

Taking the University to the People



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System
2000 Annual Report

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The Alabama Cooperative Extension System

2000 Annual Report

Looking ahead more than 30 years ago in his science fiction masterpiece *2001: A Space Odyssey*, filmmaker Stanley Kubrick depicted a world in which space travel and conversation with super-intelligent computers would be as commonplace as jet travel or talking on the telephone.

With 2001 upon us, it appears Kubrick's foreshadowing of the future may have missed the mark by at least a decade or two. Nevertheless, few would deny that we are living in a technological age scarcely imagined almost a century ago, when the national Cooperative Extension Service was established with passage of the Smith-Lever Act. This act gave Extension its mission—to "take the university to the people." Whatever we choose to call this era—the Information Age or the Communications Revolution—it has altered our methods but not our mission.

In one respect, Extension of 2001 has changed very little since the early twentieth century. At the turn of the last century, Extension agents used combustion engines and other Industrial Age technologies to improve the lives of their largely agrarian clientele. Likewise, as we begin the twenty-first century, Extension educators still use new technology—computers and satellites among others—to enhance the lives of those they serve.

The C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and Environmental Center, dedicated in January 2000, is an excellent example of how we continue to build on this legacy using cutting-edge technology. In addition to serving as an educational outreach center for metro-Birmingham's rapidly expanding nursery, greenhouse, and ornamental horticulture industry, the center also features a new state-of-the-art digital diagnostics facility through which experts are able to diagnose samples submitted directly from remote locations throughout the region.

The six Regional Research and Extension Centers are also equipped with digital diagnostic capability.

The Information Age has also sparked a reordering of priorities. Like many other organizations and businesses, Extension is streamlining administrative ranks and forging stronger relationships with other public and private organizations. This, in fact, is another reason why the Hanna Center is so significant. The result of a partnership among Extension and numerous other groups, it underscores one of the vital realities of the new era: that we comprise only one part of a dense web of public and private entities working together to improve the lives of countless people.

This new thinking, recognizing that issues and problems are part of a domain shared with other public and private players, is also reflected in the network of Extension Urban Centers established throughout Alabama. Working with other partners, we hope to expand many of these facilities into multi-agency one-stop educational shopping centers for city dwellers.

Yet another example of this new thinking and networking approach is the Alabama Urban Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program. Extension, along with other key public and private partners, such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Alabama Urban Forestry Association, and Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, plays an integral part in this program. Funding and technical leadership provided through this partnership have enabled scores of Alabama communities to soften the sharp edges of urban life through tree plantings and related projects.

In fact, throughout all its program areas, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System has developed creative, new partnerships as well as strengthened traditional ties. These partnerships are fitting for a System that has unified the Extension efforts of Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities, with Tuskegee University cooperating.

The Extension System of the twenty-first century will be leaner, more focused, and better adapted to profit from the closer partnerships with other public and private players. Even so, it will never lose sight of the fact that it is a people-oriented organization, committed to taking the university—or, in our case, the universities—to the people.

This core principle, which guided our efforts during our first century of service, will not be lost in the second.

Sincerely,



Stephen B. Jones
Extension Director

Agriculture

As they begin a new century, farmers face a set of challenges scarcely imaginable at the turn of the last century. Globalization is now a cold, hard economic fact of life for every Alabama farmer. As markets increasingly become internationalized, virtually every sector of Alabama's farm economy faces head-to-head competition with counterparts in foreign countries.

Extension remains committed to providing producers with tools they will need to maintain their competitive edge in this increasingly international, consumer-driven farm economy.

However, the biggest story in Alabama agriculture in 2000 combined high-tech communication and low-tech, old-fashioned sharing. The "100-year drought" showed Alabama—and Alabama Cooperative Extension—at its best.

Drought Relief

As severe drought conditions intensified throughout Central and South Alabama, Extension coordinated at the county level one of the most successful farm-relief efforts in Alabama history: a **statewide haylift**. While Extension agents in South Alabama coordinated efforts to identify local producers in need of hay, agents in North Alabama coordinated the identification of producers willing to donate hay. By the time the haylift ended in September, more than 18 million pounds of hay had been provided to producers in 34 counties.

Extension also helped drought-stressed peanut growers reduce operating costs by following pesticide application recommendations. For example, growers were specifically advised to follow **AuPnut**, a computer program designed to reduce fungicide applications for leaf spot. Growers who followed this recommendation reduced their applications to three, compared to six for those who followed the traditional approach.

Protecting the Environment

Protecting the environment while increasing quality and profitability is a hallmark of Extension agricultural education. For example, nutrient-management programs stress the important balance between soil fertility and environmental quality. Under the Extension-sponsored **Certified Animal Waste Vendor** program (the first of its kind in the nation), more than 500 people have been certified to transport and apply animal waste using environmentally sound methods.



Almost 300 **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations** (for beef cattle, swine, and poultry) now operate under nutrient-management plans. Efforts are under way to help Alabama's remaining 4,000 smaller-scale animal feeding operations draft similar plans.

Master Gardeners are also learning how to manage nutrients in the urban landscape in order to protect watersheds such as Cahaba River in Jefferson County and the Fish River in Baldwin County.

Pesticide training sessions were conducted in three Southwest Alabama counties, resulting in the certification of 90 **Worker Protection Handlers** and 80 **Private Pesticide Applicators**. More than 60 participants who already held commercially restricted pesticide permits in Alabama and Florida were awarded continuing education credit.

Alabama pesticide education specialists trained producers throughout the state in safe pesticide use and organized and conducted pesticide-dealer meetings attracting more than 150 people. Extension agents also trained more than 2,500 new pesticide applicators. Some 1,200 commercial applicators were trained and recertified.

Pumpkin production is on the rise in Alabama. Two Alabama Extension specialists, in cooperation with Experiment Station researchers, are developing new approaches for dealing with powdery mildew, a perennial problem for Southeastern pumpkin producers. A major focus of this effort has been developing an effective scouting program so that growers will be able to identify the disease in its earliest stages in order to reduce the number of fungicide applications.

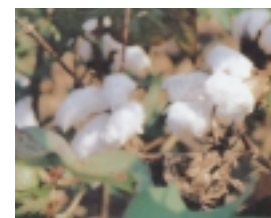
Greenhouse Production Short Courses

Extension-sponsored greenhouse short courses held in three locations through Alabama provided basic training in greenhouse practices to small-scale growers and employees of larger companies. These area courses offered a cost-effective alternative for people who otherwise would have had to travel farther to attend state or multistate courses.



Gypsy Moth Monitoring

The Extension-sponsored **Gypsy Moth Detection Program** established traps throughout the high-risk areas of North Alabama to monitor the spread of this insect, considered one of the nation's most destructive forest-tree pests. Specially designed traps, set in 45 Alabama counties in April and checked at least twice prior to their retrieval in August, reveals the insect's presence in three counties. The bulk of the trapping is carried out by active and retired Extension agents and by Master Gardener volunteers.



Farm Business Help Online

Accurate, updated market data is the lifeblood of any farming operation. With this in mind, Extension economists have developed a weekly **Profit Profile**, available online, featuring current cash, contract, and future prices for Alabama's principal agricultural commodities. A **profit calculator** enables producers to determine commodity profitability at current prices. Alabama agricultural enterprises budgets enable producers to better calculate farm operation profitability.

Fire-Ant Control

Through the **Alabama Fire Ant Management** program, Extension personnel, in cooperation with Auburn and Alabama A&M University faculty and USDA researchers, are conducting fire-ant control demonstrations in Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, and Baldwin Counties to identify effective methods for controlling this pest. Agents in Talladega and Houston Counties have conducted experimental releases of phorid flies, which are intended to provide biological control of the ants.

