

'News You Can Use' From the Extension Office

UGA Cooperative Extension in Hall County



Hall County Cooperative Extension provides information and assistance in the areas of:

- Agriculture and the Environment
- 4-H and Youth Development
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Radon Education

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2nd Annual AG Day Continues to Educate Youth

Agriculture and agribusiness represent a major portion of the economic activity in Hall County. Estimated at \$900 million, Agriculture's economic impact is a tremendous boost to the economies of Hall and other northeast Georgia counties. And while many who have grown up being exposed to agriculture realize its importance, the youth of today need to be reminded of what agriculture and agribusiness mean to our community.

In an effort to meet this need, Hall County Farm Bureau and Hall County Cooperative Extension teamed up for the 2nd Annual Hall County AG DAY on Friday, May 9th at Jaemor Farms in Lula.

Sponsors of AG Day 2008 included Jaemor Farms, Jackson EMC, Ag Georgia Farm Credit, Mar-Jac Poultry, Hall Soil & Water Conservation District, Chandler Equipment, Milton Martin Toyota, Piedmont Tractor, United Community Bank, and the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Milk.

AG Day included on-farm activities and workshops for approximately 400 children from pre-k to 2nd grade. Participating schools included two local elementary schools, three area daycare centers, and several home school groups.

Other cooperating organizations included Hall County Parks & Leisure Services, Hall County Soil & Water Conservation District, Hall County Master Gardeners, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Hall County Cattlemen's Association, Georgia Forestry Commission, the Norton Agency, and the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Milk.

AG Day activities for children included a hayride through the orchard, a milking demonstration by Truelove Dairy, planting flowers with the Hall County Master Gardeners, and a mobile petting zoo complete with farm animals. In addition, participants visited educational booths and enjoyed healthy snacks made from Georgia products.





Hall County 4-H News & Events

School Starts

The Hall County 4-H Club staff will be meeting with 19 elementary schools and 7 middle schools this year. We expect to meet with 2,225 students monthly! The educational focus for elementary school is science enrichment and agricultural awareness. There will be an after-school 4-H club at ALL Hall County Middle Schools including Gainesville Middle. The focus of the Middle School 4-H Clubs is Public Speaking, Community Service and Recreation. The schedule of meetings is posted on the Hall County 4-H website at www.hallcounty4hclub.org. High School 4-H'ers meet monthly at the 4-H office.

4-H Community Clubs

The community clubs for this year are **Traditional Archery, BB Rifle Team, Horse Club, Arts and Crafts Club, Exchange Club and .22 Rimfire**. Anyone interested in a community club should call the 4-H office for more information at 770/535-8291 or 8292 or visit our website. Adult volunteers are always needed! Please contact us if you are interested.

Coming Events:

September

- 8 4-H Awards Night
- 18 BB Rifle & .22 Rimfire Team Orientation
- 20-22 GA Youth Summit—Rock Eagle
- 22 5th Grade Officer Training

October

- 5-11 **National 4-H Week "Donate a Dollar" campaign**
- 10-11 **Mule Camp Market Festival**
- 16 BB Rifle Team Safety Class
- 19 Senior Portfolio class
- 24 Junior Portfolio Class

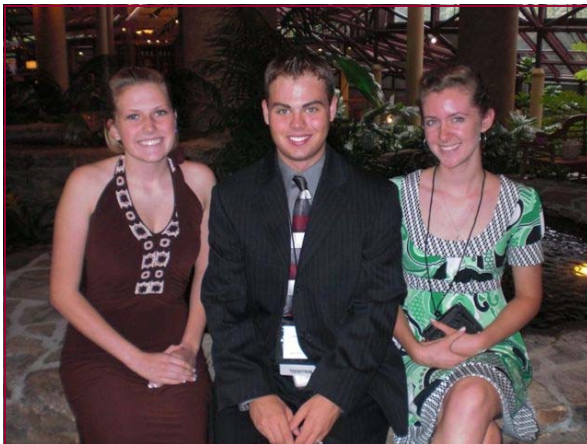
November

- 8 Yard Sale at the Farmer's Market
- 13 Cotton Boll & Consumer Jamboree—AG Center
- 21-22 Hall County 4-H Equine Classic—AG Center

December

- 13-14 Fall Forum—High School 4-H'ers
- 19 **Water Fun Day**
- 20 Donation Delivery Day
- 22 **4-H Christmas Camp**

Hall County 4-H'ers SHINE at 4-H State Congress



Congratulations to our winners! We are extremely proud of Jenny, Corey & Bridget and their amazing accomplishments.

4-H State Congress is a competitive event where the **TOP** 4-H'ers throughout the state of Georgia present a speech up to 12 minutes in length that includes posters & power point presentation before a panel of judges. First place winners receive the top award in 4-H, "**Master 4-H'er**." 4-H State Congress was held July 22 through July 25th.

