

## **2017 Ag Awareness Week**

### ***Jeff Davis County Extension Recap***

The Georgia Department of Agriculture implemented the first annual Agriculture Awareness Week in Georgia, March 20 - 24, 2017. There was a themed event each day of the week, all designed to better communicate the important role agriculture contributes to our daily lives. Jeff Davis County Extension began the Ag Awareness celebration with Ag Hero recognition. 4-H members assembled fifty goody bags for farmers filled with everyday items and candy. Local Agri-businesses and individuals donated items for the bags. 4-H members and Extension staff distributed bags to farmers and local stakeholders.

In observance of Ag Literacy Day, a 4-H member/student worker, Jordan Dubberly, built a barn shaped bookcase. In collaboration with Jeff Davis Farm Bureau, the Extension staff, and 4-H officers presented sixty-three agriculture related books and the barn bookcase to the elementary school media center. This permanent addition to the school will give the students access to a wealth of information on agriculture, Jeff Davis County's number one industry.

In culmination of the week, Extension Agents collaborated with the elementary school cafeteria staff to celebrate Georgia Grown Day. The lunch for the day contained foods grown in Georgia. The lunch consisted of pork, cabbage, squash, and onions. Also, the lunch included fresh strawberries from a nearby grower. In addition, Extension Agents conducted a Georgia Grown presentation for students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade (approximately 700 students). An interactive display was utilized with student volunteers to demonstrate where in Georgia certain commodities are grown. Students selected a picture of a commodity and placed it on a Georgia map to indicate the prominent growing region for production of that commodity. Ag facts for each commodity were presented as it related to the state and to Jeff Davis County. The Georgia Blueberry Growers donated dried blueberries, and each student, teacher and staff member received a sample. Surveys were given to a random selection of students in each grade. Some responses were, "I liked the blueberries", "I liked that the food we ate was Georgia Grown", "I learned more about Georgia products".

Jeff Davis Extension would like to thank everyone involved with Ag Awareness Week 2017. We hope that all involved learned more about agriculture and its importance to Jeff Davis County.