-resistant new construction techniques and Alabama's Radon-Ready signs. I acknowledge and say a special thanks to Susan Roberts and Sabrina Lyle, who conceived the idea, and designed the signs, for our program."

Radon program presented at two conferences
The Alabama Radon Education Program was recognized at two conferences in Lexington, Kentucky in April, 2005.

At the annual EPA Region IV/USDA/CSREES Children's Environmental Health Partnership conference, held in Lexington, April 11-12, Alabama radon education programs targeting children were presented. Each participant at the conference received materials developed by Alabama in plastic bags used by the program with the wording "Protect Your Family By Testing Your Home For Radon." These bags are used extensively in various events in Alabama to distribute materials used in the radon program. In the bags were copies of the Alabama Radon Newborn Project packets, magnets, crayons and a CD with the interactive game "Who Wants to Breathe the Air?" The game was also demonstrated for the conference participants.

At the Priester National Extension Health Conference, held just subsequent to the CEH conference, April 12-15, a poster presentation of the Alabama Radon Education Program was included in the conference. The exhibit was entitled "Partnerships and Programs for Radon Education" and was presented by Laura Booth, Extension Associate with ACES. The poster displayed various program materials developed by Alabama for outreach education on radon and partnerships that have enabled this program to be successful. Partners who have worked with the ACES Alabama Radon Education Program include: Alabama Department of Public Health, Southern Regional Radon Training Center, Habitat for Humanity International, Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes and Healthy Homes. Many of the program materials used in Alabama were on display: pens, magnets, publications and the winning poster for the radon poster contest held with youth. The game "Who Wants to Breathe the Air?" was also demonstrated at the poster presentation.

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

Statistics for 2005
Citizen contacts:
Potential media contacts 2,026,800
Radon exhibit viewers 82,075
Programming contacts 14,606
Agent days devoted to radon 1,137
Radon test kit coupons distributed 5,315

Measurable Radon impacts:
Houses reported built radon-ready 345
Homes mitigated (estimated) 100
Homeowners referred to mitigators 86
Homes tested in real estate transactions 75

Testing statistics:
Number of tests distributed by ACES 3,933
Number of tests used 2,489
Percent of tests used 63%
Number of valid tests 1,382
Number of valid tests over EPA Action Level 310
Percent of valid tests over EPA Action Level 22%

Radon in Alabama Web site:
Number of Web site visitors 4,338
Number of test kits purchased through Web site 96
Number of test kits utilized 74 or 77%

Statistics since Program's inception in October 1997

Citizen contacts:
Potential media contacts 27,237,437
Radon exhibit viewers 658,693

Programming contacts 249,328

Measurable Radon impacts:
Houses reported built radon-ready 1,740
Homes reported mitigated 1,053
Homeowners referred to mitigators 510
Homes tested in real estate transactions 917

Testing statistics:
Number of tests distributed by ACES 21,980
Number of tests used 10,696
Percent of tests distributed and used 48.6%
Number of valid tests 6,908
Number of valid tests over EPA Action Level 1,661
Percent of tests over EPA Action Level 24%

Radon in Alabama Web site:
Number of Web site visitors 16,500
Number of test kits purchased through Web site 507
Number of test kits utilized 352 or 69%

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:
According to the reported days worked on this project, 19 ACES employees allocated a total of 897 days to this project in 2005.

County reports
Clay County
Marsha Moorehead (256) 354-5976
• Lung health was the focus of study in 24 classrooms in Clay County during National Radon Action Month. Students observed the differences in appearance and function between a healthy lung and a diseased lung with "Lou-Wheeze Smoker's Lungs Comparison Model." Students were given radon test kit order forms and encouraged to have their homes tested.
• A news release was prepared and printed in the Jan. 13 issue of The Clay Times Journal.
• The Clay County Commission signed a proclamation declaring January as National Radon Action Month.
• The Radon Poster Contest was presented to youth in the county.
• Radon exhibits were set up at the Clay County Office Building and Clay County Medical Clinic.
• Four short-term test kits and one long-term test kit were sold in January.
• Radon information was presented at Clay County Chamber of Commerce After Hours programs.
• General radon publications were stocked in the publication rack at the Clay County office building.
• Additional time was spent preparing radon reports, test kit inventory reports, reading mail and email, filing radon information in notebooks, personal contacts, and planning for upcoming radon programs.
• Radon agent CEC Marsha Moorehead prepared a radon exhibit for the Clay County Hospital Health Fair. Approximately 200 participants stopped by the exhibit and picked up publications. Nine short-term test kits were sold as a result of the contacts.

• Radon agent met with Tom Chesnutt, Alabama Radon Program Director, to discuss radon programming in the county.
• A news release on the 4-H Radon Poster Contest was prepared and printed in the April 14 issue of the Clay Times Journal.
• General radon publications were stocked in the publication rack at the Clay County Office Building.
• Additional time was spent preparing radon reports, test kit inventory reports, reading mail and E-mail, filing radon information in notebooks, preparing radon incentive award application, updating test kits with new instructions, and planning for upcoming radon programs.

Cleburne and Calhoun counties
Deborah Mathews (256) 463-2620
• CEC Deborah Mathews talked with two clients in the process of building homes about RRNC and provided them with Building Radon Out publications.
• CEC sold test kits to two clients who moved into new homes.
• CEC provided long-term testing information to a homeowner with short-term test results of 8 pCi/l.
• A Radon Action Month proclamation was signed by the Calhoun County Commission during a January meeting.
• CEC and Administrative Assistant Kathy Douglas had radon exhibits and test kit sales at the Calhoun County Administration Building twice during January
• The Citizen's Guide to Radon and other radon information in radon bags were given to the Leadership Calhoun County class of 2004-05 following the proclamation signing at the Calhoun County Commission meeting.
• CEC placed the radon exhibit at the Anniston/Calhoun County Public Library with test kit coupon brochures
• Radon education in Alabama information was provided to the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences for use in impact statement flyers to be given to U.S. Senators and Congressmen during visits by Extension professionals April 19, (as part of PILD Public Issues Leadership Development Conference).
• County newsletters with a lead article featuring radon testing information and coupons were mailed to 688 homes.
• Radon in Alabama newsletters were mailed to 127 leaders in Calhoun and Cleburne counties.
• Radon agent CEC Deborah Mathews provided a radio interview with Rod McRae about radon basics and testing for use by four stations-KISS 102.7, 92.1, and WLBB AM 1330 and WKNG AM 1060 serving Cleburne County and West Georgia.
• A radon exhibit was presented at the Community Health Fair at the Heflin Recreation Center May 17 and test kits were sold at the event.
• Radon agent counseled a client about long-term testing following a short-term test that revealed elevated levels of radon.
• Agent counseled and referred a client about mitigation following two tests revealing elevated levels of radon.
• Agent placed a radon exhibit at the Anniston/Calhoun County library during April.
• Two mailings of the Radon in Alabama newsletter were sent to 126 clients and community leaders.
• Agent received the Woody Jr. mitigation model for storage for Zone 1 radon counties in the central region of the state.
• Agent attended the Radon Agent Advisory Committee meeting April 7 in Montgomery.
• Agent participated in the Radon technical in-service training at Joe Wheeler State Park, May 11 and 12.
• Six radon test kits were sold through the Cleburne County Extension office.

Colbert County
Teresa McDonald (256) 386-8572
• Ninety short-term radon kits were sold in Colbert County during the quarter. The sales for radon short-term kits was higher this quarter, based primarily on the fact that Radon Regional Agent Patricia Smith, and Colbert County Extension Coordinator, Teresa McDonald, worked with Times Daily Newspaper Staff Reporter, Russ Corey, and Helen Keller Hospital Community Relations Department Representative, Christa Martin, to prepare a feature article publicizing January as Radon Action Month. The article was printed on Sunday, Jan. 2. Times Daily's circulation is approximately 37,000 copies each day.
• CEC wrote the January-February 2005 home economics newsletter with emphasis on Radon Action Month. The newsletter was mailed to 313 recipients.
• CEC was contacted by the City of Sheffield's Utilities Department to replenish the mini-radon exhibit/brochure dispenser that was placed in the main lobby of the business.
• Five free test kits were provided to: Christa Martin (Helen Keller Hospital), Russ Corey (Times Daily newspaper), and three replacements for invalid kits.
• CEC discussed new/innovative plans for radon awareness with Radon REA Pat Smith.
• CEC responded to approximately 40 telephone calls and walk-ins requesting test kits and radon

information.
• CEC worked with the State radon office staff and provided more than 100 Newborn radon packets to be distributed to families after live births at Helen Keller Hospital.
• CEC continues to display the "Radon Short-Term Test Kits Sold Here" placard that Radon REA delivered to the county office early in the quarter. An ample supply of test kits is always on hand.
• Colbert County sold a total of 12 short-term radon test kits during the quarter.
• CEC continues to use the mini-radon exhibit/brochure holders in the county courthouse and Sheffield Utilities Department.
• CEC displayed the radon exhibit during the Northwest Alabama Counties Special Interest Meeting with Family and Consumer Sciences "Smart Solutions for Spring."
• Provided 60 radon short-term kits to be used by REA Patricia Smith for Northwest Shoals Community College's Academy for Life Long Learning. Smith sold several test kits after presenting the radon education program.
• CEC followed up with the Muscle Shoals City Building Inspector Tandy Crosswhite. The city had previously purchased 10 short-term kits and randomly tested buildings and homes in the City of Muscle Shoals. The tests led to the city's adoption of radon building codes.
• CEC attended the Spring Radon Training meeting at Joe Wheeler State Park May 11-12.
• CEC disseminated radon information as an exhibit during the annual Shoals Area Relay for Life, May 13.
• CEC included radon education (short-term testing procedures) in an exhibit during the annual county Farm-Safety Day Camp, June 15.
• CEC provided 20 EPA Citizen's Guide to be distributed to parents at the Colbert County Youth Center in Sheffield.

Franklin County
Karen Thompson (256) 332-8880
• In February, Regional Extension Agent Karen Thompson supplied Jack Hester, a teacher at East Franklin Jr. High, with 25 free short-term radon test kits for students.
• Agent Thompson received approximately 25 phone calls and office visits requesting general radon information.
• Eighteen short-term test kits were sold this quarter. One free kit was distributed at a program.
• General radon information is also available on the bulletin rack just outside the Extension office.
• Radon information was included at "Smart Solutions for Spring" in Colbert, Fayette, Franklin, and Lawrence counties. Radon flyers were also distributed. There were approximately 40 adult participants.
• Regional Extension Agent Karen Thompson distributed 50 English and 25 Spanish newborn packets to Russellville Hospital in June.
• Agent received approximately 15 phone calls and office visits requesting general radon information.
• Six short-term test kits were sold during this quarter.
• General radon information is also available on the bulletin rack just outside the Franklin County Extension office.

Jackson County
Themika Sims (256) 574-2143
• Jackson County Radon Agent Themika Sims submitted an article to two local papers, Daily Sentinel and the Jackson County Progress, for Radon Awareness month. The audience for both papers is approximately 15,000.
• As a result of the article, Sims gave a program for a sixth grade science class and the teacher gave students extra credit points for purchasing and completing a radon test. About 30 test kits were sold to students or their parents as a result.
• Radio programs for Radon Awareness Month were submitted to four radio stations in the county.
• Twelve short-term radon test kits were sold at the Jackson County Extension office this quarter.
• Radon agent CEC Themika Sims presented two radio programs to the local radio stations. Potential listening audience is approximately 50,000.
• Agent made the contact for participation in the Relay for Life program. The radon coupon brochure and radon program bags were distributed to the 550 participants.

• Agent contacted one homebuilder regarding radon mitigation procedures.
• Agent contacted one Realtor regarding radon mitigation procedures.
• Agent attended a two-day radon training on RRNC, May 11 and 12.
• Agent attended the Radon Advisory Board meeting April 7.
• Agent distributed radon coupon brochures at the Relay for Life event.

Jefferson County
Cynthia Whittaker (205) 325-5342
• Radon Agent Cynthia Whittaker provided an interview on "The Time of Your Life" cable TV show during National Radon Awareness Month on Jan. 4. According to the station, "The Time of Your Life" reaches 250,000 viewers each time it airs: 250,000 times four airings equals 1million viewers.
• Elise Carleton, a fourth grader at Oak Mountain Classical School, and her mother spent time with Agent Whittaker who gave them information which she used to produce a display for the Science Fair.

Lauderdale County
Randall Armstrong and Melanie Allen (256) 766-6223
• Lauderdale County sold 152 short-term radon test kits.
• CEC Randall Armstrong coordinated a January TV program with North West Shoals Community College for Radon REA Pat Smith. This program has been aired numerous times and reaches 47,000 homes.
• CEC Armstrong and CEA Melanie Allen worked with REA Pat Smith to hold a meeting with the Lauderdale County Commissioners for two 4-H'ers and their families. This event was attended by 21 people. Media coverage was received for the Shoals area. Two free test kits were given away.
• CEA Allen wrote a radon news article about the County Commissioners meeting where recognition was given to 4-H'ers, Blake Bryan and Zach Allen, winners of the county and state radon poster contest in 2005 and 2004. East Lauderdale County News ran this article, reaching 4,400 households.
• During January, CEA Allen exhibited 84 youths' radon posters at Regency Square Mall in Florence, reaching 2,500 with radon awareness.
• CEA Allen and AA Janet Lovelady assembled and distributed radon goodie bags for the 84 youth that entered the poster contest. The radon bags had crayons, coloring books, and educational literature, including EPA's A Citizen's Guide to Radon. The top seven poster winners were given a free radon test kit with instructions for testing their homes.
• CEC Armstrong and CEA Allen attended a training meeting with REA Pat Smith in preparation for the Shoals World Health Day Health Fair to be held in April at the Lauderdale County Coliseum.
• Lauderdale office personnel conferred with approximately 26 county residents about radon testing. These people received printed radon information from office bulletin racks.
• The Lauderdale County Extension office sold 43 short-term radon test kits this quarter.
• Radon agents and office personnel spoke to 48 individuals about radon testing and gave them radon information from the county Extension office bulletin racks.
• Radon Team agents, CEC Randall Armstrong and CEA Melanie Allen, set up and manned the Radon exhibit at the Shoals World Health Day Celebration on April 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Florence Coliseum where six speakers spoke on health-related topics. The Radon exhibit reached 178 people, with 13 purchasing short-term radon test kits. One radon kit was given away as a door prize. Literature and radon items distributed equaled 890 pieces.
• CEC Armstrong spoke at the Lauderdale County Annual Beef Field Day on Saturday, April 23, at a local farm in Killen about the importance of testing homes for radon. He emphasized to the 120 people in attendance that homes in the Killen area (that have been tested for radon) were found to have the highest levels of radon in Lauderdale County.
• CEA Allen displayed the county's Radon poster contest's top placing entries with basic radon information at the annual 4-H County Round-Up on April 28, where 145 people were in attendance.
• On May 12, Armstrong and Allen attended the Radon training for Alabama Educators conducted by SRRTC at Joe Wheeler State Lodge.
• CEC Armstrong spoke to two home inspectors who were interested in becoming radon mitigators. He referred them to REA Pat Smith.
• Time was spent preparing quarterly reports and test kit inventory, reading E-mail, filing radon information and planning for future radon marketing strategies and ordering radon supplies.

Lawrence County
Linda Robinson (256) 974-2464
• CEC Linda Robinson presented radon awareness programs to 35 4-H Clubs, making over 1,500 youth aware of potential health risks from radon.
• Four adult programs were conducted on radon awareness, reaching over 125 people.
• Radon exhibits were set up at the local health department, agriculture center, and two local real estate offices, with over 800 pieces of information distributed.
• CEC Robinson submitted one article on radon to the Moulton Advertiser newspaper and it was published Feb. 2.
• Two radon home visits were made to instruct a senior client on how to perform the radon tests and then how to read the results.
• CEC responded to office visits and telephone calls related to radon.
• CEC informed over 300 livestock homeowners about radon and the availability of test kits.
• Radon information was given to the Breast Cancer Support Group.
• CEC distributed radon information at the Interagency meeting.
• CEC wrote one quarterly newsletter that included radon awareness information. The newsletter was mailed to 350 homeowners.
• CEC replenished radon information at the health department and two real-estate offices.
• CEC held a conference with the Regional Radon Agent to make plans and preparation for upcoming radon programs and activities.
• There were 40 office visits related to radon and six phone calls during the quarter.
• Fifty-four short-term test kits were sold this quarter.
• Agent distributed radon awareness information at the community health fair in Courtland. REA Pat Smith was also present and distributed information and sold 5 test kits.
• Radon awareness was discussed at the Healthy Home Program in April; 14 people attended and 50 pieces of material were distributed.
• Radon agent CEC Linda Robinson and Radon REA Pat Smith provided radon awareness information at the Older American Day Program. Over 300 attended and approximately 150 pieces of information were distributed.
• Radon displays were replenished at the Lawrence County Library, Lawrence County Health Department; and a local real estate office. Exhibits were available for approximately 800 people to view.
• Agent responded to office visits and telephone calls related to radon concerns.
• Agent communicated with Radon REA on radon programming.
• Radon awareness programs were conducted at the summer reading program; 135 youth received information and participated in the program.
• Radon information was distributed at "Smart Solutions for Spring" with 15 in attendance; 40 pieces of information were distributed.
• One long-term test kit and 21 short-term radon kits were sold this quarter.
• Agent included radon awareness information in the county quarterly newsletter; 385 pieces were distributed.
• The Radon exhibit is on display daily at the Lawrence County Agriculture Center and general Radon information is provided at the office.