The Hall County 4-H Club was represented by Corey O'Quinn, a 12th grader at Flowery Branch High School, Jenny Sheppard, a 10th grader at West Hall High School and Bridget Maguire, a recent graduate of North Hall High School. Each 4-H'er qualified for this event by placing either 1st or 2nd at District Project Achievement in March. Corey competed in the Communications Project and had the 1st place demonstration score titled "How to Build a Better Website." Corey placed 2nd overall in the state. Jenny also had a 1st place demonstration score and placed 5th overall in the Human Development Project. Her demonstration was about "Domestic Violence." Bridget placed 6th in state in the Horse Project with her demonstration about "How to Start an Equine Business."

www.hallcounty4hclub.org

Mule Camp Market Festival – October 10 & 11



Once again, Mr. Billy Skaggs, Extension Coordinator, will be firing up the charcoal grill and cooking chicken for the annual 4-H Chicken Barbeque sale at Mule Camp Market Festival. We will be in need of volunteers to help us set up Thursday night around 5:30 pm and then lots of help either cooking chicken or helping to sell the chicken plates on Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11. Please let us know if you can volunteer to help. Mule Camp Market is a long standing Gainesville/Hall County tradition, and provides this great fundraising opportunity for our 4-H Club. Please call 770-535-8291 for more information.

Free Food Preservation Class on September 26

The Hall County Cooperative Extension in partnership with the Hall County Library System will be offering a free preservation class on up-to-date resources for canning, freezing, drying, jelly making and pickling on Friday, September 26 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at Spout Springs Library (6488 Spout Springs Road, Flowery Branch).



This one hour class will provide you with basic resources as well as information on food preservation brochures, books, websites, online courses and DVD's. Everyone attending will receive a packet of information. So whether you are a beginner or experienced food preserver, come join us. Please call Spout Springs Library at 770-532-3311, extension 191 to register by September 25.

This is the fourth Food Preservation class that Hall County Cooperative Extension has offered this summer. We had 68 people to attend the classes.

EFNEP Programming News

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education program (EFNEP) offers free nutrition education plus "hands-on" cooking activities for children, teens and adults.

EFNEP, founded in 1969, is federally funded and conducted through the Cooperative Extension Service in every state and U.S. territory. Sessions were recently held at Harrison Square and North House.

Also, 40 students at East Hall High School completed the Family and Consumer Sciences' class Health, Safety and Nutrition for the Young Child. Congratulations!

EFNEP is thrilled to announce our partnership with Habitat for Humanity and the Georgia Mountains Community Food Bank. The first four graduates received their official University of Georgia certificates for completing their EFNEP lesson series. These families gained a greater knowledge of nutrition as well as skills in meal planning and food buying to ensure optimum nutrition.

For more information, please contact Sandra Stringer, Nutrition educator, at (770) 535-8290 or stringer@uga.edu.



Students in Lauren Bracewell's class prepare to serve fruit with "Cinnamon Dip" to their classmates at East Hall High School.

Certified Radon Professionals Only Need Apply!

When it comes to buying and maintaining a home in Georgia, the operative term is 'buyer beware.' This is especially true when it comes to radon measurement and mitigation. Radon is not regulated in any way in Georgia, so homeowners with high radon levels need to be extra careful in choosing someone to fix their home to lower the radon level.

To find qualified, certified radon measurement and mitigation professionals, homeowners or realtors should consult their area UGA radon educator, Ginger Bennett, working out of the Hall County Cooperative Extension office. She can provide lists of measurement and mitigation professionals who have been trained, tested and certified through the National Environmental Health Association and/or the National Radon Safety Board.

As with any service or product, you get what you pay for. Before contracting with a radon measurement/mitigation professional, do your own research and request a list of references. For a checklist to help you evaluate bids offered by mitigators, please contact Ms. Bennett at 770-535-8290 or bennettg@uga.edu.

If you have been harmed by an unscrupulous contractor, report them in writing to the Better Business Bureau, 503 Oak Place, #590, Atlanta GA 30349 or atlantabb.org. By doing so, you may save another homeowner from being deceived and harmed.



Do You Have a Cell Phone?



Did you think because you had a cell phone that telemarketers could not call you? Or have you received an e-mail telling you that your cell phone is about to be assaulted by telemarketing calls as a result of a new cell phone number database? This is not the case. Telemarketing to cell phone numbers has always been illegal in most cases and will continue to be so according to the Federal Trade Commission.

What you can do as a consumer to protect yourself is register your cell phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. You can do so online at www.donotcall.gov or by calling toll-free 1-888-382-1222 from the telephone (land line and cell) numbers you wish to register. Registrations become effective within 31 days of signing up and are active for five years. There is no cut-off date or deadline for registrations.