Stored Grain Management

Extension agents and specialists worked with Alabama producers throughout 2000 to improve stored grain quality.

- Telephone surveys gauged the extent to which producers have adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, an environmentally friendly approach to insect eradication.
- Insect infestation data were collected from at least one farm site in each county.
- Alabama and Georgia Extension sponsored an IPM workshop, offering extensive video and hands-on instruction on stored-grain management.
- Three phosphine gas detectors were purchased for use in different areas of the state to aid stored grain fumigation.

Assuring Beef Quality

In only its second year, the **Master Cattle Producers Training Program**, which has already certified more than 800 cattle producers, has garnered rave reviews from cattle producers in every corner of Alabama. Master Cattle Producers must complete six days of intensive training and pass a series of exams covering the program's entire instructional manual. The **Alabama Beef Quality Assurance Certification Program** strives to ensure that Alabama-grown beef meets and even exceeds consumer demands.

Increasing Poultry Profitability

Extension biosystems engineers have developed a number of methods to help growers maximize growth of poultry through careful monitoring and regulation of indoor air quality and other environmental factors. Studies have consistently shown that growers can post significant gains in profitability by adopting these practices.

Cotton Advances

Area cotton tours have been widely credited with the rapid and widespread adoption of new technologies. The tours provide growers with first-hand exposure to the new technologies and allow them to talk with growers already using these technologies.

Extension has developed a **rapid identification system** that will enable growers to take quick action against two perennial cotton pests indistinguishable to the naked eye: tobacco budworms and bollworms.

Extension is also helping producers adopt **conservation tillage practices** that save on farm-labor and fuel costs. Six winter cotton production meetings were held in North Alabama to provide information on cover crops, fertilization, crop residue burn-down, and weed control to help farmers avoid costly mistakes in switching to conservation tillage practices.

Every season cotton producers face the decision of how to defoliate and prepare the cotton crop for picking. Small on-farm trials were conducted to help determine what defoliation materials work best under different conditions. Four demonstrations evaluated ten different defoliation combinations.



National Clover Symposium

In August 2000 an Alabama Extension agronomist chaired the first-ever **National Clover Symposium**, sponsored by the Oregon Clover Commission and hosted by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The symposium, which focused on the challenges and opportunities associated with growing clovers, was targeted both to Extension agents and key research scientists.

Computer-driven Weed Management

Field evaluations were conducted to assess the effectiveness of the **Herbicide Application Decision Support System**, a computer program designed to help producers make sound economic weed control decisions. Alabama Extension experts are tailoring the program for use in major crop production areas of the state.

Geo-spatial Data

Geo-spatial information holds great promise for producers. In conjunction with Auburn University, the Extension System has developed a facility through which experts will construct a comprehensive geo-spatial database. The data has already been used to assess potential pollution problems in some Alabama watersheds. Eventually the data will also help producers develop their own comprehensive farm management plans.

Water Quality

Extension professionals are developing an Internet-based water quality information network, the primary aim of which will be to offer online educational material in order to enhance local citizens' understanding of water quality. Extension and USDA have formed a partnership with NASA and EPA to make better use of geo-spatial technology as a tool for enhancing pollution prevention education at the watershed level.

Sand as a Litter Source

Research and Extension faculty in the Auburn University Department of Poultry Science are exploring sand as a bedding material and as an alternative to other, more expensive materials such as pine shavings and peanut hulls. With funding provided internally and through the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association, Extension has placed sand in 12 commercial broiler houses in order to evaluate its effectiveness in comparison to other approaches.

Assisting Alabama's Blue Crab Industry

An Extension seafood technologist was enlisted by representatives of the Alabama blue crab industry to defuse a serious confrontation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration stemming from what was widely perceived as the agency's too stringent interpretation of food safety regulations relating to blue crab handling and processing. Partly as a result of his efforts, FDA has begun a nationwide standardization process to avoid similar problems in the future.

Distance Learning

For the first time in its history, the Mobile-based Extension and Research Center, in cooperation with Auburn University and Faulkner State Community College, offered seafood processing classes via the Internet from a Bay Minette classroom. This also marked the first time in Auburn University's history that the Internet was used for real-time video instruction and audio distance learning in multiple classrooms. The course also received high marks from the students.

Irrigation Demonstrations

A drip-irrigation demonstration project aimed at limited-resource fruit and vegetable farmers completed its sixth year in 2000. Carried out with growers in close cooperation with their local Extension agents, the project features a one-day training session through which growers are introduced to all essentials of drip irrigation. Extension typically underwrites the bulk of setup costs for these demonstrations, leaving growers to pay only a fraction of the cost. Once the projects are set up, growers host on-farm tours in order to introduce other growers to the technology.

Dairy Summit

Cooperation among Alabama Extension animal and dairy scientists and counterparts in other states resulted in a series of joint meetings. Multi-state discussions have also explored other joint ventures, such as the publication of a dairy newsletter and related activities. A **South-eastern Dairy Regional Summit** is being organized by Alabama and four other states to address the economic concerns of the dairy industry.





Lifting Hay and Hope

The next time Henry County producer Billy Porter strolls across a lush green pasture on his way to feed his cattle, he will have his local Extension agent to thank.

Like hundreds of other cattle producers throughout the drought-ravaged Wiregrass in the mid-summer of 2000, Porter was in dire straits. When all of his hay reserves were used up. He turned to Henry County Extension Agent Jimmy Jones for help.

Jones, along with other volunteers from numerous public and private organizations, was assisting with efforts to get hay to producers, especially those like Porter whose hay reserves were entirely used up.

These efforts were part of a massive statewide haylift in which more than 18 million pounds of hay were provided to drought-stressed producers in 34 counties. Extension coordinated the haylift at the county level under direction from the Department of Agriculture and Industries.

While Extension agents in drought-stressed regions of South Alabama worked with public and private counterparts to identify local producers in need of hay, agents in North Alabama worked with other groups to identify local producers willing to donate hay.

"I don't think it matters if you're in North Alabama or Timbuktu, farmers are going to help each other no matter what," says Jackson County Extension Agent Dus Rogers, who played a major role coordinating drought-relief efforts in Northeast Alabama.

For Porter, the hay relief effort has meant all the difference in the world.

"Selling my herd never crossed my mind," Porter recalls with a smile. "I don't like to lose, and besides, I've always figured if you work hard enough, you'll find a way out." Porter found a way out, thanks to hard work—and a lot of help from friends.

International Outreach

Extension specialists continue to carry the tradition of outreach to distant parts of the globe.

- Efforts are ongoing to assist international agricultural market development with funding provided by several public and private partners including the U.S. Air Force, which provided transportation for an Extension-sponsored project in Romania.

- The United Nations sponsored tours in which foreign scientists were placed with Alabama Extension personnel for visits for up to three months. All expenses, including training fees, were underwritten by the U.N.

- Two additional agricultural study tours of Hungary, Poland, and former East Germany enabled more than 100 Alabama producers and agricultural leaders to tour Eastern Europe. Almost 140 of their former East German counterparts have come to Alabama. Additional visits are planned for 2002.

- Host families enabled 30 Hungarian agricultural students to complete six-month internships with Alabama farms and agribusinesses.



Leadership Development

Through its successive two-year classes, the Alabama Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Development program continues to train emerging generations of agricultural leaders in public policy and effective industry and community leadership. The current class of 27 will graduate next year and join the other 166 graduates.

