



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

***Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H & Youth  
2008 Poster Competition  
Proceedings***

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Edited by: Frank Henning  
Watershed Extension Agent  
fhenning@uga.edu

**Learning** *for* **Life**

# ***Agriculture and Natural Resources***

**Andrews, Elvin L.**

elandrew@uga.edu

Lanier County, SW District

## **SEDGE CONTROL IN BLACKBERRIES WITH HALOSULFURON AND SULFENTRAZONE**

Andrews\*, E.L.<sup>1</sup>, Czarnota, M.A.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, 100 Main Street, Lakeland, GA 31635

<sup>2</sup>University of Georgia, Horticulture Department, 1109 Experiment Street, Griffin, GA 30223

There are approximately 800 acres of blackberries (*Rubus* spp.) grown in the state of Georgia, and planted acreage in Georgia and the Southeast continues to rise. As with many of the other small fruit growers, the weeds from the sedge family (Cyperaceae) continue to plague growers. Growers throughout Georgia (and the Southeast) have experienced heavy infestations of yellow and purple nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus* and *C. rotundus*). At present, there are no herbicides labeled for selective postemergent sedge control. There are, however, several postemergent herbicides that are known to be safe to plants in the blackberry family (Rosaceae) and control sedges (e.g. Sandea (halosulfuron) and Spartan (sulfentrazone)). Experiments conducted in the summer of 2006 (Lakeland, GA) found that both halosulfuron and sulfentrazone provided good control of yellow nutsedge (>80% control) as well as safety to the blackberries.

**Andrews, Elvin L.**

elandrew@uga.edu

Lanier County, SW District

## **BLACKBERRY PRODUCTION EXPANDING IN LANIER COUNTY**

Lanier County growers recognized the increasing market value of growing blackberries commercially with the opening of small fruit packing, receiving and shipping facilities in Alma and Homerville, GA. The Lanier County Extension Coordinator worked with blackberry growers providing one-on-one education on production practices. These educational meetings incorporated variety selection, irrigation, weed control, water management, trellising, disease control, insects and fertilizer requirements of blackberries. Extension programs, industry and working support by the Lanier County Extension Coordinator helped Lanier County blackberry acreage grow from 11 acres in 2003 to 83 acres in 2007. One Lanier County blackberry producer remarked, "This crop has exceeded our expectations...it's been very worthwhile for us and it's also been a great experience and a challenge." The 2007 Farm Gate income was \$1,250,000 for blackberry production in Lanier County. This expansion makes Lanier County one of the leading blackberry producers in Georgia.

**Beard, Glenn H.**

gbeard@uga.edu

Colquitt County, SW District

A delegation of agriculturalists traveled to Southwest China March 25-April 7, 2007. The main objective of the trip was to represent the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Bayer Crop Science, and Southeast Ag Research, Inc. and to build relationships with farmers in Southwest China, diagnose current production problems, evaluate current methods of production, make recommendations for possible solutions based on available pesticides, fertilizers, and equipment in the area, and initiate demonstration and research plots for Chinese farmers to observe. China is a country with approximately 1.3 billion people with almost half of them involved with farming. Cooperative Extension programming can be implemented anywhere in the world.

**Brannon, Sonja**

Sonjab@uga.edu

Fayette County, NW District

**USING BLACK MULCH IRRIGATION METHODS TO INCREASE YIELD IN A SMALL PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY PLOT.**

Plant a Row for the Hungry is a national organization, used to feed the individuals in our community. In 2006 growing season the Fayette County Master Gardeners used a 100 x 100 plot that produced a yield of 2,396 pounds. This year the same 100 x 100 plot with 10 foot rows produced over 4,000 pounds. With the addition of another plot our totals reached 10,800 pounds in 2007. Using a tractor ten 75 foot rows of black plastic mulch complete with plastic drip irrigation was laid. Teaching plasticulture to Master Gardeners proved to increase volunteer interest, poundage given to non-profit organizations and reduce watering costs.

**Byrne, R.J. , Don Clark, Dr. Phil Brannen, and Dr. Harold Scherm**

rjbyrne@uga.edu

Thomas County, SW District

**DISCOVERING NEW TOOLS FOR MAYHAW: THOMAS COUNTY RESEARCH**

Mayhaws are a minor fruit commodity in Georgia. Consumers prize the jellies, sauces, and wines that the mayhaw, a Southern native, produces. Growers have limited fungicide choices to manage their orchards against diseases, especially hawthorne leaf blight (*Monilinia johnsonii*). In the spring of 2007, Thomas County Extension Agents along with University of Georgia plant pathologists tested two fungicides on mayhaws. The goal was to obtain a new label expansion for Vanguard, conditional on efficacy. Vanguard registration would provide a good resistance management tool, as the active ingredient, cyprodinil, is in a different fungicide class from other registered products.

