

MISSION STATEMENT



The Cooperative Extension's mission is to respond to the people's needs and interest in Agriculture, the Environment, Families, and 4-H/Youth in Athens-Clarke County with unbiased, researched-based education and information.



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES, WARNELL SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENCES

The University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.

The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.

Athens-Clarke County Cooperative Extension 2007 Annual Report



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NUTRITION EDUCATION



In 2007, 211 low-income families enrolled in our nutrition education classes. Pre and post diet questionnaires revealed that 91% of the graduated families made positive dietary changes. Also, their food bill decreased by an average of \$24 per month while nutritional value of meals increased.

1,228 at-risk youth participated in EFNEP sponsored nutrition classes in 2007. Children learn how to improve their diet and how to prepare food, if necessary. They also learn skills, which compliment school objectives.



Cooperative Extension is a charter member and partner in the Nutrition Education Coalition of Northeast Georgia. In 2007, over 4,000 Athens-Clarke County Citizens were reached by outreach efforts.

ENERGY EDUCATION



Beginning in September 2007, consumer education related to the natural gas industry and deregulation began. The target audience for this consumer education is mainly low income senior citizens, but programs have been delivered to consumers of all socio-economic backgrounds. There are 20,000 natural gas consumers in Athens-Clarke county. By raising awareness of consumer choice, teaching bill literacy and how to advocate for themselves as consumers, the goals are to reduce customer shut offs for non-pay and increase the number of consumers reviewing their bills and rate plans.



FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



ServSafe:

New GA Food Codes went into effect December 1, 2007, requiring all food service establishments to have a Certified Food Service Manager. Family and Consumer Sciences agent earned certification through the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation and has provided training to 98 service employees.



Financial Literacy for High School Students Teacher Training:



In the fall of 2007, the Georgia Department of Education introduced the Georgia Performance Standards for Economic Understandings for 7th-12th graders. To help prepare teachers to comply with these new standards, the Family and Consumer Sciences agent worked with a team of agents from throughout the state, as well as state specialist to develop and provide a two-day training for high school teachers. Teachers were able to earn one professional learning unit for attending this training. A second session will be offered in Athens-Clarke County in March 2008.



Cooking for a Lifetime Cancer Cooking School:

Over 35,440 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in Georgia in 2007 (American Cancer Society). The Family and Consumer Sciences agent worked with the American Cancer Society, State FACS specialist, and other county extension agents to offer the cancer cooking school. The purpose of the school is to change eating and activity patterns to decrease the risk for cancer and other chronic diseases. Attendees learn to select and prepare foods with less fat and sodium and more fiber and cancer-reducing nutrients.



2007 HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PROVIDED

Agriculture	194
Family & Consumer Sciences	159
Nutrition Sessions	2,188
4H/Youth	493
Energy Education	12



TEACHING CONTACTS

Agriculture	6,270
Family & Consumer Sciences	3,637
Nutrition Education	2,776
4-H/Youth	10,860
Energy Education	190

Soil Samples Received, Sent to Lab 486

Water Samples Received 114

Plant Pathology & Insect Identification 98

Radon Test Kits Distributed 295

Newspaper Articles Written 48

Educational Newsletters Distributed 7,116

Phone & Office Consultations Made 3,619


Home Visit Consultations 211

Contacts Through Exhibits 6,194


GRAND
TOTAL
CONTACTS
FOR
2007
41,914




AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES


 In 2007, there were 81 Clarke County Master Gardeners who volunteered a total of over 5000 hours in our community. Projects include Plant a Row for the Hungry, civic group presentations, Habitat for Humanity, newspaper and magazine articles, and plant clinics.

 19 Master Naturalist graduates completed over 40 hours of coursework and have contributed over 800 hours of volunteering in their communities.

 Pesticide Applicators Trainings were held throughout the year with over 121 participants receiving 527 hours of recertification credit. Four new private pesticide applicators received their license.





 The ACC Extension office partnered with the Georgia Green Industry Association to create a local chapter of the association consisting of local landscapers, arborists and nursery professionals. There are currently over 150 companies in the local chapter. The goal of the local chapter is to provide education to the local green industry and create a unifying voice within the group.


 ACC Cooperative Extension had a booth at the 2007 Harvest Festival to educate local children about farm animals. Five Master Gardener volunteers worked through the day with over 1,000 children showing chicks and chickens, a dairy calf, two sheep and rabbits.


4-H/YOUTH





 The Athens-Clarke County 4-H program is a partner in public education. All youth, grades 5th through 8th are served through the school system as a component of the school curriculum.

 ACC 4-H Clubs were started in community centers: Pinewoods, East Athens, Broadacres, Lay Park, JR Wells, Garnett Ridge, Casa de Amistad & Rock Springs. With ACC financial support, a bilingual 4-H Program Assistant was hired to help reach the Hispanic audience.

 In 2007, there were 1,300 youth who participated.

 Opportunities are offered for youth to learn and excel in leadership, citizenship, public speaking, and critical thinking skills, as well as teamwork, character building and good sportsmanship skills.

 Additionally, special initiatives target Youth-At-Risk. For example; in 2007, 4-H camp scholarships were offered for youth who couldn't afford camp fees.

 Studies suggest that students beginning 4-H in Middle School or earlier have a higher success rate of graduating from High School.

