



**ASRED State Report
Clemson University Cooperative Extension System
August 2016**

As we close out our fiscal year I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of our dedicated and hardworking Extension Faculty and Staff throughout this great state. This has been a very productive year on all fronts - Extension programming, hiring, research and advocacy. This year also brought in the final stages of our Strategic Plan, with the hiring of six regional agents, and combining the Water and Forestry teams back into the Natural Resource Team, and splitting the Horticulture Team into Commercial and Urban Horticulture Teams. These changes will allow us to focus more on quality programming. I want to thank Derrick Phinney for accepting the opportunity to lead the Natural Resource Team and Cory Tanner for accepting the opportunity to lead the Urban Horticulture Team. We were able to re-energize our Extension Advocacy Council under the leadership of Ed Pappas and Bob Guinn. They have work extremely hard to revise our by-laws and restructure this outstanding organization to the Extension Advancement Council.

Last year because of the hard work of Extension Agents with quality programming, our advocacy team, under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Coleman and Ms. Alma Harris, led us to another great year with increased funding. We were able to hire 14 new agents, (9) 4-H, (2) Food Safety & Nutrition, (2) Horticulture, and (1) Water Resources. We are currently searching for two Small Fruit and Vegetable Agents, one 4-H Agent, two Water Resources agents (rehires), two Agribusiness Agents and two Agribusiness Specialists. These new hires will allow us to advance our programming activities to an even higher level. I also would like to thank all of you for advocating for our PSA budget this year. PSA was very successful again this year in receiving \$1.2 million in recurring funds and \$500,000 in non-recurring funds for Extension and Research, \$750,000 for Livestock Poultry Health, and \$1 million for improvements to the T. Ed Garrison Arena. This year the majority of the funds will go to support Extension and Research efforts at the Research and Education Centers. This would not have been possible without the help of everyone pulling together and taking time to contact your local legislators. Many folks have noticed your efforts; all I can express is a deep-hearted thank you.

Our new Extension Mentoring Program is off to a fast start under the leadership of Dr. Meghan Wood, Mr. Danny Howard and Ms. Karissa Ulmer. The goal of the Mentoring Team is to develop an individualized mentoring program for all of our new and beginning agents. This is truly a monumental task, but one I know this team will complete. They have already conducted a three-day workshop and started to visit our new and beginning agents. Dr. Matt Burns started a venture with Auburn University Cooperative Extension System. He hosted the Auburn Livestock & Forage Team as well as their newly started Agribusiness Team for a three-day in-service

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training on the campus of Clemson University. This is a new and cooperative venture between the two Universities, and one which we will expand upon.

This has also been a very relentless year on our Agribusiness, Agronomic, Forestry and Livestock Teams with the low state flooding. Our agents were some of the first responders to help our most treasured commodity, "Our South Carolina Farmers". The impact our agents had on helping our farmers was noticed by everyone including our Governor. Extension did not stop working for our farmers even months after the flood. Our Agribusiness team (under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Coleman, Dr. Nathan Smith, and Mr. Scott Mickey) has worked hand-in-hand with Hugh Weathers our Commissioner of Agriculture and Mr. Harry Ott, South Carolina Farm Bureau President, to get the Farm Aid Bill passed through our legislation session. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture has lead on this project, but our agents will be the frontline for our farmers to assist with the application process. Dr. Coleman, Dr. Smith and Mr. Scott Mickey have been working around the clock to get this process completed and developing training for our agents.

I am very proud and humbled to be the Director of Clemson University Cooperative Extension System, because of the great, passionate, dedicated agents and specialists I get to work with each and every day.

Livestock and Forage Program Team:

Dr. Matthew Burns, Team Leader

The Livestock and Forage Team conducted 277 programs and agents have served as content provider for an additional 186 educational workshops (total programs = 463). The team increased direct contacts by over 10,000 participants compared to last year (total number 29,989).

Continued to develop Livestock and Forage Team core programs. These include Master Beef Producer, Backyards and Barnyards, Master Small Ruminant, Grass Masters, Backyard Poultry, and BBQ Boot Camps.

Provided nine Livestock and Forage Agents and one producer the opportunity to attend Beef Improvement Federation Meetings in Manhattan, KS and stopped at beef cattle operations in KS on the way to meetings.