Limestone County
Mack Pugh (256) 232-5510
• Extension Coordinator Mack Pugh participated in two conferences with the Regional Radon Agent Pat Smith.
• CEC submitted two radio spots to local stations targeting 10,000 listeners.
• CEC submitted one newspaper article to the Times Daily targeting 6,000 subscribers. It was published Jan. 11.
• CEC submitted one article to the regional family and consumer science newsletter, reaching 300 families.
• CEC presented radon fact sheets to one adult group meeting, 26 contacts.
• 27 short-term test kits were sold from the Limestone County Extension Office.

• CEC devoted 7 days to the radon education program for this quarter.
• Radon agent CEC Mack Pugh presented the radon exhibit at the Limestone County NAACP Senior Health Fair.
• Agent setup the radon exhibit at the Athens Public Library for one day.
• Agent contacted two homebuilders and gave them 30 copies of the EPA publication, "Building Radon Out."
• Agent disseminated educational brochures at three senior citizen centers, reaching 86 adults.
• Agent submitted one newspaper article to Athens News Courier on Radon awareness.

Madison County
CEC Betty Ann Broman
Urban Agent Walter Rodgers
North AL Region 2 REA Shirley Whitten
(256) 532-1578
• 1,154 short-term test kits and 25 long-term kits were sold through the Madison County Extension office this quarter.
• Eight short-term radon kits were placed in testing situations as part of a quality assurance compliance program.
• Two long-term radon kits were placed in testing situations as part of a quality assurance compliance program.
• Twelve complimentary radon kits were given out to teachers and businesses that assisted with radon education in Madison County. Nine of these were placed with teachers who are leaders of 4-H Clubs where radon education was conducted in January. This permitted them an opportunity to perform an actual test and share the testing results with their students.
• Radon Awareness programs were presented to youth in 28 4-H Clubs in the following locations in Madison County, Madison City, and Huntsville City School Systems in January 2005:
• Monrovia Elementary (4 clubs - 230 students)
• Heritage Elementary (1 club - 10 students)
• Mt. Carmel Elementary (1 club - 25 students)
• Home School (1 club - 30 students)
• Chapman Middle School (6 clubs - 120 students)
• Central Middle School (3 clubs - 70 students)
• Meridianville Middle School (1 club - 30 students)
• Harvest Elementary (4 clubs - 110 students)
• Sparkman Middle (7 clubs - 180 students)
• A 4-H REA was trained on Radon Education in order to help present radon education to 4-H Clubs.
• Three TV spots were done for WHNT-TV (Channel 19) in Huntsville. They aired in late February.
• Radon staff from several locations were involved in setting up and working an exhibit for the Huntsville/Madison County Homebuilders Association Home, Building and Remodeling Show at the Von Braun Civic Center on March 4-6. Approximately 13,000 people attended the show and 464 short-term and 7 long-term radon test kits were sold. Volunteers who work in the radon measurement and mitigation business were present to assist clients with technical questions.
• Contacts were made with the maintenance department at Alabama A&M University to ascertain the functioning of a radon system installed in the early 1990's. This system had been functioning in a men's dormitory for several years.
• The Alabama Department of Public Health sent short-term radon test kits to members of the Huntsville City Council in an effort to educate them on radon health concerns and the need for radon control in building codes. A private meeting was held between Jim McNees, Betty Ann Broman and Councilman Showers to discuss radon education.
• Agents provided 35 coloring books to youth at Primrose School in Madison.
• Agents displayed the radon exhibit at two branches of the Union Planters Bank. Approximately 3,500 citizens viewed the exhibit.
• Radon education exhibits were placed in three public libraries in Madison County. Approximately 1,500 people viewed the exhibits and approximately 1,000 pieces of radon literature was distributed.
• Agents provided radon information for 10 Realtors in Madison County. Radon brochures and EPA

literature were given to each Realtor.
• Agents provided radon awareness education program to 24 adults at the Senior Citizens Center in Madison.
• Agents provided mitigation advice, including referring clients to list of certified mitigators, to 14 people.
• Approximately 70 people contacted the office with radon questions or questions about their radon test results.
• Approximately 25 citizens were given a list of certified service providers.
• 223 short-term test kits were sold through the Madison County Extension office this quarter.
• Six long-term test kits were sold through the Madison County Extension office.
• 13 short-term radon kits were placed in testing situations as part of the Quality Assurance compliance program.
• One long-term radon kit was placed in a testing situation as part of a Quality Assurance compliance program.
• Two complimentary radon kits were distributed.
• Radon agents provided approximately 50 copies of EPA's Citizens Guides to Radon, radon coloring books and crayons to Adams Homes for participants in Madison County Spring Parade of Homes. This ran for two consecutive weekends in May.
• Flint River Baptist Church in Hazel Green purchased 35 short-term radon kits to include in newcomers packets for visitors and new members for their church congregation. Copies of the EPA Citizen's Guide to Radon and other radon-education materials were also given to the church to include in the packets.
• Radon agent Walter Rodgers made contacts with the Madison County Library and provided 100 pieces of radon literature through library personnel.
• Agents provided 60 pieces of radon literature to the Madison County Senior Citizens Center.
• Agents provided 18 citizens with referrals to certified mitigators and mitigation advice.
• Agents set up a table display at the Oscar Mason Center (Huntsville Housing Authority) reaching approximately 40 citizens.
• Agents provided radon awareness education to 56 youth at the Boys and Girls Club. Materials were also distributed.
• Agents provided radon literature to 30 youth at the Calvary Hills Center (Huntsville Housing Authority).
• Displays were set up at six Madison County Public libraries, reaching approximately 3,000 citizens.
• Agents distributed 350 pieces of radon literature to banks in Madison County.
• Agents provided 130 pieces of radon literature and 130 radon education pens for the Golf Tournament held at Hampton Cove, where 126 people were reached.
• Agents provided 113 pieces of radon literature for the Gurley Community Bank in Gurley.
• Agents distributed 90 pieces of radon literature through Region's Bank, reaching 65 different people.
• Agents contacted four home inspectors in Madison County concerning radon information.
• Agents referred 18 homeowners to mitigators in Madison County.

Morgan County
Julie Dutton (256) 773-2549
• Agent maintained five radon exhibits at the Morgan County Extension Office, libraries and medical facilities.
• Radon exhibit and information were presented at a booth at the Emergency Preparedness Meeting held July 19 in Decatur.
• Agent presented Radon Program to 4-H Summer Fun group in July. Two 4-H Leaders were trained at the meeting.
• Agent assisted clients with purchase of radon kits and answered their questions concerning radon.

North Alabama Zone 1 counties
Patricia W. Smith (256) 766-4846
• 7 short -term test kits were sold at radon awareness programs.
• 4 short-term radon test kits were distributed to businesses that assisted with radon education in Colbert and Lauderdale counties.
• The radon exhibit was displayed at the Lauderdale County Court House. Approximately 30,000 citizens viewed the exhibit during the quarter.

• Radon Regional Extension Agent Pat Smith held five adult group meetings with Rogersville Public Library, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Academy of Life Long Learning, Northwest Shoals Community College and Lauderdale County Commissioner Board Meeting.

Radon REA:
• ...provided three citizens with information about the Radon Measurement Course.
• ...held two newspaper interviews for articles with Times Daily and East Lauderdale News. Agent provided an overview of the radon education program for the story, "Natural Danger," printed in the Times Daily on Jan. 2, reaching 34,500 households. "Radon Education," printed in East Lauderdale News, was the topic for a program at Rogersville Library, reaching 4,400 households. Through these articles, interest and sales for the radon test kits increased in both Lauderdale and Colbert counties.
• ...submitted six newspaper articles on radon and its health risks.
• ...set up two radon exhibits at Courtland High School and Colbert County Home and Garden Show. Agent provided 295 citizens with information about radon.
• ...held two radio programs on radon awareness: "A Look at The Shoals" with a listening audience of 25,000 and "Shoal's View" with a listening audience of 37,000.
• ...attended the Huntsville/Madison County Homebuilders Association's Building, Home & Remodeling Show Exhibitor Meeting.
• ...participated in the 17th Annual H/MCBA Building, Home & Remodeling Show held March 4-6.
• ...referred 15 homeowners to mitigators.
• ...facilitated the Alabama Radon Education Program joining two builders associations: Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association and Shoals Home Builders Association.
• ...attended the Shoals Home Builders Association Spring Building & Remodeling Show.
• ...attended Shoals Home Builders Association monthly meetings and communicated with home inspectors, realtors and contractors.
• ...submitted 11 radio and TV PSA's during Radon Action Month.
• ...contacted four building contractors about RRNC and distributed EPA's Building Radon Out books.
• ...participated in three TV interviews on radon awareness: "For Your Information" with a viewing audience of 47,000, "In the Know" with a viewing audience of 31,000 and Channel 19 with a viewing audience of 225,000.
• ...initiated RRNC in the Parade Showcase Home in Lauderdale County.
• ...visited all of the County Extension Coordinators in the assigned Zone 1 region to discuss the Alabama Radon Education Program's goals and objectives.
• ...organized and coordinated the Lauderdale County Commissioner's meeting to recognize the 4-H radon poster winners during Radon Action Month.
• ...received a Resolution from the County Commissioner's office for doing a good job in radon education.
• ...met with the Facility Maintenance Director at Alabama A&M University concerning the radon system at Hopkins Hall.
• ...trained Lauderdale County CEC Randall Armstrong and CEA Melanie Allen on test kit sales in the field for the Shoals World Health Day Fair.
• ...assisted in the selling of radon test kits and radon education in the Madison County Extension Office.
• ...contacted one medical professional office and conducted a radon education awareness session. Sold one test kit. Distributed radon educational materials.
• 48 short-term test kits were sold at radon awareness programs this quarter.
• 2 short-term radon test kits were distributed to clients for the QA/QC program.
• Radon REA Pat Smith displayed the radon exhibit at the Lauderdale County Court House.
• Approximately 30,000 citizens reviewed the Radon exhibit during the quarter.
• Radon REA Smith held five adult group meetings and set up radon exhibits with the Academy of Life Long Learning, Northwest Shoals Community College, National Women Health Week, Rogersville Family Practice, Jackson County Relay For Life in Scottsboro, and Lawrence County Commission on Aging ACES Senior Day, and the Limestone County NAACP Health Fair.
• REA referred 10 homeowners to radon mitigators.
• REA held one radio program on Radon awareness, "A Look at The Shoals" with a listening audience of 25,000.
• Through radon program presentations, approximately 1,060 people received Radon education materials

during the quarter.
• REA attended the Shoals Home Builders Association and Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association monthly meetings and communicated with home inspectors, Realtors and building contractors.
• REA provided 12 citizens with information about testing their homes for radon.
• REA contacted five building contractors about the RRNC program and distributed EPA's Building Radon Out publications.
• REA provided mitigation advice to 15 citizens.
• REA attended the Huntsville/Madison County Builders new member orientation meeting.
• REA attended a seminar on Demystifying Mold Myths held at the Huntsville/Madison County Homebuilders Association.
• REA met with four building and real estate professionals about Radon and distributed EPA's Home Buyer's and Sellers' Guide.
• REA assisted Melanie Allen, Lauderdale County Agent, in preparing for the Shoals World Health Day Celebration.
• On May 12, REA attended the radon training for Alabama Educators conducted by SRRTC at Joe Wheeler State Lodge.
• REA worked with the contractors for the 2005 Showcase Homes in the Shoals area and Huntsville to install the radon system in the new homes.
• REA visited all of the county Extension coordinators in North Alabama Zone 1 to discuss Alabama Radon Education ongoing projects.
• REA contacted three medical professional offices and conducted a radon education awareness session. One radon test kit was sold and radon educational materials were distributed.

Central Alabama
Zone 1 Region
Laura Booth (334) 844-5638
Radon Extension Associate
• Extension Associate Laura Booth presented a radon program at the annual EPA Region IV/USDA/CSREES Children's Environmental Health Partnership Conference held in Lexington, KY, April 11-12.
• Provided a poster presentation of the Alabama Radon Education Program at the Priester National Extension Health Conference in Lexington, April 12-15.
• Presented at "Smart Solutions for Spring" in Lawrence and Franklin counties in May and April. Four test kits were sold.
• Attended the Radon Advisory Board meeting in April.
• Attended the ACCCC meeting in June.

Talladega County
Wanda Jurriaans (256) 362-6187
• CEC Wanda Jurriaans provided a radon exhibit for Homemakers Achievement Day Program. Radon publications, test kits information, radon coloring books and crayons were given out.
• CEC provided a radon exhibit for the Family Financial Program. Radon materials including pamphlets, radon magnets, radon pens, etc. were given out. Test kit information was handed-out.
• CEC provided a radon exhibit for the Economic Development meeting. Radon promotionals were given out as well as test kit information.
• Radon agent CEC Wanda Jurriaans provided a radon exhibit at the Healthy Heart Program.
• A radon exhibit was placed at the FCE County Council Meeting.
• The pick-up rack in the office lobby holds radon literature for distribution to the public.
• Two programs for first grade classes were provided the Radon coloring book and crayons.
• Two leaders were trained to give a radon program for kindergarten classes.

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.

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

F. Funding Sources

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Alabama Department of Public Health
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
Shoals Home 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
County Public Health Departments (Jackson, Shelby, Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan, Talladega, and Jefferson counties)
Athens-Limestone Hospital
Helen Keller Hospital
Decatur General Hospital
Eliza Coffee Hospital
Parkway Hospital
Russellville Hospital
Huntsville Hospital
Adams Homes, LLC

H. Contact Information:

Dr. Evelyn Crayton
Assistant Director for Family and Community Programs
107A Duncan Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849

Dr. J. Thomas Chesnutt
Program Director
218 Extension Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849

ETP 22-B . Leadership, Citizenship and Communication
By MARY HULTQUIST GREGG

17 success stories reported

77 participants

Leadership Contact Totals:

nftf	male	female	youth	adult	white	black	asian	hispanic	api	other
1,387,352	41383	52142	81317	12208	63650	27002	694	1518	157	504

nftf	male	female	youth	adult	white	black	asian	hispanic	api	other
28899	3409	4541	6822	1128	4463	3001	39	345	59	43

The future of our state, our country and our world will soon rest in the hands of today's young people. Preparing youth for their roles as tomorrow's leaders is a key challenge for 4-H and Cooperative Extension. To become productive and contributing individuals who can be effective leaders both now and in the future, young people must develop positive leadership, citizenship, and communication knowledge, attitudes, skills, and aspirations.

Leadership and Communication
Goal: Assist groups and individuals in meeting goals through:
Goal: Assist youth in the exchange of thoughts, information, or messages using speech, writing, gestures, and artistic expression through

In 2005, Alabama 4-H held its first survey of youth and adults involved in our Public Speaking program. Youth from 41 counties were surveyed, providing a demographic profile that reflects both Alabama 4-H and Alabama youth.

• 92% of youth surveyed said that their ability to make a presentation had increased or increased greatly because of their involvement in Alabama 4-H communications events and activities.
• 82% of youth surveyed said that their ability to listen carefully to what others say had increased or increased greatly because of their involvement in Alabama 4-H communications events and activities.
• 80% of youth surveyed said that their ability to clearly state their thoughts, feelings, and ideas to others had increased or increased greatly because of their involvement in Alabama 4-H communications events and activities.
• 69% of youth surveyed said that their ability to settle disagreements in ways that are not hurtful had increased or increased greatly because of their involvement in Alabama 4-H communications events and activities.

Adults from 26 Alabama counties surveyed. Although there was a significantly greater number of females responding, other variables closely reflected Alabama’s demographic profile.

• 97% of adults surveyed said that youths’ ability to make a presentation had increased or increased greatly because of their involvement in Alabama 4-H communications events and activities.
• 90% of adults surveyed said that youths’ ability to listen carefully to what others say had increased or increased greatly because of their involvement in Alabama 4-H communications events and activities.
• 92% of adults surveyed said that youths’ ability to clearly state their thoughts, feelings, and ideas to others had increased or increased greatly because of their involvement in Alabama 4-H communications events and activities.
• 74% of adults surveyed said that youths’ ability to settle disagreements in ways that are not hurtful had increased or increased greatly because of their involvement in Alabama 4-H communications events and activities.