Agricultural Expos and Meetings

Agricultural producers had many opportunities in 2000 to see and hear what other producers are doing as well as take a closer look at new technology. The annual **Southeastern Agricultural Expo** in Moultrie, Georgia, highlighted Alabama in 2000.

Throughout the year, Extension, along with the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and Auburn's Colleges of Agriculture and Forestry and Natural Resources hosted a series of meetings to listen to and interact with Alabama forest owners.

Forestry and Natural Resources

Beginning with an **Agriculture and Forestry Roundtable** on campus at Auburn University in June, which drew more than 140 people, the Roundtable meetings continued at six locations throughout the state during October, drawing a total of 400, and will conclude in February 2001 with an **Agriculture and Forestry Resource Summit** in Montgomery.

In addition, five meetings were held during the year to explain and promote a **special legislative request** for funding for 40 new field-based Extension staff, including 24 in agriculture.

Working with two neighboring Southern states, Extension also sponsored the **Gulf States Horticultural Expo**, an annual event in Mobile, which provides educational and business opportunities for nursery, greenhouse, and landscaping industry professionals. Expo participation has increased dramatically with each passing year, attracting more than 4,000 visitors and 600 exhibition booths in 2000.

DDDI

Fifty agents have been trained to use the Distance Diagnostics through Digital Imaging system (DDDI) for rapid diagnosis of plant diseases. DDDI uses digital imaging and the Internet to identify and diagnose diseases or pests. DDDI can reduce diagnosis of plant diseases from days and weeks to one to two days, saving producers by reducing crop loss and treatment costs. Currently there are eight DDDI sites. Extension will expand DDDI to other sites throughout Alabama within the next year as well as expand the system to other disciplines.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is committed to helping Alabamians better manage and preserve more than 22 million acres of forest land and 60,000 miles of rivers and streams. Two-thirds of the state's land is covered with forests growing over 15 billion trees.

Urban Forestry

Urban forestry is growing in Alabama. In 2000, many communities and cities took advantage of urban forestry programs offered by Extension and its partners in the **Alabama Urban Forestry Partnership**. Other members in the partnership include the Alabama Forestry Commission, USDA Forest Service, Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and the Alabama Urban Forestry Association. The partnership's **Urban and Community Forest Financial Assistance Program** provided more than \$250,000 in grant money for urban forestry projects to Alabama cities, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher learning. The grants enabled many Alabama cities to develop some of the best forestry programs in the Southeast.

The Tree Board Academy offered training to numerous local tree commissions and beautification boards in 2000. Youth education projects on the benefits of trees in urban environments also grew through special Arbor Day celebrations and urban forestry fairs.

In addition, support of professional development and training for urban forestry students through an internship program provides mentoring experiences for young professionals as they shadow experienced urban foresters in Alabama cities with successful urban tree management programs.

The Forest Masters Program

The **Forest Masters Program** went into full operation in 2000. Designed to motivate and recognize forest landowners and stakeholders for educational and service efforts related to forest resource management, the program had more than 200 applicants in 2000. The Alabama Treasure Forest Association also officially adopted the program as its education and service recognition program.



The Private Forest Management Team

The Private Forest Management Team (PFMT), an educational, informational and technical support program for forest landowners, was active in several areas in 2000.

The PFMT works with and is supported by Alabama forest industry's Sustainable Forestry Initiative. PFMT staff assisted with the regional satellite broadcast of the Master Tree Farmer 2000 educational program series from Clemson University. Eleven locations in Alabama hosted more than 280 forest landowners for the seven-week series. Twenty-three Extension agents and professional foresters assisted with the program.

The PFMT website (www.pfmt.org) was updated and several new items were added. One section gives landowners definitions and examples of forested wetlands, insight into legal issues, and options for managing wetlands. An online prescribed burning certification course provides professional foresters and landowners with information and training to prepare them for Alabama's Prescribed Burning Certification Exam. Also added to the website were slide shows and videos showcasing good forest stewardship on private forestlands.

Forest Products Development Center

The Forest Products Development Center at Auburn University assisted in state economic development efforts by providing resource analysis, site evaluation work, market surveys, and technology guidance for new industrial projects in Chambers, Dallas, Monroe, and Lee Counties in 2000. A cooperative effort among Extension, Auburn University, and the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Center provided technical information and analytical assistance to several forest products companies in the state regarding operations, markets, and raw material sourcing. It also provided economic development assistance and guidance to developers, industry, and economic development groups.

Sustainable Forestry Partnership

An Extension Forester was named associate director of the Sustainable Forestry Partnership, a networking organization of forestry programs at Auburn University, Oregon State University, Penn State University, and the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. The partnership's mission is to document and promote innovation in sustainable forestry and to integrate this innovation into both policy and practice.

Urban Forest Grant Helps Mobile



Alabama is urbanizing. And as cities expand into rural areas, they are absorbing many forests and natural ecosystems. Leaders in large and small cities are learning that managing forestry resources effectively enhances the quality of life for city residents and boosts the community's economy.

Urban and Community Forest grants enabled the City of Mobile to start an urban forestry library, keep computer records of every tree planted on municipal property, locate these trees using global positioning satellites, create a master street-tree plan, order new street-tree management software, and purchase necessary equipment such as computers to maintain inventory on trees and service, says Ron Jackson, Mobile urban forestry superintendent.

"Liability associated with falling trees and older, disease- or storm-damaged trees is a constant concern of city planners," says Jackson. "The innovations provided by these grants have enabled us to keep track of such trees and all work orders pertaining to urban forestry."

In addition, grant funds have enabled the City to provide education to municipal workers and others throughout the Mobile area.

Extension administers the grants with the partnership that involves the Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Urban Forestry Association, Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The U.S. Forest Service is the source of the grant funds.



Other Initiatives

Other Extension initiatives in forestry and natural resources were carried out during the year.

- Extension hosted an international meeting on the interaction of forest tree nursery management and silvicultural operations. The meeting was attended by more than 60 people from 14 countries.

- Using compressed video technology, staff produced a second **Landowner Seminar Series** consisting of seven two-hour programs on a variety of forestry-related topics.

- A forestry curriculum was adapted for use in school enrichment programs.

- **Forestry Awareness Week Now (FAWN)** was attended by 700 students.

- An Extension wildlife specialist, Extension associate, and county agent conducted workshops in California, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania on how to conduct and coordinate a **4-H wildlife habitat evaluation program**. Alabama's program is ranked in the **top five in the nation**.

- Training in nursery management and plantation establishment techniques was provided to Honduran visitors. Honduras was ravaged a few years ago by a major hurricane. The U.S. Department of Commerce sponsored the visit.

- Nursery managers from all over the South attended a short course on forest tree nursery soil fertility management.

- Extension personnel helped organize a regional task force on the continued availability of methyl bromide. This highly effective and safe soil fumigant is used in forest tree nurseries and is in danger of being lost through regulation. The task force includes members from the forestry industry, U.S. Forest Service, state forestry organizations, and pesticide manufacturers.



Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs

Urban Centers

Extension's philosophy of taking programs to the people wherever they live was exercised as Urban Centers brought Extension education to more of the state's metro areas during the year 2000. Urban contacts for the state nearly doubled with the establishment of Urban Centers. The most recent additions, Morgan and Calhoun Counties, represent two of the eight centers that have opened across the state since 1995. Two satellite offices were also established through partnership agreements with Huntsville and Decatur municipalities. Tuscaloosa, the last of the proposed nine centers, will open soon. Urban Centers augment the services offered through the county Extension offices by focusing on family, health, community, and consumer needs of urban and nontraditional audiences.

The Urban Family Network

As Alabama families continued to transform from what has been characterized as traditional, the Urban Family Network responded with programs that had broad appeal.

