

Extension Focus

a report to the people

Cumberland County Center

Summer 2012

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Director's Corner

Although there was much concern with heat and drought this summer across the Midwest, Cumberland County experienced just the opposite. With the steady rainfall and record high corn prices, Cumberland County is hoping for a strong corn crop yield this year. If the weather continues to cooperate, farmers are expecting a 40% increase in profits this year.

The summer was packed full of wonderful opportunities for Cooperative Extension this year. From hosting 4-H District Activity Day to serving as a host for the Johnston County Agribusiness Tour, our office has been in full swing. We were pleased that Mrs. Mable Murray received the Cumberland Cares Volunteer Award. Mrs. Murray has been a dedicated volunteer and friend to 4-H for 17 years. We appreciate Mrs. Mable Murray's continued support of our local 4-H program.

Row Crops, Pesticides, and Forestry

June was a month of weather extremes. Some parts of the county experienced heavy rains while other parts faced dry situations. Days having temperatures of over 100 degrees was difficult on crops; however, the high soil moisture levels assisted in the survival of the crops. Crops looked good during June with the corn crop developing to be one of the best crops in recent years. The tobacco and cotton crops looked good as well. Late planted soybeans got off to a rough start due to the June heat wave, but with rain, improved greatly. Insect and disease pressure has been high this year, and work was done with many producers on scouting crops to help with management decisions on insecticide and fungicide applications.

A field day for soybean and sorghum variety and herbicide evaluations was provided. Over 100 producers participated in the event which evaluated the varieties and treatments of the crops.

Crop conditions continued to improve during the month of July. Respectable rain over most of the county was of great value to the crops, with tobacco, cotton, peanuts, and



soybeans benefiting greatly. The agent has been scouting soybean fields for kudzu bugs in an effort to monitor the population of this new pest of soybeans. Timely insecticide applications for this new insect are critical for proper control. Work continues with sorghum producers to monitor for armyworms and corn ear worms to ensure timely insecticide applications. The National Association of County Agriculture Agents annual conference in Charleston, SC was attended during July. The meeting was a great opportunity to network with agents from across the country and to attend workshops which will provide a positive impact for Extension programs in Cumberland County.

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Crop conditions continued to improve with rain throughout August. Tobacco harvest has been in full swing and yields and quality have been good over most of the county. It should be a great year for most tobacco farmers. Work continued with soybean and sorghum growers on scouting fields for worm damage and advising on treatments. The agent has attended a crop agent in-service training in Raleigh as well as a weed resistance field day in Mt. Olive. The agent has also been working with agents from Harnett and Johnston counties on a soybean and sorghum field demonstration plot in the Dunn area.



Colby Lambert
Row Crops,
Forestry, Pesticides

Family and Consumer Sciences

With the warmer weather comes a bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables. What better time to offer a canning class? The Family and Consumer Sciences Department offered a low acid and high acid canning class. Individuals learned to pressure can green beans as well as can peaches using the water bath method. Participants were also provided information concerning unsafe canning methods. Participants took home a jar of green beans and peaches to enjoy.



Child Care providers with Head Start took part in a workshop called, "Fragile...Handle with Care". Providers were shown the proper way to pick up a child as well as the dangers of shaking an infant.

We had lots of fun at Groveview Terrace during their summer lunch program. Kids learned about the MyPlate, played fruit and vegetable bingo, made homemade ice cream, tast-

ed a variety of healthy snacks and learned about the importance of honey bees.

A housekeeping class was provided for residents who live in public housing. Over thirty people attended the workshop which focused on cleaning the kitchen correctly. Residents worked in groups on chores that should be done daily, weekly, seasonally and tasks that should be done as needed. They were provided information on how to mop a floor; how to clean an oven, stove top, counter top, and refrigerator.

Teens involved in the Youth for Christ program learned how they can save money by preparing meals at home instead of eating out and how to include more physical activity into their day. At the conclusion of the lesson, the participants prepared a home cooked meal.