Citizenship
Goal: Help youth learn to recognize the importance of citizenship to society and governance, to become more aware of policies and laws, and to extend social justice and equity.
During 2005, innovative and adaptive 4-H Citizenship programs and activities were developed in a number of areas. These included the development of Regional 4-H Youth Councils and their inclusion as a key aspect of youth governance. The sensitivity and awareness of Alabama 4-H youth was made most apparent in the very warm response to the needs of victims of hurricane Katrina. At every level, from local clubs to the state body, Alabama 4-Hers pitched in to provide clothing, food, and other supplies to families and youth effected by Katrina.

Alabama was strongly represented at National 4-H Citizenship and Leadership events. Four youth attended National 4-H Conference, sixteen attended Citizenship Washington Focus, and twelve went to National 4-H Congress.

On-going 4-H Leadership, Citizenship and Communications activities include:
• Service as club officers, members of state council, and members of county council.
• Involvement in club, county, district, state or national strategic, programming or event planning. (Mid-Winter, Regional Congress, State Congress, National Congress, National Conference, CWF)
• Mentoring or teaching younger 4-H'ers or other youth.
• Presenting exhibits, demonstrations, speeches, web sites, or other public media presentations at the local, state or national level.
• Promotion of 4-H among other youth or within the community or state.
• Presentations on behalf of 4-H before political bodies, United Way or other supporting agencies.
• Documentation of 4-H leadership activities through Power Point presentations, portfolios, resumes, journals or personal web site.
• Attendance at local, regional, state and national 4-H events and formally sharing their experiences within their community.
• Working with volunteers to identify community needs and developing and carrying out service projects that meet those needs.
• Demonstrating caring and respect for others through their relationships with diverse populations of youth and adults.
• Involving and support the children of National Guard, Reserves, and military whose families are stationed in Alabama.

Goals for 2006 include:
• Promotion of Regional Congresses as Citizenship and Leadership events.
• Gathering impact data on the skills developed through service as a 4-H club officer.
• Advancement of Present it With Power!, the 4-H PowerPoint event, as a tool for promoting good citizenship through 4-H.

ETP 22D. TAPPING AT POST-SECONDAY/SECONDARY SCHOOLS
By Mary W. Hurt

A. Description:

According to the 2004 Alabama Kids Count Data Book the State of Alabama reported the retention rate for first grade students as 6.7% (3,810 students). Madison County had a 4.3% (150 students) retention rate. The State's event (actual) drop out rate for 9th-12th grade was 3.5% (7,097 students) and Madison County's actual event rate was 6.7% (371 students).

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 154.0% (51 juveniles). The arrest rates of Juveniles under the ages of 18, in the State of Alabama, for misdemeanor and violent crimes were 608 for fiscal year 2004 and the annual cost to house an inmate in prison was about $10,406.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is taking a proactive approach to address the social ills of customers. We are 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:

The (SPACE) Students Promoting Action: Community Education program is an organized community service outreach student volunteer program implemented at the post-secondary and secondary levels. During FY 2005, SPACE made a great impact on the lives of families, adults and children in the State of Alabama. The program was implemented in (4) four four-year Universities, (1) one high school, and one community college generating a total of, 1,070 volunteers and collaborating with 122 community-based organizations.

At least six volunteer programs were implemented statewide generating 5 site managers, 35 volunteer leaders, 34,236 volunteer hours and a grand total of 15,079 customer contacts.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Alabama A&M University has been in 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 juveniles are also required to attend 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 court room. The program is facilitated through the Juvenile Court System by the chief probation officer, Ms. Charlotte Camper, Neaves/Davis Detention Center for Children.

The SPACE program was facilitated at the University of South Alabama, Talladega College, the University of North Alabama (UNA), (Lauderdale County), Alabama A&M University, Ramsey High School, Huntsville Center for Technology (Madison 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.

Additionally, the state Extension Specialist, a team of three Extension Colleagues and one State Juvenile Probation Officer conducted training on the PHOENIX Juvenile Program and the LEAP (Leadership Education Achievement Program) 4-H and Youth Development Educational training modules. Two components of the LEAP (HIV/Aids/ and Dollars and Senses) Curriculum have been implemented in Madison and Mobile counties.

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

The evaluation data instruments from Regional extension agents, the chief probation officer and HIV/AIDS instructor revealed 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 student volunteers, 3,886 volunteer community service hours were performed in Madison County, with at least 3,703 contacts made to community-based organizations, generating a total of 3,703 high school students and adult customers participating with 54 educational and community-based agencies and organizations.

A Mobile County Regional Extension Agent worked with 25 University of South Alabama Nursing students. According to impact evaluation, 65% of the students reported behavioral changes in their attitude towards maintaining healthy lifestyles and practicing self-control during pressured situations. Also, fifteen adults, seventy-five ninth grade students, and twenty five orphanage from Saint Mary’s

participated in the “Step To The Beat” School programs.

The program consisted of goal setting, budgeting, career choices, nutrition/health education and study skills. As a result of training and impact evaluation data, 75% of the participants reported their awareness was raised on selecting nutrition snacks, setting goals for better study habits and budgeting their finances more wisely. Forty percent of the participants indicated taking a more “serious look” at career options.

In Madison County, the Regional Extension Agent, established a SPACE program at the “Huntsville Center for Technology” and coordinated the SPACE program at Alabama A&M University State Office. As a result of these efforts, a total of 174 students/adult volunteers were recruited and utilized, producing 2,331 volunteer community service hours that generated a grand total of 1,655 customer contacts and 23 collaborative partnerships. Twenty student volunteers served three day care facilities. They read stories, and implemented selected psychomotor and cognitive activities. As a result, the Day Care staff reported a 75% boost in the children self-esteem, introduced innovative special activities and new presence of volunteers. Forty-two volunteers provided tutorial services for five educational programs. Impact evaluation, verbal statements from the staff and personal observation revealed a 65% increase in positive attitude towards home work and at least a 75% increase in the school-age children overall grade point averages. Ten volunteers provided 36 hours of entertainment (story reading, playing musical instruments, magical tricks and hands-on-special project activities) and service to the Tutt Fann Veteran’s Home. Verbal statements, data and personal observation showed a 85% increase in boosting the disabled Veteran’s personality and happiness. It was apparent that hearts were filled with overwhelming joy. Five SPACE student volunteers performed 50 hours of community service at Alabama A&M University State SPACE Office. These hours consisted of record keeping, contacting students, and assisting with the coordination of special activities. Fifteen volunteers launched a community clean-up project in two public housing communities, which resulted in a cleaner environment and a more beautiful community.

The County Extension Regional Agent in the Tri-City, Collaborated with the University of North Alabama nursing program on a project entitled, “Walking and Eating”. Thirty volunteers (student nurses and instructors) performed 100 community service hours, making contact with 191 customers. Impact data is reported under nutrition education.

Under the auspices of the State Extension Specialist, the Leadership Education Achievement Program, (LEAP) curriculum was presented by the HIV/AIDS certified instructor: The instructor conducted HIV/AIDS prevention education sessions. As a result of this training 107 customer (teens and adults) were made aware of preventive measurer to take to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Impact data revealed 85% of the customers completed the activities and 90% made a passing score of 85-100 percent.

The PHOENIX program is a Madison County Juvenile Justice System program collaboration partnership by the Chief Probation Officer, Ms. Charlotte Camper, Probation Officer, Ms. Evon Webster, the County Commissioner, District 6, in cooperation with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Urban and Rural programs, under the leadership of State Extension Specialist Mary W Hurt. The PHOENIX program has proved to be successful for thirteen (13) years. The program leaders introduce the concept statewide on January 19, 2005. 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 consequences 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 1992-2004 court records indicate 70% of the Juveniles do not return to court or have not been repeat offenders. For FY 2004, a total of 73 juveniles graduated from the 10 weeks (3 cycles per year). PHOENIX program. Only thirteen (18%) juveniles re-offended, and 60 (82%) did not re-offend. According to impact data evaluation, the participants felt that the PHOENIX program had made a difference in their lives. Sixty-Six (66) of the parents felt they had learned new parenting skills and knew how to better deal with discipline problems.

A Birmingham Jefferson County Regional extension agent has been in a collaborative partnership with Ramsey High School “Volunteer Fair” since 2003. The SPACE Service-Learning program was presented to Mrs. Watters, principal, to offer additional structure, detailed guidelines, accountability, award levels, and evaluation measures. The project has been successfully pilot at Ramsey High for the last two years and is now a permanent part of the curriculum.

For 2005, 650 High School students participated in the SPACE Service-Learning Volunteer Fair. Fifty Community-based agencies set up exhibits and recruited a total of 530 volunteers who worked with 5,000 children and adults.

The students volunteers performed 31,250 services hours (as tutors, story tellers, hospitality, tour guides, health care, animal care, elderly care, office assistant, warehouse distribution and recreation assistant) with sixty-eight collaborating agencies. As a result of these efforts, the children showed personal improvement in listening , comprehension, concentration, patience, sharing, teamwork, motor coordination, patience, physical fitting and self-esteem, sixty-five of the students showed improvement in grade point average with grades better than c or above. Ten homeless dogs were groomed, seven offices filing systems were organized, 2,000 senior citizens and hospitalized adults showed signs of increased motivation levels and improvement in communications by interacting with the high school students through intergenerational activities.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to reported days worked by Extension Team Project ETP22D, (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 34,236 (community service) volunteer hours at $ 7.00 per hour which totals $23,965.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

The Madison County Juvenile delinquent resource training booklet is completed. A new curriculum entitled LEAP (Leaderships Education Achievement Program) is presently being implemented as a pilot program in three counties Additional training is scheduled for February, 2006.

SPACE SUCCESS STORY
Tyrone Smith
Madison County

Community Disease Control (CDC) estimates 4554 teens will die this year from excessive alcohol use. With these alarming statistics, the students at Huntsville Technology Center were motivated to get involved and reduce teen age drinking. The students, under the direction and guidance of their community organization leaders and urban extension regional agent began brainstorming for ideas. It was decided to host a teen alcohol awareness project for high school students, high school administrators, parents and community members.

The project consisted of an alcohol awareness skit, current local research based teen alcohol brochure, pledge not to drink and drive, t-shirts and “remember your promise” wristbands. The students performed all the research for the brochure, assisted in lay out, developed design for the t-shirts, assisted in finding sponsors, and were actors in the skit.

The program was titled “Project SMASHED”. The skit was held at Huntsville Center for Technology. Students developed invitations and presented them to major stakeholders. May Hall Wrecker Service provided a smashed vehicle. The student volunteer laid inside and Hearst. The audience was shown a

video that showed what happens when teens drink and drive. They also viewed exhibits and displays by local alcohol abuse prevention community service organizations and business. After the program, the teens were given 3,000 wristbands. They returned to their cars and wear their wristband to remember their promise. The students also gave out surveys to measure the effectiveness of the project, that information is still forth coming.

All local television stations and Huntsville Times Newspaper covered this event.

The goal of Project SMASHED is to be presented in every high school in the Huntsville area. Currently, 77 student volunteers are working to provide brochures and surveys in the following high schools: Huntsville High, Butler, Lee, Grissom, Johnson, Columbia, and New Century. The information from the surveys will be used to determine new statistics for 2006.

The student and teachers gave positive comments about the program. Incidentally, a drunk driver allegedly killed one of the students before we finished the project. The students dedicated the program in memory of the student.

SPACE SUCCESS STORY
Tyrone Smith
Madison County

Community Disease Control (CDC) estimates 4554 teens will die this year from excessive alcohol use. With these alarming statistics, the students at Huntsville Technology Center were motivated to get involved and reduce teen age drinking. The students, under the direction and guidance of their community organization leaders and urban extension regional agent began brainstorming for ideas. It was decided to host a teen alcohol awareness project for high school students, high school administrators, parents and community members.

The project consisted of an alcohol awareness skit, current local research based teen alcohol brochure, pledge not to drink and drive, t-shirts and “remember your promise” wristbands. The students performed all the research for the brochure, assisted in lay out, developed design for the t-shirts, assisted in finding sponsors, and were actors in the skit.

The program was titled “Project SMASHED”. The skit was held at Huntsville Center for Technology. Students developed invitations and presented them to major stakeholders. May Hall Wrecker Service provided a smashed vehicle. The student volunteer laid inside and Hearst. The audience was shown a video that showed what happens when teens drink and drive. They also viewed exhibits and displays by local alcohol abuse prevention community service organizations and business. After the program, the teens were given 3,000 wristbands. They returned to their cars and wear their wristband to remember their promise. The students also gave out surveys to measure the effectiveness of the project, that information is still forth coming.

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The student and teachers gave positive comments about the program. Incidentally, a drunk driver allegedly killed one of the students before we finished the project. The students dedicated the program in memory of the student.

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.

PROGRAM AREA	**2005 ALLOCATION**	**FTEs**
4-H&Youth Development	$ 3,651,999	37.71
Agriculture	$ 9,409,386	122.50
Community & Environmental Development	$ 561.260	29.99
Family and Community Programs	$ 2,521,497	53.89
Urban Affairs & New Nontraditional Programs	$ 3,248,277	35.80
Forestry and Natural Resources	$ 2,521,497	29.19
ACENEP	$ 1,962,563	143.73

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 consists of 20 to 40 “statewide major programs” (SMPs). These are the more generalized areas in which we focus our efforts. The second tier consists of 1 to 5 more specific “Extension team projects” (ETPs) under most SMPs. The ETPs are those areas within each SMP on which we are going to focus our evaluations and ultimately our measurable benefits to society.

3. We recognize that not all that we do will result in measurable impacts. Therefore, our overall target is to devote approximate one half of our total System efforts (FTEs) to Extension team projects and the other half to more general educational efforts under the respective state major program areas.

4. Accountability for the work (FTEs) that is not part of a specific Extension team project will be through annual unit narrative accomplishment reports. These annual accomplishment reports will be done at the county-level, district-level, departmental-level and ultimately at the state program leader level.

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

The document explaining the new ACES program planning, reporting, evaluation and accountability process (i.e. the SMP/ETP process for 2002) is now online at: http://www.aces.edu/department/acesadm/plan/ACES_program_planning.htm

INTEGRATED RESEARCH & EXTENSION ACTIVITIES
AND
MULTISTATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES
(Auburn University)

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 2005 were $715.768.00, exceeding the target by $79,276.00.

(NOTE: As required by Section 105 and 204 of AREERA the following form CSREES-REPT (2/00) has been sent in hard copy format to Bart Hewitt.)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Supplement to the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results
Actual Expenditures of Federal Funding for Multistate Extension and Integrated Activities
(Attach Brief Summaries)
Fiscal Year: 2005

Select One: ☐ **Interim** **X** Final
Institution: Auburn University
State: Alabama

	Integrated Activities (Hatch)	Multistate Extension Activities (Smith-Lever)	Integrated Activities (Smith-Lever)
Established Target %	%	9.8%	9.8%
This FY Allocation (from 1088)		$6,239,425.00	$6,239,425.00
This FY Target Amount		$ 611,464.00	$ 611,464.00
Title of Planned Program Activity			
Agricultural Economics		$118,046.00	$118,046.00
Agronomy		$204,811.00	$204,811.00
Aquaculture		$ 12,056.00	$ 12,056.00
Animal & Dairy Science		$159,463.00	$159,463.00
Horticulture		$ 57,722.00	$ 57,722.00
Pest Management		$ 67,372.00	$ 67,372.00
Poultry Science		$ .00	$ .00
Wildlife		$ 96,298.00	$ 96,298.00
Total		$715,768.00	$715,768.00
Carryover			

Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete and that all outlays represented here accurately reflect allowable expenditures of Federal funds only in satisfying AREERA requirements.

Director **Date**

Below is the SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED RESEARCH & EXTENSION AND MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2005 WITHIN THE ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM, as contained in the Alabama Multistate Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities Plan. The Summary provides a description 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 2005 THE ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Agricultural Economics

The objective of this program area is to teach private farm owners and managers how to apply research-generated information and knowledge to better manage their farms and agri-businesses. The subject areas covered in this area of specialization include farm/business management principles, financial management (to include income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow analysis), risk management, marketing risk management (to include commodity marketing, supply and demand factors, hedging and futures trading, and marketing tools), production risk management (to include crop insurance, use of technology, land leasing, etc.), managing human resources, estate planning, farm liability, legal issues, and debt management. One of the primary focuses of this program is working with the farm analysis associations and the regional Agents working in this area may also serve as fieldsmen for the farm analysis associations.

Agronomy

The objective of this program area is to teach agricultural producers how to apply research-generated information and knowledge to facilitate sustainable field crop production based on best management practices that are environmentally safe. The subject areas covered in this area of specialization include soils and fertility, land

preparation, tillage systems and equipment, irrigation systems, variety and cultivar selection, harvesting and handling, pest management (to include insects, weeds, nematodes, and diseases, as well as integrated pest management), farm safety, biotechnology, best management practices and regulatory practices for all agronomic field crops.

