

*North Carolina Cooperative Extension
Montgomery County*



April, 2024

From the Director's Desk

Agricultural Updates

Owen Washam, Horticulture & Forestry

Emi Briggs, Livestock & Field Crops

Soil Sampling and Soil Health Seminar

On April 5th, several members of the community joined to listen to local specials on soil health and soil sampling. Dr. Gatiboni, Dr. Ozlu, Owen Washam and Brad Thompson presented information on different topics. Owen Washam presented on soil types and structure. Dr. Gatiboni presented on how to read a soil report and how to take a proper sample. Dr. Ozlu presented on cover crops and how to develop more fertility in your soil. Brad Thompson presented on how to make an account with the NCDA and assisted with the outside hands on demonstration after the presentations concluded. 100% percent of participants said they felt their knowledge was improved on soil management. AgSouth Farm Credit sponsored breakfast for the event.

Soil Sampling is now FREE until October. Stop by the office to pick up the sampling equipment and forms.



Montgomery County Cattlemen's Association



On April 9th, we had the last cattlemen's meeting until the fall. The Farmland Preservations Divisions ADFP Field Representative, Chester Lowder, presented on the Voluntary Agricultural District. His presentation included benefits, how to join, the history of the Voluntary Agricultural District and how the V.A.D. is different across the state. Several farmers were interested in joining the Voluntary Agricultural district after the presentation.

The cattlemen will not meet again until September. If you are interested in joining the cattlemen's association, please contact 910-576-6011 or email Emi_Briggs@ncsu.edu.

Voluntary Agriculture District Board Meeting

On April 22, the Agricultural Advisory Board held a meeting to put 100 acres of farmland into the Voluntary AG District. It was approved that evening, by the board that the farm will be included in the Voluntary Agricultural district.

Are you interested in protecting your farmland? There are many ways to protect farmland but the Voluntary Agricultural District is Please give our office a call to enroll today at 910576-6011.

Southeast Regional Chicken Show

On April 30th, nine 4-Hers went to the NC FFA Center in Bladen County to participate in the Southeast Regional Chicken Show. The kids have worked so hard for the show. They picked up their chick on February 14th. They have had one mandatory zoom training and one mandatory in person training. They completed a project record book to show all the hard work and training they have put into their chicken. The kids included pictures, drawings, and even feathers for the record books. They got to participate in 2 parts of the show. The breed class and the showmanship. In the breed class, the judges look for proper coloring, proper confirmation, good health and a

bird that fits the breed guidelines. The showmanship, the judge is looking for how well your birds are cared for, how well you have worked with your birds and how well you can complete all the poses with your bird. There are also knowledge based questions the judges ask each participant including questions on care, egg structure, conformation and more. All our 4-Heer's did amazing. Several received placement ribbons and all walked away smiling.



Farm meetings?

It is officially the growing season and the time of year for questions. I have spent several afternoons getting to know our local farmers and learning about their operations to better provide research based information to support their needs. If you are having issues with your crops, pest issues or need assistance, please give our office a call. We offer forage testing, plant disease identification and testing, soil sampling, and more!

High Path Avian Influenza Update

There has been large concern over High Path Avian Influenza this month. There was a cow in NC that tested positive for HPAI. Biosecurity is extremely important for all animals especially if there are known zoonotic issues present. If you need assistance reviewing your biosecurity plan, need additional resources, or have questions or concerns, please contact our office.

Upcoming Events

Beef Quality Assurance Training on May 28th. Please register by google form no later than May 22nd. Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/NjRRsntMq3BA2GCS6>

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Montgomery County



The volunteers have had a busy month! On Saturday April 6, student volunteers in training visited the JC Ralston Arboretum in Raleigh and the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.

These public gardens demonstrated horticulture techniques varying in mission, and students learned differences between introducing new garden species and conserving historic native plants. Finally, students concluded the educational piece of their volunteer training on April 29, and will be examined on May 6. The Certified volunteers have been active in the Montgomery Community College greenhouses twice a week, growing plants for their upcoming sale on May 3-4. We are so thankful for Kim Johnson, MCC Sustainable Agriculture Director, who has generously given of her time, expertise, and grant funded materials for the volunteers to use. Many plants will be available at the sale, including flowering annuals, hanging baskets, garden edibles, herbs, perennials, native plants, and more. Everything Rolled food truck will be on site May 3, helping to draw customers and boost sales for our hard working Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. The April and May business meetings were held April 8 and April 29 with a strong focus on plant sale planning. The next business meeting will be June 3 at 5:30pm.