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Commercial Horticulture Program Team Activities (Jan – Jun 2016)

Powell Smith, Program Team Leader

- Six producer meetings
- 3 field days
- two research/demonstrations
- entered Farm Gate data for in fruits, vegetables, and agri-tainment for 7 counties
- Assisted in Farm Aid work in holding meetings, assisting producers with applications and determination of yields, spacing specifications, etc. for acreage verification
- Made farm visits and answered phone calls to solve problems
- Agents attended several regional and state events for in-service training

Urban Horticulture Team Update

Cory Tanner, Program Team Leader

The Urban Horticulture Team's primary activities to date largely involve various aspects of Master Gardener volunteer training and management through 14 active MG programs across the state. To date this year there have been 3 statewide advanced MG trainings held (School & Community Gardening, Plant Propagation, & Landscape Design) with outstanding attendance. We also have a very active School and Community Gardening program with an exemplary program titled School Gardening for SC Educators that trains teachers and volunteers to engage children in garden-based learning. This project is a partnership with the College of Charleston and currently serves school districts in Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, and Greenville Counties. Plans are underway to expand the project into Anderson and other counties this year. Most recently, members of the Urban Hort Team were honored to co-host the American Horticulture Society's 24th Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in Columbia.

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Food Safety and Nutrition Extension Program Team

Dr. Julie K. Northcutt, Program Team Leader; Dr. Michelle A. Parisi, Assistant Program Team Leader

A summarized report of the major activities for the Extension *Food Safety and Nutrition* (FSN) Program team are outlined below. These activities focus on the major events conducted to-date by the FSN team. The FSN Extension Program Team consists of:

- 12 County Agents;
- 5 Extension Associates;
- 11 EFNEP Program Assistants (Federally-funded *Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program*);
- 5 EFNEP Nutrition Educator Assistants (NEAs);
- 1 EFNEP Data Manager;
- 2.5 Full-Time-Equivalent Faculty Specialists plus 0.8 FTE currently vacant; and
- 2 part-time Program Assistant (team-funded through ServSafe or EFNEP).

During 2016 (Jan-July), FSN Agents conducted 22 ServSafe Manager Workshops certifying approximately 400 individuals, 8 Employee ServSafe Workshops for nearly 100 Food Handlers, 20 Carolina Canning Programs for 202 participants, 124 Nutrition Programs for over 4000 individuals (3990 in-person plus undetermined TV audience), and made several Population Health Management contacts (412) through the mobile health unit and Diabetes-Support Program. The team made 4 appearances on the eTV program *Making it Grow*, covering topics such as food waste, food dehydration, nutrition (eating a rainbow) and healthy yogurt smoothies (audience estimated to exceed 250,000 per appearance). One agent appeared 4 times on the *Peggy Denny Show* for cooking demonstrations. In January 2016, one new Extension agent and 4 new NEAs were hired and trained; two new agents (1 EFNEP and 1 Culinary) and 1 NEA were hired in June/July. Twelve team members were reclassified by the Assistant Program Team Leader's work with Human Resources.

The FSN EFNEP program has 1,308 total families enrolled, including 229 families that are new to the program. These families have been taught 1,471 total lessons. Additionally, the EFNEP Program has 2,118 youth enrolled and each youth receives 8 lessons (total of 16,944 youth lessons).

The FSN Team's Food2Market Program tested 78 new products, prepared 60 Nutrition Facts Panels, and answered 520 food safety/nutrition questions generating nearly \$12,000 to support a M.S. graduate student's stipend. Furthermore, the team conducted 3 *Better Processing Control Schools* (4 days per training), 1 *Seafood HACCP* Workshop (1 day per training) and 1 *Food Safety Modernization Act, Preventative Controls for Human Food* Workshop (2.5 days per training). Other funding included:

- \$36,800 for 2 years for FSN/Greenville Health System/Public Health Science Grant

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- \$10,000 for EFNEP Culinary Partners Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- \$3,500 for FSN MOU with SC Department of Education (SCDE) for ServSafe Training
- \$25,600 for EFNEP SCDE MOU
- \$15,000 Campylobacter Product Testing, \$51,500 Tri-County 4-H
- \$56,000 USDA Regional Extension Training Center Grant (awarded January).
- \$20,000 SC Department of Health and Environmental Controls Food Pantry Grant

The team has also applied for a number of grants that include:

