



**2024**  
**NC State Extension**  
**Jackson County Extension Report**  
*October 1, 2024*

***MISSION: We grow Jackson County through Education and Research in Agriculture and Food; Health and Nutrition and 4-H Youth Development***



**ANIMAL AGRICULTURE**

- ***42 producers increased working knowledge in livestock health and pasture management***
- ***18 youth increased their working knowledge in animal husbandry***



# **HORTICULTURE**

## **Consumer and Commercial**

- *160 Youth increased knowledge in growing plants*
- *75 increased working knowledge in vegetable and plant production*
- *210 in commercial operation plant production efficiency and economic gain*
  - *35 State Certified in State Pesticide Applicators Training*



## **4-H and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

- *259 increased educational knowledge of environmental conservation*
- *25 increased knowledge in civic engagement leadership development*
  - *37 in 4-H Clubs*
  - *6 went to state 4-H residential camp*



## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

- *127 citizens increased knowledge in wildlife nuisance best practices*

- *227 increased knowledge of their natural environment*
- *100 Elderberry Seedlings were given out for conservation and edible landscape purposes in celebration of Arbor Day in May and 100 Norway Spruce seedlings to nearly 50 citizens*



## **FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCE**

- *Extension and Community Association Club (ECA) continues to meet at the Jackson Extension Center providing craft programs with about 12 active participants*
- *12 participants in May and June became skilled in “Ski Walking” exercise that improves increased cardio and upper body strengthening exercise than regular walking, while also providing support for joints; stability from falling and better posture*



## **FISCAL RESOURCES**

- *\$2,680 acquired to support 4-H Shooting Sports Club – “Gritty Triggers”*

- *\$5,982 to support the “Youth Livestock Club”*
- *\$250 donated to help with 4-H Summer Camp for Campers*



## **VOLUNTEERS**

- *36 volunteers donated \$5,721 worth of in-kind services*

## **SUCCESS STORIES**



## **ANIMAL AGRICULTURE**

### **Jackson, Macon and Swain Cattleman's Association Educational Work**

In the later half of 2023 and the first half of 2024, Extension was able to provide farmers in the JMS Cattlemen's Association with educational information on different occasions on various topics of beef cattle production and pasture management including hay production, FSA Programs available to cattle producers, Asian Longhorned Ticks, as well as HPAI in dairy herds.

As a result we were able to provide approximately 25 producers with an increase in knowledge in the fore-mentioned topics, had our yearly usage of cattle handling equipment

and corral systems increase from 2023, and between 18 and 20 producers who expressed a better understanding of Extension recommended best management practices related to pasture/forage management and production practices. Having producers in the 3 county area who have a better understanding of best management practices we are able to show the public that our producers are invested in providing the public with a product that they can feel confident and comfortable buying, knowing that the producers have raised that animal in a humane and healthy way.

### **Jackson County Youth Livestock Group Enjoys Continued Success**

After evaluating participants and parents, youth directly and indirectly associated with the farm alike, it was gathered that youth had a positive experience with the Jackson Youth Livestock Group, and they have a newfound spark of interest in livestock. Also, as a result of the successful 2023 Youth Sheep Project with 12 participants, there are now 14 participants in the 2024 Youth Sheep Project who have committed to show in the 2024 show season at 2 local shows as well as attend 4 out of 6 local showmanship clinics.



### **4-H Jackson County Youth are Taking Community Action**

Jackson County Summer campers reported having a better understanding of civic engagement. However, one camper in particular took what he learned to heart. His mom informed me that after one camp activity in which he had suggested a county foster home as a local critical infrastructure need, he took immediate action to help. He approached his church pastor and worked with them to research the county's Department of Social Services (DSS) and learn about their needs. He then wrote a proposal to the church's advisory council and read a speech to its congregation. The church decided to collect money throughout August to donate to DSS for needs related to children's relocation. DSS will be able to use the funds to provide affected children their own duffel bag and storage options until they are placed in a home or able to return to their family.

#### **4-H Embryology in the Schools 2023 vs. 2024**

With the improvements made to the embryology program from 2023 to 2024, an immense improvement of the students' knowledge was reflected. In the 2024 program, the students' average knowledge test score increased 19%, from their pre-program test score of 75% to their post-program test score of 94%. This shows that the Summit second graders retained what they had learned, which demonstrates the impactful and beneficial inclusion of this program in their curriculum. The improved test scores give me valuable feedback on which aspects of the program were successful, and also in that the changes I made were beneficial. They also tell me what can further be improved for future programs.



Learn. Grow. Share.

## **HORTICULTURE** **Consumer and Commercial**

#### **Growth abnormality investigation in Christmas Tree Farm**

Recommendations for a specific fertility treatment were made to the grower, who implemented the strategy. The problem has been resolved and the grower is very pleased with the result. Also, this grower has increased his contact with the NCCE Horticulture agent on other issues with the crop and has received additional consultative services and recommendations from NCCE. Relationship has been strengthened.

#### **Reestablished Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program**

Master Gardener (MG) volunteers was down to one participant, but Agent reviewed MG program with Sixty percent (60%) of interested participants completing the first component of the program with completing 40 hours of instruction and all passed the final written exam with scores of 80% or better. All students have entered the internship phase of the training and each have selected outreach initiatives specifically suited to their interests. Outreach efforts in both counties will extend the reach of the Horticulture program collaborating with county and state agencies in senior services, agricultural heritage media, pollinator education and internal program technology efforts. These amplify the positive impact of NCCE Horticulture in Jackson & Swain Counties by a factor of 6.