**Connelly, Forrest**

forrestc@uga.edu

Stephens County, NE District

**EFFECT OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER, BROILER POULTRY LITTER AND HUMATE ON FORAGE YIELD AND QUALITY; A TWO YEAR STUDY 2006-2007**

Connelly, F.J.<sup>1</sup> and Waldorf\*, R.C.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Stephens County, Toccoa, GA 30577.

<sup>2</sup>University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Banks County, Homer, GA 30547

Due to increased costs of commercial fertilizer inputs, forage producers must look for opportunities using alternative fertility sources without compromising hay yield or quality. In 2006 a forage field trial was set up at four locations in Banks and Stephens County, Georgia. Three locations had Russell Bermuda and one location had Kentucky 31 Fescue. Commercial fertilizer, broiler poultry litter and humate were used with the control being no nitrogen fertilizer added. One trial in each county was harvested twice and one trial in each county was harvested once. There was a significant difference in yield among all first harvest locations between the poultry litter and the control. The commercial nitrogen treatment was significantly higher than all other treatment when addressing RFQ value. There were also significant differences in total digestible nutrients between commercial nitrogen versus poultry litter and commercial fertilizer plus humate. There was a significant difference between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> harvest in crude protein. There were no significant differences among all other treatments. This study supported that growers can significantly reduce their input costs by using alternative fertility sources without reducing yield. In 2007 a forage field trial was set up at two locations in Stephens County. Both locations had Russell Bermuda with one location being harvested twice and one location harvested once. The results from the 2007 trial will be discussed.

**Crawford, Jim F.**

texdawg@uga.edu

Jefferson County, SE District

**JEFFERSON COUNTY “SEE THE FARM” TOUR**

Promoting agriculture, while marketing Extension and providing farmers an opportunity to view four demonstration plots, was the impetus for this farm tour. A committee, consisting of several ELS/Extension Program Development members, collected \$840 of donations besides assisting in planning and conducting this event.

62 farmers and others, including the county administrator, two county commissioners, a state senator, the Farm Bureau state president and district directors representing 69 counties, were in attendance. An additional, estimated audience of 4,500 people in five counties was reached via live, remote broadcasting on local radio, WPEH-FM and a front-page article in “The Jefferson Reporter”.

**Crosby, Mark**

pmc@uga.edu

Emanuel County, SE District

## APPLICATION OF PEANUT FUNGICIDES FOR MANAGEMENT OF SOIL-BORNE DISEASES

Crosby, Phillip M.1; Duffie, William D. Jr.2; Kemerait, Robert C.3

1Georgia Extension Service, University of Georgia, Swainsboro, GA 30401

2Georgia Extension Service, University of Georgia, Waynesboro, GA 30830

3Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793

**Abstract:** The application of which fungicide for management of soil-borne diseases in peanuts is a question often asked by growers in Georgia. Over the past few years, peanut rotations with other crops have decreased in Central Georgia, producing higher disease pressure in peanuts. Therefore, the need to apply effective fungicides to control soil-borne diseases is enhanced. A study was conducted at the Southeast Georgia Research and Education Center in Midville, in 2007. A protocol was designed to test 11 fungicide treatments in replicated studies. Results from 2007 showed significant differences between treatments when soil-borne fungicides were applied to peanuts under high disease pressure.

**Edwards, Phillip**

pedwards@uga.edu

Irwin County, SW District

## EVALUATION OF GA GREEN, GAO3L, AND AT3085RO PEANUT VARIETIES

Edwards\*, R.P.<sup>1</sup>, Beasley, J.P.<sup>2</sup>, Carlson, D.S.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cooperative Extension, University of Georgia, 107 West Fourth Street, Ocilla, GA 31774

<sup>2</sup>Department of Agronomy, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793

<sup>3</sup>Cooperative Extension, University of Georgia, 406 West Palm St, Fitzgerald, GA 31750

Research was conducted to evaluate three peanut varieties. Funds for this trial were provided through a Georgia Peanut Commission grant. Due to the drought conditions the plot was planted June 8, 2007, and digging and harvest was delayed due to rain. The experimental design was a randomized complete block. Each replication contained three varieties: GA Green, Georgia-O3L, and AT3085RO. The eight row plots were planted in a 36 inch row spacing with six seed per linear foot of row. Stand counts were taken after emergence. Yield was determined on each rep, and each variety was graded.