- \$399,000 USDA-NIFA Grant on Health Extension
- \$2 Million from Robert Wood Johnson Center on Health Extension
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention Obesity Grant (in-process); and USDA Health Extension Grant (in-process)

Natural Resources Division

Derrick Phinney, Program Team Leader

- Following the direction of our strategic plan we have completed our team realignment of the Natural Resources Division. Under this division we have combined our forestry, wildlife and water resources units to form the Natural Resources Division. This new realignment will help to foster collaboration, eliminate real and perceived barriers, enhance efficiency, effectively distribute human and financial resources, and broaden employee knowledge base.
- The Carolina Rain Garden Initiative certifies professional rain garden installers and designers who attend the Clemson Extension Rain Garden for Professionals workshop and demonstrate their experience by submitting a rain garden portfolio. This certification is intended for residential-scale “pocket” rain gardens and does not include more highly engineered bioretention cells. Although both rain gardens and bioretention cells work to slow storm water runoff and allow for infiltration, bioretention cells are more highly regulated in design and materials.
- The Master Pond Manager (MPM) achievement course is designed to teach participants a wide range of pond management knowledge and skills. As a "hybrid" course combining online and face-to-face learning, it will incorporate self-paced lectures, discussion, quizzes, and other web-based methods of participant-instructor interaction, along with hands-on participation activities in the field. Intended audience for the course includes pond owners, pond management professionals, community staff, stormwater managers, landscapers, contractors, property managers, parks staff, planners, and developers. Course curriculum is offered through two tracks, the full Master Pond Manager certificate or a letter of completion in management. Depending on which track is

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selected, the course will consist of up to 6 parts, including: Recreational Pond Design, Permitting, and Management Strategies; Stormwater Pond Design, Inspection, and Maintenance; Limnology; Integrated Aquatic Plant Management; Best Management Practices for Stormwater Ponds; Fish Management

- Ongoing installation of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), often installed as part of extension workshops, provides highly visible demonstrations of rain gardens, bioretention, floating wetlands, shoredscaping, and more. Installations are used as training opportunities, and well-maintained practices are intended to provide local residents the chance to learn more about the appearance, function, and design of BMPs.
- In order to maintain and strengthen natural resources education programs the forestry and wildlife unit has taken some initial steps to provide quality educational natural resources programs to local landowners and other clientele who are interested in natural resources. The team has started to rebuild/rebrand the concept of the Master Tree Farmer program as a single county or local area offering per client requests. With the Forestry 101 concept we are looking to provide the basics of forest management in a manner that will be clear to the landowner with no prior experience and help clarify and give better understanding of management concepts to those that have owned land for some time. We will be looking to individual team members to produce appropriate training modules that can be delivered by any available agents, associates, and specialists around the state
- Extension and the *Center of Heirs Property Preservation* have partnered to conduct quarterly workshops that promote sustainable use of forest land to provide increased economic benefit to historically under-served families through sustainable forestry education. Funding has been provided from the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities (USE). Along with the quarterly workshops, we have hosted several focused workshops through the coastal region. Most recently assisted with “SC Rural & Limited Resource Landowner Symposium”.
- Working on inputting pricing and yield date for the forestry section of Farm Gate.

AGRONOMIC ROW CROPS TEAM ACTIVITIES

Dr. John Mueller, Program Team Leader

1,263 Growers Attended “State” Commodity Meetings and Farm Aid Related Meetings

1,275 Growers Attended our Standard “County” Row Crop Team Meetings

Agronomic Row Crop Team activities took place in 27 Counties:

Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Hampton, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda, Sumter, Williamsburg

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23 Major Events for the Row Crops Team Included (1,263 contacts):

State Cotton meeting held on January 26 in Santee with 150 attendees

State Peanut meeting held on January 28 in Santee with 275 attendees

Conducted Tobacco Associates referendum on January 27

Soil fertility meeting in Santee on February 18th with 84 attendees

Row crop agents led 20 Farm Aid training sessions for 998+ growers.

