

Wilson County

Report to the People

Program Highlights

March 6, 2023

Wilson County Agricultural Center



Wilson County

Message from Norman Harrell County Extension Director

Cooperative Extension provides research based, un-biased programs for the citizens of Wilson County in the areas of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H youth development.

2022 was a great year as Cooperative Extension returned to full staff. In June, Ms. Jessica Manning transitioned from one of our 4-H Agents to the Livestock Agent. In this position Jessica has responsibilities for youth and adult livestock educational programming. Additionally, she handles pasture management, forestry and is the county pesticide coordinator. In August, Ms. Allison Matthews joined our team as a 4-H Agent. Allison recently completed her master's degree from NC State University in Agriculture and Extension Education. Later in August, Ms. Estefania Ramirios joined our staff as the Farm Worker Health and Safety Educator, working to provide safety training for our farm workers. In October, Ms. Antonia Lucas completed our team joining as the 4-H Program Associate.

We hope you enjoy this publication as we wanted to highlight some success stories from Cooperative Extension in 2022 and the impacts we have made with Wilson County citizens.

Farm Worker Health & Safety Education Continues

2022 was challenging but also successful for the Farmworker Health and Safety Program. There were 20 training sessions, which trained 746 farm workers. In addition to training farm workers, a workshop was held for Farm Labor Contractors. This workshop held the most participation, with 10 agencies and 21 aspiring and also registered contractors active in practice. Also for the third year, the school for private pesticide applicators was held with 40 Spanish speaking participants of which 14 passed the exam to obtain their certification for private applicators, which was an increase in the pass rate from previous years.

Estefania Ramirios

Farm Worker Health & Safety
Educator



Estefania teaching an on-farm safety class for farm workers

Kids In The Kitchen

Approximately 96% of parents in the U.S. feel that it is important for their children to know how to cook or bake. Seeing that there is such a high percentage of parents that see cooking and baking as a priority skill for their child to learn, Taylor Crumpler, Wilson County FCS Agent saw this as an opportunity to meet a need.

The FCS Agent conducted two summer camps for 4-H participants to learn how to cook nutritious meals and baked goods. The FCS Agent also conducted a 9-week long after

school program for middle school students through the county's YMCA, where they learned about MyPlate and knife skills, and were able to make healthy and easy breakfast, lunch, and dinner recipes.

In total, there were 23 kids who were reached through these efforts. As a result, there was an increased knowledge in the participants of how to read and prepare a recipe and an increase in knowledge of knife safety skills.

Taylor Crumpler
Family & Consumer
Science Agent



Student making a salad

2022 Beginning Bee School

There is a growing demand and interest for beginning beekeepers to learn more about beekeeping. This is evident by the number of calls NC Cooperative Extension in Wilson County receives regarding interest in bees and the number of bee schools that are advertised on the NC State Beekeepers Association website. The Wilson County Beekeepers Association was formed as an organization through NC Cooperative Extension in Wilson County because of local interest in beekeeping.

Given these circumstances, the WCBA decided to hold an in-person bee school. The one-day training was conducted on March 11th. A quick survey was conducted with responses from attendees. The registration response to the beekeeping school shows the

public interest in increasing their knowledge of beekeeping.

The WCBA educated roughly 65 new beekeepers and generated \$3500 in registration fees. Also, based on the survey, there will be an increase of 51 more colonies of honeybees. This, coupled with the fact that the WCBA offered one of the few in-person bee schools in the state, made this the most successful bee school since the clubs' inception.

Tommy Batts
Extension Agent
Commercial
Horticulture



Bee club teaching kids about a bee hive

24th Annual Eastern North Carolina Landscape Conference and Trade Show

To be successful, landscape professionals must be knowledgeable, skilled, and hold certifications that allow them to do certain types of work. This requires training to acquire and maintain the necessary knowledge, skills, and certifications. Landscapers also need to maintain professionalism. NCCE provides educational classes and credits to these green industry professionals. Data can be found at <https://nclclb.com/licensing-2/>

NCCE Extension Agents in Wilson and Franklin Counties partnered to offer the first in-person conference since Covid at the Wilson Agricultural Center for green industry professionals. The speakers presented on a variety of topics ranging from tree pests and IPM, proper turfgrass management techniques, and the best herbicides for

applications around landscape plants. The event spanned 3 hours with a total of 141 attendees registered and 20 exhibitors.

