

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Family and Consumer Sciences outreach, resources, and programs help improve the quality of life for individuals and families in Georgia. We provide training, disseminate research-based publications, and link families, businesses and communities.

PROGRAMMING AND PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Our FACS program has established relationships within the community by:



- Providing health and wellness programs for senior citizens at ActionPact
- Offering the nationally accredited ServSafe Manager Certification course for food industry professionals
- Serving as a Community Resource Partner for the Georgia Grown Innovation Center
- Offering free, public programs at the L.C. Anderson Memorial Library
- Providing safe food handling courses for the Metter High School culinary arts class
- Conducting etiquette training for Candler Youth Leadership participants

LOOKING FORWARD

- Introduce the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for Candler County community members (*this program supports free tax preparation to income-qualified individuals. Appointments can be made beginning January 31, 2023*)
- Facilitate ServSafe Manager Certification courses
- Partner with Candler County Head Start to offer education for parents of students
- National Child Passenger Safety Certification to offer child safety seat checks as an area technician

CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION TEAM



Susannah Lanier
CEC & 4-H
Extension Agent



Ross Greene
ANR
Extension Agent



Ashleigh Childs
FACS
Extension Agent



Kate Duggan
Administrative
Assistant



Mary Emma Gainous
4-H AmeriCorps
Member

Contact us at 912.685.2408 or 1075 East Hiawatha Street, Suite B, Metter, GA 30439

AUGUST 1, 2022-DECEMBER 31, 2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION



NEW FACS AGENT

Ashleigh Childs started her new role on August 1, 2022. Previously, she was the Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Agent in Thomas County for three years before joining our team. She comes to us with a B.S. in FACS Education from the University of Georgia and a M.S. in Community Nutrition. She shares her time between Candler and Evans counties and focuses her programming on improving health, nutrition, and food safety practices of community members.



CANDLER COUNTY FARM TOUR

On Wednesday, November 2, Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce, Candler County Extension and Candler County Farm Bureau hosted the 2022 Candler County Farm Tour to showcase the local agricultural industry. There were over 50 group participants.

The tour began at Wild Georgia Safari, operated by Holt, Jake and Hank Mosley. Participants were able to get up close and personal with a variety of animals including camels, goats, llamas, cattle, water buffalo and more. Next, Susannah Lanier, Candler County 4-H Agent, delivered a presentation highlighting the economic impact of agriculture throughout Georgia and locally in Candler County including the top commodities and businesses that are supported by agriculture. The farm tour group then visited Growers Supply Cotton Gin to see first-hand the processes involved in ginning cotton. Brinson Lanier, Craig Lanier, Brian Wood, David Spaid, Austin Purvis and Wes Douglas led tours throughout the facilities and highlighted the impact of the cotton industry in our community and surrounding counties. The tour then moved to the Georgia Grown Innovation Center to tour Better Fresh Farms with Grant Anderson. Heidi Jeffers and Mayor Ed Boyd were also on hand to talk about the center and how it serves over 40 clients today. After lunch, the group visited Durden Pecan where Kyle Durrence and his team explained the pecan grading and drying processes. The tour wrapped up at Hendrix Produce where Kevin Hendrix showcased his newest agricultural commodity, satsumas.



Candler County Extension
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Veteran, Disability Institution



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AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

For over 100 years, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension has provided free, reliable, research-based information based on the latest scientific research.

LOCAL DRYLAND COTTON RESEARCH TRIAL

A dryland cotton trial was conducted in Candler County this year. This dryland trial differs from a typical trial because the chosen location has poor, sandy soils. Normally a trial is placed on a good, productive soil to determine which variety has the highest yield.

The cotton plot was harvested on December 19, 2022 but results are not complete. Field weights and samples were collected and taken the UGA Micro Gin at the UGA Tifton Campus. The micro gin is specifically designed to gin smaller samples of cotton for UGA research plots. When gin turnout percentages and data are



received, the field weights can be figured into pounds of actual lint yield. Based on preliminary estimates, out of the 9 varieties of cotton, the highest yielding variety was Stoneville 5600 with 710 lbs./acre. The plot average was 568 lbs./acre and the lowest yielding variety was 449 lbs./per acre. This shows that variety selection for our cotton growers is very important and could cost the growers up to 261 lbs./acre if a poor performing variety is selected. Cotton is currently valued around \$0.87 per pound for March 2023 delivery so $261 \text{ lbs.} \times \$0.87 = \$227$ per acre in lost revenue to the grower.