265+ One-on-One Meetings with growers to help fill out Farm Aid Forms

23 Crop Production Meetings were held:

1 Corn Production Meeting

3 Cotton Production Meetings

4 Peanut Production Meetings

3 Soybean Production Meetings

1 Silage Production Meetings

3 Tobacco Production Meetings

8 Multiple Crop Production Meetings

3 Hay activities

7 Young Farmer/local Farm Bureau Meetings (210 attendees)

1 Row Crop Marketing Meeting

1 Farm Safety Meeting

1 Feral Hog Management Workshop (30 in attendance)

1 Coyote Management Workshop (62 attendees)

2 Irrigation Moisture Management Meeting (64 in attendance)

1 Weed ID and Cold Damage Response Workshop (19 attendees)

4 Certifications & License Trainings were held:

11 Pesticide Trainings

3 CAMM Trainings

1 Financial

27 Field Demonstrations Planted:

14 Corn Demos

5 Cotton Demos

2 Peanut Demos

5 Soybean Demos

3 Sorghum

3 Misc. Demos

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The Agronomic Row Crops Team also provided representatives to Winter and Spring meetings of:

South Carolina Peanut Board; South Carolina Soybean Board; South Carolina Cotton Board
SCFB Peanut Committee; SCFB Soybean Feed Grain and Hay Committee

Agribusiness Program Team 2016 Activities

Dr. Nathan Smith, Team Leader

Financing the Farm Workshop - A workshop designed to help farmers assess their financial stability in light of the devastating drought and floods of 2015. Presenters discussed farm financing options, required information that lenders will need, understanding a balance sheet, assessing equity and operating capital, and the crop outlook for 2016. Two workshops held in December 2015 and January 2016 with total attendance of 155. AgSouth & ArborOne Farm Credit sponsored workshops. Presenters were Scott Mickey, Clemson Extension Farm Business Specialist, Dr. Nathan Smith, Clemson Extension Economist and Lynn Huggins, Farm Loan Officer, Farm Service Agency.

Executive Marketing Seminar - A three day workshop in January was held for crop growers on developing a marketing plan for 2016. Topics covered included financial reset for 2016, fundamental and technical market analysis, market outlook, positioning for the future and putting the plan on paper. The seminar is annual workshop offered by the Central SC Farm Management Association led by Scott Mickey.

SC Farm Aid: A catastrophic flood hit much of South Carolina during October of 2015 followed by weeks of rain. Farmers lost much of their 2015 production to the flood or to quality losses as a result of excess moisture. The South Carolina General Assembly responded to the absence of federal assistance request with a \$40 million SC Farm Aid Fund. Clemson Agribusiness specialists Dr. Nathan Smith and Scott Mickey responded to requests during this time for flood disaster assessments and policy analyses of proposed legislation to South Carolina Farm Bureau (SCFB), SC Department of Agriculture (SCDA) and legislators. The Clemson Extension Agribusiness Team worked with SCDA and SCFB on rules and regulations of South Carolina Farm Aid Fund, the application and developing a payment calculator. Dr. Kathy Coleman served as the Dean's representative on the SC Farm Aid Advisory Board. Four train-the-trainer sessions were conducted for Extension agents, crop insurance agents, ag lenders, ag teachers and professionals who work with growers. Beginning on June 27, twenty one education sessions were held, hosted by county Extension agents, on SC Farm Aid in conjunction with SC Department of Agriculture and SC State University Extension. Over 1,000 participants attended the sessions and Clemson Extension Agribusiness, Agronomic Crops, Horticulture and Animal Science and Forages program teams have provided technical assistance in the application process on deciphering documents, running the Farm Aid calculator and answering questions.

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New and Beginning Farmers Program: The South Carolina New and Beginning Farmer Program (SCNBFP) graduated its 2016 class in May. The SCNBFP is focused on enabling new and beginning farmers to be successful, productive, and innovative members of their local agricultural community. Fourteen workshop sessions were designed to provide the tools, knowledge and skills necessary to be successful entrepreneurs; sound business managers; exemplary stewards of SWAPA (soil, water, air, plants, and animals), and successful marketers. A Phase II level was implemented for those who are alumni of Phase I or with 3-9 years' experience. Dr. Dave Lamie is the SCNBFP program director. Participants across Phase I and II totaled 48.

Annie's Project: Clemson Extension held its fifth Annie's Project in 2016 in Georgetown, South Carolina. A total of 18 women from all over the state came together to network and learn to be more successful in farming operations. The group was a diverse mix of experience, farm enterprises, age and geographic location. The program is a four day retreat with program focusing on leadership, networking and risk management basics presented by Clemson and partners with AgSouth Farm Credit, ArborOne Farm Credit, and the Farm Service Agency. Jennifer Boyles coordinates the SC Annie's Project.