90% of the attendees indicated that they improved their knowledge in one or more of the following areas: insect pests of urban tree species and IPM methods, enhanced turf grass management procedures, and using new and existing herbicides for weed management in ornamental landscapes. 100% indicated that the conference provided easy-to-understand information they would employ with their respective businesses. 90% indicated that they would adopt Extension-recommended best practices in IPM, turfgrass management, and appropriate use of herbicides.

Cyndi Lauderdale
Extension Agent
Commercial Ornamental &
Consumer Horticulture

4-H Making a Difference

Youth often suffer from stress, anxiety, depression, anger, substance abuse, lack of self-confidence and trauma. Improving the mental well-being of children and youth is critical.

Jaylah Dixon, a child growing up in a single parent home, suffered from stress and lack of self-confidence after losing her home and relocating to Wilson County because of Hurricane Florence. Jaylah and her sisters joined 4-H after moving to Wilson County in 2015 after Hurricane Florence destroyed their home.

Jaylah has participated in various 4-H programs that have helped her learn skills that she has used to be a better student and youth leader. During 4-H summer fun activities, Jaylah learned how to work in a community garden, which helped to feed members of the community. Jaylah learned that gardening can

be a fun relaxing way to spend your time while also giving back. At summer camp, Jaylah stepped out of her comfort zone by making friends with 4-Hers from across the state. She also learned new skills such as archery and horseback riding. These activities helped her gain confidence while trying new activities.

As a result of being an active 4-H member, Jaylah joined the White Oak 4-H Club where she ran for the office of Vice President. She was also awarded the opportunity to attend the Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Professional Development Event in Chicago, Illinois to talk to stakeholders and other attendees about how 4-H has affected her life positively. Through 4-H, Jaylah has learned skills to help her handle stress better and boost self-confidence.

Kenyatta Dixon
Extension Agent, 4-H



Jaylah presenting at the conference in Chicago

Wilson County Environmental Field Day

The North Carolina Standard Course of Study includes lessons for youth about environmental issues. Students often lack the experience of visiting a farm and learning hands on about environmental related issues.

Cooperative Extension in Wilson County organized the Wilson County Environmental Field Day (EFD) in partnership with Wilson Soil and Water, Wilson County Farm Service Agency and the Wilson County Forestry Department. The field day was conducted over a three-day period at the Dwight Batts tree farm near Macclesfield and targeted 4th graders in Wilson County. Cooperative Extension collaborated with the Executive Director of Elementary Education in Wilson County to ensure the objectives matched the needs of students and to encourage participation. The EFD included 5 stations that represented areas of upland wildlife, soil conservation, wetlands, forestry and crops and their uses. Cooperative

Extension staff participated in the field day and rotated teaching students about crops grown in Wilson County and products made from those crops.

All 13 of the public elementary schools in Wilson County participated in the event. Thirty-two classes with 800 students attended and increased their knowledge of upland wildlife, soil conservation, wetlands, forestry and crops and their uses.

Norman Harrell
County Extension Director



Antonia Lucas teaching the kids about crops



Taylor Crumpler teaching the kids about food crops

New Equipment for On-Farm Testing

NC Cooperative Extension in Johnston and Wilson counties have a history of strong agriculture programs that include conducting on-farm tests with grower cooperators and on campus specialists. Norman Harrell, County Extension Director and Tommy Batts, Extension Agent in Wilson County worked with Bryant Spivey, County Extension Director, Brandon Parker, Extension Agent, and Tim Britton, Extension Agent in Johnston County. The group have worked to put together equipment to help them expand their on-farm testing capabilities. However, this equipment is old, not best suited for all on farm testing conditions and underpowered. Conversations were held with Dr. Dale Monks, ANR Director and Associate Director of NC Cooperative Extension, about the equipment needs to enhance and expand on farm testing.