Aquaculture

The objective of this program area is to teach aquacultural producers how to apply research-generated information and knowledge to facilitate aquacultural production and management systems based on best management practices that are environmentally safe; and to teach private pond owners how to manage their ponds in a manner that will meet their recreational objectives. This program area also includes the Alabama Sea Grant Program, which focuses on marine resources and coastal issues. The subject areas covered in this area of specialization include genetics, reproduction, nutrition, disease and health issues, economics and all types of regulatory issues. This area of specialization includes both commercial production of all types of aquatic species (catfish, tilapia, shrimp, oysters, etc.) and non-commercial management of recreation fish species.

Animal and Dairy Science

The objective of this program area is to teach animal producers and owners how to apply research-generated information and knowledge to facilitate animal production and management systems based on best management practices that are environmentally safe and promote commonly accepted animal welfare standards. The subject areas covered in this area of specialization include genetics, reproduction, nutrition (to include forage production), disease and health issues (to include parasites and insect control), economics (to include BCIA and DHIA), and all types of regulatory issues. This area of specialization includes both commercial production of food animals (beef, dairy, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, ratites, rabbits, etc.) and non-commercial management of companion and pet animals (horses, dogs, etc.).

Horticulture

The objective of this program area is to teach horticultural producers how to apply research-generated information and knowledge to sustain commercial horticultural production using best management practices that are environmentally safe. The subject areas covered in this area of specialization include soils and fertility, land preparation, tillage systems and equipment, irrigation systems, variety and cultivar selection, harvesting and handling, pest management (to include insects, weeds, nematodes, and diseases, as well as integrated pest management), farm safety, biotechnology, best management practices and regulatory practices for all types of commercial horticultural crops.

Pest Management

The objective of this program area is to teach agricultural producers and home- owners how to apply research-generated pest management information (to include insects, weeds, nematodes, diseases, and invasive plants, as well as integrated pest management) and knowledge to facilitate best management pest management practices that are environmentally safe. The subject areas covered in this area of specialization include integrated pest management, pesticide applicator training, pesticide safety training, biotechnology, and related pest management topics. This program area also includes our work in biological and chemical control of fire ants.

Poultry Science

The objective of this program area is to teach poultry producers how to apply research-generated information and knowledge to facilitate poultry production and management systems based on best management practices that are environmentally safe and promote commonly accepted animal welfare and environmental protection standards. The subject areas covered in this area of specialization include genetics, reproduction, nutrition, disease and health issues (to include parasites and insect control), poultry facilities, waste management, and all types of regulatory issues.

Wildlife

The objective of this program area is to teach private landowners and the general public how to apply research-generated information, and knowledge to enhance and improve their forestry, wildlife and natural resources production and management systems based on best management practices that are environmentally safe and sustainable. The subject areas covered in this area of specialization include forestry, urban forestry, silviculture, land management, wildlife management, forest resource economics, agroforestry, environmental issues, water issues, endangered species, invasive plant issues, conflict management/resolution, rural/urban interfaces, public policy and all types of regulatory issues. This area of specialization also includes education programs for commercial loggers, as well as the Treasure Forest Program, the Master Wildlife Manager Program, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the Urban and Community Forestry Partnership, the urban program on Human Dimensions of Urban Forestry, the Urban Environmental and Water Quality program, and numerous other forestry, wildlife and natural resources programs.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT, 2005

INTRODUCTION

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) mission is to help educate and provide research-based educational programs designed for life-long learning and to assist limited resource families, both urban and rural and other groups and organizations, in improving their quality of life in a technological global society.

For 125 years, the philosophy and practice of *"reaching the unreached and serving the people left behind,"* have constituted the heart of the Cooperative Extension Program at Tuskegee University.

TUCEP focuses its major efforts in 12 Black Belt counties of Alabama. Historically, a high proportion of African Americans constitute a majority or a near majority in these counties. The primary service area is predominantly rural, with the exception of Montgomery County, which encompasses the state's capital. The Black Belt is still home to persistent poverty, poor employment, low incomes, low education, poor health, high infant mortality, and dependence on welfare.

Improving the quality of life for our clients living in the Black Belt counties of Alabama is a major challenge. The Black Belt of Alabama and its people deserve a well-researched and comprehensive strategy for change, including the ability to manage that change. That is why Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension programs are carefully developed, implemented, and evaluated for change. Hence, our programs must remain dynamic, and changes are reflected in the Plan of Work. TUCEP provides a variety of educational programs in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, community and rural economic development, youth development, entrepreneurship, nutrition education, food safety, health education, and other areas of human services as dictated by the needs and priorities of the people served at the local, state, and national levels.

TUCEP has completed its eighth year of implementing Extension Team Projects, which provided for diversity in the educational process and served as measurable impacts for the program. Extension Team Projects constitute only a portion of the work done in Cooperative Extension at Tuskegee University. Specialists and agents contributed a significant amount of their time to work unique to the counties in which they served, and this service was not part of a pre-defined, statewide Extension Team Project. Also, TUCEP recognized the differences in socioeconomic conditions of rural and urban populations, education, and economic base.

Presently, TUCEP participates in carrying out a comprehensive statewide Cooperative Extension Program Plan of Work. Programs addressed six Extension Team Projects in 2005: (1) Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): A Strategy for Workforce Development, (2) Assisting Small-Scale Farmers and Landowners to Manage Change in Agriculture, (3) Enhancing Citizens' Capacity to Transform Their Communities, (4) Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Education, (5) Promoting Healthy Behavior, and (6) Promoting Healthy Living Environments for Under-served and Hard to Reach Audiences.

Cooperative Extension subject matter personnel as well as support personnel participated in professional development activities through the Tuskegee University Continuing Education Program. Some of the professional development in-service activities included: (1) Business and Social Etiquette for Advancing Your Organization, (2) Effective Business Meetings, (3) Introduction to Power Point, (4) Introduction to Web-page Development, (5) Time Management, (6) Essentials of Customer Service, (7) Making the Transition from Staff Member to Supervisor, (8) Successful Grant Writing, and (9) Negotiation Skills for Business Workshop. One Extension employee was certified as a grants specialist. One agent is studying for her master's degree, and one agent completed his master's degree in May of 2005. All University faculty and staff employees were required to attend the following workshop on "Workplace Harassment Issues: Practical Guidance for Identifying, Preventing, and Eliminating Workplace Harassment."

Participation of specialists, agents, and support staff members is mandatory at Extension Quarterly Conferences. Specific objectives of the quarterly conference are to: (1) review the strategic plan and action items in the Plan of Work; (2) identify new program challenges and opportunities; (3) provide needed in-service training; and (4) review pertinent issues relative to EEO and Affirmative Action affecting Extension personnel and program. Two quarterly conferences were held. The first quarterly conference focused on implementation of action steps in TUCEP's Strategic Plan. The second quarter conference addressed issues relative to the strategic plan–outcomes and impacts–along with TUCEP's Restructuring of the Organizational Plan.

The 113th Annual Farmers' Conference was held February 24-25, 2005**. "Building Sustainable Small Scale Farms in Rural Alabama"** was the theme. The objectives of the conference were to: (1) share up-to-date information relevant to small-scale farmers and landowners involved in production of traditional and alternative agricultural products; (2) create awareness about family health, nutritional challenges, and existing resources for rural families; (3) provide research-based information in a consumer adaptable format; and (4) strengthen networks and partnerships that address problems of small-scale agriculture and rural communities.

On Surveillance, Prevention and Education of Terrorism

During the 2005 TUCEP Annual Farmers' Conference, farmers were informed in a workshop on how to detect foot and mouth diseases (FMD) and mad cow disease in

their cattle populations Bio-terrorism, agri-terrorism, and bio-security are continuously being addressed.

The 10th Annual Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit was held October 5-7, 2005**. "Business to Business Linkages: Taking Advantage of Domestic and International Opportunities"** was the theme. This year, the BTW Summit focused on: (1) programs, initiatives, and legislation that promote expansion of more opportunities for small business, procurement and international trade exports; and (2) government procurement partnerships for Historic Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and community-based organizations.
The BTW Summit continues to revisit the historical and philosophical perspectives of Booker T. Washington, and thus focuses on entrepreneurship and business development as a means for African Americans and other minorities to enjoy economic and political parity. It targets individuals, organizations, and institutions for empowerment through knowledge acquisition and networking for entrepreneurship as key ingredients to a whole-community approach to economic development.

Conference participants from community-based organizations, universities, government, and the private sector convened in order to partner and examine strategies for wealth creation, community economic development, small business growth, international trade for individual entrepreneurs, historically black colleges and universities, non-profits, and agencies that work with African American and other minority groups.

In essence, the Summit is about wealth creation and economic independence in our communities through entrepreneurship and business-to-business linkages.

The 63rd Annual Professional Agricultural Workers' Conference was held December 4-6, 2005. TUCEP is a partner in this important conference. **"Strategies to Influence the 2007 Farm Bill and Rural Policies: Impact on Diverse Cultures, Rural Communities and Underserved Farmers"** was the theme for this year. The mission of the PAWC is to **enhance the skills and contributions of agricultural and related professional (business, government, university and community professionals) involved in discovery, dissemination and use of emerging technologies, information, problem solving, policy formulation and strategy development for the advancement of people and communities.**

TUCEP partners with **EXPORT** (Excellence in Partnership for Community Outreach, Research on Health Disparities and Training). Project Export's major goal is to reduce health disparities in the Alabama Black Belt in the areas of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease/hypertension, HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, and immunizations. Project EXPORT holds much promise not only for Alabama, but the nation as well.

The Tuskegee-Macon County Community Development Corporation (CDC) was established as an avenue through which the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, the City of Tuskegee, Macon County, the Ministers' Council, and

other partners could execute development activities on social, economic, and related issues of rural and urban environments. The purpose is to strengthen its capacity to address urgent community and business development needs in the local community, neighborhood, and throughout Macon County. The CDC complements the industrial, social and academic sectors of the Tuskegee-Macon County community and the University by providing training, technical assistance, leadership, guidance, and capital resources for housing programs, micro-enterprise development, and coalition building.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, RESULTS, AND IMPACTS

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program areas, accomplishments, results, and impacts are reported below for the year 2005. Methodologies employed for these accomplishments, results, and impacts were: demonstrations, group meetings, workshops, seminars, clinics, mini-conferences, a major farmers' conference, an economic development summit, participation in the Professional Agricultural Workers' Conference, visits to the George Washington Carver Experiment Station, family homes, family farms, and other Extension sites in the Black Belt of Alabama and surrounding areas.

Goal 1: Youth in Agriculture. The goal is to maintain knowledge of and interest in agriculture in each succeeding generation with the ultimate goal of maintaining a viable agricultural economy in the state and a citizenry knowledgeable and supportive of agriculture.

Extension Team Project 33B*. Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): A Strategy for Workforce Development*

A. Description:

Extension Team Project 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: (1) provide youths and adults exposure to a variety of entrepreneurial curriculums, programs and models for teaching and/or conducting an entrepreneurial education project, (2) allow participants to examine on-going programs and curricula that emphasize entrepreneurial education and encourage partnering with local businesses to enhance entrepreneurial skills, (3) engage participants in experiential "hands-on-learning" activities related to exploring entrepreneurship education, thus expanding their knowledge of entrepreneurial career options and entrepreneurial leadership skills, and (4) explore the development of entrepreneurship education and its impact on economic development as well as its interaction with workforce development.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

B. 1: Youth Activities Carried Out in Barbour County. Over 14,880 contacts were made in conducting this summer project. Many of the educational activities implemented for this ETP were through the Mini-Society Curriculum for Junior High School Youth, the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), and the Trading Game Curriculum. These methodologies were employed to teach youths the concepts and strategies of entrepreneurship, economic development, personal finances, and leadership skills. The training periods varied from a one-day of

entrepreneurial awareness program to ten weeks of intensive entrepreneurial training course.

Entrepreneurial training was held at the Barbour County Resource Center in Clayton, Alabama. In Clayton, Alabama, the county seat of Barbour County, the population is 1,410, and the median household income is $18,750. In this town, the percent below poverty level is 31.8 percent. To improve the quality of life for families and particularly youth in Clayton, Alabama, and surrounding communities, the Barbour County Resource Center conducted a Summer Youth Camp for the purpose of improving academic skills and enhancing self-esteem. Three hundred thirty-seven youths, age range from four to eighteen years old, were involved in these eight weeks of training. The academic training consisted of entrepreneurship, which included the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Curriculum, for four weeks. Computer literacy was offered to the group for eight weeks. Remedial education (mathematics and science) was offered to youth in grades three through eight for eight weeks. Life skills included faith-base activities, HIV/AIDS education, personal hygiene, conflict resolution, career counseling, parenting skills for parents, gardening (plasticulture) and youth development activities for eight weeks. Field Trips and Recreation included swimming, bowling, youth conferences, and visits to museums, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, and board games. The After School Program included assisting youth with homework, computer lab, assemblies, and recreation.

B. 2: Youth Activities Conducted in Dallas and Perry Counties. The total ETP program contacts for the Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): A Strategy for Workforce Development in Dallas and Perry Counties were 4,350. Reported contacts by race were: Whites - 546; Blacks - 1690; Asians - 25. Reported contacts by sex were: 1198 - males, and 892 females–a total of 2040 contacts.

Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship (SCUF) obtained nine computers donated by the Veterans' Transitional Homes to develop a technology center for training youth. Their Mini-Society funding purchased equipment, supplies, and software needed to have the center fully operational. Over 1200 students and adults utilized the computer training classes to increase their computer knowledge and raise their levels of skills for the work place or workforce development. Tutorial classes were utilized to introduce the principles on the Mini-Society Curriculum in homework and study practices to enhance youth job skills and career aspirations.

Workforce development classes were conducted through the Jobs Program. Ninety-one Department of Human Resources mandated clients attended five professional image classes. Participants received information on: (1) behavior modification, (2) interviewing tips, (3) speech etiquettes, (4) job search, and (5) professional image for job seeking and work. Three individuals attending this class obtained jobs.

Selma/Dallas County Veterans Transitional Homes has been instrumental in the development of the local Black Belt Homeless Coalition. This community resource board played a major role in workforce development. Funding received through the

collaboration of its members was utilized to hire needed agency staff to assist the Family Service Center staff, fund the BBHC Administrative Office, help decrease health care disparities, and operate the 1-800 Referral Hot Line. Over 749 individuals were contacted through this CDC group.

One small business owner received an Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence and additional funding sources were identified through SBA loan programs.

Collaborators with TUCEP were the Selma/Dallas County Veterans Transitional Home, Inc., City of Selma, Dallas County Commissioners, Black Belt Homeless Coalition, Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship, Cahaba Mental Health, Dallas County School Board, United Way, Red Cross, U. S. Congressional Office, District 7, and the Housing Authority.

B. 3: Youth Activities Conducted in Marengo, Sumter and Choctaw Counties. One hundred and twenty-five 5th and 6th grade students from Marengo, Choctaw, and Sumter Counties participated in the Min-Society Curriculum program. Under the guidance of the teacher/agent, the students were taught to develop an organized economic society, driven by the need to resolve a classroom situation involving the fundamental economic problems of scarcity and alternative solutions.

Based on surveys conducted, 87 of the 125 students who participated in the program acquired a more positive attitude toward school learning, as well as increased leadership skills. Also, it was noted that 57 of the students who participated in the Mini-Society from the three counties were already engaged in entrepreneurship through their family businesses or community leaders.

A second set of Extension activities carried out in Marengo, Sumter, Choctaw, and Greene Counties were Kids and Kin. The aim of the project is to strengthen families through partnering with families, organizations, and communities. TUCEP implemented twenty (20) educational classes, two-three hours each, covering eight (8) topics for Kids and Kin. A total of 480 contacts were reported for this project.

Topics	Number	Participants
Positive Discipline	3	18
Childhood Obesity	1	8
HIV/AIDS	2	14
Juvenile Diabetes	1	4
Germ Buster/Hand Washing	1	9
Child Development	7	39
Language Development	3	26
Stress/Time Management	2	8

B. 4: Youth Activities Conducted in Montgomery County. The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship Curriculum was utilized with approximately

34 students enrolled in GED training during the Fall and Spring semesters for six weeks at the Occupational Industrialization Center (OIC).

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

As a result of the above training, youth participants exhibited a greater interest in improving their academic skills by utilizing entrepreneurial skills, concepts, and strategies. Participants learned life skills, opportunity recognition; characteristics of an entrepreneur, business plan writing, financial strategies, cooperation, goal setting, return on investments, and other critical business development concepts. Adults implementing the program indicated that participants developed a greater interest in improving their reading and mathematics skills by utilizing interactive computer software. Positive changes in behavior and self-esteem were observed. Youth participants were able to better express their feelings and attitudes toward current issues and themselves. Also, improved changes in social skills were observed. Youth participants in GED program showed a greater graduation rate and school retention. Finally, the Mini-Society project provided opportunities for rural youth in isolated areas to network with other community agencies, banks, and local community activities. Participants learned how to develop their own businesses, how to recognize marketing opportunities, and record keeping.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

The activities for this ETP were supported by fiscal and human resources from the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship, Dallas County School Board, Occupational and Industrialization Center (OIC), Clayton City Council, Dothan and Auburn Food Bank, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Child Care Partner, Family and Guidance Center, Inc., and other local faith-based community organizations.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

Many elected local officials (city and county) visited the Barbour County Resource Center to express their appreciations for the activities that were in process for the youth. The local community and surrounding areas were well informed about the summer program. The faith-based community, public and private sectors were included in the Mini-Society programs for youth. AEI was featured as a youth entrepreneurial training program on Alabama Public Television Station.