**Edwards, Phillip**

pedwards@uga.edu

Irwin County, SW District

INSECTICIDE EFFICACY TRIALS ON STINKBUG IN GEORGIA COTTON

Edwards\*, R.P.<sup>1</sup>, Roberts, P.M.<sup>2</sup>

Efficacy trials were conducted from 2005 to 2007 utilizing various insecticides and rates to determine their impact on stink bug infestations in cotton. Since the transition to transgenic Bt cotton stink bug presence has negatively impacted cotton yield and grade. Efficacy trials were conducted in commercial cotton fields planted adjacent to peanuts. Stink bugs were counted by life stage and species 3 to 7 days after treatment. Pyrethroids and organophosphates provided good to excellent control of southern green stink bugs. However, organophosphates such as Bidrin tended to provide improved control of brown stink bug species.

**Haddock, Buster**

bhaddock@uga.edu

Baker County, SW District

CONSERVATION THROUGH COMPOSTING: REDUCING LAND APPLIED MANURE

Presented by Vernon S. Haddock<sup>1</sup>, E. Lanier Jordan<sup>1</sup>, Jason Governo<sup>2</sup> and Chad L. Heard<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UGA Cooperative Extension Service, Baker County, P.O. Box 220, Newton, GA 39870

<sup>2</sup>UGA Engineering Outreach Service, Driftmier Engineering Center, Athens, GA 30602

<sup>3</sup>Baker County Participating Poultry Producer and Landowner

The Southwest Georgia Ichawaynochaway Watershed Cooperative Poultry Litter Composting Project is located in Baker County. The purpose of the project is to improve the quality of the groundwater by reducing the amount of raw litter applied through conventional row crop practices. The basic premise which motivates this project is the means by which litter is stored and applied in comparison to the karst characteristics of the region which creates a suitable environment for leaching and surface water contamination. The project is designed to compost chicken litter and cotton gin trash removing weed seed and eliminating harmful pathogens. Once the compost has matured it will be bagged and marketed primarily outside of the watershed.

**Hicks, Ray**

rhicks@uga.edu

Screven County, SE District

**PRELIMINARY REPORT: ON-FARM VALIDATION OF AN INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN CERTIFIED ORGANIC PEANUT PRODUCTION IN GEORGIA**

Mark A. Boudreau<sup>\*</sup>, Relinda Walker, W. Carroll Johnson, III, Ray Hicks, Nathan Smith, and Emily Cantonwine. <sup>\*</sup>Address of senior and corresponding author: Hebert Green Agroecology, Inc., 20 Battery Park Ave., Suite 817, Asheville, NC 28801, [markb@greenagroecology.com](mailto:markb@greenagroecology.com)

There is increased interest in organic crop production in the southeastern U. S., particularly organic peanut production. Weed control is the major limiting factor to successful organic peanut production. In recent years, results of small-plot research indicated techniques of weed management that offered promise in organic peanut production. On-farm validation of these results was conducted in 2007 on a certified organic farm as part of a Southern SARE grant in cooperation with Hebert Green Agroecology and agricultural researchers at USDA-ARS, University of Georgia, North Carolina State University, and Clemson University.

**Kichler, Jeremy**

jkichler@uga.edu

Macon County, SW District

**MANAGING GLYPHOSATE-RESISTANT PALMER AMARANTH WITH RESIDUAL HERBICIDES IN PEANUT**Kichler, J.M.<sup>1\*</sup>, Prostko, E.P.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Macon County Cooperative Extension, The University of Georgia, Oglethorpe, GA 31068

<sup>2</sup>Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, The University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793

Glyphosate-resistant (GR) Palmer amaranth was confirmed in Macon County in 2005. In 2007, an irrigated field trial was conducted in Macon County to evaluate various preemergence herbicides for the control of GR-Palmer amaranth in peanut. Traditional small-plot techniques were utilized and each treatment was replicated four times. The following herbicides were used in this study: Dual Magnum 7.62 EC (16 oz/A); Stalwart 8 EC (16 oz/A); Outlook 6 EC (16 oz/A); Intrro 4 SC (64 oz/A); Valor 51 WG (2 or 3 oz/A); Reflex 2L (8 or 16 oz/A); and GoalTender 4 SC (8 or 16 oz/A). The results of this trial suggest that Valor and Reflex provided the most consistent and long lasting control of Palmer amaranth. At 94 days after treatment (DAT) both of these herbicides provided at least 93% control of Palmer amaranth.

**Mickler, Keith**

mickler@uga.edu

Floyd County, NW District

## WINTERSCHOOL ON THE ROAD “ROME’N THE GREEN”

Mickler, \* K.D.<sup>1</sup>; Hurt, R.T.<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup> Extension Agent, The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Floyd County, Rome, Georgia 30161<sup>2</sup> Training Coordinator, The University of Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture, Griffin, Georgia, 30223

The urban agriculture is an \$8.12 billion industry in Georgia. 2006 and 2007, a series of educational events were held throughout Georgia as a follow-up to GGIA’s Winterschool. There were 107 attendees in 2006 and 121 in 2007. Survey results from 2006 and 2007 Rome’n the Green indicated that 100 percent of attendees thought that the program was helpful and would attend future programs. Ninety percent said they would implement principles learned. Based upon estimates from the UGA Center for Agribusiness, each hour of pesticide credit has a economic value of \$6,427.00 per business. The 5 pesticide credits for 2006 program had a value of \$2,249,450 and the 5 pesticide credits for 2007 program had a value of \$2,410,125.00.