Dr. Dale Monks was able to work with administration to find funding to support the purchase

of new equipment. \$75,000 was allocated to secure equipment to enhance and expand on farm testing capabilities. Funding was secured in March and had to be utilized before the end of the fiscal year.

With this funding, the group was able to purchase a new 75 hp tractor that will be used in tobacco and sweet potato on farm testing. The tractor has enough horsepower and hydraulic capacity to handle the accessories needed for on farm testing. A weigh wagon was purchased to obtain weights of grain in corn, soybeans, wheat, or other grains. Additional equipment purchased include: 2 row fertilizer applicator, multiple spray tanks, a spray boom, and associated wiring and plumbing parts necessary for use. By obtain-

ing this equipment, Cooperative Extension can better serve our county constituents by providing more accurate and applied research on farm. These on farm tests can help making farming operations more profitable.

Tommy Batts
Extension Agent
Commercial Horticulture



Med Instead of Meds to Help Reduce Chronic Conditions

During the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), 46.7% of community survey respondents stated that they have been told by a health professional that they are overweight and/or obese, with underlying medical conditions such as hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes. The Wilson County Community Health Needs Assessment found that the top two focus areas for its residents were obesity and fitness/nutrition, suggesting that the community members are very aware of the health issues in the county and that there is a need for programming to help improve the situation. In order to offer more educational nutrition programming opportunities for Wilson County residents, the FCS Agent offered two Med Instead of Meds cohorts, one online and one in-person.

Med Instead of Meds is a six-session class series focused on eating a healthy Mediterranean-style eating pat-

tern. Eating a healthy Mediterranean-style eating pattern has been proven to protect against chronic illness and potentially reverse some effects. As a result, 15 participants were reached and all but one increased their adherence to the Mediterranean-style eating pattern.

Taylor Crumpler
Family & Consumer
Science Agent



2022 Certified Plant Professional Plant Identification Course

NC Cooperative Extension ornamental horticulture clientele and agents have identified plant identification, selection, production, and pest management as issues they need more training on. Since the NC Nursery and Landscape Association has a program called Certified Plant Professional which focuses on knowing how to identify 263 annuals, perennials, ornamental grasses, bulbs, shrubs, and trees as well as 37 insects, diseases, and weeds, and plant selection, production, and pest management, it is a good program to base teaching these skills.

The Eastern Region Area Specialized Agent for Nursery and Greenhouse along with the Wilson County Horticulture Agent, Wayne County Horticulture Agent, and the Franklin County Horticulture Agent provided a 5-class training course. The course taught plant identification, site selection, pest identification, and cultural practices through classroom teaching, samples, pictures, and living

plant collections at nursery sites in Wayne County, Wilson County, and at the Wilson Botanical Gardens. The course was completed by 10 industry members representing nurseries, landscape businesses, public gardens, and 1 Extension Agent. The main focus of the course was on plant identification and participants were taught new plants weekly and were quizzed weekly via both online quizzes with pictures and live plants in gardens and at nurseries. To determine the overall productivity of the course, participants were given a pre-course test and a post-course test to determine their increase in knowledge.

The class participants increased their knowledge by 42% based on their pre-course test score average of 41% compared to their post-course test score average of 83%. One participant took the

CPP exam in Wilmington given by the NC Nursery and Landscape Association on June 9th, 2022 and passed. Eight other participants who completed the course plan to take the certification exam in the future. They have been provided additional self-study materials to help them continue to prepare. Participants provided the following testimonials: "I know so many more plants than I did before the course." "This helped tremendously." "The classes greatly increased my knowledge." "Learning from live plants was extremely useful." "The way the classes were taught was highly beneficial."

Danny Lauderdale

Area Specialized Agent, Ornamental Nursery and Greenhouse,

Eastern Region

Youth Development

The Wilson County YMCA needed local providers for Middle School programming. After discussing needs with the staff, we concluded on doing a program that combined culinary skills along with increasing knowledge. We have seen a lack of awareness of food sourcing within the county and sought to address this problem through this program - Farm to Fork. This would allow middle school participants to increase confidence in the kitchen while becoming more aware of how their food is sourced and the process products go through to end up on their plate. This mattered because it allowed students to think about where their food comes from. Students need to be aware of different careers within the food and agriculture industries, the processing operation, farm operations, and learn how to make their own meals from agricultural products.

