

**Best Practices in Partnering w/Your Local School Systems**  
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*Below is a compilation of work that Georgia Cooperative Extension faculty cited as ways that they were communicating and working w/their school systems. Items listed were received from response to an e-mail sent out by Judy Ashley September 06 asking for this input.*

Creating Awareness of your Cooperative Extension Program

- Brief bulleted monthly 4-H report to BOE (Sumter, Stephens Co.)
- On BOE agenda once a year (Baldwin, Sumter and Jenkins Counties)
- Send school board summary of programs & activities (planned 4-H meetings) conducted by county (Jones, Stephens, Bleckley County)
- 4-H activities listed on school websites (Jones County)
- Informing school/teachers that we are a resource for helping with curriculum (Taylor, Stephens County)
- Provide teachers, administrators, BOE members and county officials a copy of 4-H curriculum for the year
- Meet with superintendent and/or teachers and show them our curriculum and calendar of activities for the year. (Barrow, Gordon, Grady, Stephens, Wilkes, Banks, Tattnall)
- Take district and/or state officers before the board (Turner)
- Designated bulletin board for 4-H in middle schools (Oconee)
- Submit monthly Board of Education reports addressed to the superintendent of schools (Baldwin, Oconee)
- Set up 4-H display outside of BOE meeting (Jenkins)
- Provide teachers, administrators, BOE members w/”4-H Year in Review” (Putnam, Butts)
- 4-H insert in local paper during National 4-H Week (Turner)
- Provide a highlight of 4-H activities every few years to BOE (Dade, Wilkes)
- Attend first PTO meeting of the year to introduce program to parents/students. (Grady)
- Deliver Georgia County Guide to BOE (Gilmer)
- Keep officials, principals and teachers informed. Send newsletters, announcements and training information. Be sure to make them aware of resources we provide. Invite them to special events highlighting student participation. (Hall)
- Schedule face-to-face meetings with school officials, principals and teacher groups to explain programs and offer resources. (Hall)
- Local radio air time to promote 4-H activities. Articles or pictures of 4-H’ers. Provide 4-H project list to librarian. (Stephens)
- Go to Board of Education meeting to recognize 4-Her for project work, judging team performance or some community service project. (Barrow, Banks, Oconee, Walton)

- Have 4-H listed in student handbook and yearbooks under clubs and organizations (Turner, Walton)
- Submit 4-H portion of Staff Activity Reports to BOE, superintendent, principals. Submit DPA Success Report. (Tattnall, Stewart)
- Notify school officials, principals and teachers of student participation in 4-H events. (Hall, Oconee)
- Develop one-on-one relationships w/school system folks (Peach, Bleckley)
- During National 4-H week, have 4-H'ers attend the school board meeting to discuss their involvement and accomplishments in the 4-H program. (Stephens)
- Attend open house for school, man exhibit. (Butts, Dade, Walton, Wilkes)
- Put up display boards during Georgia 4-H Week at schools. (Grady)
- Spring luncheon for BOE members to update them on accomplishments and inform them of next year's direction. (Banks)
- Active in PTO as officers, representatives and more (Gordon)
- Provide annual report of 4-H program when submitting budget request (Greene)
- Send letter to teachers explaining benefits of project achievement and the ties to GA Performance Standards to encourage CPA participation (Turner)
- Drop off monthly 4-H newsletter to principals (Banks, Walton)
- Bi-lingual program assistant has interpreted verbally and written for school system (Gilmer)
- Visit schools often, not just on club days (Stephens)
- Produce a consistent, high quality, youth development program that the board sees in the media and hears praises for from their school principals, parents and teachers (Oconee)
- Share winners names w/appropriate school principals (Oconee, Butts)
- Invite school officials to share limelight at state legislature when local 4-H'ers are recognized there (Oconee)
- Upon change in staff w/BOE or superintendents office, Extension staff makes appointment to orient them to Cooperative Extension and 4-H (Oconee)
- Get on program at all school awards programs (Butts)
- Use 4-H'ers in giving 4-H annual report to BOE (Bleckley)
- Practice the art of networking (Bleckley)

#### Showing Appreciation

- During National 4-H week recognize our school board. Do a community project for them. (Barrow)
- Provide welcome packets w/token gift to new teachers explaining 4-H program (Wilkes)
- Appreciation gifts to BOE/teachers/principals/secretaries at end of year, holidays, and other appropriate times. (Atkinson, Butts, Irwin, Jones, Grady, Gilmer, Stephens, Banks, Walton, Tattnall, Turner, Wilkes)
- 4-H supporters invited to 4-H Appreciation Dinner
- Send flowers to school secretary at end of school year (Wilkes)
- Provide gifts to bus barn personnel (Atkinson)