Future plans are to continue this program. In fact, this program and similar programs have been selected to be included in the long-range plan of work in Cooperative Extension at Tuskegee University.

Goal 2: 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 this ETP is to increase profitability and sustainability for small-scale farmers and landowners who continue to face production, financial, and marketing challenges due to the size of their operations as well as other historical and environmental factors. This ETP 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 farm 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. Also, it is important to understand and be able to use tools, strategies, and techniques that are more applicable to this group of producers in order to increase profitability and sustainability, while reducing related risks. This ETP focuses on farm techniques and strategies, farmers' markets, management, particularly in regards to adaptability and adoption for small and limited resource farmers and landowners primarily in south central Alabama.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

B.1: Commercial Fruit and Vegetables in Dallas and Perry Counties. In Dallas County, the number of contacts made during the duration of this project was: 145 - White; 380 Black; and 8 Hispanic–totaling 533 contacts. Data by sex reveal that 443 contacts were made with male clients, and 90 contacts were made with female clients. In Perry County, the number of contacts made during the duration of this project was: 54 White and 275 Black–totaling to 329 contacts. Data by gender reveal 206 contacts were made with male clients and 123 contacts were made with female clients.

Several actions and activities were implemented to assist commercial fruit and vegetable growers in Dallas and Perry Counties who were experiencing major production problems. Significant production problems hindering the producers were: a lack of irrigation, weed control, insect control, diseases, record keeping and marketing. TUCEP collaborated with the Alabama State Department of Agriculture and Industries in assisting thirty (30) fruit and vegetable growers in Dallas and Perry Counties to

adopt growing fruits and vegetables utilizing plasticulture technology. To further assist the fruit and vegetable growers with their production problems, TUCEP, in collaboration with Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee University Experiment Stations, introduced the fruit and vegetable growers to use Biotechnology Crop Production by using Transgenic Seeds for: sweet corn, squash, seedless watermelons, tomatoes, and pepper during the 2005 growing seasons.

TUCEP continued to build on the existing working relationship with the Dallas and Perry Counties Health Departments and the Alabama Farmers' Market Authority in assisting fruit and vegetables growers with marketing concerns by keeping the Selma/Dallas County Farmers' Market active.

B. 2: Beef Cattle Production in Dallas and Perry Counties: Beef cattle production is an important source of income for many small-scale or limited resource farm families throughout the Black Belt Counties in the State of Alabama. The situation is likewise in Dallas and Perry Counties. Farm diversification is a sound management practice for limited resource producers.

B. 3: Meat Goat Production in Dallas and Perry Counties. Meat goat production is a new farm enterprise for most goat producers in Dallas and Perry Counties. However, brush goats have existed for many years on many small farms throughout the Alabama Black Belt. Breeds of goats that are now used for meat production require different management practices. Cooperative Extension specialists, agents and Tuskegee University's Caprine Research Unit have given small-scale farmers interested in meat goat production assistance. **Practical Assessment of Goat Health and Livestock Management** was the broad subject matter area in which small-scale goat producers were engaged. Some of the areas covered were Goat Management Plan, Goat Management Practices, Assessing Goat Health Body Condition Scoring, Practical Indicators of Parasitism, Effectiveness of Deworming Medication, Deworming Effectiveness, Meaningful Indicators of Parasitism, Sources for Goats and Sources of Goat Supplies. On Tuskegee University Goat Day, the following presentations were made: Forage and Its Impact on Production and Carcass Traits, Strategies to Monitor and Control Internal Parasites and Management and Care of LGD Guardian Dogs. Workshops and Hands-on-Demonstrations included: Deworming, Injections and Hoof Trimming, Parasite Identification, FEC and FAMACHA, Grading and Evaluating Goats for Market, and Managing Forage for Optimum Goat Performance.

B. 4: Livestock Production in Greene and Hale Counties. This year, one hundred and fifty farm visits were made to assist small-scale farmers with their livestock concerns. In May of 2005, a group of six livestock farmers met to discuss livestock production including the lack of veterinary services, suitable breeding stock, the high cost of medication and supplies, marketing animals and animal products, and the difficulty in accessing grants as individuals. Also, farmers in attendance were interested in forming a livestock cooperative.

B. 5: A Proposed Processing Facility in Dallas County. TUCEP and the George Washington Carver Experiment Station presented a proposal to seek funding to establish a value-added Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Marketing Center in Dallas County, Alabama. The proposal was accepted and partially funded. Thirty thousand dollars ($30,000.00) were donated by Alabama Land-Grant Universities (ALGU), which represent Auburn, Alabama A&M, and Tuskegee University.

Six group meetings were held this year with a total of 112 producers attending the meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to inform the producers about the proposed processing facility. One hundred and five of the 112 producers indicated that they were willing to sell most, if not all, of their produce at the processing center. Also, they agreed to adopt new and/or improved production practices for their farming operations.

The Black Belt Family Farm Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Center will be located in a 16,000 square feet facility. The fruit and vegetable processing facility will collect; cool wash, grade, package and market fresh produce grown and harvested by farmers in the Black Belt Area. Also, this facility will serve as an educational training and demonstration facility for producers, landowners, students, and researchers. This facility will include state of the art vegetable processing equipment, retainer booths, classrooms and office space. This marketing center will maximize profits by seeking outlet markets with the most favorable process and by offering the best quality products, which will improve the profit margin for the producers.

B. 6: Plasticulture in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties. In conducting ETP (28D) in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties, total contacts made were 2,606. They were: White males - 482; Black males - 1,156; White females - 306; and Black females - 662.

To promote and encourage farmers in their production of vegetables and a new concept, plasticulture was demonstrated. Eight plasticulture fall projects and two conventional fall planting were installed in September 2005 in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties. The projects were installed in Fosteria, Camden, Mt. Willing, Furman, Mosses, and Collirene. A total of approximately 35,000 plus collard plants were planted. Of the eight projects undertaken, seven were very successful. One of the projects was damaged by wildlife. Deer destroyed approximately 80 percent of this project. Measures have been taken to control wildlife damages. A wide range of market techniques was explored to market the vegetables including roadside, direct farm sales, delivery sales, wholesale, and home consumption. Farmers were able to sell plants for $.50 to $1.00 a plant, depending on the size of the plant. Some of the farmers had expectations to contract sales through Down South Foods. Farm demonstrators were very excited about the idea of plasticulture and the marked increase in production and yield. Plasticulture provides increased production 2-3 times of that on dirt, better quality of fruits and vegetables, conservation of water, fertilizer and of farm land.

B. 7: County Farmers' Markets in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties. In an effort to increase the consumption of fresh vegetables and promote vegetable production and sales, Extension, along with the State Health Department (WIC Office), Senior Citizens' Nutrition Program, Alabama Farmers' Market Authority and the County Commission, has established four markets. These markets are located in Haynesville, Pine Apple, Camden, and Albert, Alabama. The markets have been in operation for four consecutive years. A new farmers' market shed has been constructed in the town of Haynesville for area farmers to continue market activities.

B. 8: Small Farmers' Work Conference/Livestock Workshop. Lowndes and Wilcox Counties have small and large beef cattle operations. Presenting up-to-date research-based information is important to producers. Several mini-beef cattle management clinics were held this year. Topics for discussion were: Basic Herd Health Management Practices, Parasite Control–External and Internal, Dehorning, Castrating and Vaccinating, and Pasture Management.

More than 85 participants from Lowndes, Dallas, Wilcox, Barbour, Macon, Marengo, and Montgomery Counties attended the Small Farmers' Area Work Conference held in Wilcox County. The objectives of the conference were to have participants to: (1) understand what USDA cost share programs are available to farmers and what offices to contact, (2) understand and have a better concept of plasticulture and how plasticulture techniques increase crop yields; and (3) expose participants to new and improved livestock techniques to improve total management of herds. The topics for discussion were: USDA Updates, Collard Green Projects, Estate Planning, Inland Shrimp Production, Nutrition and Reproduction Management, Meat Goat Update, Agroforestry, Pasture Poetry and the Black Farmers' Class Action Lawsuit Update.

B. 9: Plasticulture in Greene and Hale Counties. To plan, implement, and evaluate the actions and activities of this ETP (28D) on plasticulture, 83 farm contacts were made. The purposes of the farm visits were to make acquaintances with landowners, observe their methods of farming, discuss their problems and seek possible solutions. In March of 2005, seven small-scale farmers from Greene and Hale counties participated in a plasticulture seminar and demonstration. Five or these seven farmers received plastic and drip irrigation systems on a total of approximately five acres of land. The main crops planted on this plastic were watermelons, okra, beans, collards, peppers, and squash. Landowners were very satisfied with an increase in production and the ease of management with the plasticulture program and advocated the program.

In September of 2005, a workshop was held at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives in Epes, Alabama, on plasticulture, where several farmers were exposed to concepts such as direct marketing vs. indirect marketing, strategies and techniques to enter into any ethnic market, markets for specialty commodities, harvesting and handling practices, marketing plan, roadside stand marketing of fruits and vegetables, and wholesale fruit and vegetable reports. Following this workshop, approximately sixty thousand collard plants were provided to the limited resource landowners in Green and

Hale Counties. This accounted for about six acres of collard plants divided among 14 limited resource farmers. The seven farmers with plastic mulch operations received a total of 50,000 plants. The remaining 10,000 collard plants were divided among the seven limited resource farmers who have keen interest in plasticulture, but, unfortunately, had not received their plastic and drip irrigation systems.

B. 10: Youth in Plasticulture in Greene and Hale Counties. Of the twenty-six churches in Greene County and forty-eight in Hale Counties, eight churches were provided an opportunity to participate in plasticulture demonstrations with church-based food safety gardening programs.

The activities implemented involved training youth by planting church-based gardens that offer "hands-on" learning in identifying the hazards and risks across the chain from the garden to the table.

B. 11: Plasticulture in Barbour, Henry, and Pike, Counties. In implementing this project, a total of 98 contacts were made to the four farms and the surrounding communities. Four plasticulture production projects were implemented this year in Barbour, Henry, and Pike Counties. They were: one acre in Abbeville - received 10,000 collard plants; one acre in Goshen - received 4,000 collard plants; one-third of an acre in Clayton - received 3,000 collard plants; and one-third of an acre in Clayton - received 3,000 collard plants.

In Henry County, a local vegetable farmer was provided technical assistance on record keeping and in basic financial analysis. He was given information on marketing produce. Also, this farmer requested bottles for collecting water samples on his farm for analysis at the Tuskegee University Water Quality Laboratory. His request was granted.

B. 12: Assisting Small Scale Farmers in Macon and Montgomery Counties. In assisting small-scale farmers in Macon and Montgomery Counties in agriculture, a total of 2,770 contacts were made–378 White, 2,386 Black, 4 Hispanic, and 2 Asian American. Total data by sex are 1,654 males, and 1,116 females.

Leadership was provided for conducting 25 home and garden visits. This consisted of eight home horticulture meetings on fruits and vegetables, passing out information on the various cultural and production practices and represented TUCEP in planning the 25th Jodie Blackwell Beef Management and Family Outing/Training Meeting. Other activities included assistance in planning and conducting the C. Mac Johnson Farmers' Market Day and participated in planning and conducting twelve Macon County Farmers' Organization Board and Membership Meetings. Farmers were assisted in preparing two semi-annual progress and financial reports submitted to Heifer International. Participated in twelve Macon County Farmers' Market Planning Meetings and assisted in conducting the 4-H Beef Calf Show. Agent participated in three method demonstrations on herd health and castration for beef cattle, assisted in purchasing and training calf for youth participants in Macon County Beef Steer Show,

attended three quarterly conferences of RC&D Council and the Macon County Extension Annual Open House.

B. 13: Plasticulture in Sumter County. From January to August 2005, a total of 47 contacts were made with farmers and school administrators relative to plasticulture demonstrations. Farmers desired to increase their profits. In March of 2005, six farmers and two school teachers from the Sumter County area participated in a plasticulture seminar and demonstration. One farmer and one school youth group received a plasticulture drip irrigation system on a total of approximately two acres of land. On September 14, 2005, approximately ten thousand collard plants were provided to the North Sumter Jr. High School and the farmers in the county participating in this project.

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

C. 1. : Commercial Fruit and Vegetables in Dallas and Perry Counties. As a result of the efforts made by TUCEP, the Experiment Stations, and cooperating agencies, the commercial fruit and vegetable growers in Dallas and Perry Counties continue to make major improvements in production and increased family income. With the use of plasticulture, producers were able to increase crop production between 7-8 bushels per acre on the average. With the increase in knowledge and skills gained by limited resource vegetable producers by way of plasticulture technology, agro-biotechnology, and extension education programs, eighty percent of limited resource fruit and vegetable growers will be able to continue increased production by at least 7-8 bushels per acre for most crops.

C. 2: Beef Cattle Production in Dallas and Perry Counties: Program success has been made as a result of efforts by TUCEP in the livestock production in Dallas and Perry Counties. During the past four years, sixty-five percent of small beef cattle producers have upgraded herd bulls in efforts to improve the quality of calves sold during marketing. The infusion of quality bloodlines into these mostly small herds has had major impacts in the quality of calves. There has been a steady increase in calf crop percentages, birth, and weaning and marketing weights. The significance of these improvements is very important to all livestock producers, and especially to the limited resource farmers. Heretofore, in-breeding was a common occurrence among limited resource beef cattle farmers. It was noted that with quality breeding stock limited resource producers were able to increase their calf crop percentages from 50 to 60 percent to 85 to90 percent, which is about average for most herds. Quality breeding stock and improved nutrition programs has significantly increased birth and weaning weights, on an average of 12 pounds and 125 pounds, respectively.

Increased weaning weights result in increased market weights for calves. An additional 125 pounds of weaning weight for calves grossed beef producers an additional $141.25 per calf at $1.13 per pound on average for calves weighting 500-600 pounds.

C. 3: Meat Goat Production in Dallas and Perry Counties. With the assistance from TUCEP and the George Washington Carver Research Experiment Station at Tuskegee University, meat goat production has become a profitable business for many small-scale producers. On an average, most meat goat herds consist of approximately 15-20 head of goats. Goats give birth two times per year, so most goat producers received between 4 to 6 off-springs a year per doe. On an average, most meat goats sell for $1.25 to $1.35 per pound live weight. The average market weight for a meat goat is 50 to 60 pounds. Therefore, $1.35 per pound, meat goat producers are averaging $81.00 per goat. If one doe weans six kids per year, she will add about $500.00 annually to the farm income. When this figure is multiplied by 10, the income becomes $5,000.00 per year. This figure is very important to the survival of the small-scale producers in the Black Belt of Alabama.

C. 4: Livestock Production in Greene and Hale Counties. As a result of meeting and working with the farmers, the following has been accomplished. In conjunction with the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Kenneth Newkirk, treated 298 cattle for nine small-scale farmers. Ambulatory services were made available to farmers from October to May each year. Small-scale farmers' livestock can be examined and given required treatment. Among the services rendered are: de-worming, vaccinations, ear-tagging, pregnancy diagnosis, de-horning, castration, emergency treatments and general advice on livestock management. Because of these services, small-scale farmers are able to prevent disease conditions rather than treating or losing their animals. Small-scale farmers are provided with an affordable animal medication and professional veterinary services. De-worming an adult cow costs $4.00 and de-worming a calf costs $2.00 and vaccinations are $1.00 each per animal. Also, small-scale farmers were taught to cull unproductive animals.

C. 5: A Proposed Processing Facility in Dallas County. A farming history data base has been established on all producers through farm surveys. This information will be used to assist in the organization of the farmers' cooperative. Legal advice to assist with the formation and organizational structure of the farmers' cooperative has been approved. Other proposed results, impacts, and benefits to direct clientele and to the public are: (1) create jobs in the Black Belt counties, (2) improve the networking of farmers to strengthen the cooperative, (3) increase the marketing skills and knowledge of producers in grading and packaging produce, (4) increase the sales of fresh produce and income for producers, (5) decrease the amount of produce spoilage due to improper storage, (6) provide a greater opportunity for young farmers to start produce businesses, (7) save small-scale family farms by increased profitability by providing value-added market opportunities, and (8) establish a first class training facility for future youth in agricultural programs. Work must be done to get more young farmers involved in small farm production, because the average farmer in the Black Belt is between 60 to 62 years old.

C. 6: Plasticulture in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties. Results from surveys conducted indicated that individuals will try new farming techniques, and most farmers indicated that information received was very helpful to them in their operations and

directly related to increases in production and sales reported. For example, a ½ acre plot, two crops of peas–yield from crop one was 70 bushels; yield from crop two was 54 bushels, and followed by a fall collard planting of 5,000 plants with a survival rate of 90 percent plus–4,500 plants at $.75 to$1.00 per plant.