Farmers in Candler County planted 12,899 acres of cotton this year. The total economic impact of this study provides an approximate value of \$2,928,073 for Candler County farmers.

PEANUT MATURITY CLINICS

Peanut maturity clinics are an important service that Extension Agents provide in peanut producing counties. Determining when to dig peanuts to maximize profitability can be a challenge, and is not an exact science. To check peanuts for maturity, 4 samples of 3-5 peanut plants per sample are pulled up from different areas within a field. These samples are then inspected for leaf disease, pod strength, and overall plant health. The peanuts from these plants are picked from the vines until a 32 oz. cup is filled. The peanuts are then placed into a mesh basket and blasted with a pressure washer for approximately 90 seconds. This removes the outer portion of the hull to reveal different shell colors that coordinate with a stage of maturity.

This process is often repeated 2-3 times to monitor the growth stage of the peanuts to ensure digging is done at the optimal time. When the peanuts are at optimal maturity, agents and growers discuss the current weather forecast and determine a time window to dig their peanuts. This process is important because digging too early or too late could cause yield losses of 300-1000 lbs. depending on the weather and crop conditions. The estimated price per ton of peanuts was \$600/ton so a loss of 500 lbs. would cost the grower \$150 per acre. On a farm that grows 400 acres of peanuts that would equal \$60,000 in lost revenue.

This year, peanut maturity clinics were held at Candler Peanut and on farms. Candler County ANR Agent, Ross Greene, made 34 face-to-face contacts to check 43 peanut samples. There were 4,135 acres of peanuts planted in Candler County this year. Maturity clinics could potentially increase the economic impact of peanuts in Candler County by \$620,250.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H IN-SCHOOL CLUB MEETINGS

In-school 4-H club meetings are the core of 4-H programming and provide students leadership experiences and hands-on learning. Students engage in group activities that promote personal development, a sense of citizenship, and character education.

Candler County 4-H partners with Candler County Charter School System to see all 4th-7th grade students in Candler County. This is approximately 495 students. 7th-12th graders participate in monthly Tiger Time meetings. During the fall semester, we had 106 in-school 4-H club meetings.



Throughout the year, students will receive 4-H lessons in public speaking, agriculture, leadership and communication.

4-H COTTON BOLL & CONSUMER JUDGING

Eight Candler County 4-H'ers competed in the Georgia 4-H Southeast District Cotton Boll & Consumer Judging contest. 4-H'ers learn about cotton as an agriculture commodity in our state and promote cotton through commercials or advertisements. 4-H'ers also gain skills in making rational decisions when purchasing goods and services while maximizing resources.



Agatha Grimes earned 1st place for her Cotton Boll commercial and tied for 5th place overall, Jaxson Douglas earned 3rd place with his Cotton Boll commercial and Ali Foucht was the Cloverleaf High Individual.

KIWANIS OGEECHEE FAIR MINI-BOOTHS

Each year the Kiwanis Ogeechee Fair provides 4-H'ers the opportunity to showcase their knowledge of a topic of their choice by creating a display. These displays are viewed by fair patrons and 4-H'ers earn awards.

45 Candler County 4-H'ers exhibited educational mini-booths, many of which were recognized for their superior quality. In the Cloverleaf Division, Riley Fordham won Reserve Champion and Amelia Burton won Most Educational. In the Junior Division, Jaxson Douglas won Grand Champion and 1st place in the agriculture category, Sutton Dekle was Reserve Champion, Melonie Ward won Most Organized/Neatest, and Emily Sue Grantham won Most Creative. In the Senior Division, Presley Douglas won Grand Champion and 1st place in the agriculture category, Mady Martin won Reserve Champion and 2nd place in the honeybee category, and Agatha Grimes won Best Floor Display and 3rd place in the agriculture category.



Following the fair, 4-H'ers also displayed their mini booths at Queensborough Bank and Metter Elementary School Heritage Days.