- Teacher Appreciation luncheon during pre-planning week, administrators invited (Jenkins)
- Teacher appreciation cards made by 4-H'ers (Jenkins)
- Recognize school board during 4-H Week and 4-H Club Annual Awards (Atkinson)
- Donate gift bags to Teacher of the Year for each school (Butts)
- Teacher Appreciation Breakfast (Butts)

Program Involvement (advisory committee, program evaluators,)

- Invite to 4-H Award Program (Dade, Jones , Walton, Baldwin, Greene, Oconee, Tattnall, Elbert)
- Include school officials on advisory board (Jones, Barrow, Bleckley, Irwin, Jenkins, Stewart, Tattnall, Turner)
- Attend at least one school board meeting per year (Baldwin, Atkinson)
- Ask teachers to help chaperone or judge a 4-H activity. (Stephens)
- BOE pays the DPA fees for all kids to go to DPA. (Sumter)
- Invite teachers, principals. BOE members to judge at CPA (Walton, Stephens)
- Invite school administrators to MC at 4-H events (Stephens)

ANR programming w/schools (athletic fields, soil sampling, IPM)

- Soil sampling – no charge (Jones, Stewart)
- Site consultations for PTA, etc. (DeKalb)
- Train local teachers to do hands-on activities at their schools and with their students (DeKalb)
- School butterfly garden planning (Bleckley)
- Taught private applicator testing and training for school maintenance workers. (Murray)
- Taught composting to science classes (Bleckley)
- Taught lake ecology sessions to science classes (Bleckley)
- Coordinated landscaping for two new schools (Murray)
- Received a Deff Tree grant to provide trees for nature trail at elementary school (Murray)
- Landscaping projects (Elbert, Irwin)
- Guest speaker for science teacher (Taylor)
- Soil fertility and conservation lecture to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Whit Davis Elem School. Also, a lecture about the Philippines and its soil formation at Hilsman Middle School. (Leticia Sonon/Soil, Plant and Water Lab)
- Working with Griffin and Nahunta and Paulding County regarding options for termite control. (Dan Suiter, Griffin)
- Distributed “Water Source Book” curriculum to all county offices for their office use. (Rose Mary Seymour, Griffin)
- Conducted 3-day training for Ag Tech teachers on the topic “Wildlife Management” in Guyton and Thomson. Also, created a 3-credit course “Wildlife Ecology and Management” for teachers. Also, taught to students in Ag Ed and Sci Ed. Intend to offer a Field Studies class in 2007. (Mike Mengak, UGA)

- Master Gardener training for teachers. (Marco Fonseca, Griffin & Dekalb County)
- Athens Area Master Gardeners started a Junior Master Gardener program last year at Clarke Middle School. Very successful. Will be scheduled again this year. (Gary Wade, Athens)
- Participating in a program called “Leaping into Green” statewide symposium for science teachers in Mansfield, Ga. Will be doing a 1 ½ hour class on Water Wise Landscaping and the GA Water Wise Guy Game. (Gary Wade, Athens)
- Offer Master Junior Gardener courses (Dade)
- Secured grant funding for tree planting for 20 year anniversary of school (Dade)
- Assist with athletic fields and make recommendations for liming and fertilization. (Dade, Polk, Jenkins, Turner, Irwin)
- Insect control recommendations in schools (Irwin)
- Collaborate with Polk County schools, FFA and Farm Bureau to host students as they learn about local agriculture products. (Polk)
- Implementing an Integrated Pest Management program in two school districts in GA – Bartow and Cobb (Gretchen Pettis, Entomologist)
- All 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students have visited Extension office to learn about soil types, soils, plants and origin of food (Irwin)
- Submitted Georgia Agribusiness Council grant application to fund teacher’s classroom lesson on Plant Classification (Turner)
- Provide research based curriculum w/hands-on lessons for 4-H club meetings to correspond w/new GA Performance Standards in Science (Turner)
- Promote 4-H Environmental Education program to schools (Turner)
- Serve as guest speaker at Career Days (Oconee, Irwin, Walton)
- Developing environmental forest and classroom on school property (Elbert)
- Conduct Ag Day for all 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students (Dade)
- Assist w/Arbor Day Celebration at schools (Dade)
- Assisted w/raising funds for renovation of old school greenhouses (Dade)