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association



The Montgomery County Beekeepers Association (MCBA) meet the third Thursday each month from 6-8pm in the multicultural room at MCC, with no December or July meetings. On April 18, the group met for a covered dish meal and presentations. The meal was followed by a presentation from Wade Turner, NCSBA Regional Director. He discussed beekeeping updates in the Piedmont Region. The next meeting will be on May 16th - please bring a dish to share.



Gardening with Troy Elementary Pre-schoolers

On Friday, April 26, our team traveled to Troy Elementary to provide education to the Pre-School. Emi (Field Crops/Livestock Agent) taught with Bethany (Extension Master Gardener volunteer), reading to students about how cows produce milk and gardens grow vegetables. Rhonda (Family Consumer Science Agent) and Elizabeth (SNAP ED Nutrition Educator) led an activity on healthy food and activity choices. The kiddos loved their snack! Finally, Owen (Horticulture/Forestry Agent) taught students that seeds need water, warmth, and light to germinate. The groups planted basil and lettuce to watch grow and enjoy in the coming weeks. 45 PreK kids were taught in 3 rotating groups. Thank you to Troy Elementary for having us, and Master Gardener Bethany for coordinating!



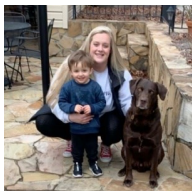
Family & Consumer Sciences Updates Rhonda Peters, FCS Agent Elizabeth Thompson, Nutrition Educator



April was a whirlwind of activity for the Family & Consumer Science program as we continued our Bingocize program at Brutonville Community Center, started a new series of OrganWise Guys at Troy Elementary, continued our Go, Glow, Grow program at Wescare Center for Children, and participated in mental health fairs at Montgomery County Early College as well as Montgomery Central High School. Professional development was also a priority for FCS in the month of April, as the FCS Agent and Nutrition Educator both attended three days of training in Greensboro. Additionally, the FCS Agent attended a one day meat preservation workshop in Raleigh.

In May, we plan to conclude the Go, Glow, Grow program at Wescare, which will have served 31 students and four teachers. We will also conclude the Bingocize program, which has averaged approximately 11 participants per session. We look forward to sharing more specific results of these efforts with you next month. In May, we have also started the Babysitter's Backpack program, which will provide youth with the education and practical experience to effectively care for younger children and help them start their own babysitting business. This program will conclude in June.

June, of course, will start our summer programming in partnership with 4-H Youth Development. We are excited to offer programming in the areas of nutrition and wellness, financial management, and life skills. We look forward to this collaboration every year with our community and our Agriculture and 4-H programs in our office. In July, we will be providing the Safe Plates class, a food safety program, for food handlers at Blake's Restaurant.



Elizabeth's Healthy Recipe Corner



4-H Youth Development

Quick Black Bean Salad

Ingredients

- 1 can black beans, low-sodium (15.5 ounces)
- 1 1/2 10-ounce packages frozen corn
- 1/2 cup salsa

Directions

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Leave frozen corn in the fridge overnight to defrost. If you forget to do this ahead of time, defrost it in the microwave.
3. Drain and rinse the black beans.
4. Combine all ingredients together and serve as a side dish.



To find out more about FCS programs in Montgomery County, visit www.montgomery.ces.ncsu.edu or visit us on Facebook. If you would like to discuss bringing programs to your community, please call Rhonda Peters or Elizabeth Thompson at (910) 576-6011 or email rtpeters@ncat.edu or eathompson@ncat.edu



For more information regarding 4-H programming in Montgomery County, please contact Chrissy Haynes at (910) 576-6011 or by email at chrissy_haynes@ncsu.edu

Ask Extension

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension is a service that is meant to help serve the general community, both professionally and personally. If you have questions regarding any topic within Horticulture, Livestock, Family and Consumer Science, or Youth Development please do not hesitate to reach out! The office can be called at 910-576-6011 and your question will be directed to the agent that best fits your category.

Emails can also be sent directly to agents that you feel would best know the answer. It is a good idea to include pictures if you have a specific situation at hand. The list of agents can be found at <https://montgomery.ces.ncsu.edu/people/>.



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If you haven't "liked" us or "followed" us on Facebook, take the time to do it today! Our facebook and webpages are updated regularly with news articles, posts, and pictures of current and future programs as well as news you can use. Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/North-Carolina-Cooperative-Extension-Montgomery-County-117219574995061/> and on our website www.montgomery.ces.ncsu.edu. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email Kim_Gibson@ncsu.edu



Check out our current videos by visiting

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOlPmzMobAJoawefJK_ldzA

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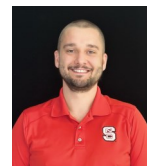
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