Ag + Art Tour: The South Carolina Ag + Art Tour is an agritourism program held each weekend of June in 2016 that combines farm tours and art exhibits and shows. The tour began in York County in 2012 and has grown to nine counties in 2016 with the addition of five counties. The South Carolina Ag + Art Tour is a free, self-guided tour of designated farms in South Carolina featuring local artisans and farmer's markets. During the tour you will have the opportunity to see first-hand where your food comes from, watch artists in action and purchase their works, dance to the melodies of bluegrass and folksongs, and learn more about rural life. The tour is the largest free tour of its kind in the US with over 20,000 visitors since 2012. Agribusiness agent Ben Boyles coordinates the Ag + Art Tour.

Economic Development / SET: Local food systems development has been a recent focus of economic development in South Carolina. The SCNBFP is one example of a program that is focused mostly on local food systems but other programs are being conducted by Agribusiness agents in South Carolina. 2016 programs include:

- **The Feeding Innovation Healthy Foods initiative** is a small business training targeted at food business startups or in the idea stage. Feeding Innovation was created by the South Carolina Community Loan Fund to bring healthy food to underserved communities throughout South Carolina. Feeding Innovation includes eight weeks of entrepreneurship and business-planning courses taught by Clemson Extension agribusiness agent Will Culler. Participants develop business plans with instruction on financial planning, operations management, law and regulation, marketing and more. At the conclusion of the program, participants have a unique opportunity to compete for \$12,500 in seed capital by pitching their ideas to a panel of judges. Two classes were held in of 2016.

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- Freshwater Coast Community Foundation Entrepreneurship Initiative community-based enterprise planning, marketing and branding of enterprises, to promote professional/business relationship among students and businesses through joint ventures, to foment collaboration among local colleges in the areas of agricultural leadership and entrepreneurship, and to catalyze a commitment to agribusiness and nature-based entrepreneurial leadership among internship students through business opportunities that prepares them for a lifetime of entrepreneurial leadership. by leading the FCCF's exploration of a continuing education program at the local community college that integrates innovation and entrepreneurial learning for mid-career entrepreneurs and leaders. A great effort will put forth on agricultural business innovation programs to help agricultural, forestry and environmental, and food businesses to grow in the FCCF region.
- National Stronger Economies Together (SET) program approved for SC in 2016. Partnering with SC State and USDA-RD. Dr. Dave Lamie serves as coordinator of the program. The Central South Carolina SET Collaborative was approved as a SET Phase VI region with a focus on developing local foods systems and agribusiness development. Alta Mae Marvin, Ben Boyles and Will Culler to provide technical assistance.
- Mobile Farmers Market was developed in Colleton County through a NIFA grant with a goal to increase the availability and accessibility of fresh produce to underserved communities. The mobile food market serves 6 locations, offered on Wednesdays for 6 weeks during the summer, funding has been secured to add an additional 6 weeks in the fall of 2016. Each week between 50 and 75 families visit the Mobile Market, children are the fastest growing visitors bringing money for their purchases; the children are a result of programs in schools and programs offered at the locations. The goal for the mobile market to become sustainable. The Mobile Market was expanded to 4 African American churches and 51 families. The 5-week pilot program was designed as a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) style market. Each week we included healthy recipes based on the vegetables in the baskets members received. The mobile market program is coordinated by Agribusiness agent Alta Mae Marvin.

Sandhill REC Farm Incubator: An incubator farm for new and beginning farmers was established at the Sandhill REC in Columbia, SC. Support for the incubator farm comes through a NIFA grant awarded to Clemson. About 5 acres of land was fenced, irrigation and a cooler have been installed for use by participants. Nine applications were accepted for the program and the land is being divided amount the participants to use for learning to farm and business startup. Harry Crissy was coordinator and recently took a new position in Florida. A search for a new permanent coordinator is underway. Curriculum program is being designed to help program participants learn production, marketing, finance and business planning.

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Joint In-Service Training with Auburn University: The newly formed Agribusiness Program Team joined the Livestock and Forages Program Team for a joint in-service training with Auburn University. The training involved sharing current programs and resources at each university and program plans and ideas for collaborating in the future. Issues with starting a new program were discussed and opportunities for training and development of new Agribusiness agents.

