

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.

EARLY INTRODUCTION TO PEANUTS GRANT WORK IN CANDLER COUNTY

Candler County has been selected by the UGA grant team in partnership with the Southern Peanut Growers Association to collect data on knowledge of parents and caregivers regarding the prevention of food allergies. New research suggests that early introduction to peanut foods aids in the prevention of food allergies later in life. Candler County FACS Agent hosted focus groups and distributed surveys to assess where parents and caregivers get information from and what knowledge is currently lacking on the subject. The results of the data collection will help formulate the creation of materials that will be used to train parents and childcare providers.



INCREASING CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY AWARENESS

Candler County is home to approximately 2,322 children between the ages of birth to 14, which is within range of when they should be secured using an appropriate child restraint, such as a car seat or booster seat, or sitting in the backseat of a vehicle secured with a lap-and-shoulder belt. Without proper knowledge or adherence to child restraint guidelines in the case of a crash, children are subject to ejection, head/neck/spinal cord injury or death. Through conversation and assessment with parents and caregivers, it is clear that many parents do not possess the knowledge or the resources needed to provide a safe ride for their child. The Candler County FACS program is working to raise awareness of proper child passenger safety restraints, adherence to Georgia Law, and self-efficacy of parents/caregivers in their ability to install a car seat. Through tabling events at Metter Pre-K open house, group education sessions at Head Start, and individual appointments with caregivers, our Candler County FACS agent is dedicated to increasing awareness and access to child passenger safety resources.



CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION

Reducing the risk of chronic disease is multi-faceted but is rooted in participation in regular physical activity and good nutrition throughout the lifespan. Candler County 4-Hers learned about the importance of using a nutrition facts label to choose a healthy snack through Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging practice, while senior adults at ActionPact learned about the importance of hydration and the role of antioxidants in disease prevention. The Metter Garden Club hosted our FACS Agent for a presentation on "Cooking with Herbs and Spices", which focused on reducing sodium intake and capitalizing on the health and flavor benefits garden herbs provide while reducing risk for hypertension and heart disease.

Our Candler County FACS program is also involved in the nationally recognized Diabetes Prevention Program and is teaching a virtual cohort of Georgia Southern University faculty and staff members at risk for developing Type 2 diabetes. Future plans for this program will allow for a face-to-face cohort of Candler County community members and will accompany other chronic disease prevention efforts.



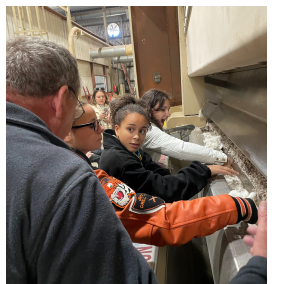
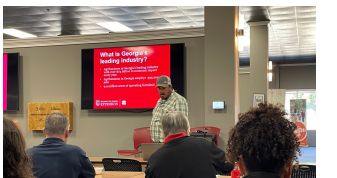
CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION



CANDLER COUNTY FARM TOUR

On Wednesday, November 2, Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce, Candler County Extension and Candler County Farm Bureau hosted the 2023 Candler County Farm Tour to showcase the local agricultural industry. There were over 40 group participants.

The tour began with a visit in Ronnie Flynt's pecan orchard to learn about the management and harvest process of one of Georgia's top commodities. The group then visited Metter Pecans to see first-hand how pecans are cleaned, cracked and sorted by size and quality. The farm tour group then visited Growers Supply Cotton Gin to see first-hand the processes involved in ginning cotton. Brian Wood, David Spaid 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 and heard from Ross Greene, Candler County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent, about the economic impact of agriculture throughout Georgia and locally in Candler County, learned about rural broadband and services provided by Pineland Telephone Cooperative, learned about agricultural advocacy and policy from the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation and toured Better Fresh Farms with Grant Anderson. Attendees were also able to view mini booth exhibits that were created by Candler County 4-H'ers and on display for the event. This program showcased our county's largest industry to both youth and adult audiences in Metter.



CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION TEAM



Susannah Lanier
CEC & 4-H
Extension Agent



Ross Greene
ANR
Extension Agent



Ashleigh Geurin
FACS
Extension Agent



Kate Duggan
Administrative
Assistant



Emily Gabriel
4-H AmeriCorps
Member

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



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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.

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA FORESTRY FIELD DAY

The Southeast Georgia Forestry Field Day was held on November 7, 2023 at the Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center with 64 participants. Those attending learned about the importance of chemical site preparation and benefits of a weed control treatment after planting. UGA Research plots have proven that with these two methods growers can increase survivability rates and overall tree growth. This, in turn, saves growers from incurring replanting costs and produces more profitable stands of timber.

Participants also looked at pine tree research plots with ten-year-old longleaf, loblolly, and slash pines from several different seed sources located all over the southeastern United States. Each plot had data to show the total height, diameter at breast height, percentage of malformed trees, and percentage of stand loss taken at 3 years of age. With a 25-50 year crop, understanding genetic information is vital to the profitability and sustainability of Georgia's timber industry. Foresters and loggers also earned professional education credits at this training.



SANDY SOILS COTTON VARIETY PERFORMANCE RESEARCH

Cotton research plots were planted in May 2023. After harvesting this cotton it was determined that of the 7 varieties used, the DeltaPine 2141 Nematode Resistant variety had the highest yield at 1,327 lbs./acre. The average yield across all varieties was 1,184 lbs./acre with the lowest variety yielding 1,031 lbs./acre.

This research plot shows that variety selection effects the profitability of a cotton crop. Cotton is currently valued at \$0.80/lb., so variability of 296 lbs./acre yield could mean lost revenue of \$236.80 per acre.

With 10,199 acres of cotton planted in Candler County in 2023, the total economic impact of this study provides a value of \$2,415,123 to Candler County Farmers.



PEANUT GROWTH REGULATOR RESEARCH



Peanut growth regulator research was conducted to test the yield impact of these products that reduce excessive vine growth and trigger more legume production, making harvest easier. Two peanut varieties were planted - GA-06G and GA-12Y. The plots were harvested in November with an average yield of 6,852 lbs./acre. The GA-06G showed no yield response to the growth regulators, but the GA-12Y had an increase yield of 511 lbs./acre. With current prices, the return on investment for using growth regulators with the GA-12Y variety would be \$120/acre. We hope to continue this work with other peanut varieties to determine which ones are most profitable.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

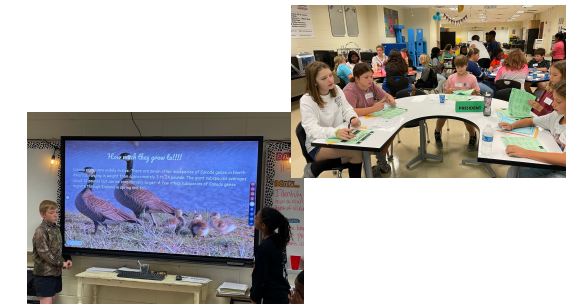
4-H IN-SCHOOL CLUB MEETINGS

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-6th grade students in Candler County. This is approximately 475 students. These students have the opportunity to campaign for an officer position so they can serve as a leader in their classroom.

7th-12th graders participate in monthly Tiger Time meetings.

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



4-H COTTON BOLL & CONSUMER JUDGING

Ten 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 placed 2nd in the Senior division, Jaxson Douglas placed 2nd in the Junior Division and Juan Avalos was High Individual in the Cloverleaf division.



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.

40 Candler County 4-H'ers exhibited educational mini-booths, many of which were recognized for their superior quality.

In the Cloverleaf Division, Mary Emma Douglas won 1st place in the agriculture category and Ellie Hendrix won 3rd place in the agriculture category.

In the Junior Division, Gavin Braswell won Grand Champion, Jaxson Douglas won Best Floor Display and Rowan Rigdon won 3rd in the agriculture category.

In the Senior Division, Presley Douglas won Grand Champion, Agatha Grimes was 3rd Overall, Aubrey Waters won Most Original Topic, Sutton Dekle won Most Creative and Mady Martin won 1st place in the gardening category.