Ten Students participated in 10 one-hour long sessions led by the 4-H agent. These students were each impacted and able to make products to take them home. An example of this is making cranberry sauce during the holiday season. Students were able to make a jar and then take it home and discuss the process of harvesting the

berries and making the sauce to their families and friends. Students were able to take recipe cards home with them and were encouraged to try making the recipe again at home with supervision. This encouraged them to share their knowledge with their guardians and siblings. The YMCA adult staff also participated and asked questions about products, as they were impacted as well. The YMCA serves all families and offers scholarships to many children, making it accessible to all students within the community.

This class was beneficial to the students and therefore 4-H was asked to participate in another Farm to Fork session in the Spring. As an evaluation students were asked to list things they learned some items they listed were: Cranberry fields are flooded to harvest, eggs need to be incubated and kept at the correct temperature to hatch, that bacon comes from pigs, how to use the "claw method" when cutting food, that butter can be made using heavy cream, bees spend their lives making honey, different

breeds of cows are used for beef and dairy, that our food has to go through a process and inspection before we eat, how to use a can opener, and that making your own food takes a lot of hard work. This program will serve Wilson County by making students aware of what products are grown in their county, allowing students to make informed decisions when it comes to their food choices, and allowing them to begin to make their own meals and be more self-sufficient. This program expanded middle school students' knowledge of agriculture while teaching them life skills. These students are located at schools across the county, so hopefully they will continue to talk to their peers about the knowledge and skills they gained.

Allison Matthews,

Extension Agent, 4-H

Youth Raising Poultry During the NC HPAI Outbreak

According to State Veterinarian, Dr. Mike Martin, the outbreak of High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) put our poultry population at high risk across the state of North Carolina. The CDC states that this form of HPAI virus is considered a low risk to humans but is highly contagious to other birds, including commercial and backyard poultry flocks. However, the virus is not considered a food safety threat. Flock owners must remain vigilant in monitoring their poultry. The Wilson County 4-H and livestock agent used this outbreak to educate the 4-H Chick Chain program participants on how to practice strict biosecurity with their chicks during the six (6) month program.

Before program participants received their chicks, an orientation meeting was held to include proper poultry care and biosecurity measures. Frequent reminders were emailed out with information on any current outbreaks or restrictions.

Before the show on November 5, the Wilson County Livestock Agent held a pre-show and sale meeting to discuss the most recent HPAI outbreak and what to look for in flocks with migratory birds moving south before selecting the best pullet to bring to the show. Flyers were also passed out published by NCDA&CS with symptoms and what to do in case of sick poultry.

The Chick Chain program was a huge success with keeping chicks healthy and educating the families on how to practice strict biosecurity during a HPAI outbreak. There were over 50 4-H members from Wilson County that brought pullets/hens to show and auction raising \$15,600. Buyers were comfortable knowing the flocks these chickens came from had been kept safe and clean from disease outbreak. Raising awareness of illnesses and diseases in poultry, livestock, and equine is important for the well-being of animals

and residents of North Carolina. Teaching young people how to practice biosecurity will help instill lifelong knowledge and awareness for proper poultry production.

Jessica Manning

Extension Agent, Livestock



4-H Chick Chain Show Winners

Wilson County Voluntary Agriculture District Growth

Wilson County approved the Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD) creation in 2004. VAD help to promote agriculture and preserve farmland, increase countywide recognition of and pride in the agricultural community, encourage the economic health of agriculture and increase the protection of agriculture from non-farm development and nuisance lawsuits. Cooperative Extension provides leadership to the Wilson County VAD and works with the Wilson County Agriculture Advisory Committee, appointed by the Wilson County Commissioners, that oversees the VAD. Cooperative Extension renewed efforts to encourage farmers and landowners to enroll farm land into the VAD program in 2021. At the end of 2021, there were 68 parcels representing 4,401 acres enrolled into the program.