- **Making Family Connections**, the second annual **Urban Family Conference**, provided educational and networking opportunities for parents, social workers, daycare providers, and educators.

- **Urban Family Summits** across the state addressed intergenerational lifestyles, technical careers for women, and nutritional needs of the elderly, serving an estimated 3,500 families.

- Certification in internationally acclaimed curricula prepared urban agents in five of the state's ten metro areas to deliver educational information to **Families in Divorce Transition**. Agents are working with family court judges to create enhanced opportunities for Extension to provide leadership in this area through mandated programs.

- A public education program implemented in agreement with the **U.S. Department of the Treasury's EFT 99 Campaign** informed more than 600 federal recipients about the benefits of direct deposit and other account options.



Family Resiliency

Health and safety issues surrounding domestic violence cost the state millions of dollars annually, making the issue truly everybody's business. Programs such as **Angry John** that addresses anger management in Fayette County schools; **Parents and Children Together (PACT)**, to prevent child abuse in Morgan County; **Brushing With Violence**, educating cosmetologists in Mobile County; **Bounce Back** in Jefferson County; and domestic violence **Sanity Savers** in Lawrence County helped to strengthen the resiliency of families across the state. More than 8,000 citizens were educated on how to respond to situations of abuse and violence in their homes and communities.

Community Health and Nutrition

Food safety education is a national issue linking consumers, processors, retailers, and food service providers. High incidences of food borne illnesses and death have created increased public concern, particularly among the elderly. To address the issue, a USDA-funded project to train food handlers in care facilities for the elderly was piloted in four metro areas (Colbert/Lauderdale, Madison, Jefferson, and Montgomery Counties). The project **HACCP—Food Safety: It's In Your Hands** has statewide implications. To date, some 600 providers at 47 senior care centers have been trained.

USDA-funded **Youth in Charge: Nutrition and Health** provided nutrition and health information on the food guide pyramid and healthful fast food choices for developing adolescents. The project involved more than 1,000 youth 10 to 16 years old. The **High Risk Diseases** and **Breast Cancer Awareness** projects continued as programming priorities during 2000, reaching an estimated 10,000 citizens.

Forefronting Youth

The **Forefronting Youth Initiative (FYI)** is a positive approach to engaging youth assets in building urban communities. Programs such as the **Urban Youth Leadership Development Institute**, co-sponsored by the Kettering Foundation, encouraged deliberations and community forums to get youth more involved in discussing problems and making choices together. Practical exercises were designed to foster problem solving, critical thinking skills, and leadership development.

A multistate training on the **Teen Leadership Connection (TLC)** curriculum prepared agents in four states (Alabama, Tennessee, New Mexico, and Texas) and representatives from other agencies serving youth, to better train middle and high school youth on dimensions of leadership including life skills, cultural diversity, and

Brushing With Violence

The **Brushing With Violence** campaign was launched in the Mobile metro area targeting cosmetologists as key outreach supporters, chosen because they are often confidantes and among the first to recognize signs of abuse.



The concept of asking cosmetologists to help share information and distribute referral literature to victims of domestic violence is innovative. Hair stylists may be able to offer assistance to victims long before law enforcement or the community shelters for battered women intervene. The educational campaign was enhanced with the planning advice of family violence shelters, the domestic violence coalition, and law enforcement. More than 200 professionals participated in the kick-off event to recruit a volunteer network.

conflict resolution. Partnerships with local and state youth agencies have been initiated as a result of this training including the Board of Education for the State of Alabama, Youth at Risk Division; and the State Independent Living Program.

Several other prevention and intervention programs are helping to channel the energies of young people in positive directions and to foster their well-being.

- Youth Challenge
- Yes I Can!
- Collaborative Alliances with Boy Scouts of America
- Fostering Achievement Through Mentoring Education (FAME)
- Urban Tobacco Awareness Project (U-TAP)
- Youth Elderly Service (YES)

These programs reached thousands of youth in educational progress centers, Upward Bound programs, juvenile facilities, foster homes, community centers, and parenting laboratories.



Meeting Other Needs

Workforce preparedness needs, community development, economic needs, diversity issues, and others surfaced as a result of a series of focus group activities aimed at identifying concerns in urban centers. In response, the System has focused on programs designed to help Alabama citizens improve their economic status through resource management, workforce preparation, and nontraditional economic development outreach. Job fairs, job maintenance programs, and job readiness training were designed to assist unskilled and newly skilled workers in obtaining first-time employment. An estimated 11,500 citizens have benefited from these programs.

Diversity coalitions such as the Shoals Diversity Council provided opportunities for citizens, organizations, city officials, law enforcement, community leaders, and school systems to work together to address ethnic and cultural differences.

Nontraditional Agriculture

Agricultural programs educated consumers and producers on alternative and niche crops, nontraditional adaptations, and viable partnerships to sustain animal health and production. The **Small Ruminant Animal Health Care Delivery Systems** project focused its 2000 programmatic priorities on issues related to the development of the planned Buck Test Facility at the Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station at Alabama A&M University. The Buck Test Facility will support enhanced production of small ruminant breeding herds and flocks through effective demonstrations, systematic integration, and utilization of proven reproductive technologies. The facility will also strengthen the linkages between Extension and research activities.

Family and Individual Well-Being

More than four million people call Alabama home, and well over a million of those are children. A major effort of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is to improve the lives of all Alabamians.

The state's children are the target audience for many programs. Why? More children than ever live in poverty in Alabama. The child death rate is increasing in the state. Juvenile violent crime continues to grow, and many of Alabama's children do not have enough to eat.

Extension has a mission to help Alabama's children and families, and Extension is fulfilling that mission with a variety of programs.

Nutrition Education Program

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP) is perhaps the most wide-reaching of all the program efforts within the Family and Individual Well-Being program area. The five-year-old program's goal is to reach food stamp participants and other low-income citizens who are eligible for food stamps and improve their quality of life through educational programs on food and nutrition. NEP was in place in more than 50 counties reaching more than 200,000 children and adults in 2000.

The program is funded by more than three million dollars in external funds. NEP is also a collaborative effort between the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Food Stamp Division of the Alabama Department of Human Resources under the umbrella of the Food and Nutrition Service. This unique partnership is a stellar example of Alabama agencies working together to better the lives of the state's citizens.

The key elements that make NEP successful are the field staff working in Alabama's communities. NEP agents, agent assistants, and program assistants employ a variety of curricula to reach different target audiences. For example, the puppet **Chef Combo** is a key element in teaching pre-schoolers about trying new foods, while **Let's Eat** teaches limited-resource adults how to select and prepare healthful foods.



One unique element of the NEP program is the use of interactive evaluation tools. Participants, primarily children, play nutrition games, which allows NEP staff to determine how much the young people have learned. These interactive tools provide valuable data on curriculum effectiveness, but the data are gathered in a friendly and fun way.

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), which receives more than two million dollars annually in federal funds, provides educational programs aimed at increasing the number of healthy, well-nourished children, youth, and families along with decreasing the number of low birth weight babies born to Alabama's low income mothers. A recent study indicated that each \$1 spent on EFNEP defers more than \$10 in health care costs.

EFNEP programs target different audiences for nutritional education. Pregnant women at risk for delivering low birth weight babies are an Alabama EFNEP target audience with the **Today's Mom** program. The **Mom's Helper** program teaches and encourages breastfeeding as the best mode of infant feeding for the first six months of life. The 4-H **Diet's Our Thing** (DOT) program targets young people, 6 to 18, to improve their families' nutrition awareness. Basic EFNEP works one-on-one with clients in their homes to improve their families' nutritional well-being.