**Parker, Wade and Gary Hawkins**

wparker@uga.edu

Jenkins County, SE District

## MONITORING BIOMASS MASS FOR USE AS BIO-FUELS

Parker\*, W.<sup>1</sup>, Hawkins, G.L.<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup> Extension Agent, Jenkins County, Millen, GA 30442<sup>2</sup> Agricultural Pollution Prevention Specialist, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793

Cellulose is seen as the next material or biomass that will be used for the production of alternative fuels, specifically ethanol. However, the removal of biomass from a field may have negative affects on the soil organic matter especially in systems practicing conservation tillage. In the conservation tillage system, a cover crop is planted and that same cover crop is then used as mulch for various positive benefits. As we look for new and different sources for feedstocks for conversion of cellulose to ethanol, one potential source is the commercial crop residue such as cotton and the cover crop planted to form the mulch layer. Therefore, this project was designed to monitor soil organic matter as it is affected by the removal of 0, 50 and 100% of rye cover crop residue from a field using the conservation tillage system. Data will be presented to show how much material can be removed from a typical field and the associated soil organic matter content. The results presented here are initial data from the project, but will explain results and future plans for the project.

**Pope, John H.**

jpoppe@uga.edu

Monroe County, NE District

**ADDING VALUE TO CATTLE THROUGH THE MONROE COUNTY HEIFER  
EVALUATION AND REPRODUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Pope\* J.H.<sup>1</sup>, Stewart R.L.<sup>2</sup>, Pence M.E.<sup>3</sup>, Cannon P.T.<sup>2</sup>, Wilson T.W.<sup>2</sup>, Rossi J.E.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Georgia, Monroe County Extension

<sup>2</sup>University of Georgia, Department of Animal and Dairy Science

<sup>3</sup>University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine

The Monroe County Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development (H.E.R.D.) program demonstrates that the University of Georgia sponsored model can add value to heifers by providing a method of improved guidelines for reproductive development, breeding and marketing. The program began in 2005 developing annually more than 500 heifers from Monroe, Jasper and Upson Counties. The program serves to identify better quality breeding stock for use as replacements and to market to other breeders as value-added, elite breeding stock. From 2005 to 2007 nearly 600 head of bred heifers have been developed and marketed to producers in Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina and Texas. This value-added program has produced \$712,400 in gross revenue and an estimated \$113,281 in additional profits to participating producers.

**Price, T. and R.D. Lee**

tprice@uga.edu

Crisp County, SW District

**EVALUATION OF FREEZE DAMAGE TO V3-V4 STAGE CORN**

Price,\* T.<sup>1</sup>, Lee, R.D.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Agent, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Crisp County, Cordele, Georgia 31015

<sup>2</sup> Extension Specialist, University of Georgia, Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Georgia 31793

On April 8th-9th, 2007, temperatures in Crisp County fell to 28.6° and 32.5° Fahrenheit (F), causing significant visible damage to emerging and established stands of corn. The average minimum daily temperature over the past four years for April 8th - 9th in Cordele has been 54° F. The sudden drop in temperature and the advanced growth stage of corn (V3-V4) in the county allowed a unique opportunity to evaluate freeze effects to corn. A 13 acre field of DeKalb 6972, a widely planted hybrid in Crisp County was selected for observations. The seeding rate was 32,000 kernels per acre (2.2 seed/ft of 36"row). Approximately 95% of plants exhibited visible foliage desiccation as a result of the freeze. A random selection of ten plants that exhibited freeze damage (desiccated tissue at 1" or greater above the growing point) were monitored through harvest. Nine of ten plants survived to harvest however only eight produced harvestable ears. One surviving plant did not pollinate. Individual plants were monitored for disease, lodging and

ability to thrive. Two of the surviving plants exhibited some lodging. Plant weight, total ear weight and grain weight were measured. Estimated yield according to plant population and individual grain weight was expected to be 203-208 bushels per acre. Total yield for the entire 13 acre field was 245 bushels per acre. Total stand loss due to the freeze was estimated at 10-15% however total yield losses were expected to be higher due to additional lodging. The harvested yield of the 13 acre field suggest damage estimates and subsequent estimated yield losses overstated actual losses. Corn at the V3-V4 stage easily compensates for defoliation since the growing point is not exposed and yield components have not been set. While no control was available for comparison and actual yield losses may have occurred, these observations underscore that corn has excellent compensatory abilities and patience is a prudent course of action when estimating damage to corn at an early stage of growth.