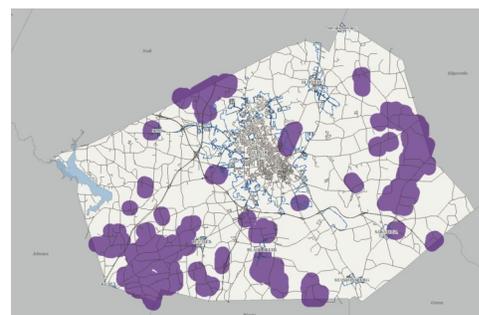
Cooperative Extension works the Wilson County Agriculture Advisory Committee to oversee the VAD program. Cooperative Extension distributed information on the VAD and encouraged farms to enroll into the

program. Harrell presented information on the program at the Wilson County AgriBusiness Committee meeting.

To date, 106 new parcels representing 4,139 acres have been enrolled into the program in 2022. This brings the Wilson County VAD enrollment total to 174 parcels representing 8,541 acres. In addition, 5 VAD applications were found not to be enrolled in the Wilson County Present Use Value taxation program. Cooperative Extension made them aware of the PUV program and how it will save the landowner taxes.

Norman Harrell

County Extension Director



Wilson County Master Gardener Volunteers Participate in State-wide Basil Downy Mildew Research

Master Gardener volunteers (MGVs) are a critical component of Extension outreach, serving as volunteer educators in communities across the state. With changing demographic and technology trends, new volunteer opportunities, such as applied research, will keep MGVs engaged with Extension. Engaging MGVs in applied research increases their understanding of Extension's mission, provides a fulfilling volunteer experience, and enhances Extension's ability to conduct consumer horticulture research in multiple locations. 'Genovese' basil is the most widely available sweet basil variety for commercial and home production alike, despite its high susceptibility to the plant disease Basil Downy Mildew (BDM). Currently, BDM management programs rely heavily on fungicide applications which are often not effective or practical for home gardeners. Resistant varieties have the potential to offset and reduce fungicide applications by suppressing BDM and prolonging production time for home gardeners.

Using funds provided by the Consumer and Youth Horticulture Working Group, county Extension agents and state Extension Master Gardener program staff developed an expanded research trial (piloted in 2021) to assess MGV interest, competency, and satisfaction with conducting research in the home garden or at Extension demonstration gardens. Seventy-nine MGVs across 17 counties participated in the research trial, which compared the disease resistance and taste characteristics among six basil varieties. Wilson County disease trial was conducted in the Wilson Botanical Gardens to assess variety performance appropriate for home and community gardeners. Three Wilson Master Gardener Volunteers weekly evaluated the basil for signs of BDM. Blind taste tests were

conducted to determine how flavor and aroma characteristics of the new varieties compared to the common, disease susceptible culinary variety. While 'Genovese' overall ranking was still the highest at 2.4 (scale 1-3) 'Thunderstruck' rated 2.2 and 'Passion' at 2.1 showing that disease-resistant cultivars are a good alternative.

Eighty-five percent of Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) were 'very satisfied' with their experience with the project, and over eighty percent expressed high satisfaction with the training, support, and communication provided by agents. When asked what motivated MGVs to participate in the trial, most ranked being part of a research project as 'very important', while participating in a statewide project and a desire for new kinds of volunteer opportunities were also important factors cited by MGVs. Eighty-

three percent of participants 'strongly agreed' that this type of research project is a good use of Master Gardener volunteer time. Master Gardener volunteers can be effective for small-scale research trials, and MGVs expressed strong interest in participating in future research projects. Involving MGVs in applied research and sharing the results with gardeners in local communities reiterates the mission and value of Extension and is a new and innovative way to enhance volunteer engagement.