EFNEP reached more than 20,000 Alabamians with multiple nutrition education lessons in 2000.

On The Road With BEE

The **Begin Education Early** (BEE) program brings parenting information and early childhood education to rural families with young children. In a classroom-on-wheels, an educator works with the parent one-on-one to show how everyday parenting behaviors have an impact on children's development and affect children's school readiness. Meanwhile, another educator works with the preschool-aged child in hands-on, age-appropriate learning activities designed to stimulate the child's thinking, language, and social skills.

Five West Alabama counties participate in the BEE program, reaching more than 250 Alabama families.

Grants from the Children's Trust Fund as well as from USDA's Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Initiative provides financial support to this program.

Reaching Alabama Teens

Extension specialists and county agents are involved in a number of programs targeting adolescents. Many efforts focus on enhancing the quality of parent-adolescent relationships. Extension professionals gave presentations to parents and to family educators addressing a number of issues affecting teens. Also, the first of a series of **Principles of Parenting** publications addressing parent-adolescent communication has been completed.

Alabama Expertise Needed Out West

Extension in Alabama has long recognized the importance of both food preservation and food safety education. Recently, several Extension professionals had their expertise recognized and were awarded a grant to assist Native American Tribal Colleges in South Dakota to develop food preservation and food safety curricula for use with Native American populations.

In addition to training workshops, Extension professionals are developing a Food Preservation Handbook for Native Americans featuring foods important to their culture.



Food Safety Efforts Expand

Extension specialists continued their work with Alabama's food industries to develop **Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)** plans to make their food products even safer. More than 1,000 food service workers received training in HACCP and General Food Safety principles.

A 4-H program called **General Food Safety** was developed, featuring a character dressed as a general who gives out the war plan to **Fight Bac(terial)**. The program and the character were featured in a segment on one of the state's television stations.

Extension conducted a workshop in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Public Health, Department of Agriculture and Industries, and Alabama Grocery Association to help new food businesses start off on the right foot. More than 70 people attended the workshop, which focused on the details of how to start a food business in Alabama.



Taking Alabamians Online

As more and more citizens go online, there is an increasing need to educate them on how to effectively use the Internet and World Wide Web. A web site, www.aces.edu/dept/family/commerce, was developed and is the central repository of quarterly newsletters, links, and timely topics. Initial emphasis was placed on training agents, and the next phase will provide a general curriculum to assist these agents in teaching basic e-commerce, World Wide Web, and Internet issues.

Managing Debt and Building Wealth

System professionals played a crucial role in the development of **Managing Debt and Building Wealth**, a national consumer education program. The program was developed as a cooperative effort by Consumer Action, the Consumer Federation of America, the National Foundation for Consumer Credit, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and is published by American Express Company. Available in three languages, the education set consists of a video, a leader's guide, and a consumer brochure.



Since the original distribution, there have been more than 4,000 requests for multiple copies of the materials, including nearly 2,000 Spanish videos.

Chase Your Dream to Work

One outstanding example of Extension's collaboration with other state agencies and partners is the **Chase Your Dream to Work** calendar. The calendar was published with funding from the Alabama Department of Public Health. The calendar, which won first place in an international competition, featured colorful children's art and provided employment tips as well as healthy lifestyle information. Thirty thousand copies were printed and distributed statewide through county offices of both agencies.



Making a Difference

"It just fills me with joy knowing I am making a difference in young people's lives," says Elaine Dansby, Henry County's NEP Agent Assistant. Dansby works in the Abbeville schools providing nutrition information to children in grades K-8. This year, more than 900 Henry County school children attended one of Dansby's programs.

"If I can go in and help one person learn something or make a positive change, I feel like I have accomplished something," she says.

Dansby understands how daunting change can be. After working for a number of years in a textile mill, she left her job to care for her gravely ill mother. Within a year, her savings were gone, and she reluctantly turned to public assistance to help feed her family.

One requirement for that assistance was to participate in a job preparation program. Dansby spent 13 weeks in the Henry County Extension office learning many new skills and attending all the money management classes that Henry County Extension Coordinator Patsy White taught.

At the end of those weeks, Dansby began to work as a part-time secretary in the office as well as holding down two other part-time jobs. Then White encouraged her to apply for the NEP Program Assistant job in the county.

The combination of the NEP position and one part-time job allowed Dansby to put public assistance behind her.

"I've never had a job that gave me this satisfaction. I'm using my mind and creativity instead of just my muscles," says Dansby. "It's the best job I have ever had in terms of fulfillment."

White is proud of how Dansby has grown into her role as a NEP agent assistant for Henry County.

"Her ability to be in tune with her clientele is her greatest asset to our NEP program efforts," says White.



Community Economic Development

Critical to the success of Alabama's communities are economic development, leadership development, environmental quality and community health development, public policy and strategic planning, and workforce development. Such work is in continual progress throughout Alabama.

Environmental Health

Extension is responding to the state's critical need to create awareness about the dangers of radon. That response has won national acclaim. USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service issued one of its four Flagship awards in Natural Resources and Environmental Management to Alabama Extension's **Radon Awareness, Mitigation, and Radon-Resistant New Construction** program. The program also won an **EPA Environmental Merit Award** for outstanding efforts in improving the environment in the Southeast.

The education focus has been primarily directed at a 15-county area in North Alabama where radon risk is highest. Program efforts center on testing for radon and teaching techniques to correct problems and reduce radon levels in new and existing homes. During the three years of program effort, more than 2,000 homes have been tested for radon, with more than 500 showing elevated levels of radon. All occupants in homes with elevated levels of radon are at enhanced risk of developing lung cancer and are encouraged to correct problems.

Cooperating partners such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Alabama Department of Public Health, Southern Regional Radon Training Center at Auburn University, USDA/CSREES, the American Lung Association, Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association, Building Code Officials of Alabama, Alabama Homebuilders Association, and Governor Don Siegelman have helped this program reach outstanding acclaim.

Another Extension success, the **Healthy Indoor Air for Alabama Homes** program, aims to protect the public health by reducing risks associated with indoor air contamination. In May, Extension collaborated to provide training for Extension agents from 24 counties. A total of 37 agents and trainers participated in the two-day event. The UAB School of Public Health was the major collaborative cosponsor of this program, which covered moisture and biologicals, combustion products, radon, formaldehyde, household products and furnishings, asbestos, lead, particulates, and tobacco smoke. Other cosponsors included the Alabama Department of Public Health, EPA-Region 4, Clemson University, and the Alabama Lung Association. Corporate cosponsors included Home Depot and the Alabama Home Builders Association.

Education is provided through newspapers, television, radio, newsletters, county fair exhibits, 4-H day camps and programs, civic and professional club programs, school nurse programs, Home and Garden Show exhibits, Family and Community Education Leader classes, Chamber of Commerce programs, environmental fairs and tours, health fairs, Show of Homes publications, public library exhibits, and office calls.

Local educators and trained volunteer leaders exhibit profound influence in helping consumers make decisions that affect the quality of indoor air. According to the Alabama Home Builders Association, this area of programming is one of the most needed for homeowners across Alabama. Alabama Extension is committed to responding to that need.

Community Health

In 1998, the Alabama Family Practice/Rural Health Board and Alabama Family Health Care formed a partnership to serve as a lead agency in paving the way for Alabama to qualify for a major grant and be a leader in rural health care access. The lead agency, supported by Extension, developed the planning grant proposal that led to a \$678,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The grant, awarded in 2000, funds pilot and demonstration projects to improve the access of rural people to health care.

Additionally, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded \$85,000 to Extension to coordinate the provision of technical assistance to rural communities that are developing strategic plans for health care.