**Price, T., W. Adkins and K. Phillips**

tpprice@uga.edu

Crisp County, SW District

## EVALUATION OF WATERMELON POLLENIZER VARIETIES

Price, \* T. <sup>1</sup>, Adkins, W. <sup>2</sup>, Phillips, K. <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Extension Agent, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Crisp County  
Cordele, Georgia 31015

<sup>2</sup> Research Farm Manager, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Crisp County,  
Cordele, Georgia 31015

<sup>3</sup> Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Wilcox County,  
Rochelle, Georgia 31079

It is estimated that 24,000 acres of watermelons were grown in GA in 2006 worth about 11 million dollars. At least 80% of watermelons grown in GA are seedless. Seedless pollenizers vary in yield and cost. With increased costs of production, producers are challenged to minimize inputs while maximizing outputs. Pollenizer plants are no exception. A three year pollenizer variety trial was established in Crisp County to compare yields and production returns. Nutrient requirements, disease, and weed control measures were applied based on University of Georgia recommendations. Five pollenizer varieties (Jenny, SP-4, Pinnacle, Side Kick, and Increase) were compared. The experiments were arranged as randomized complete block design with four replications. First year's yield data suggests Increase and Side Kick produced slightly more pounds per acre as well as more melons per acre however there were no statistical differences among all pollenizers with the exception of the control plot.

**Riner, Cliff & Reid Torrance**  
criner@uga.edu, reidt@uga.edu  
Tattnall County, SE District

## ENHANCING WEED CONTROL IN DIRECT SEEDED VIDALIA ONIONS THROUGH FERTILITY REGIMES

Riner, C. , Torrance, R. , Hill, R.  
Extension Agent, Tattnall County  
Extension Area Onion Agent  
Superintendent, Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center

Direct seeding of onions is cheaper and less labor intensive than transplanting, but weed control is a major challenge. Goal (oxyfluorfen) is necessary for weed control, but should not be applied prior to the two leaf stage of onion. Early emerging weeds can be too large to control by the time onions are big enough to treat. Therefore, rapid crop growth is essential for effective weed control. This study evaluated five fertility programs to determine if nutrient management could be used to stimulate early crop growth, allow earlier application of Goal herbicide, and provide adequate weed control.

**Sheffield, Mary Carol**  
msheff@uga.edu  
Paulding County, NW District

Paulding County Master Gardeners initiated a hands on gardening program in 2005 with Matthews Alternative School for twenty-five students in grades 6-12. Volunteers met monthly with students to conduct gardening lessons addressing Georgia Performance Standards relating to agriculture, science and math. Volunteers and faculty helped students generate and conduct peer teaching demonstrations relating to agriculture for elementary students at Matthews' annual "Farm Day". In May, 2007 students and teachers ranked student skill in preparation, cultural practices, and wildlife gardening, as well as knowledge of plant biology and level of agricultural awareness indicating an increase in proficiency for each area.

**Skaggs, Billy**  
bskaggs@uga.edu  
Hall County, NE District

Each May, Hall County Cooperative Extension coordinates the North Georgia Turfgrass Field Day. Topics have included water management, disease management, pesticide safety, sports field problems, and weed control. Since inception, over 500 professionals have attended the Turfgrass Field Day. In total, 370 attendees received category 24 pesticide credit (average of 4 hours per applicator) over the five field days held. According to UGA Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, each hour of credit has a minimum economic value to the business of \$6,427. As such, the economic value to the businesses represented at the Turfgrass Field Day totaled \$9,511,960.

**Varnedore, Tim**

tvarne@uga.edu

Jeff Davis County, SE District

A replicated chemical sucker control demonstration was conducted to evaluate sucker control and MH residues resulting from various rates of MH applied to a standard sucker control program. Treatments A - E received a three-way tankmix of a 5% contact, MH and 2 quarts of Prime+. The MH application rate was varied to provide 4.5, 3.37, 2.25, 1.69 and 1.12 lb ai MH. A composite sample of twenty five leaves were randomly removed from plots of each treatment to provide one sample per treatment per harvest. Samples were analyzed for MH residue. Suckers were pulled from 10 randomly selected plants per plot and the number and green weight of suckers per acre were calculated. Following application of the MH containing solutions light rainfall occurred in less than six hours afterwards. Based on the data presented in Table 1. it appears that the rainfall was sufficient to remove a portion of the MH prior to absorption into the plant resulting in reduced sucker control and reduced MH residue levels in the cured leaf. Although sucker weights and numbers for Treatments A through E. did not necessarily correlate with the decreasing MH application rates, the MH residues show a reduction as the rate of MH is decreased from 4.5 lb to 1.125 lb ai. The average residue levels appear to generally be related to the amount of MH applied. MH application rates of 2.25 lb ai and even less may be sufficient to control sucker growth with a minimum of MH residues.