Cyndi Lauderdale

Extension Agent

Commercial Ornamental &

Consumer Horticulture



Master Gardener Volunteers working with basil plantings

71st Annual Wilson County 4-H Livestock Show & Sale

In March 2022, the 71st Annual Wilson County 4-H Livestock Show and Sale took place at the Wilson American Legion Fairgrounds. With the price of feed and fuel rising, there was uncertainty of normal participation numbers and high auction proceeds. This event culminates a 4-H youth's market animal project that teaches valuable life skills and agricultural practices.

The event was slightly modified due to Covid restrictions but still included market swine and market steer classes, showmanship, and a small livestock judging contest with teams from five (5) counties participating. The awards ceremony and sale of animals rounds out the event the last evening. Wilson County Extension employees and volunteers put in many of hours of work to bring citizens and businesses together for this youth event.

As a result of community support and tradition, the 2022 live sale of animals resulted in a record-breaking \$368,000 with 85 4-H members participating. The money these youth raised goes into accounts for future education and towards the next year's livestock project. Also, over \$8,000 was awarded to senior-aged 4-H members involved in livestock via educational scholarships set up through endowments by generous members/groups of Wilson County. The 2022 Wilson County 4-H Livestock Show & Sale proved that a community could pull together even in uncertain economic times.

Jessica Manning

Extension Agent, Livestock



4-Her exhibiting a market hog

Tech Change Makers

The use of computers and cell phones has become increasingly important in our world. It is an important part of our everyday lives and a part of almost everything we do. While it played a vital role before, the COVID-19 pandemic showed how truly important technology is to us. This is especially true for older adults who remained at home to stay safe during the pandemic. As the world depended on more and more technology, older adults faced the issue of having a lack of technological understanding. Because of the COVID 19 more employers, businesses, and people have turned to less and less face to face and have increased interaction through technology. Employers and business have turned to more zoom meetings to conduct interviews and meetings, and families are using more facetime to now connect with each other. Due to the increase of interaction through technology, older adults must be knowledgeable to keep up with this new trend. NCA&TSU has developed a "Tech Change Makers" educational program that could help benefit these citizens. Kenyatta Dixon,

4-H Agent, provided the NCA&TSU "Tech Change Makers" program in Wilson County to assist these older adults. Through this program, Kenyatta trained four Wilson County 4-Her's in areas such as email etiquette, internet safety, Microsoft Excel, and resume writing. These 4-Her's used the skills they learned to reach and teach adults in Wilson County how to increase knowledge in those areas. Youth conducted 6 classes. 2 Classes were taught face to face at the Wilson County Agriculture Center and 4 classes were taught through zoom. Adults were identified through community churches, businesses, and local communities. As a result of these efforts, 400 adults in Wilson County learned how to write a resume, how to create a safe password, how

to use Microsoft Excel to maintain a budget, and how to communicate effectively through email.

Kenyatta Dixon

Extension Agent, 4-H



4-Her helping program participant

New Red-headed Flea Beetle Management in Container Nurseries Publication: go.ncsu.edu/rhfb

The red-headed flea beetle (RHFB), *Systema frontalis*, is a pest of many nursery container grown ornamental plants throughout the southeast. It has become a major nursery production issue for many growers following the recession of 2007-2009. Income is reduced to lost sales of ornamental plants that are unacceptable to market from damage. Traditional management that has consisted of foliar sprays is ineffective for many growers unless they make expensive repeated weekly applications from May or June through September or October.

Extension began conducting research to target red-headed flea beetle larvae in 2017 in order to break the life cycle and reduce early growing season pressure from the insect. Extension also trapped and scouted for adults and larvae throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Drench applied insecticide research trials and granular systemic insecticide research trials have been conducted to determine if they can reduce foliar damage. Foliar applied insecticide trials have also been conducted to determine more effective rotations and application frequency. During this time eastern NC nursery

growers were surveyed to determine their production practices related to this pest and the program participated in a region-wide research survey of growers in 2020 to determine the pest status and management practices adopted and currently used by growers.