FACS programming w/schools (financial management, nutrition, serv safe)

- Partnered with BOE and middle school in a CYFAR funded after-school enrichment program (Candler)
- Developed an organized classroom program in food safety and sanitation (Tift)
- Doing poverty simulations for the Monroe County School System
- Organizing financial literacy classes throughout Georgia for Social Studies teachers (FACS-Michael Rupured)
- Taught “Better Brains for Babies” and “ProStart” curriculum to students (Richmond/Columbia)
- Send “FACS Alert” to the teachers and elected officials to alert them to current information in the news media.(Richmond/Columbia)
- Provide in-service training for the teachers when requested. (Gilmer)
- Provide primary school teachers with a list of classes I teach to students such as nutrition and hand washing.(Gilmer)
- Visited primary school store and high school soccer team and gave them suggestions for healthy snacks and meals (Gilmer)

- Provide teachers w/My Pyramid posters and literature(Turner)
- Work with high school and middle school Family Life Skills teacher and do classes for their students. (Gilmer)
- Do job skills class to high school students who are at risk and challenged. (Gilmer)
- “Growing Together” newsletters sent to every students home (Stewart)
- Provide “School Food Nutrition” training to school food nutrition employees (Stewart)
- Taught nutrition classes to all pre-K and K-5 classes (Stewart)
- Worked w/vo-ag teachers to audit food safety methods used in school canneries (Bill Hurst, Food Science)
- Worked through GA Assoc. of School Nurses to train school nurses (Jorge Atilas)

#### 4-H programming

- 4-H after-school program and special events (Berrien)
- Conduct monthly in-school educational programs (numerous counties)
- Involved in school Awards Day at end of school year (Gordon)
- Taught several lessons this summer in conjunction with local school system’s summer programming. (Berrien)
- Talking with school system to provide school program for additional educational workshops/opportunities for older 4-H’ers. (Berrien)
- Have 4-H club meetings during class time. (numerous counties)
- Presented 4-H display booths at school open houses. (Elbert)
- Teach language arts standards through demonstrations (many counties)
- Provide in-class 4-H club meeting for special ed classes (Butts)
- Teach public speaking to elementary school students, outside of 4-H meetings (Butts)
- Coordinates local youth leadership class (Polk)
- Conduct classes for Youth Leadership program (Walton)
- Trained youth leaders from over 30 Dekalb schools since 2003 (partner school system)
- Organized playground and yard cleanup service projects at elementary school (Elbert)
- Garden Earth Naturalist curriculum used to improve Math and Science

#### Meeting the Needs of Your School System

- End of year evaluation given to teachers about 4-H meetings (Putnam, Greene)
- End of year student evaluation (Greene)
- Meet w/school principals at beginning of school year (Grady)
- Cooperative Extension now approved by GA Department of Education to provide Professional Learning Units to teachers (Michael Rupered, FACS)
- Extension staff serves on scholarship committees for teachers (Oconee)
- Serve as quarterly job interviewers for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (Oconee)

- Applied for and received “Get Hooked on Books” grant from National 4-H Council (Jackson)
- Partner in Education w/Colham Ferry Elementary School and Oconee Middle School (Oconee)
- School system uses Extension facilities for graduation testing and other functions (Elbert, Jenkins)
- Agent serves on Career, Technical and Agricultural Educational Executive Advisory Board (Richmond/Columbia)
- Provide servers for STAR student banquet (Butts)
- Correlate 4-H club meeting lessons to 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> grade school curriculum (Butts)
- Extension Agents serve on Communities in Schools committee (Jenkins)
- Developing a character building workshop for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students (Butts)
- Serve as judges for science fair (Butts)
- Assist school counselors in providing sources for scholarships and college opportunities (Irwin)
- CEC serves as chair of Career, Technical and Agriculture Advisory Council (Irwin)
- Working w/high school coach to provide funds to match grant funding for school archery equipment that will be shared w/school and 4-H (Irwin)
- Partner w/vo-ag department in youth livestock events, projects and training (Irwin, Walton)
- Coordinate 4-H awards day w/school awards day program (Stewart)
- Initiated mentor program w/school system (Stewart)
- Agent serves on ECL committee to plan and evaluate 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum (Stewart)
- Teach at school aftercare summer classes (Dade)
- Be on time and professional (Jenkins)