Another farmer planted watermelons on a pasture renovation project. The farmer planted a 20 acre Bahia grass with watermelons that yielded an average of 5-6 melons to the vine. Melons were followed by fall winter grazing crop for cattle (wheat and oat). Plans were to plant permanent forage crop costal grass for forage production for hay.

C. 7: County Farmers' Markets in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties. Area farmers supply fresh vegetables to citizens who participate in the farmers' markets. Senior citizens and others are encouraged to purchase fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables from the local farmers' markets. This project will be continued and expanded.

C. 8: Small Farmers' Work Conference/Livestock Workshop. Participants gained a greater awareness of the cost share programs available to them and were given the offices to contact in printed form. They gained a better understanding of how plasticulture can improve crop yields and improve the farming income. Estate planning, meat goat production updates, and nutrition and reproduction management were especially of importance to the farmers.

C. 9: Plasticulture in Greene and Hale Counties. As a result of the workshops, demonstrations, and seminars, many limited resource farmers in Greene and Hale Counties are now aware of the plasticulture system. All data from the plasticulture project are not available at this time. Preliminary data show gardeners were able to increase their yields by 45 percent to 55 percent. One of the main impacts of this plasticulture program is the ease of management. Limited resource farmers do not have the problem of irrigation during the hot summer months, nor do they have any concerns about low soil temperature during the fall growing season. There has been an increase in limited resource farmers' interest in the use of plastic mulch–an increase from five to 13 farmers, a percentage increase of 38.46 percent. The total acreage established under plastic mulch increased from zero acres to five acres. Other benefits included reduced water for irrigation and washing of vegetables. Due to the increase supply of vegetables, consumers were able to purchase produce cheaper. Based on partial data collected, at the end of the harvesting season, the total economic impact should be approximately $70,000 minus 10%-15% loss due to pest, diseases, and the lack of marketing options. Therefore, it can be safely estimated that Greene and Hale Counties will generate approximately $63,000 to $59,000 from the production of collard greens. A final economic impact evaluation will be done at the end of the harvest season.

C. 10: Plasticulture in Barbour, Henry, and Pike, Counties. Church community members were able to purchase fresh locally grown vegetables at affordable prices, and fulfill their nutritional needs. At the close of the growing season, a complete

evaluation will be conducted for more impacts and results. Records and harvesting are incomplete at this reporting period.

C. 11: Plasticulture in Barbour, Henry, and Pike, Counties. Small-scale farmers have improved their yields and profits form the sales of fruits and vegetables grown using plasticulture technology.

C. 12: Home Horticulture in Macon and Montgomery Counties. The Macon County producers who participated in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors and the Macon County Farmers' Market sold fresh corn, squash, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, collards, turnips, mustards, field peas, lima beans, green beans, cucumbers, okra, peppers, strawberries, and watermelons. Also, they sold fire wood and Christmas trees over the length of the growing season. Records indicate that 18,500 Seniors from Macon County benefited from the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors, and 5,200 participants benefited from the Women, Infant Children (WIC) Program in Macon County. From Montgomery County, 29,600 Seniors benefited from the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and 69,248 participants benefited from the WIC Program. As a result of the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, $29,700 was generated to the economy of Macon County, and $123,560 was generated to the economy of Montgomery County. Families were able to use this money to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables; thereby, providing additional income for the farmers who participated in the Macon county Farmers' Market.

At the C. Mac Johnson Farmers' Market Day, the local farmers provided the produce entries. There were: lima beans, blueberries, cantaloupes, corn, nectarines, okra, peaches, peas, bell peppers, plums, squash, tomatoes and watermelons. Out of the entries placed for judging, there were sixteen first place winners and fourteen second place winners for a total of $990 prize money paid to farmers. The auction for the prize winning produce netted the Farmers' Market Day Committee $332. The judging is sponsored annually in July to promote the Montgomery State Farmers' Market.

C. 13: Plasticulture in Sumter County. As a result of the success the participating farmers had with plasticulture technology, there are others farmers who have become interested in plasticulture. Farmers have seen greater yields and more profits from their participation in plasticulture technology. They reported better crop management and a reduction in the use of water at harvest time.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

TUCEP human and fiscal resources were used to accomplish the objectives of ETP 28D. Chief among the collaborators on this extension team project were: Alabama A&M University, the George Washington Carver Experiment Station, the College of Veterinary Medicine, Department, RC&D Councils, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, County Commissions, Alabama Farmers' Market Authority, Senior Citizens Nutrition Program, and Tuskegee University College of Agricultural Sciences, Student Education Program, Wilcox County Soil and Water Conservation District,

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wilcox County Cooperative Extension System, and ALA-TOM RC&D Council, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, the State Health Department, and Macon County Farmers' Market.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans:

Program visibility is excellent with community-wide support. Digital photos, news articles, fliers, and tours were utilized to showcase the impacts and success of all facets of ETP 28D. With the availability of funding, future plans are to continue this program because of its importance to rural clients in maximizing the use of their land resources for multiple uses and to learn how to maintain and keep their land productive.

Publication Relative to Assisting Small-Scale Farmers and Landowners to Manage Change in Agriculture

A publication entitled: *Marketing Alternatives for Fruits and Vegetables for Small and Limited Resource Farmers* was developed and distributed through the Extension county offices and the Office of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Funds in Epes, AL. The objective of this publication was to give field practitioners and small farmers information about the basics of direct marketing. The publication focused on farmers markets, pick-your-own markets, roadside markets, wholesale markets, and marketing cooperatives.

Goal 3: 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 14E*, Previously 15A:* *Enhancing Citizens' Capacity to Transform Communities*

A. Description:

This ETP has two tracks, **Business and Individual Planning**, and **Individual and Leadership Skills Development.** Anecdotal field data show that many small business owners in rural Alabama lack adequate skills, do not have business plans, or do not update their business plans regularly. Also, there are other individuals who want to start businesses, but many times they do not start on the right footing because of a lack of "know-how." In addition, residents of communities need current information on issues such as, personnel, financial management, tax planning, and insurance planning that affect their daily lives. The *Business and Individual Planning Track* is intended to assist business owners with business planning, as well as help with other tools for sound decision-making. This track is also intended to equip individuals with tools for sound personal decision-making, especially, financial and long-term planning.

Additionally, there is the need to teach and constantly update the leadership skills of leaders and residents in rural Alabama. The communities need effective leadership to extricate them from their problems. The objective of the *Individual and Leadership Skills Development* is to enhance the leadership capacity of individuals and organizational and community leaders by providing them with requisite skills in leadership. The focus is on sharpening leadership skills, organizational development, and building resources.

The target audiences are adults, agricultural clientele, non-agricultural clientele, and community leaders and officials. Our aim is to reach "hard-to-reach" audiences. With better business and individual skills come better productivity, and with better leadership comes better communities. The effective implementation of these tracks is expected to help the communities grow. TUCEP got involved in these types of activities because of the constant requests for such help from community groups and individuals. The intended outcomes are to: (1) improve business, leadership, and individual skills of community residents and leaders and (2) make community organizations more efficient and effective in their operations. It is hoped that skills acquired will be applied in everyday activities in the local communities.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

A total of 4,487 contacts were made. The breakdown follows: 2,056 males and 2,431 females; 4,574 African Americans, and 313 Whites.

Individual and Leadership Skills Development. TUCEP, in collaboration with Selma/Dallas County Veterans Transitional Home, Inc. (VTH), was instrumental in the formation of the Black Belt Homeless Coalition (BBHC). Other Coalition members include: Dallas EMA, United Way, Salvation Army, Cahaba Mental Health, SABRA Sanctuary, Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, Catholic Charity, and Selma/Dallas County Housing Authority. The BBHC Board is in the process of submitting a proposal for the Emergency Shelter Grant in the amount of $300,000. Future proposals to be submitted are: Continuum of Care, $250,000; Veteran Grant on Per Diem, $500,000; Health and Human Services Grant, $600,000; and Congressional Office Grant, $500,000, totaling $2,150,000.

The Child Policy Council (CPC) is another important organization formed as a family advocacy council through the Judicial System with the collaboration of TUCEP. The Board has filed for 50l c (3) recognition, and received $150,000 in funding for a family service center, hired its first director, has 12 functioning committees (Safety, Education, Early Intervention, Parental Involvement, Health, Economics, Detention, Summer Jobs and Enrichment, Grant writing/ Fundraising, Boys' Club, Family Services, and Mentor Services), and is preparing to apply for a UPS Grant of $150,000 for referral services (e.g., counseling and drug rehabilitation). There are 35 Council members with representation from each social service agency in Dallas County and five surrounding counties (Perry, Wilcox, Lowndes, Marengo, and Hale).

The collaboration between the Boards of these two organizations, BBHC and CPC, plays a major role in health care funding for Dallas County and five surrounding counties. Through this effort, a one-stop shop is being developed to serve the needs of individual families based on needs assessment. A Uniform Needs Assessment Form has been developed for this effort. Pilot testing of this form with three agencies is scheduled in January 2006. The data base and tracking system will be the first of its kind in the area, and it is being programmed to have the capability of directing clients to the exact agency providing the service.

TUCEP also conducted a series of leadership workshops in the Sardis Community, Dallas County. Twenty-five participants from the Mt. Olive Baptist Church #2 received training in fundamentals of leadership, leadership for advancing organizations, establishing non-profit organizations, organizational planning and development (strategic planning), and grant writing.

An in-service training workshop on Parental Involvement and Effective Parenting was conducted for 22 counselors in the Lowndes County Public School System. This training included a lecture on "Family Involvement in Education Programs" and 12 lessons on "Effective Parenting" featuring case studies from active parenting.

In Clayton of Barbour County, Alabama, TUCEP worked closely with the Barbour County Resource Center (BCRC) to conduct a summer youth camp. BCRC is a non-profit organization that TUCEP assisted to obtain 501c (3) status, and TUCEP has been providing technical assistance to the center personnel over the years. Over one

hundred youth were given tutorials in Mathematics, English, Social Studies, and Science as well as provided free lunch over the course of the program. Local citizens and the Auburn and Dothan Food Banks donated the food. The youth also participated in other mind- and physically-enriching activities such as art, theater, and sports.

TUCEP conducted a series of workshops on leadership in Union Springs of Bullock County, AL. Participants from the Heritage United Boulevard (HUB) Association, a community group, received training in fundamentals of leadership, leadership for advancing organizations,

establishing non-profit organizations, and organizational planning and development (strategic planning). The HUB Group has two branches, a for-profit branch and a non-profit branch. TUCEP focused on the non-profit aspects of this organization.

Business and Individual Planning. TUCEP assisted with conducting one-on-one and group visits as well as business plan workshops to various small business owners and individuals in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties. Clients were informed of potential funding opportunities, which were in line with their specific goals. TUCEP, in conjunction with the Rural Business and Economic Development Program (RBEDP), provided clients with awareness to USDA programs (e.g., SBIR, business loan programs, BISNET); HUD programs (e.g., HBCU); Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' programs (e.g., Recreational Trails' Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund); linked business owners to industry resources and trade association information; provided specific suggestion on how to identify and target a market to existing and potential business owners; provided online patent search assistance to business owners; followed-up with individuals who were working on business plans; and assisted with surveys relative to business plan workshops.

Also, farmers were assisted with information on record-keeping and business strategies at the farmers' markets in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties.

One publication entitled, *Record-keeping for Very Small Business Owners and Limited Resource Farmers*, was developed and distributed through county offices. This publication focused on the importance and recommended formats of record-keeping. The publication's intended audiences were small business owners and farmers.

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

Three non-profit organizations established with the assistance of TUCEP have successfully identified funding sources. First, Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship (SCUF) received $30,000 in grants to expand their Tutorial Program in 2005. SCUF purchased a van in March 2005 to transport over 2,850 students and 336 adult volunteers. SCUF expanded their activities this year to include food bank operations. They served 400 limited resource families with food from the local food bank.

Second, Love in Action purchased property for the future site of their state-of-the art community center. Demolition of dilapidated housing on this property, as well as landscaping, has been completed. Construction of the facility is expected to begin in March 2006. Funding support for this project is being sought at the local level. A proposal has been submitted to International Paper River Dale Mill for $58,000 for building construction. In addition to regular programming, this facility will house a youth science exploration program. Thirty-five families and 137 individuals were served through Love in Action's Career Development and Art Exploration Program.

Third, Veterans Transitional Home, Inc. (VTH), has positioned the BBHC as a job coach for the Children Policy Council's Family Service Center. VTH, with the assistance of TUCEP, has been instrumental in identifying grant sources. As an example, it is awaiting results of a funding request made to the Congressional District Seven Funding Committee for $500,000 for Fiscal Year 2006. VTH provided services to 749 individuals in 2005.

Barbour County youth who attended the summer youth camp hosted by BCRC improved their academic skills, enhanced their self-esteem, channeled efforts off delinquent behaviors, and received free nutritious lunches.

Dallas and Bullock Counties participants in the leadership workshops gained knowledge and skills that they did not possess before the training.

Results from the business plan workshop, surveys, and one-on-one interviews in Lowndes and Wilcox Counties indicated that small business owners would like to continue to receiving information regarding business plans, how to price products, and basic record-keeping. Information on business plans, upgrading business plans have made business owners aware of their current financial and business status. The publication alluded to earlier in this report is a response to the request for basic information on record-keeping.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to the reported days worked on this project, seven TUCEP employees allocated 295 days on this project, and 13 volunteers allocated 25 days to this project in 2005, a total of 320 days. The value of the volunteer time is estimated to be $3,000 ($15/hour x 200 hours).

Several organizations collaborated with TUCEP in implementing this ETP (14E). Our partners included: Veterans Transitional Home, Inc. (VTH), Cahaba Mental Health, SABRA Sanctuary, United Way, Red Cross, Dallas County Emergency Management Association (EMA), Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charity, Selma/Dallas Housing Authority, Congressional District 7, Sardis Churches Fellowship, Dallas County School Board, City of Selma, Lowndes County School Board, Auburn Food Bank, and Dothan Food Bank.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

A number of digital photos are available. News articles have been produced, and meetings have been held highlighting project activities.

Future plans are to continue this ETP in 2006. However, toward the end of 2006, this ETP (14E) will be reviewed by the Team for modification. Once the process has been completed, the modified ETP will be a part of the Extension Plan of Work for the 2007-2011 periods.

Other Related Activities: Special Report on Rural Housing

A. Description:

In a global society with rapid economic and technological changes, families and individuals are faced with difficult consumer decisions. From an economic standpoint, housing represents the largest financial investment most families and individuals will make in their lifetime.

Greene, Hale, and Sumter Counties are areas in Alabama with unique socioeconomic problems such as low-incomes and lack of availability of affordable housing. According to the U. S. Census Bureau (2006), based on 2002 figures, there were 5226 housing units in Green County, 7972 housing units in Hale County, and 7,082 housing units in Sumter County. Also, based on 2000 figures, persons below the poverty level in Greene, Hale, and Sumter Counties were 34.3%, 26.9%, and 38.7%, respectively. As a result of this economic condition, availability of affordable and adequate housing presents a challenge to the working poor. In addition, because of low per capita incomes, social changes, an aging population, and a sizeable disabled population, many citizens are concerned about owning affordable housing in the community. Families and individuals aspire to own their own homes have to be trained in matters of financial and long-term planning, such as budgeting, credit management, and record-keeping.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Contacts made with Whites not of Hispanic origin were 627. Contacts made with Blacks not of Hispanic origin were 3,682.

TUCEP, with the assistance of other agencies, conducted a ten-week training program for twelve families/individuals on credit management, budgeting, record-keeping and other financial management issues geared toward house ownership. Also, community focus awareness meetings were held in the targeted area to create awareness for federal housing programs, funding sources, budgeting, and financial management programs. A total of 28 participants attended these meetings. In the final analysis, potential applicants were identified and assisted with the housing application process.

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

Before attending the classes, some families/individuals were considering bankruptcy or living from paycheck to paycheck with no savings. All the participants are utilizing the information they received in their budgets and daily lives. The positive difference is that all the participants have been able to reach their short-term financial goals and are maintaining their financial management plans.

Two families/individuals that currently live in a local apartment housing were awarded a total of $176,000 in housing loans through the local USDA Rural Development Office. Two families/individuals were provided assistance in the amount of $15,000 ($7,550 per family) to repair leaky roofs, rotten woodwork, plumbing, insulation, uneven floors, and problems with exterior walls through the local USDA Rural Development Office. Two families/individuals were given $10,000 in housing repair assistance through the West Alabama Community Service Project. Two families/individuals were successful in restructuring their debts and obtained loans through their own efforts to acquire new housing.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

According to the reported days worked on this project, one TUCEP employee allocated 70 days, and eight volunteers allocated 20 days to this project in 2005. The value of the volunteer time is estimated to be $2,400 ($15 per hour x 160 hours).