The FTC does not allow third parties or companies to register consumers for the National Do Not Call Registry. The federal government does not maintain a national cell phone registry. Personal cell phone users have always been able to add their numbers to the National Do Not Call Registry. Phone calls that you will still receive after signing up for the National Do Not Call Registry are: political organizations, charities, telephone surveys and businesses that you have an existing relationship.

Save Money on Your Home Natural Gas Bill

Educated natural gas consumers save the most money and use their resources wisely. If you have questions about your natural gas bill or how to determine the best rate plan for your household, **bring your bill** to either of two **free** seminars sponsored by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. **Both seminars will be held on Friday, September 12;** choose the time most convenient for you.

12:00 - 1:00 PM at the Hall County Extension office at 734 East Crescent Drive (behind the Farmer's Market). Lunch will be served.

2:00 - 4:00 PM at the East Hall library branch located at 2435 Old Cornelia Highway (near Rabbittown). Refreshments will be served.

You must call 770-535-8290 to register for these classes in order to attend. **Remember you must bring a copy of your gas bill.** **This program does not include Atmos Energy customers.**



The extension office is gearing up for the application process for the upcoming Master Gardener classes that begin in January 2009. We will hold classes at the extension office every Tuesday and Thursday through March. Currently, we have over 65 interested applicants. We will be sending applications out in mid September and the selections process will begin in November, with a maximum of 30 students that can attend.

Interesting speakers will highlight each class. The first speaker will be well known garden enthusiast Walter Reeves. We are looking forward to a great 2009 master gardening class.

~ Wanda Cannon
Hall County Master Gardener Coordinator



For more information, visit
www.hcmgs.com

Fescue Looking Tired? Think about Over-Seeding.

If your fescue lawn is like mine, it's probably looking rather 'tired' right now. This summer's drought has taken a toll on the best fescue lawns. Even with ample irrigation, tall fescue lawns often thin out and need reseeding.

Additional problems include pests like crabgrass and white grubs, or disease problems like brown patch and gray leaf spot. Environmental conditions like compacted soil and shade also contribute to turf thinning. All of these factors, however, can be overcome with proper management.

If the lawn needs reseeding, estimate the percentage of tall fescue loss and multiply that number by the establishment-seeding rate of 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet. For example, if 50 percent of the stand is dead, reseed with $50\% \times 5 = 2.5$ pounds per 1,000 square feet.



Getting the seed in contact with the soil is necessary to assure successful reseeding. First, mow the lawn at a height of about two inches. Next, disturb the soil preferably by core aerating or vertical mowing before seeding. Equipment is often available at rental or garden centers.

Finally, try to keep the soil moist. While most municipalities are still under water restrictions, newly seeded or over-seeded lawns are considered 'new installation' and as such fall under the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program.

Under the program, newly installed landscapes and lawns can be watered up to three times per week for ten weeks. To participate, residents must complete a brief online course at www.outdoorwateruse.com or contact your local county Extension office.

Of course, timing is also crucial. If you ask ten different lawn experts when to over-seed your fescue lawn, you'll likely get five or so different answers. To be safe, I'll give you the standard county agent answer – it depends... In general, mid September is considered a good time to seed fescue. However, waiting until late September or early October in the hopes of cooler temperatures is also acceptable.

Mark Your Calendar!

SEPTEMBER 13th— 5th Annual HCMG Fall Garden Expo

8 AM to 5 PM—The Complete Garden Event, featuring over 35 exciting plant vendors.
Chicopee Woods Ag. Center

OCTOBER 11th— HALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S FALL SYMPOSIUM

"Fall into Spring" is the theme for the 2008 Fall Gardening Symposium, sponsored by the Hall County Master Gardeners and Hall County Extension at the Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center.

Please call the Hall County Extension Office for more information: 770-535-8293.



*UGA Cooperative Extension
in Hall County*

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www.hallcounty.org/extension

**Annual Hall County
FARM-CITY BREAKFAST
Thursday, November 13
7:30 AM
East Hall Community Center**

- Billy Skaggs, County Extension Coordinator , ANR Agent
bskaggs@uga.edu or bskaggs@hallcounty.org
- Debbie Wilburn, County Extension Agent, FACS
dwilburn@uga.edu
- Judy Tilford, County Extension Agent, 4-H/Youth
jtilford@uga.edu
- Ginger Bennett, Radon Educator bennettg@uga.edu
- Roxanne Hulsey, 4-H Program Assistant rhulsey@uga.edu
- Ruth Alligood, 4-H Program Assistant ruthalli@uga.edu
- Pat Taylor, 4-H Program Assistant ptaylor@uga.edu
- Wanda Cannon, Horticulture Program Assistant
wcannon@hallcounty.org
- Sandra Stringer, EFNEP Program Assistant stringer@uga.edu
- Nancy Mizer, Extension Secretary nmizer@hallcounty.org
- Becky Rogers, Extension Secretary brogers@uga.edu

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