The Cumberland County Extension Association had their annual tasting party fundraiser. This year's country of interest was Germany. Participants prepared German recipes and sponsored a fund-raising event to support their community projects.

Members took part in a two day sewing class and learned how to make an apron from a tea towel.



August is typically the time for the Family and Consumer Sciences department to begin planning programs for the upcoming school year. Informational letters were sent to Cumberland County teachers for scheduling participation classes for Baby Think It Over, Read Me a Story and Steps to Health.

A cholesterol class was offered at Lafayette Baptist Church. Members learned about the different types of fats as well as what foods were high in cholesterol.

Students between the ages of 8-13 participated in Creative Culinary Kids workshop. During this three day program, students learned about the new MyPlate, prepared and tasted healthy meals, as well as learned how fruits and vegetables grow by visiting the Extension Demonstration Garden. This year students learned how to preserve peaches by making peach jam. Based on the post surveys, all students identify the food groups on the MyPlate and increased their fruit and vegetable intake.

At the end of the month information was provided to residents of Groveview Terrace concerning county fair entries. What a great way to earn a little spending money for things grown or homemade!



Candy Underwood
Family and Consumer
Sciences

Livestock

Conditions in the Midwest continue to decline. Forage and pastureland were in very poor condition before the corn crop deteriorated and now cattle producers are scrambling to find a feed source. If unsuccessful, they have to send their whole herd to a feedlot instead of into a winter grazing management plan. Cattle numbers are the lowest they've been since 1952.

Despite the drought and harsh conditions in the Midwest, rain has been plentiful and very welcome here in Cumberland County. Producers here have been battling fall armyworms in their pastures and hayfields. If not caught early, armyworms can destroy a field in a matter of a couple of days, with significant damage done overnight. Agents in the area have been harvesting bermudagrass at our research trial plots in Bladen County this summer. When we arrived for the July cutting, most of the hayfield had been lost to armyworms.



The 2012 Junior Beef Roundup skillathon contest and the state 4-H livestock judging and skillathon contests were held in June. Participants at the Junior Beef Roundup skillathon contest were Mary Vorder Bruegge and Eugenie Vorder Bruegge. Their team placed 3rd in the intermediate division. Participants at the state contests were Ben Herndon and Mary Vorder Bruegge. Mary competed in the junior division and won 2nd in oral reasons, 6th in goats at the livestock judging contest, and 11th overall in the skillathon contest. Ben competed in the senior division.



In August, one of Cumberland County's youth attended the 2012 Youth Beef Industry Tour, sponsored by the North Carolina Cattle Assessment. Lorna Guzman learned about the beef industry in North Carolina. Having no agricultural background whatsoever, this was quite an experience for her.

This year, the tour stopped in Cumberland County at Lamm Farms in Linden and Martin's Abattoir and Wholesale Meats in Godwin. At Lamm Farms,



youth learned about commercial cattle production and low stress cattle handling, then they learned about processing at Martin's Meats. Lorna will hopefully be sharing her experiences with us at the 2013 Livestock Association Annual Meeting.



Mandy Harris
Livestock

Commercial Horticulture

Visits were made with farmers and homeowners for consultation. Summer programs were recorded for the "Successful Gardener" TV program that is shown on the Community channel. The Master Gardener Volunteers held their June update meeting at the home of EMGV Cheryl Garrett. The July update meeting was held at the Cooperative Extension office. Dr. Finley Brian was the guest speaker. Her topic was "Invasive Plants". A program about Community Supported Agriculture was provided and training was held to instruct civil affairs soldiers on vegetable farming. The Landscape Color Field Day, held at the NCSU J.C. Ralston Arboretum, was attended as well as the State Beekeepers summer meeting in Lumberton. The Cumberland County Beekeepers held their monthly meetings in June and July. Participants finished the practical Beginning Beekeeping course in early July. Cooperative Extension has also received notification that we have been awarded a grant to perform a Farmers Market Feasibility Study for the county.