Several organizations collaborated with TUCEP in implementing this project. The organizations included: USDA Rural Development Office, West Alabama Community Service Project, HERO/Family Resource Center, Greene/Sumter County EZEC Project, and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

This program has high visibility and will be continued through 2006. Thereafter, it will be maintained or amended as the needs and priorities dictate.
Source: Census Bureau. (2006, January). "Quick Facts." Online. Available at http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/01/01065.html. Retrieved January 12, 2006.

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

Extension Team Project 18G, (previously 16A): Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Education

A. Description:

This Extension Team Project allows TUCEP to address a variety of critical educational needs in the areas of natural resources, water quality, and environmental management, including environmental justice issues. Natural resources and environmental education issues are neither racial or gender specific, yet they affect the lives of Alabamians across economic and rural/urban boundaries. The specific goals of this ETP are to increase environmental awareness and promote responsible environmental stewardship among Alabamians, as a whole, and in particular, its rural minority population. A special emphasis is placed on youth and young adults in this target population. These goals will be accomplished by facilitating youth camps and workshops, home, and farm environmental assessments, and community assistance/training sessions. Immediate to moderate measurable outcomes associated with this project will include the number of home/farm environmental assessments conducted, the number of management plans written, and plans/practices adopted. Long-term outcomes will focus on the increased

natural resource educational base of targeted youth, the number of young adults choosing careers in natural resources related areas, and the improved quality of areas streams and watersheds.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Reported contacts in carrying out this ETP 18G were: White not of Hispanic origin - 255 males; 50 White females; Black not of Hispanic origin - 575 males; 1209 Black females.

In *natural resources* between January and October 2005, TUCEP worked with several youth groups to develop and implement educational awareness programs in natural resources. Activities initiated this year included: (1) two presentations to youth groups on exploring careers in natural resources and agriculture, (2) the Alabama Forestry Camp, a one week resident camp for high school students, (3) visits to educational walking trail, (4) world
environmental day, (5) food safety and security, (6) Alabama water festival, and (7) biodiversity and wildlife.

The Alabama Forestry Camp is designed to teach basic forestry concepts through classroom instruction and outdoor activities. More specifically, the educational

objectives were to: (1) become acquainted with the practical concept of land ownership and responsible stewardship by visiting with local landowners and touring selected properties, (2) become acquainted with the practical application and concepts of forestry, wildlife, and natural resource management, (3) explore the responsible management of natural resources recreational opportunities, (4) explore the rich history of Alabama's Forest Land and the American Indian Population, (5) learn about urban forestry and its interface with current environmental situations, and (6) learn more about the forest industry and its significant contributions to the local and state economies.

Forty plus participants from across the State of Alabama submitted their applications to attend this forestry training. Twenty-five applicants were chosen to participate in the program this year. These applicants had completed the 9th grade but had not finished the 12th grade.

The topics for discussion and study were: tree identification, forest management, forest products and wildlife, water quality and urban forestry. Also, participants attended career night to learn more about requirements for jobs in the area of natural resources. Each participant and all instructors received a certificate at the end of the training session.

World Environmental Day had as its theme: "Green Cities," and the slogan was "Plan for the Planet." Six Greene County youth participated in this program. The environmental issues discussed at this seminar were vital to our survival. The topics included sustainable agriculture, food safety and security, and biodiversity and wildlife.

In *forestry wildlife*, a total of 97 contacts were made in conducting one-on-one educational visits with individuals and hunting groups to assist with wildlife management–wildlife food plots. The activities carried out were: soil testing, location of wildlife food plots, soil preparation, and seed selection for good plots. Work was done in the area of reforestation. Information was provided to clients relative to reforestation. Several referrals were made to NRCS and the Alabama Forestry Commission relative to cost share assistance for forestry land improvements. Also, a forestry program for kids was conducted. Kids' day on the farm was conducted.

In *water quality*, clients are informed of the water testing services that Tuskegee University offers. The clients are informed on what tests are performed–Lead/pH/Nitrate. This year, two pond owners were encouraged and assisted in the utilization of Cage Culture Fish Operation–Tilapia fish/catfish–to supplement their farm income. Eight homeowners were assisted with information relative to water quality at their fish pond. Recommendations were made in order to abort the "fish-kill" problems.

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

Alabama has an abundance of natural resources and wildlife. Forestry is one of the leading industries in the State of Alabama. Water is nature's most abundant natural

resource. Drinking water in Alabama comes from both ground and surface water sources. Also, timber and wildlife enterprises are an important part of the State's economy. Forest fires are valuable tools in managing the resources.

Alabama has several thousands of acres of fertile farmland that produces fresh fruits and vegetables. The consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables promotes the development of strong minds and healthy bodies.

A number of youth were exposed and received information on careers in natural resources and agriculture. A number of farmers received information relative to government cost share programs to implement new practices and to improve current land use for more efficient production.

Information was provided to the general public on water testing services available at Tuskegee University. The public was informed on what tests is performed– Lead/pH/Nitrate.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

The actions and activities of this ETP (18G) were carried out with: TUCEP agents and specialists, the Alabama Forest Commissions of Lowndes and Wilcox Counties, ACES, Lowndes and Wilcox Counties, Resurrection Elementary School, NRCS Lowndes and Wilcox Counties, and the State of Alabama Forest Commission.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

A number of digital photos and still photo shots to show the impacts of this program have been produced and distributed. The future plans are to maintain this ETP, because information provided assists and informs clients about ideas to increase their knowledge and skills in natural resources and the USDA Cost Share programs for the purpose of improving current small-scale operation and improving the quality of life.

A Special Report on Forestry Challenges to Small-Scale and/or Limited Resource Landowners

A. Description

From a discussion with the forestry specialist, the following describes the key forestry related challenges facing the small-scale and/or limited resource landowners in Alabama and can be used as a foundation for determining the role of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program as it relates to these challenges.

The reviewer should recognize the following:

1. There is a diversity of related scenarios across the state of Alabama.

2. Initial investments are costly and long term.
3. Only a few landowners have identified long-term management objectives or strategies, and
4. In many instances, management has been abandoned for a number of years.

Strategic Management Issues:

1. Heir claims need to be resolved and title status determined (where needed).
2. Goals and objectives need to be identified.
3. Management plans/strategies need to meet the small-scale landowner's objectives.
4. Determine and secure financial resources and technical expertise needed to accomplish the objectives.
5. Need to assess existing resource values that could be liquidated to meet objectives.
6. Market availability needs to be determined (both current and future).
7. Make an assessment of the farm incentive programs, county by county, and evaluate them in order to effectively meet the needs of the limited resource landowners.

Operational Issues:

1. Adequate financial resources and technical expertise to accomplish goals and objectives.
2. Land reclamation from non-native invasive species and non-crop species.
3. Site preparation and reforestation expertise/cost ($250 - $300 per acre).
4. Early, late, and mid-rotation management alternatives need to be identified where forestry based income are the sole objective.

TUCEP's Role (Based on current capacity):

TUCEP's role is to:

1. Provide technical information and direct clients to resources.
2. Encourage (when applicable) the integration of forestry with traditional agriculture for long-term income and resource conservation purposes (develop an agroforestry program and team).
3. Encourage selection management where the opportunities still exist and if resources for intensive forestry are inadequate.
4. Work with willing participants.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out in Forestry:

Several key issues that inhibit forest management have been identified as a result of working with limited resource landowners. They are: (1) Heir property issues, (2) undefined sustainable goals and objectives, (3) the absence of management plans, (4) lack of resources to implement plans, (5) no assessment of existing resource values, (6) insufficient information to make long-term investments, (7) the uncertainty of current and future timber markets over a rotation, and (8) limited access of minority landowners to diverse government incentive programs. These issues contribute to the dilemma of small-scale farmers and landowners.

During the reporting period for 2005, 32 landowners have been offered direct assistance in: (1) resource assessments and recommendations, (2) timber assessments, sale preparation, and marketing, (3) site preparation and reforestation, (4) non-native invasion species control, and (5) dissemination and referrals.

County	No. of Landowners	Services Rendered	Status
Autauga	1	Timber sale and site preparation Reforestation planning	Continuing
Barbour	1	Timber management/sale	Continuing
Barbour	1	Land management planning	Incomplete
Barbour	1	Agro-forestry	Incomplete
Bullock	1	Timber sale/consultation	Complete
Butler	2	Farm-timber land conversion	Continuing
Hale	1	Cedar management, agro-Forestry, and farm restoration	Continuing
Dale	1	Timber assessment	Incomplete
Lowndes	1	Timber assessments, sale recommendations, site preparation, and reforestation plan	Continuing
Macon	2	Timber sale consultation	Complete
Macon	1	Hazard Tree assessment	Incomplete
Macon	1	Timber assessment	Incomplete
Macon	1	Timber value assessment	Complete
Macon	1	Timber sale layout, value assessment and contract preparation, sale administration and reforestation plan	Continuing
Macon	1	Site preparation, reforestation and Consultation	Complete
Macon	1	Timber assessment and property access law	Complete

Macon	1	Urban forestry, vegetation management at airport and industrial park	As requested
Macon	1	Timber and, property management	Continuing
Macon	1	Timber marketing	Continuing
Macon	1	Timber marketing	Complete
Montgomery	1	Timber sale consultation	Continuing
Perry	1	Timber marketing	Complete
Perry	1	Timber sale layout, value Assessment and contract preparation	Continuing
Randolph	1	Post-timber sale and site Preparation and reforestation planning	Continuing
Tallapoosa	1	Environmental Justice	Continuing
Tallapoosa	1	Land management advice	Complete
Tallapoosa	1	Timber value appraisal and land sale referral	Continuing
Tallapoosa	1	SPB treatment	Complete
Tallapoosa	1	Timber marketing	Complete
Tallapoosa	1	Timber sale	Continuing

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

Surveys have not been conducted to determine the impacts of the assistance offered to landowners except for observations made by the specialist and written offers made to the landowners. However, some tangible indicators are: (1) One landowner was offered $700 per acre for a track of timber. Through Extension efforts, the landowner was provided marketing advice, along with assistance in preparing a timber sale contract. With this information, $1,200.00 per acre was received for the same track of timber; (2) A second landowner was quoted a price of $20.00 dollars an acre for site preparation burning and $130.00 per acre for herbicide treatment. This landowner was informed through Extension that the Alabama Forestry Commission rates were only $8.50 per acre for control burning. The landowner was also advised that the current rate for herbicide treatment was $98.00 per acre, and that only spot treatments were needed instead of treating the entire 36 acre tract; and (3) Following the treatment of over 100 acres of kudzu, a landowner contacted Extension to determine why the treatment had failed. It was determined that the herbicide was applied outside of the recommended window for it to be effective and that the application rates were questionable. With this information, the landowner was able to persuade the contractor to “re-apply” the application at no cost to the landowner.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

This ETP project (18G) was carried out by the George Washington Carver Experiment Station, and TUCEP’s fiscal and human resources (finances, agents, and specialist).

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

The visibility of this ETP (18G) is good and noted in Tuskegee University publications distributed throughout the State of Alabama, the USA, and abroad. Photos were taken and lectures were prepared to demonstrate the shortfalls of the herbicide used on this tract of land. The ETP will be evaluated and recommendations will be made to the appropriate persons.

Goal 5: A healthy, well-nourished population. Through research and education on nutrition and development of more nutritious foods, enable people to make health-promoting choices.

Extension Team Project 413: *Promoting Individual Health*

A. Description:

The objective of this ETP is to increase awareness among racial and ethnic minority groups in Alabama about the risk factors of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, and cancer. This group includes: African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other underserved minorities. The goal of this ETP is to educate minority groups to change risky behaviors that may increase chronic health disorders. This would be accomplished by facilitating health screenings for early detection of health problems, providing culturally and linguistically relevant educational services, collaborating with other health organizations, and referrals to appropriate agencies.

According to the American Stroke Association, in 2004 the rate of strokes was staggering. Stroke kills nearly 164,000 people a year. That is about one of every 15 deaths. It is third cause of death following heart disease and cancer. Thus, about every three minutes, someone dies of stroke. Through preventive measures, stroke rates can be lowered.

The measurable outcomes of this project are the number of people who actually lowered blood cholesterol, blood sugar level, and lowered and maintained blood pressure because of this ETP. Other desired outcomes were the number of women who regularly practiced breast self examinations, obtained annual Pap Smears, regular clinical breast examinations, and mammograms.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

B. 1: Statewide Conference. African Americans suffer disproportionately from prostate, breast, and colon cancer. Breast cancer among blacks often occurs under age 40 and sometimes under the age of 25. The Alabama Department of Public Health reported that breast cancer was the cause of death for 1,995 women in Alabama from 1998-2000. In Alabama in 2001, the estimated new cases of breast cancer was 2,900. Six hundred were expected to die. In 2003. The American Cancer Society reported that there would be about 132,700 new cancer cases, and that 63,100 of the new cases would be fatal. The highest number of deaths would be among African Americans.

A conference, “Breast Cancer Disparities in African American Women: The Outcome Effort: One Year Later, How Are We Doing?” was held on April 15, 2005. This program provided updates on the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services Initiatives, the HBCU Research Network, and current breast cancer statistics. Members from community

outreach and/or breast cancer projects shared their activities. Community providers discussed their successes and needs of their programs.

TUCEP agent participated in 30 maintenance meetings to implement cancer awareness program. Four church meetings on the "Importance of Annual Cancer Examinations and Breast Health" were held. Eight health fairs were held to provide educational materials/literature to clientele. Four conferences were held to collect data, and agent was co-host for the Cancer Awareness Banquet held for the purpose of informing all community citizens and leaders of the services being offered to the community.

> *The key to surviving breast cancer is early detection and treatment. The early detection of breast cancer helps reduce the need for therapeutic treatment and minimizing pain and suffering, allowing women to continue leading happy, productive lives.*

B. 2: Promoting Individual Health in Barbour and Bullock Counties

Twelve health education classes and seminars were conducted in Barbour and Bullock Counties for diabetic and non-diabetic individuals. TUCEP provided a weekly one hour nutrition class during the summer to children 9-12 years old. A poster contest entitled, "Healthy f or Life," was held to get the youth more involved in the health fair, and to focus on various health issues that affect Bullock County. The contest consisted of two divisions: junior level and senior level. Cash prizes were given to the winners of each division, and as an extra incentive, the winner of the senior level competition's poster design would be used for the Bullock County Health Fair T-Shirt. A ten lesson health education program was conducted at the Bullock County Career Technical Center with the health science and special education students. Seven health education programs were conducted in the Montgomery Community Action Centers as well as the nutrition sites in Barbour, Bullock, and Macon Counties. Two county-wide health fairs were conducted in Barbour and Bullock Counties to raise health awareness, provide reliable health information and vital screening to insured, uninsured, and under-insured participants. Five Macon County health fair meetings were held in the Macon County Extension Office Conference Room for the Health and Wellness Carnival. Community Action and Nutrition sites were given nutrition information about increasing physical activity and fiber intake, controlling diabetes, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Participants were given examples of healthy alternative for fatty meats, foods high in sodium, sugar and cholesterol.

HIV/AIDS Awareness. A week long campaign (October 24-30, 2005) on awareness of HIV/AIDS among youth was conducted as part of our outreach and research programs. Visits were made to several high schools in the Black Belt counties, including Concordia Community College. Other activities in this area include: thirty-six partnership developments; twelve health fairs; forty community education programs; eight educational workshops/seminars; five focus groups; and two science fairs. The validated attendance reports at programs in health fairs, community education,

workshops/seminars follow: Junior High School Students - 1,874; High School Students - 5,451; College Students - 1,916; and Adults - 10,850.

Other actions and activities carried out were Water Awareness Day and 4-H Breads Competitions.

The results and impacts from the Water Awareness Day raised the awareness level of 4th graders relative to keeping ground water as well as the environment clean. This program also taught participants about the water cycle and provided them with hands-on activities in which they learned to filter water and build edible aquifers. Additionally, it provided tips on how to keep ground water from becoming contaminated which resulted in students becoming more informed and prepared for science courses and to be friendlier to their environment.

The 4-H Breads competition helped participants improve their baking skills as well as their presentation and interview skills. Ribbons of participation were awarded to each contestant, and the Junior and Senior division winners were awarded first, second, and third place ribbons.

B. 3: Increasing Mammography Rates Among African American Women Living in Rural Areas of Alabama: A research publication, "Increasing Mammography Rates Among African American Women Living in Rural Areas of Alabama," was presented in Nashville, TN to 300 participants attending the conference. This project was sponsored by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (SMS) Grant No 20-P-91423/4-01. Other presentations were made at Bowie State University with an attendance of 200 participants; Morehouse School of Medicine with an attendance of 250 participants; the American Public Health Association with 100 participants in attendance; the Annual College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health Research Symposium with 150 participants in attendance. Also, organized and conducted "Research Information Dissemination Conference" with100 participants in attendance.

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

C. 1. Statewide Conference. Program implementation in churches resulted in over 150 participants receiving educational classes and materials on the **Importance of Breast Health.** Three hundred plus participants received cancer awareness literature through health fairs, and over 30 new participants have knowledge of the services provided by Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program and Project EXPORT.