Extension Radon Program Helps Homeowners



Clay County resident Jim Gasser is one of many Alabama homeowners who has spent roughly \$300 to install a radon-mitigation system in his new home.

Two factors influenced his decision: a concern for his three children, coupled with a concern that, in a high-risk radon county, he would have a hard time selling the house without the radon-mitigation devices.

The Extension System is working to reach thousands of Alabamians in high-risk areas, such as Gasser, with radon-related information. More than 2,000 homes have been tested for radon in the state's 15-county program area—with more than 500 homes (almost 22 percent) testing above the level at which EPA recommends taking action to reduce exposure. Most of these high-risk homes are expected to be undergoing mitigation or are being tested for one full year. In addition, more than 200 building professionals have been reached through special seminars.

New for 2000 was the contractual partnership established between the South Central Alabama Development Commission and Extension to produce a Tuskegee and Macon County Tourism Development Plan. This project was funded by a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Other major partners in the development of this plan are the City of Tuskegee, Tuskegee University, the Tuskegee Area Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Institute at Auburn University, and the South Central Alabama Development Commission. Extension has directed and supported similar projects designed to boost tourism in communities throughout Alabama.

Workforce Development

Economic development is the natural evolution of a prepared workforce. Extension helps job seekers experience a better quality of life by teaching them personal management principles and skills. The new **Works for Me** curriculum is being used to promote personal growth among individuals having little or no experience in the workforce. Effective methods for handling decisions and situations at home and work are taught.

Career Awareness for Business and Industry engages 400 junior high and high school students in structured career awareness activities involving classroom instruction and exposure to the workplace. Piloted in 2000, the project helps youth become aware of career opportunities, gain a realistic view of the workplace, expand their vision of the future by examining career interests, learn the basic career selection process, and make good decisions regarding employment, training, and education after high school graduation.

Alabama students were among the one million students who celebrated **National Job Shadow Day** February 2, 2000. The nationwide event is sponsored by a coalition comprised of America's Promise, School-to-Work, Junior Achievement, and the American Society of Association Executives.

One out of five manufacturing jobs in Alabama, representing almost 72,000 Alabamians, are in the textile and apparel industry—approximately 450 companies and 600 plant sites. To help ensure workforce preparedness in this industry, Extension specialists developed and delivered presentations to youth groups on image, selection, and care of clothing, and business start-up. Extension also created and launched an online directory of Alabama textile and apparel producers at www.aces.edu/atad. The online version, as well as the print version of the directory (provided by Alabama Power Company), facilitates business-to-business relationships and supports Alabama's existing small and medium-sized textile and apparel companies.

Tourism Development

Tourists spend billions of dollars in Alabama communities each year. Tourism development is one method of strengthening the economy of Alabama communities.

4-H and Youth Development

What an exciting time to be part of Alabama's 4-H Youth Development program! This century-old organization, rich in heritage and tradition, is transforming itself to meet the ever-changing needs of today's youth. Four-H is committed to reaching "any kid, any time, anywhere" with quality hands-on, minds-on learning.

- Four-H is moving toward more community-based volunteer-led clubs with emphasis on school enrichment and away from traditional school classroom clubs. Partnering with the schools in school enrichment and after-school programs, 4-H is being recognized for its educational potential to offer high-quality programs in many subject areas.
- With fewer 4-H county agents now than at any time in the past 20 years, Extension is maximizing efforts to adopt much more volunteer-led 4-H programming.
- To build on our strengths and seize new opportunities, Extension agents, with the help of teachers, parents, kids, and other stakeholders, are involved in a three-year asset mapping program to identify opportunities in our communities and to find ways to use them for 4-H.
- Extension specialists are preparing an exciting new set of curriculum materials.



Animal Science

Approximately 4,250 young people participated in 4-H programs to expand their knowledge of agriculture and animal sciences.

Alabama 4-H members consistently compete and win top honors at regional and national competitions in livestock, dairy, meats, horse, and poultry and egg competitions. A new program implemented in 2000 is the **Agri-Knowledge Event** that tests a 4-H member's knowledge of various species. Tests cover management decisions, quality assurance and problem solving exercises, and identification of equipment, breeds, cuts of meat, grains, feeds, and grasses.

Many organizations partner with Extension and the Auburn University Animal and Dairy Sciences Department to provide support and funding for 4-H animal science programs. They include the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Cattlewomen's Association, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Alabama FFA, Alabama Horse Council, Alfa Insurance Company, Alabama Meat Goat Association, Alabama National Fair, Alabama Pork Producers, Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, Debter Hereford Farm, Greater Alabama Fair and Festival, A.C. Legg Company, Southeastern Livestock Expo and Rodeo, Southeastern United Dairy Industry Association, and R.L. Ziegler Company.

Environmental Stewardship

More than 25,000 young people in both urban and rural settings participate in environmental stewardship programs, projects, conferences, and team and individual competitions in forestry, wildlife, environmental stewardship, shooting sports, and wood science.

Continuing a winning tradition for Alabama, the state's team finished a convincing first in the 2000 **National 4-H Forestry Invitational** in Weston, West Virginia. Team members finished second, third, fifth, and tenth in the overall top ten individual competition. The 4-H Forestry Judging Team also won the 2000 **National 4-H Forestry Knowledge Bowl**. This marks the tenth time since Alabama began competing in this contest in 1984 that a team from Alabama has won the national championship.

The **Alabama 4-H Shooting Sports State Rendezvous** held at Brentwood State Park in April attracted 85 youth from 20 counties. The focus of the 4-H Shooting Sports program is to teach kids valuable lessons in personal discipline and responsibility as well as safety. Additional funding comes from the Alabama Chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Alabama Friends of the National Rifle Association. The state champion **Chilton County Muzzleloading Team** won the Texas National Invitational.

4-H'er a Point of Light



Volunteer work at the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge helped Morgan County 4-H'er Michelle L. Craig choose environmental engineering for her future career. Last June, this senior at Decatur's Austin High School was named a Daily Point of Light by The Points of Light Foundation, the Corporation for National Service, and the Knights of Columbus for her service and volunteerism.

Michelle's interest in the environment began in the fourth grade when she became involved in a study of the water in Flint Creek. It has expanded to science projects, plant and soil science programs, computer technology events, and topics related to the environmental program. She has been an officer and advisor for environmental projects throughout Morgan County.

"Four-H has taught me leadership skills, hard work, and patience. I'd like to see almost every youth in America try 4-H at least once. There are so many areas to excel in and different things to learn," Michelle says.

"Michelle has done a good job in reaching out to encourage young people and adults. She believes in being a volunteer and in being a leader. It's amazing how she gets people to say yes to her. One of her most recent projects is chairing the HUGS campaign to provide hats, underwear, gloves, and socks to the homeless," says Betty Gottler, Morgan County Extension agent. "Even at nine years old we saw that Michelle had leadership potential."

Michelle, daughter of James and Kathy Craig, has won many honors in 4-H, including first place in electrical demonstration at the 2000 4-H State Congress. She is a member of the 4-H State Council.

The **Shotgun State Championship** attracted forty youth from nine counties. The winning Talladega County team placed fourth at the Texas National Invitational.

Seventy youth from twelve counties participated in the **Air Rifle and Air Pistol State Championship** held in March in Cullman County.

The **Archery State Championship** was held in May in Loxley with 20 youth from three counties attending.

The **BB Gun State Championship**, the only championship open to juniors, was held in April in Montgomery, with 30 youth from six counties participating.



Horizons

Alabama's young people have many opportunities to make a difference in the social and cultural lives of their counties through participation in 4-H.