The trapping, scouting, surveys, research, trials, and demonstrations to learn more about larvae and adult management of red-headed flea beetles conducted at nursery sites in eastern NC have resulted in gathering vital information that can be conveyed to growers throughout North Carolina and in all states where nurseries have difficulty managing this container nursery pest. On December 21, 2022, a new Entomology note was published that summarizes this knowledge gained and is available at go.ncsu.edu/rhfb. NC State Extension Specialist comment about this publication: "Great resource! You did a lot of work to bring this in-

formation to light and help growers struggling with this problem." Alabama Extension Specialist comment about this publication: "This is great. Good work on this. Very useful. I am going to send it to my clients. Thanks!"

Danny Lauderdale

Area Specialized Agent, Ornamental Nursery and Green-



Red-headed flea beetle damage on nursery plants



Red-headed flea beetle damage

4-H Youth Development with Embryology

In Wilson County there was a need to increase science test scores in elementary education. Embryology lessons help supplement science learning standards within schools by utilizing hands-on activities. Wilson County 4-H conducted an Embryology School Enrichment program that helped increase student knowledge of STEM and improve test scores.

Cooperative Extension in Wilson County distributed hard copies of school enrichment offerings to county schools. Teachers were able to respond and set up times for the 4-H agent to come and meet with them. This resulted in embryology in 10 different classrooms where children were able to see the process of the life cycle every day. New teachers were able to participate and have said they would love to supplement their lessons every year with embryology. This reached teachers, teaching assistants, all the children in their classrooms, and their parents. Youth and some guardians have low exposure to agriculture and science, so this was a learning experience for them. We partnered with a local farmer who provided us with eggs from his farm to use within the classroom.

Over 300 youth in the county were able to learn about the difference between fertilized and unfertilized eggs, the parts of an egg, candling, the life cycle, chick care, and much more. A parent commented on the 4-H social media that "My daughter had this program in her 2nd grade class at Rock Ridge Elem. and she loved it! She came home every day telling me what she learned, and she was so excited to see them hatch. This was a wonderful program!" This program allows students to become excited about learning and science. This can help other elementary students build a

solid foundation of the life process and biology before entering middle school and high school classes. Based on evaluations students were able to increase knowledge, improve EOG scores, increase interest in science, and show an interest in science careers. Teachers said that this program greatly improved class participation, was useful in addition to their regular teaching unit, helped them prepare lesson plans, and reinforced common core standards. By having the knowledge of the eggs being locally sourced community awareness of local agriculture was also increased. 4-H hopes to expand this program to increase interest in science and see improvement in test scores.

Allison Matthews
Extension Agent, 4-H



One week old chicks



Chicks hatching from eggs



One week old chicks

Wilson County Estimated Income from Sales of Farm Products

Commodity	2020	2021	2022
Flue-Cured Tobacco	25,931,045	30,546,312	42,795,516
Corn	4,855,500	8,718,269	4,991,466
Soybeans	11,894,080	17,175,714	22,039,258
Peanuts	2,528,573	3,047,187	4,159,219
Wheat	2,367,410	3,668,548	4,076,701
Cotton	3,420,891	4,376,481	7,036,340
Other Crops	130,375	64,904	125,120
Sweet Potatoes	35,310,307	21,987,392	15,192,016
Fruits & Vegetables	1,219,552	2,972,074	3,781,605
Cucumbers	3,859,400	4,681,250	5,394,000
Watermelons	6,346,750	7,134,625	8,865,233
Nursery Greenhouse	16,817,000	16,945,000	17,101,299
Forestry	5,257,107	5,260,000	5,520,000
Swine	1,700,000	1,900,000	1,600,000
Beef Cattle	1,400,000	900,000	1,000,000
Poultry	1,850,000	1,100,000	1,300,000
Total Farm Income	124,887,990	130,477,756	144,977,773



Agricultural & Community Development

- Norman Harrell, County Extension Director; Administration, Field Crops
- Tommy Batts, Extension Agent; Commercial Horticulture, Cotton and Peanut crops
- Jessica Manning, Livestock Agent, Pesticide Coordinator, Forestry
- Cyndi Lauderdale, Extension Agent; Commercial Ornamental & Residential Horticulture
- Danny Lauderdale, Area Specialized Agent; Nursery & Greenhouse-Eastern Region
- Estefania Ramirios, Farm Worker Health and Safety Educator