**Waldorf, Bob**

bwaldorf@uga.edu

Banks County, NE District

From 2000 to 2007 the population of horses has risen 38% in Banks County. The CEC along with the Banks County Extension Staff, collaborating County Extension Agents and Extension Specialists planned and designed a "Horse Lover's Field Day."

The educational aspect of the field day included UGA Extension agents, UGA Extension Specialists and a local farrier planning and presenting programs on horse production. Live demonstrations and performances were presented. Vendors set up booths and exhibits including subjects on breeds, tack and nutrition.

Over 350 people attended the field day from 3 states. Nineteen vendors set up booths and educational exhibits. The response from participants indicated that there is a need for additional educational programming on horse production in the northeast Georgia area.

**Wheeler, Michael<sup>1</sup> and Eddie Ayers<sup>2</sup>**  
wheelerm@uga.edu eayers@uga.edu  
Gilmer<sup>1</sup> and Fannin<sup>2</sup> Counties, NE District

Wheeler\*, M.J.<sup>1</sup>, Ayers, E.L.<sup>2</sup>, Mitchem, W.E.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>. County Extension Agent, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Gilmer County, Ellijay, GA 30540

<sup>2</sup>. County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Fannin County, Blue Ridge, GA 30513

<sup>3</sup>. Extension Associate, North Carolina State University, Fletcher, NC 28732

Weed control in apple orchards allows the limited allocation of water and nutrients to best serve the trees. A study was developed to evaluate different combinations of tank mixes using Chateau on three year old Arkansas Black apple. Significant differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) were found between the control and the treatments when evaluating percent bare ground at nine and 28 days after treatment. There were significant differences in the total weed counts at nine days ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and 28 days after treatment ( $p \leq 0.10$ ; actual  $p = 0.0554$ ). Both Rely treatments provided better control than comparable glyphosate standard, but the costs of these treatments were approximately twice that of glyphosate.

# ***4-H & Youth***

## **Buckley, Jeff**

[jbuckley@uga.edu](mailto:jbuckley@uga.edu)

State 4-H Office

## SERVICE LEARNING & GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

According to research, Service Learning improves student performance, helps connect classroom learning to the real world and encourages youth to take an active role in their communities. 4-H is uniquely positioned to provide these opportunities. Global Youth Service Day is an international initiative organized by Youth Service America. They have developed a variety of great resources that can help you engage community partners and school systems through the planning of service learning projects. Planning Toolkits will walk you the planning process. Fact sheets on the benefits of Service Learning will excite school administrators as they learn about the solid research base for this type of educational activity.

## **Cox, Adrienne**

[ahcox@uga.edu](mailto:ahcox@uga.edu)

Harris County, NW District

4-H'ers and county 4-H programs in over 20 counties surrounding Harris County are able to participate in the Valley Agricultural Fair through the work of Adrienne Cox and other members of the Harris County Extension staff. Work begins in April to prepare and advertise for the fair. The fair is held in Harris County in September in conjunction with the Harris County Cattleman's Association Rodeo. Over 5,000 people come and are able to view the entries of the 4-H'ers. The youth are eligible to win prize money and ribbons because of the effort to secure funding each year.

## **Ellison, Stacey, and Kate Whiting**

[sellison@uga.edu](mailto:sellison@uga.edu) & [whitingk@uga.edu](mailto:whitingk@uga.edu)

Houston & Peach Counties, SW District

## Virtual 4-H Club Utilizes Technology to Reach Youth

To reach our optimum potential, 4-H must think innovatively to engage today's "net generation" in full participation. Peach and Houston Counties' 4-H Agents utilized Web CT/ Horizon Wimba to create an entirely virtual 4-H club. Horizon Wimba is an online webconferencing service that allows the user to enter a "classroom" where participants can speak with one another over the computer (using a headset microphone), write to one another using text-chat, view PowerPoint slides, view videos, etc. This tool is not only useful for counties, but shows tremendous potential to allow 4-H'ers who are geographically distant (ex: State and District Boards) to meet virtually.