Managing Pressures Before Marriage is the abstinence-only curriculum taught to sixth graders by teen leaders in the **Teens Getting Involved in the Future (TGIF)** program. Located in nine counties, the program involved more than 30,000 student contacts in 2000.

Three counties held **Youth Entrepreneurial Summits** attracting more than 1,000 young people. The year 2000 was a planning year for the statewide summit.

The **Alabama Adult Volunteers Association** annual retreat at the 4-H Youth Development Center in Columbiana involved 120 people. The meeting elected the second female president and endorsed the concept of volunteer-led 4-H programming.

Partners and Agents Teaming to Help (PATH) was developed in 2000 as a collaborative effort of 4-H staff and volunteers to partner with other youth-serving agencies to multiply the resources available to our youth. PATH empowers public community resources to be more effectively utilized by all agencies. Word is rapidly spreading about 4-H's presence in after-school offerings in urban and rural areas of the state.



The **Southern Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum** held in October at Rock Eagle, Georgia, was an opportunity for 60 Alabama 4-H volunteers and agents to share Alabama's successes in 4-H and to learn new techniques and strategies.

Alabama Extension participated in the mid-October **Governor's Summit for Alabama's Youth**. At this event, Governor Don Siegelman and General Colin Powell jointly launched **Alabama's Promise**, our state's version of General Powell's America's Promise, a program that focuses on teen volunteer opportunities. Alabama 4-H has made a pledge through America's Promise to strengthen youth participation and youth/adult partnerships to help make our communities better places for everyone.

Approximately 100 young people combined their talents to present an exciting production of the musical *Bye, Bye Birdie* at the **Performing and Creative Arts Camp**.

School enrichment and short-term programs reached more than 50,000 Alabama youth in 2000.



Leadership

One of the foundations of the 4-H program is **To Make the Best Better**. Building on this principle, 4-H offers many opportunities for youth to gain confidence and skills as leaders of today and of tomorrow.

Four Alabama 4-H leaders attended this year's **National 4-H Conference** in Washington, D.C. General Colin Powell and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman spoke on Building a Global Community: Piece by Piece.

Twenty-four Alabama 4-H'ers attended the **National 4-H Congress** in Atlanta.

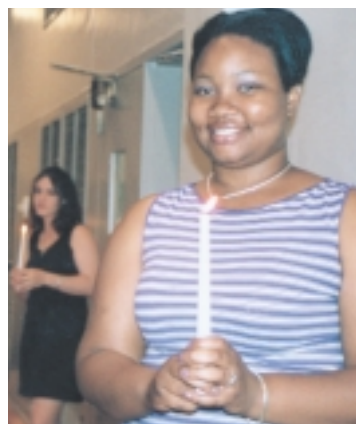
Exploration 2000: Choose Health! was the theme for the expanded four-day **State 4-H Congress** held on the campus of Auburn University. One full day of the conference was devoted to workshops presented by health experts from throughout the state. Extension partnered with the Alabama Department of Health, the American Red Cross, and many other health care professionals, foundations, and corporations to present Exploration 2000.

The **Midwinter Teen Retreat** promoted leadership development with emphasis on science and technology literacy.

Emphasizing the theme of Better Citizens Today, Better Leaders Tomorrow, **Citizenship Washington Focus** took 60 Alabamians to Washington, D.C. Each 4-H'er and his or her county received a CD with 600 pictures of the young people's experiences learning about government and citizenship rights and privileges as well as the characteristics of successful leaders.

One young Alabamian who attended last year's **National Youth Leadership Conference** in Wisconsin has participated in Governor Don Siegelman's Distance Learning Program.

The Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries again hosted Alabama 4-H'ers during **Legislative Days** in Montgomery. The 4-H'ers toured the Department of Agriculture facilities. Extension partners for this event are the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, the Alabama Farmers Federation, and the Alabama Rural Electric Association office in Montgomery.



Science and Technology

Helping prepare young people for an increasingly technological society, 4-H continues to expand its program offerings in the field of science and technology. Extension is continuing to develop an exciting new **Alabama 4-H Web site**. Plans are to provide online versions of the new 4-H curriculum materials through this site.

Alabama 4-H is transitioning to the development of regional science camps throughout the state.

For the first time, Alabama 4-H had a participant in the aerospace competition at the **National 4-H Engineering Science and Leadership** event.

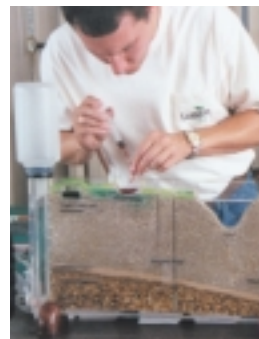
Alabama 4-H'ers continued to participate in **Aerospace Challenge**, a program conducted with the Civil Air Patrol that concentrates on science, technology, and aerospace education. It provides hands-on learning in model rocketry, gliders, navigation, and the solar system.



4-H Youth Development Center

Nestled in the Appalachian Mountain foothills on beautiful Lay Lake, the Alabama 4-H Youth Development Center is enjoying increased popularity as a prime location to learn and have fun in Alabama's outdoors. In 2000, the facility, which is open to individuals and groups, expanded its hours to seven days a week, weekends, and holidays. **Four-H Summer Camps** attracted 1,400 youngsters, and **4-H Environmental Camps** drew 3,800 participants.

Plans continue for the construction of an **Environmental Education Building** that will serve as a multifaceted facility focusing on students and teachers. A forestry demonstration area located on property adjacent to the 4-H Center is also under discussion. The 4-H Center continues to provide creative programming to encourage youth leadership development and environmental education.



Program Support Opportunities

Pause for a moment and reflect upon your successes in life. Chances are, during your reflection, an individual or an event came to mind that provided the inspiration and motivation behind many of your accomplishments. Frankly, the vision of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is in being the motivation behind today's and tomorrow's leaders.

The continuum carrying Extension in Alabama now spans over a century. It began on a dusty road in the Alabama Blackbelt and stretches to the information highway. Extension has embraced a consistency in values in a constantly changing world. It has never wavered from its core values of hard work, responsibility, leadership, and community involvement.

The influence of Extension nationwide and here in Alabama is incalculable. By taking the research, knowledge, and expertise of land-grant universities to the people, Extension has been one of the most important influences of the twentieth century.

As we move into the twenty-first century, Extension is challenged to meet many needs of our citizens for education that will help them improve their lives, businesses, and communities.

We continually evaluate our programs and our citizens' needs. However, we must secure substantial private funds in order to continue development of successful programs to meet those needs. During the past year, Alabama Extension has committed to providing the private sector the opportunity to support the programs and initiatives that are near and dear to their hearts. Private contributions of caring and concerned individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations have enhanced our ability to reach the state's citizens with programs that have a profound beneficial effect on their lives and on the well-being of our state.

Please help us continue to make a difference in Alabama!

An individual or an organization can support Extension's programs in a variety of ways. Support can be designated to a specific program area within Extension or can be designated to a general fund to help initiate new programs.

Support comes in many ways. The following are just a few of the options open to those interested in supporting Alabama Cooperative Extension's programmatic endeavors:

- Gifts of Cash
- Gifts of Securities
- Gifts of Real Estate
- Memorial or Tribute Gifts
- Gifts in Kind
- Corporate Matching Gifts

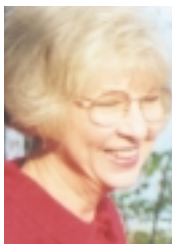
Planned or Deferred Gifts, to include

- Bequests by Will or Living Trust
- Life Income Gifts
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Gifts of Life Insurance
- Retirement Plan Gifts
- Retained Life Estate Gifts

Your investment in Alabama Extension will pay large dividends for years to come.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is a qualified charitable organization that meets the standards and requirements of the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3. Under this provision, all contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes (subject to statutory limitations) and for federal estate and gift tax purposes.