Kenneth Bailey
Commercial Horticulture
Beekeeping
Master Gardeners

4-H Youth Development

The 65th Annual 4-H Electric Congress took place this year in Wilmington from July 9-11 at UNCW. Cumberland County sent Mary Vorder Bruegge. Delegates were chosen by completing an electrical project and participated in fun electrical kit workshops. They also had a blast with an awards banquet, dances, a trip to Ft. Fisher's beach and aquarium and a dinner cruise at Carolina Beach! Winners of Electric Cumulative Record Books won iPod shuffles, iPod Touches, and iPads! This is one of 4-H's most exciting trips.

Two hundred and twenty 4-H'ers, adult leaders and Cooperative Extension agents from 61 counties, including Mary Vorder Bruegge and Amanda Upshaw, 4-H Military Program Assistant, attended the three day event. Since 1947, Progress Energy, Duke Energy and Dominion North



Carolina Power have sponsored the annual congress to emphasize energy

Pictured from left are Bob McCall, Vice President, Progress Energy eastern region, Mary Vorder Bruegge, Cumberland County 4-H'er, and Amanda Upshaw, 4-H Military Program Assistant.

conservation and safe electricity use. The 4-H electric energy program is one of the most popular activities among 4-H'ers.

This year, Millstone 4-H Center once again hosted Camp Corral, a fun-filled camp for children of American military who have fallen or been injured during their service. This exciting camp is a wonderful opportunity for these youth to enjoy the outdoors through boating, swimming, hiking, archery, and more.

Military Appreciation Day saw representatives from Army National Guard and the US Air Force with model planes. Other special features were a rock climbing tower, and a helicopter that landed and took off in the field for everyone to see.

The Maynard family, who owns Golden Corral and sponsors Camp Corral, was present to show their support for the military kids attending along with many members of the NC Cooperative Extension, 4-H and Operation Military Kids communities. After a rock climbing



competition between camp counselors, a delicious lunch was served and all campers had a great time! Camp Corral is the opportunity of a lifetime for children of wounded or fallen veterans and Cumberland County is proud to have several children attending from our area.

For more information, visit www.campcoral.org.

Thirty-six youth from four counties recently participated in the 4-H Biotech Day Camp. On August 3, they were honored with a luncheon and an opportunity to show off what they learned to their families and guests.

The day camp is designed to teach children science and provide a positive summer outlet as 4-H Youth Develop-

This year's camp received rave reviews from the kids who attended. Surveys showed they improved their knowledge about the science of bees, animal science, extracting DNA, and solar energy. Youth stated they were more likely to enjoy science and math in school and seek out additional science and technology opportunities.

Among the trips and activities were a visit to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and the North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro. The youth were also impressed with a tour of the 300,000-square foot US

Cold Storage facility in Lumberton, where they learned about the science of keeping the food we eat cold and the abundance of locally-grown produce agriculture products. On Friday morning youth assisted with preparations for lunch, videotaped presentations about their experiences during the week, wrote thank you cards, and made Linus Blankets for military youth.

Working in teams the youth used fleece to make blankets that had hand knotted fringe. The blankets will be given to military youth whose parents are deployed as part of Operation Military Kids. It is a great program that allows kids to reach out and support other kids whose parents are serving our country.



We had a great week, learned lots of new things, and best of all had fun discovering science. The 4-H Biotech Day Camp is an annual event for youth ages 9 to 13 in Cumberland, Robeson, Hoke, and Bladen counties.



Angela Shaver
4-H Youth Development

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Farm City Week Celebration

November 16, 2012

12:30 p.m.

Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Auditorium

Extension Summary Summer 2012	
4019	Cooperative Extension Clients assisted
2025	Educational information and newsletters provided
12	Volunteer hours provided by Master Gardeners, 4-H, Cumberland County Extension Association, Livestock