Highlights for 4-H Program

Dr. Pam Ardern, Team Leader

4-H Legislative Day

Over 200 4-Hers participated in 4-H Legislative Day at the State House on March 16th. The day was designed to thank legislators for their support of the 4-H Program in South Carolina. They had supported the program with \$500,000 in recurring funds in our 2015 State Budget. We held a breakfast for the Agriculture and Finance Committees, provided each Legislator with a bottle of Clemson honey, and hosted a luncheon for our major donors. The youth were introduced in both the House and Senate. Most of our youth also had appointments with and met their local legislators.

4-H Presents to the Clemson University Board of Trustees

South Carolina 4-H presented to the Clemson University Board of Trustees for the first time. We shared with them the growth of the 4-H program in South Carolina and the various programs being conducted in South Carolina. 4-Her, Martha Newton, had the Trustees in tears with her 4-H Story.

Pinckney 4-H Leadership Conference

A weeklong 4-H Pinckney Leadership Conference brought 25 high school sophomores and juniors from across South Carolina to Clemson's campus to participate in numerous activities designed to promote teamwork, leadership and citizenship. They spent a morning whitewater rafting and an evening playing "Capture the Flag." They made shoe soles from milk jugs and old blue jeans to donate to children in Africa. The program was conducted in honor of Senator Clementa Pinckney who was killed in the Charleston 9 shooting. A pastor, community leader and mentor, Pinckney also was a strong advocate for 4-H. He's one of the organization's most notable South Carolina alumni and in April received the 4-H Distinguished Alumni Medallion from the National 4-H Council. The widow of Sen. Clementa Pinckney challenged a group of South Carolina 4-H students to return home and strive to improve their communities as her late husband did. "This right here is what he was all about, youth and young people," Jennifer Pinckney said at the conclusion of the inaugural 4-H Clementa Pinckney Leadership Conference at Clemson University. "Learn the speaking skills to bring the leader out of you. Go back home and encourage others. Go back home and be the leader we know you can be. Go back home and be the mentor, be the next Clementa C. Pinckney."

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4-H Healthy Lifestyles Summit and Summer Camps

12 teams of 3 youth and 1 adult attended the 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Summit in January. The group received training on a summer day camp curriculum entitled "Cooking like a Chef". The various teams were challenged to return home with their new skills and conduct summer day camps for younger youth. The training was conducted by Chef Anne Corr from Pennsylvania, Chef Chad Carter product developer from Charleston, Dr. Margaret Condrasky from Clemson University's Food, Nutrition and Packaging Science, and Miriam Roman coordinator of the Youth Voice Youth Choice grant in South Carolina. This summer 12 camps were conducted in local communities reaching approximately 300 youth.

South Carolina 4-H Engineering Event

The South Carolina 4-H Engineering Event was held April 9th at Orangeburg- Calhoun Technical College with approximately 250 youth participating. EnLIGHTen SC is the corporate sponsor. The statewide event utilizes students' skills in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, in several fun and engaging competitions that promote teamwork, sportsmanship, perseverance and learning. In Smalls' event, students assembled and programmed robots built with Legos to perform designated tasks.

4-H Wildlife Food Plot

South Carolina 4-H has finished the 3rd year of our Wildlife Food Plot Project, an independent-study project providing hand-on experience in natural resources and environmental education. There were 108 participants from across the state with external sponsorship for the project provided by Wannamaker Wildlife and Quality Deer Management Association. Registration for the 2016-2017 project is underway.

4-H Small Garden Project

South Carolina 4-H Small Garden Project is an independent-study project providing hand-on experience in natural resources with a healthy-living twist. We added the option for a group component this year. Participants increased from an average of 74, over the past three years, to 239 youth. The project is sponsored by the South Carolina Master Gardeners.

Citizenship Washington Focus: Presidential Inauguration Trip

Eight youth and 2 adults were selected to attend the Presidential Inauguration Trip to Washington, D.C. in January 2017. Youth selected to attend this event underwent a vigorous screening process, in which they completed an application, submitted letters of intent and recommendation, as well as a resume. These youth have demonstrated the ability and leadership necessary to excel and serve as outstanding representatives of the young people of South Carolina.

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