For more information about charitable opportunities, please contact Beth Atkins, Assistant to the Director, Development, Alabama Cooperative Extension System.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM COUNTY OFFICES

Autauga

2226 Hwy. 14 W
Autaugaville 36003
334-361-7273

Baldwin

302A Byrne Street
Bay Minette 36507
334-937-7176

Barbour

Courthouse, Rm. 105
P.O. Box 99
Clayton 36016
334-775-3284

Bibb

111 Church St.
Centreville 35042
205-926-3117

Blount

Co. Office Bldg.
415 Fifth Ave. E
Oneonta 35121
205-274-2129

Bullock

132 N. Prairie Street
Union Springs 36089
334-738-2580

Butler

101 S. Conecuh St.
P.O. Box 338
Greenville 36037
334-382-5111

Calhoun

Co. Admin. Bldg.
1702 Noble St.
Suite 108
Anniston 36201
256-237-1621

Chambers

Co. Office Bldg.
18 Alabama Ave. E
LaFayette 36862-2092
334-864-9373

Cherokee

102 Main Street
Room 303
Centre 35960-1532
256-927-3250

Chilton

Courthouse, Rm. 122
500 2nd Ave. N
P.O. Box 30
Clanton 35045
205-755-3240

Choctaw

218 S. Hamburg Ave.
Butler 36904
205-459-2133

Clarke

Courthouse Basement
P.O. Box 40
Grove Hill 36451
334-275-3121

Clay

P.O. Box 10
Ashland 36251
256-354-5976

Cleburne

72 Brockford Rd., Ste A
Heflin 36264
256-463-2620

Coffee

U.S. 84, Farm Center
Complex
5 County Complex
New Brockton 36351
334-894-5596

Colbert

Courthouse Basement
201 N. Main St.
Tuscumbia 35674
256-386-8570

Conecuh

Burt Ag. Center
102 Liberty St.
Room 103
Evergreen 36401
334-578-2762

Coosa

Co. Activities Bldg.
P.O. Box 247
Rockford 35136
256-377-4713

Covington

374 Southern Bypass
P.O. Box 519
Andalusia 36420
334-222-1125

Crenshaw

Courthouse, Rm. 201
P.O. Box 71
Luverne 36049
334-335-6568, ext. 270

Cullman

402 Arnold St., NE
Co. Office Bldg.
Suite G-1
Cullman 35055
256-737-9386

Dale

1702 Hwy. 123 S
Suite D
Ozark 36361
334-774-2329

Dallas

Courthouse Annex
100 Church St.
P.O. Box U
Selma 36702-0411
334-875-3200

DeKalb

111 Grand Ave. SW
Suite 105
Ft. Payne 35967-1991
256-845-8595

Elmore

Co. Ag. Center
340 Queen Ann Rd.
Wetumpka 36092
334-567-6301

Escambia

175 4-H Ag-Sci. Dr.
Suite D
Brewton 36426-8149
334-867-7760

Etowah

Co. Annex Bldg.
3200A W. Meighan Blvd.
Gadsden 35904
256-547-7936

Fayette

Co. Office Bldg.
Suite 1
103 1st Ave. NW
Fayette 35555-0030
205-932-8941

Franklin

Courthouse, Rm. 1
P.O. Box 820
Russellville 35653
256-332-8880

Geneva

Courthouse
P.O. Box 159
Geneva 36340
334-684-2484

Greene

#1 Professional Court
Springfield Ave.
P.O. Box 228
Eutaw 35462
205-372-3401

Hale

Agricultural Extension Ctr.
701 Hall Street
Greensboro 36744
334-624-8710

Henry

Co. Activities Bldg.
101 N. Doswell St.
Suite F
Abbeville 36310
334-585-6416

Houston

Farm Center Bldg.
1699 Ross Clark Cir.
Dothan 36301
334-794-4108

Jackson

Co. Office Bldg.
16003 Al. Hwy. 35
P.O. Box 906
Scottsboro 35768
256-574-2143

Jefferson

2121 Building
8th Ave. N
Birmingham 35203-2387
205-325-5342

Lamar

Tom Bevell Bldg.
Columbus St.
P.O. Box 567
Vernon 35592
205-695-7139

Lauderdale

Courthouse Basement
P.O. Box 773
Florence 35631
256-760-5860

Lawrence

Co. Ag. Center
13075 ALA-157, Suite 6
Moulton 35650
256-974-2464

Lee

Co. Ag. Center, Suite 4
600 S. 7th St.
Opelika 36801
334-749-3353

Limestone

Market St. Bldg.
1109 W. Market St.
Suite A
Athens 35611
256-232-5510

Lowndes

USDA Service Center
P.O. Box 456
Hayneville 36040
334-548-2315

Macon

207 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 830629
Tuskegee 36083-0629
334-727-0340

Madison

Stone Ag. Center
819 Cook Ave.
Huntsville 35801
256-532-1578

Marengo

Co. Office Bldg.
101 N. Shiloh, Suite 100
Linden 36748
334-295-5959

Marion

Courthouse, Rm. 174
Military St. & Bexar Ave.
P.O. Box 400
Hamilton 35570-0400
205-921-3551

Marshall

424 Blount Ave.
Suite G-21
Guntersville 35976-1132
256-582-2009

Mobile

Archer Ag. Ctr.
1070 Schillinger Rd. N
Mobile 36608-5298
334-690-8445

Monroe

Co. Ag. Center
ALA-21 S
P.O. Box 686
Monroeville 36461
334-575-3477

Montgomery

Courthouse Annex II
125 Washington Ave.
Montgomery 36104
334-265-0233

Morgan

400 Chestnut St. NW
P.O. Box 98
Hartselle 35640-2406
256-773-2549

Perry

208 W. Green St.
P.O. Drawer 540
Marion 36756
334-683-6888

Pickens

Service Center Bldg.
Court Square
P.O. Box 271
Carrollton 35447
205-367-8148

Pike

306 S. Three Notch St.
Troy 36081
334-566-0985

Randolph

Courthouse
P.O. Box 227
Wedowee 36278
256-357-2841

Russell

Courthouse Annex
P.O. Drawer 1128
Phenix City 36868-1128
334-298-6845

St. Clair

1815 Cogswell Ave., #103
Pell City 35125
205-338-9416

Shelby

Co. Ag. Center
ALA-70
P.O. Box 1606
Columbiana 35051
205-669-6763

Sumter

24 Washington St.
P.O. Drawer H
Livingston 35470
205-652-9501

Talladega

132 N. Court St.
Talladega 35160
256-362-6187

Tallapoosa

Courthouse Basement
125 N. Broadnax St.
Dadeville 36853
256-825-1050

Tuscaloosa

536 Courthouse
714 Greensboro Ave.
Tuscaloosa 35401
205-349-3886, ext. 288

Walker

1501 N. Airport Rd.
Jasper 35504
205-221-3392

Washington

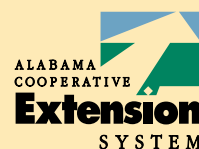
Turner Hall, Court Sq.
P.O. Box 280
Chatom 36518
334-847-2295

Wilcox

Courthouse Annex
12 Water St.
Camden 36726
334-682-4289

Winston

Courthouse Annex
P.O. Box 69
Double Springs 35553
205-489-5376





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