**Fielder, Keith and Al Parker**

kfielder@uga.edu , alparker@uga.edu  
Putnam County, NE District

**DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE APPLIED SCIENTIFIC 4-H TEACHING CURRICULUM  
AND LEARNING GARDEN FOR THE PUTNAM COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Putnam County Elementary School Administration recognized the need for heightened agricultural and environmental awareness along with in-depth scientific exploration at the fourth through sixth grade levels. Putnam Cooperative Extension and 4-H was identified as a source of expertise to develop a teaching garden and promote learning, awareness and responsibility in students involved. Established long term programming goals included development of an after school garden club and a teaching curriculum utilizing class room instruction and the Learning Garden itself to develop skills of scientific investigation, and promote agricultural and environmental awareness.

**Goldman, Susan, Carl Varnadoe, Beth Scott-Brown, Deborah Wofford**

sgoldman@uga.edu  
Madison County, NE District

Madison County 4-H Youth were empowered through VOYAGE, Values Oriented Youth Achieving Goals through Empowerment leadership training, county council meetings and experiences encouraging new skills in decision making, self esteem, and public speaking. According to the Independent Sector's Report, the monetary value per hour for volunteer service is \$18.77. Twelve participating students, as a direct result of their newly gained leadership skills, have successfully led over 37 county council meetings, project clubs, summer, after school and civic club presentations and logged in over 70 volunteer hours totaling a monetary value of over \$1,000. These 4-H'ers are an asset to Madison County 4-H!

**Hardin, Keena**

keenah@uga.edu  
Haralson County, NW District

Haralson County 4-H Club has started an Alpaca Club. This Club offers educational components and provides opportunities for 4-H'ers to acquire new skills. 4-H'ers work with the alpacas and learn about the animals along with the responsibility of caring for them. This work has been rewarding to see the 4-H'ers gain confidence by doing something on their own.

**Hickey, Greg**

ghickey@uga.edu

McIntosh County, SE District

The My Space.com internet site has become a real problematic web site for youth and adults. Our county addressed this problem through a series of exhibits, classroom programs and informational parent meetings. How many underage youth are accessing the site? What inappropriate information are they posting? Is there a real threat from those who prey on youth? What do parents know about this site? Answers to these questions are explored in the poster presentation.

**Jackson, Octavia L.**

Ojackson@uga.edu

Lamar County, NW District

Project L.E.A.D. (Leadership Education and Development) is a comprehensive 9-month after-school leadership education program that incorporates a series of lessons and activities designed to increase their knowledge base, develop positive character traits and hone leadership skills. The Cloverleaf 4-H officers are exposed to numerous after-school community service activities designed to connect them with the needs of the larger community. Commenting on the training program, one 4-H'er wrote, "It made me want to be a better person and made me want to do great things in life."

**James, Royce**

roycelj@uga.edu

Bibb County, NW District

"Reality Check: Real-Life Financial Simulation Program for Teens" – a financial management simulation program designed to teach students in the 7<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grades financial literacy and resource management skills.

**Kennedy, Julie**

kennedyj@uga.edu

Meriwether/Troup, NW District

Cloverleaf participation in after-school events in Habersham County was low. With a total Cloverleaf enrollment of approximately 550, only 14 participated in MilkMake and 10 competed at DPA. In an effort to increase participation, a summer program composed of 8 workshops, 4 trips, and weekly Forestry Judging hikes was organized and promoted to all Cloverleaf students as well as upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders. 4-H participation increased with approximately 40 youth signing up for summer activities and an average of 25 in attendance at each event, with approximately 60-75% of those being 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**McLocklin, Wanda**

wandamc@uga.edu

Jackson County, NE District

Jackson County 4-H youth want to reverse the trend of high drop out rates in their own schools and make a difference in the community through the “Hooked On Books” summer reading camp. The goal of this project is to strengthen youth and adult partnerships while youth grow in their leadership skills, igniting a spark for reading with the campers involved in the program. Through this experience the middle and high school 4-H leaders strengthen youth leadership skills in the areas of verbal and written communication, planning, decision making, delegating responsibilities and group presentations.

**Miller, Melinda and Kris Peavy**

mdmiller@uga.edu and kgburn@uga.edu

Lowndes and Randolph Counties, SW District

Area Coordinator positions were formed for two workgroups in two different locations in Southwest District. Area Workgroups were formed in Southwest District to increase the leadership and delivery system of the 4-H program in counties without an agent. The Program Assistants are a vital role in making this system work in the small rural counties in the Southwest District. As Area Coordinators the primary role is be a mentor/support person. As the area coordinators we supply lesson plans for club meetings, give directions for the individual programs and keep the Program Assistants current with the information in the field of Youth Development. We also try to utilize a variety of methods to create innovative solutions to working as a group in such areas as fundraising, transportation to 4-H events as well as monthly update meetings to keep on track of the events going on.