Family & Consumer Science

- Taylor Crumpler, Family & Consumer Science Agent; Foods & Nutrition

4-H & Youth Development

- Kenyatta Dixon, 4-H Agent; Programs for inner city youth and non-traditional area, focusing on limited resources and minority populations .
- Allison Matthews, 4-H Agent; Traditional community clubs, Project & special interest activities, After-school programs
- Antonia Lucas, 4-H Program Associate, After school programs, Summer Fun 4-H camps

Administrative Support

- Pam Beaman
- Michelle Rains

Highlights

Website Hits: 27,325 (wilson.ces.ncsu.edu)

Number of Cooperative Extension Volunteers: 697

“The effect of these program areas is that **NC Cooperative Extension generates an estimated 33:1 economic impact return for the overall state economy in return for State and County investments.**”

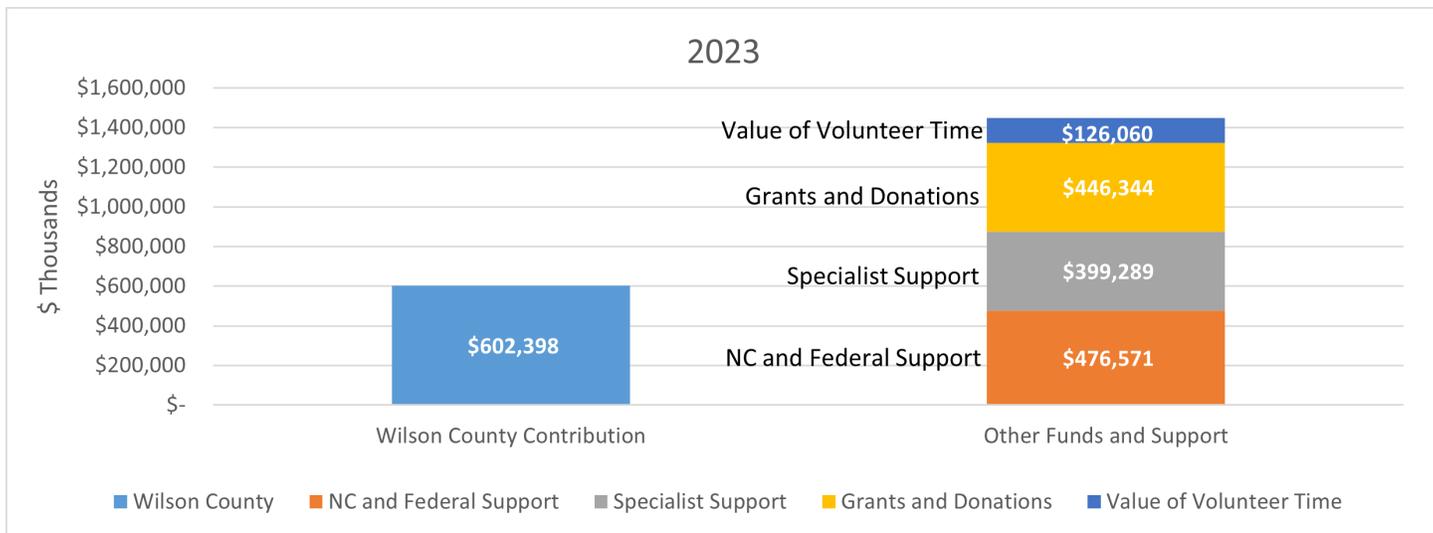
The Impact of Extension in NC, Teconomy Partners LLC, March 2019 Report

Wilson County 4-H

4-H Enrollment:	2090
4-H Clubs:	13
4-H club members:	387

Foundation Scholarships Value

7 Endowed Scholarships; 1 ECA Enhancement	
Value of endowments:	\$351,585
Generated Annually:	\$11,280 FY22





For more information on NC Cooperative Extension programs please contact the Wilson County Center at 252-237-0111, or visit our website at www.wilson.ces.ncsu.edu.

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, sexual identity (including pregnancy), genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, political beliefs, veteran status. NC State, N. C. A & T, US Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.