According to Deep South Network for Cancer Control and the Community Health Advisors in Action Program (CHAAP) coordinator, over 573 clients (African American women) were contacted. Ninety-eight percent followed up with their physicians, and they continue good breast health behavior. From January to May 2005, CHAAP had eleven breast cancer clients. Eight of the clients are taking treatments, and they have

a 99 percent physician follow-up. REACH 2010 Coordinator reported that over 200 African American women were surveyed this year. Forty-five percent of the African American women are now performing monthly breast self-examinations and mammograms.

C. 2. Health Classes. The health classes provided opportunities for the health science students to increase their awareness about the health disparities in the Alabama Black Belt and exposed them to current methods for the prevention and treatment of diseases. Participants received the latest, reliable, research-based information in health education. Participants were taught proper terminology for diseases that have slang names. Also, efforts were made to eliminate certain myths about certain diseases.

Special education students were taught the basic concepts of nutrition. At the end of the program, these students were able to recognize different foods and place them into the correct food groups. It was noted that their reading and writing skills were improved.

A series of twelve wellness classes were conducted in Barbour and Bullock Counties. The participants were taught how to eat a healthy-well-balanced diet; prepare foods using methods other than frying; monitor their fat, sugar, sodium and cholesterol intake; and the importance of exercise in weight maintenance and overall health. With the help of this program, participants loss weight, improved cholesterol levels, lowered pressure and received better blood glucose readings. Information received in this training helped participants to become more aware of the link between nutrition and diseases, the health consequences of being overweight and obese. Also, participants learned how to determine overweight and obesity and the health consequences of each. Health information taught to youth made them aware of the conditions that will be rapidly affecting their age group. The information taught made them aware of the hidden fat in foods and supplied them with healthy snack ideas. Participants admitted to replacing soft drink and juices with water and not purchasing pizza and other high fat foods during breaks and lunch time. Participants made an effort to make healthier choices at the school cafeteria.

Over 300 individuals took part in the Barbour County Health and Wellness Fair, and more than 100 participated in the Bullock County Health Fair. Participants had the opportunity to get screened for hypertension, diabetes, sickle cell, and HIV/AIDS. The Barbour and Bullock County Health Fair exposed 422 youths and adults to research-based health information and give them the opportunity to get free medical advice and be screened to be diagnose, manage and/or improve existing illnesses. Participants were provided an opportunity to talk with health care professionals on a one-on-one basis. They were able to ask questions, pick up literature, and listen to explanations on different medical conditions. Also, participants were made aware of the various health care resources available to them in their communities, outlets in the area that focused on improving health and well-being in their county, and more affordable ways

to purchase medicine and medical equipment. One hundred and nine participants were screened at the Bullock County Health Fair.

C. 3. One thousand participants were made aware of the efforts to increase mammography rates among African American women. A second article, "*Factors Affecting Mammography Attainment Among Rural African American Women,*" was published in the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved," by The Morehouse School of Medicine.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

D. 1. Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program allocated 50 days to this project, or 400 hours. TUCEP, in collaboration with the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health by 2010 (REACH) Project, Deep South Network for Cancer Control, the Community Health Advisors in Action Program (CHAAP), and the Sumter County Health Department, provided the fiscal and human resources for this project.

D. 2. The Barbour County Health and Wellness Program was sponsored by TUCEP, the Eufaula Community Center, and Steps To a Healthier Alabama ($1,084), Southeast Region. The Bullock County Health Fair was sponsored by the Community Care Network, Bullock County Extension Office, Bullock County Career Technical Center, and Subway Wellness: A Healthy Way to Lose Weight.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure and Future Plans:

E. 1. Statewide Conference. This program has excellent visibility. Video tapes were made by WTOK-TV explaining the essentials of the health fairs. Numerous still photos were made and shared with the public through the news media–radio, television, and newspapers. Flyers were made and posted throughout Sumter County. Announcements were made in the various churches and related organizations.

Future plans are to continue this important work in Sumter County to eliminate the health disparities in breast cancer among African American women and white women. Plans are being developed to get more local people involved in sponsoring more health fairs and cancer awareness programs.

E. 2. The health fairs in Barbour and Bullock Counties were advertised in the local papers. Subway Wellness: A Healthy Way to Lose Weight program was advertised in The Eufaula Tribune before the beginning of each class.

The Healthy Way to Lose Weight wellness program will be continued and is scheduled to be duplicated in Macon County.

Special Report on the Senior Olympics: An Annual Extension Activity

A. Description:

Macon County is primarily a rural county with a population that is 87 percent minority and a significant number of senior citizens. Recreation is limited for youths and young adults and even less for seniors. For this reason, the Senior Olympics is a welcomed event.

The first Senior Olympics game day was held at Booker T. Washington High School, Tuskegee, Alabama, on the last Friday in July of 1991. The 14th annual event was held at Booker T. Washington High School on Friday, August 5, 2005.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out:

Four hundred and forty-seven Senior citizens from Barbour, Bullock, Macon, Montgomery, and Tallapoosa Counties participated in a variety of activities and events this year. There were health screenings**,** arts and crafts, competitive games (basketball free throw, bingo, cards, checkers, condo golf, bridge, nerf ball, dominoes, horseshoes, musical chairs, one mile walk, softball distance throw, stationary bike and wheel chair boogie). Senior citizens have the opportunity for "Friends to Meet Friends." Most senior citizens participated in the low-impact aerobics and warm-up exercises. Lunch was provided and they were entertained by two local gospel singers.

The Senior Olympics Planning Committee filed incorporation papers for the Macon County Senior Olympics Organization, Inc., thus obtaining a tax number. The planning committee designated a new Senior Olympics T-Shirt for the organization. The committee was able to raise $5,829.50 for funding. Also, $774.64 was donated for lunch by the South Central Alabama Development Commission Area Agency on Aging for the sponsorship of the 2005 Senior Olympics Game Day Activities. TUCEP purchased 78 volunteer t-shirts in the amount of $478.80.

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

Senior citizens who participated in the Olympics were given the opportunity to participate in supervised physical fitness activities and received research-based information on health related issues. Also**,** these activities contributed self-worth of the individual, especially in the competitive activities.

D. Fiscal and Human Resources:

This program was sponsored by TUCEP, the Macon County Commission, the local nutrition sites, civic organizations and local businesses.

E. Program Visibility, Exposure, and future Plans:

This program has excellent visibility and exposure and will be continued.

Extension Team Project 411: Promoting Healthy Living Environments for Underserved and Hard to Reach Audiences - Families First - Nutrition Education and Wellness System (FF-NEWS)

A. Description:

The ultimate objective of this program is to teach participants to use what they learn to positively change behavior. The program acknowledges knowledge and skills that participants bring to the training and fosters respect for them. It also seeks to take participants to higher levels utilizing a variety for instructional and assessment approaches that have been designed towards transformation for the benefit of individuals, families, and communities. Collectively, the components of the FF- NEWS make up a curriculum that represents action plans for behavior modification by participants. The information in the curriculum is based on results of scientific and educational research, observation, and clinical trials. The curriculum is comprised of six components: an informative and instructive introductory section, four content modules and a resource/reference section. Each of the content modules addresses a critical subject area related to nutrition, health and wellness. The four content modules are identified and briefly described. 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.

Module One: Balancing Food Preferences with Knowledge of Nutrition. This module introduces the FF-NEWS program to the recipient population through fourteen lessons focused on basic nutrition information and attention to typical dietary patterns of the geographic regions where they live. The subjects of the modules include nutrition information and misinformation, and nutrients (fats, carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins, and minerals). *Dietary Guidelines, Food Guide Pyramid,* and dietary patterns such as *Southern, Tex-Mex*, and *Soul Food* are all included.

Module Two: Health Status and Age-Related Nutrition. Ten lessons comprise this module designed to focus on the role of nutrition in preventing the major medical disorders occurring in the recipient population. Resent research findings from the nation's premier research institutes and practices recommended by leading advocacy organizations are incorporated in these lessons. Apart from the lessons that introduce the module, the subjects of the lessons are obesity, weight loss, physical activity, behavior modification and social support, diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases.

Module Three: Enhancing Management Skills. Improving management skills is the core concept for this module. It focuses on extending family income through cost-efficient procedures. There are twenty-four lessons in this module, the subject of which are time management, budgeting, menu planning, food selection, food preparation, and home vegetable gardening: value-added, processing, and entrepreneurship development.

Module Four: Ensuring Food Quality and Safety: Focusing primarily on consumer use at the household level, the lessons incorporate state-of-the-art information on food safety, and the principles of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan. The subjects of the eight lessons are basic sanitation and safety practices, basic food safety, food borne illness, food purchasing and storage, product dating, food thawing, preparation and serving, kitchen safety, food additives, and information sharing. Other measurable outcomes will be: recognizing food spoilage that can cause illness, participating in reporting food borne illness outbreaks.

B. Actions and Activities Carried Out in the seniors' Nutrition Center Program:

TUCEP's Family and Consumer Science provided 360 contact hours of education to 163 senior citizens in 2005. Of the seniors who participated in family and consumer sciences Extension programs, 78 percent were in nutrition and food safety educational programs; 15 percent were in financial management and consumer education programs; and nearly 7 percent were in weight control, diabetes and chronic disease prevention programs. Nutrition, food safety, and diabetes education programs reached 25 senior nutrition center providers.

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

Use of basic sanitation practices when handling food reduces waste, conserves nutrients, resources, and prevents food borne illness. Participants learned the importance of good safety to prevent food borne illness. Participants reported that they identified and used appropriate food safety techniques to prevent food borne illness.

Nearly 83 percent of the seniors who participated in Foods, Nutrition and Consumer Education Programs said those programs were helpful in learning healthy nutrition concepts and meal planning practices as well as self confidence in dressing up. Most of the participants understood and developed their food and nutrition knowledge and said that they plan to adopt healthy dietary practices. For example, 40 percent planned to try soy milk and to drink calcium fortified orange juice at least three times a week and to include at least one new fruit or vegetable in their diet. Sixty-one percent planned to eat whole grain cereals; 45 percent planned to increase to at least four times eating of fruits and vegetables each day; and 58 percent planned to eat low-fat snacks and desserts. Ninety-two percent of the seniors who participated in food safety education programs said sanitary practices such as using hand sanitizers have been very helpful to them. The majority of the seniors who participated in the program said that they plan to apply safe food handling practices. Fore example, 92 percent planned to use the food thermometers given to them to monitor the correct temperature of 40 degrees or lower in their refrigerators.

D. Actions and Activities Carried Out in the Family Life Program:

More than 1,300 contact hours of Workforce Preparedness Education were provided to 1,239 Alabamians in most of the Black Belt counties. More than three-quarters (87 percent) of the training participants were low-income or at-risk audiences. Seven poverty simulation and Medicare prescription drug card workshops were conducted for nearly 46 community leaders and service providers. These workshops focused on possible ways of saving money on the purchase of prescription drugs through approved pharmacies in their localities. The program simulated and informed the participants of the realities faced by working poor families and acquiring the necessary prescriptions for health.

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

There was an initial training on the job readiness skills that could make a difference in person's employability. Knowing how to access quality, affordable child care and knowing how to handle transportation is the largest hurdle in remaining employed. Once employed, having life skills (job skills, financial management, health and nutrition, clothing, housing and parenting) can help a person remain employed.

Workforce preparedness and consumer education information was provided through workshops and training to about 3,000 Alabamians. Five hundred and sixty-eight families participated in local collaborative to address the needs of low-income families. Basic life skills and parenting education to working poor individuals through either direct education or train-the-trainer program targeted to social service and adult education providers were conducted. Also, community awareness of poverty issues with poverty simulation in training programs was conducted.

A majority (88 percent) of the people who participated in the Prescription Drug Program said that the program helped them to gain knowledge and skills to choose the right local pharmacy for their prescriptions. Most of the participants learned to make correct consumer decisions. In the basic life skills program and consumer education programs, 98 percent of the participants planned to identify at least one way to reduce their spending money on anything extra. Of the participants in workforce preparedness education, 45 percent planned to update their resumes, and 56 percent of young adults in the juvenile court mandated program planned to devote their attention to finding jobs. Nearly 80 percent of the community leaders and service providers who participated in the poverty workshop said that the workshop helped them to better understand and relate to the issues and problems faced by working poor families, especially in the Black Belt counties. For instance a program participant said, *"It was quite a paradigm-shifting experience. While I've never been one of those who say poor people are lazy and bring a whole lot of their problems on themselves, I did understand a major change in how I now view the struggle of the poor in our communities."*

Most of the Family Life program participants now agree to identify other related community resources to assist people who live in poverty and seek out information than can be used to address poverty issues in their community.

F. Fiscal and Human Resources for Senior Nutrition Center and Family Life Programs:

TUCEP and local community agencies and organizations collaborated to carry out these programs.

G. Program Visibility, Exposure, and Future Plans:

Plans are that this ETP (411) will continue.

Special Report on the Summer Youth College Program

A. Actions and Activities Carried out in the Summer Youth College Program:

In the Summer Youth College (SYC) program this year, 40 youth, between the ages of 12-16 years old, were recruited to attend this enrichment college program. Participants were engaged in making Nectarine Ginger Jelly, Hot Pepper Jam, and Carrot Marmalade preserved fruits and vegetables. The participants of the SYC formulated the recipes. In addition to these jam and jelly products, SYC participants were learning gardening, nutrition, business and leadership skills. The hands-on-activities of the program gave youth the knowledge to develop a supplemental source of local foods, teach peers about planning and cooking skills, and learning about healthy eating habits.

SYC program youth were involved in every aspect of developing a business plan, attending to their fruit and vegetable garden, the food preparation, processing, bottling, and labeling of about 120 jars of the products. They researched the business climate of the products they selected, modified the recipes, and used the Internet to learn about design and packaging of the products. Finally, they worked with their families, and when they marketed the products at the local farmers' market the activity was a great success.

Also, a paper entitled, "Careers in Health and Veterinary Sciences" was presented to the SYC participants.

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

SYC participants learned ways of balancing the problem of professional labeling and changing business plans to reflect supply and demand. Through this unique experience, these participants will be able to utilize these skills in the future to better themselves as leaders and participate in their families' food selection and preparation.

For example, one participant said, “This food processing taught me a lot about friendship, team work, and what I can do to change bad food to healthy food. I now have confidence in the kitchen, and my leadership skills at home have significantly improved.”

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
ALLOCATION OF FISCAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program allocation of fiscal and human resources among program areas for 2005 are listed below. Data do not reflect FTE's for clerical and support staff or administrative support. However, these factors are reflected in the dollar amounts.

Program Area	$Allocation	FTEs
4-H & YD	$150,388.96	3.75
AG	234,818.74	4.15
C & ED	54,548.73	1.55
F & IWB	170,634.06	4.00
IN PEST MGT	23,318.89	0.50
U & NNTP	11,525.73	0.25
Total	**$645,235.11**	**14.20**

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
STAKEHOLDER INPUT PROCESS

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Plan of Work provides continuous opportunities to assure relevance and quality in Extension accountability, program planning, implementation, delivery and evaluation. Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension continues to strengthen its relationships with the various interest groups in the communities it serves and throughout the State of Alabama.

The State Advisory Council is a committed staff of lay and professionals that team up with the administrators, agents, and specialists to advise and implement program strategies to strengthen and improve the quality of life for participants in the Black Belt counties of Alabama.

TUCEP's State Advisory Council has a diverse representation, and it is organized into the following committees: (1) agriculture assistance, (2) community and economic development, (3) leadership and volunteer development, (4) family life development and food safety, (5) nutrition, diet and health, (6) water quality and environmental education, (7) entrepreneurial and youth development, and (8) the legislative committee. Each ETP implemented by TUCEP is specialist driven.

These committees represent the five GPRA and corresponding USDA National Goals for Research, Extension, and Education. The Annual State Advisory Meeting was held on February 24, 2005. Quarterly or semi-annual meetings are scheduled on the basis of need to deal with critical issues.

TUCEP has six County Advisory Councils. The County Advisory Councils are consistent with the six units, which make up the primary service area. Each local county advisory council consists of representatives from the county in which agents and specialists serve. Membership on these councils 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, 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, water quality and environmental education, business development, leadership development, volunteer development, and other areas in Extension.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS

Extension Team Projects were initiated in 1998. TUCEP has six Extension Team Projects. They are:

- Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): A Strategy for Workforce Development
- Assisting Small-Scale Farmers and Landowners to Manage Change in Agriculture
- Enhancing Citizens' Capacity to Transform Their Communities
- Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Education
- Promoting Healthy Behavior
- Promoting Healthy Living Environments for Underserved and Hard to Reach Audiences

Each Extension Team Project focuses on specific problems to be solved in the area, and TUCEP Advisory Council members at the local and state levels are at liberty to participate in the program and compliance review process.

TUCEP is in compliance with the Civil Right 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. Program and Compliance Reviews are conducted annually in selected counties. TUCEP has updated its Program and Compliance Review process to reflect changes made in the latest *Civil Rights Compliance Review Guide, Extension Programs*.

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