**Stewart, Rachel**

restewart@uga.edu

Tattnall County, SE District

**EDUCATING YOUTH OF TATTNALL COUNTY TO MAKE HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE CHOICES**

Obesity in children and youth is a significant public health problem in Georgia. The healthy lifestyles curriculum focuses on Nutrition and Physical Activity. The students learned how to use the website to create their own My Pyramid chart. This is a tool that is used to help children get their families involved with what they are learning in 4-H. Summer programming is planned for 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to develop healthy eating habits and encourage physical activity. Games and healthy walks are included in each session to assist with learning the concept. Forty-seven percent of surveyed students gained knowledge of the My Pyramid and are currently changing the eating habits for after school snacks. Students include more fruits and vegetables in their diets as well.

**Williamson, Shirley B.**

shirleyw@uga.edu

Columbia County, NE District

#### GIDDY UP AND GO: URBAN YOUTH BECOME EQUESTRIANS

Urban and suburban youth wanted an opportunity to learn equestrian skills.

Columbia County 4-H organized a horse club to include youth that do not own horses. Designed to teach horsemanship skills to “horseless” members; classes prepare students for hard work involved in caring for animals, including basic riding, grooming, tack, feeding, mucking stalls, veterinary care and expenses.

Results: More than 275 “city kids” graduated; learning horses are a lot of fun, and responsibility. The club even organized a ride supporting Saint Jude’s Children’s Hospital that earned more than \$3,800.00. More impressive was the self esteem members gained in the process.

# ***Family and Consumer Sciences***

**Black, Terri C. and J. Rachel West**

tcameron@uga.edu/rubynell@uga.edu

Burke and Lanier Counties, SE and SW Districts

When planning menus for students, School Nutrition Program employees use the USDA MyPyramid. A new yellow bar representing healthy fats and oils was causing some confusion. To enable employees to make healthier choices for students, “What is that Yellow Bar Doing on MyPyramid?” was developed and presented by Southwest Georgia FACS Extension agents.

**Bledsoe, Peggy and Jan Baggarly**

pbledsoe@uga.edu

Houston and Bibb Counties, SW and NW Districts

Operation EATERY (Educating and Training Each Restaurant Yearly) is a community partnership that teaches food safety techniques to a low income, ethnically diverse population. Grant dollars from NACCHO were used to develop this partnership. The training is specifically designed for the food handler. In 2006, 170 participants received a certificate of completion for the six hour class. The objectives of Operation EATERY include: free, quality food safety education that improves employee skills, attitudes and self esteem; establish an awareness of the need for food safety education; help decrease the number of citations and improve health scores.

**Everson, Denise, Judy Hibbs and Meredith Potter**

deverson@uga.edu

Oconee/Clarke, Clarke and Morgan Counties, NE District

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agents worked cooperatively with agencies and consumers to form the Nutrition Coalition of Northeast Georgia, a collaborative representing a ten county area. As part of the group’s educational outreach, the coalition developed a professional-quality exhibit, “H<sub>2</sub>O: Think, Drink!” and publication focusing on the benefits of drinking water. There are 26 exhibits spread throughout the 10-county area, reaching over 24,000 youth and adults. Due to popularity, additional exhibits are being provided at cost to community health professionals outside the coalition. The collaborative project has been approved for mass production and marketing through the Health Edco® catalog.

**Franklin, Lori**

lorif@uga.edu

Polk County, NW District

HOME \$WEET HOME

With increased foreclosure situations and gas prices on the rise, now more than ever, clients need to be concerned about saving money. This poster will highlight strategies a client can use to conserve household energy; therefore, conserving household energy costs. The main topics covered will be: limiting air-infiltration, home weatherizing, adding insulation, having the electric company do an energy audit, installing low-flow shower heads, insulating hot water heaters, and using appliances more efficiently (full loads, etc.).

**Hancock, Frank, Susan Howington, and Ashley Poland**

fhancock@uga.edu

Henry County, NW District

The Henry County Water Authority, Henry County Board of Education and Henry County Extension conduct field days at the Cubihatcha water reservoir. These field days educate youth on the attributes of water and the benefits of water conservation. Over 3,000 fifth graders, representing every public school in the county, come through the program annually and the impact is evaluated.

**Milam, Joann L.**

jmilam@uga.edu

Washington County, SE District

THE INS AND OUTS OF DIABETES

Washington and surrounding counties have a diabetes rate (10%) higher than the state average (6.9%). There was no diabetes education offered in the area, clients traveled 75 miles+ to receive the education they needed. The concept for the class was initially presented to 15 area physicians. Physicians responded positively and referred patients immediately. The free 5-hour program is taught bi-monthly. Nine 5-hour classes have reached 179 clients (895 hours). Evaluation data plus personal testimonies, weight loss and lower A1C levels demonstrate the program's success. Nova Nordisk Pharmaceutical co-sponsors the program offering incentives. In-kind contributions - \$1,350.00; funded support - \$4,050.00.