

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

- Provided free income tax preparation assistance to 12 clients granting \$5,303.00 in refunds
- Became a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician
- Participated in Candler READS in the Park summer event
- Hosted a "How to Make Strawberry Jam" class at Metter High School
- Hosted a Georgia Southern University summer intern
- Offered financial planning series for parents of students at Candler County Head Start
- Promoted mental and physical health for youth by teaching yoga during 4-H club meetings and summer programming



SERVING UP SAFE FOOD IN CANDLER COUNTY

The Candler County Extension FACS program offers a valuable resource to restaurant managers, food entrepreneurs, and other industry professionals through the ServSafe Manager Certification program. This nationally recognized certification course is delivered through 16 hours of face-to-face instruction and is required for food service compliance with the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Health. Since January, our FACS program has delivered 48 hours of instruction to 38 participants, with 28 passing the rigorous exam and obtaining certification as a food protection manager. As a result of this course, participants received knowledge on serving safe food through preventing cross-contamination, cooking food to safe temperatures, practicing appropriate thawing, reheating, and cooling measures, proper cleaning and sanitizing, the importance of personal hygiene, and more. This course will continued to be offered quarterly in Candler County.

CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION TEAM



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Candler County Extension
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JANUARY 1, 2023-JULY 31, 2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION



FROM FARM TO KITCHEN: SUMMER COOKING FUN FOR YOUTH

Candler County 4-H received the Healthy Habits Grant from the WalMart Foundation to provide education on nutrition-related topics. The Candler County Extension team provided a fun-filled day beginning at Jason Franklin's farm, where 4-H'ers learned how corn and watermelon grow and were able to pick their own produce. Back at the office, 4-H'ers made fruit and yogurt parfaits, learned some shocking facts about sugar-sweetened beverages, and cooked their own lunch including guacamole, black bean salsa, quesadillas, and fresh watermelon for dessert. One 4-H'er said this was the first time he had ever cooked anything for himself and couldn't wait to go home to prepare this meal for his family!



CANDLER COUNTY SCHOOLS AG DAY

On March 22, 2023, Candler County Extension co-hosted an Ag Day at Metter Elementary/Middle School. **1,584 youth in grades PreK-8 learned more about agricultural careers and businesses.** The program was designed to show the importance and diversity of agriculture in Georgia. Many local businesses and commodity groups participated.

- Those in PreK-2nd grade planted seeds, learned the ingredients in salsa, participated in a petting zoo and learned about farm and forestry equipment.
- Students in grades 3-5 learned about agricultural lending, water conservation, Georgia's most important commodities and electricity and visited the Georgia Mobile Dairy.
- 6th-8th grade students visited booths focusing on livestock, wildlife, agribusiness, tractor safety and welding.

At the end of the day all students were invited to a burn demonstration hosted by the Georgia Forestry Air Ops Unit.



CANDLER COUNTY 4-H RABIES CLINIC

Candler County 4-H hosted its annual community-wide Rabies and Pet Vaccination Clinic on June 3. Pet owners were able to choose from several vaccination options in a drive-thru format. Through a partnership with Metter Veterinary Clinic, **215 cats and dogs were vaccinated this year.**



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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.

SPRING PRODUCTION MEETINGS

The Candler County Extension Office offered five production meetings in 2023. 195 participants attended meetings related to peanuts, tobacco, cotton, pecans and row crop weed management. These meetings are extremely important for growers as they provide them with opportunities to obtain continuing education credits in order to keep their pesticide licenses current. Participants also get updates on crop research, pest management and production practices. Growers earned one hour of private pesticide CEUs for each meeting they attended. Private pesticide applicators must receive three hours of CEU credits every five years to keep their license compliant with the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Local businesses sponsored the meals for these meetings. Local producers also attended the Using Pesticides Wisely training required for those using Dicamba. UGA Weed Scientists led this training to stress the importance of good stewardship to the growers. Growers obtained two hours of private pesticide continuing education credits for attending this training.

CATTLE AND FORAGE UPDATE

Candler County Extension ANR program hosted a Cattle and Forage Workshop in Metter, GA on July 18, 2023. The 35 participants learned about the following topics: winter forages, hay and baleage, nutritional supplementation for replacement heifers, weed control and pest management. The speakers were Savannah Tanner, Emanuel County Extension; Shana Reynolds, Oglethorpe County Extension; Lawton Stewart, UGA Beef Nutrition Specialist; and Ross Greene, Candler/Evans County Extension Agent. We received very positive feedback from this program and plan to offer annually.



TOBACCO NEMATODE SURVEY



Candler County ANR program is participating in a statewide nematode survey program with UGA Tobacco Specialist, J. Michael Moore. Root-knot nematodes can severely impact tobacco, vegetables and other row crops by damaging roots and hindering them from absorbing water and nutrients. By collecting samples from fields, Extension faculty and specialists can work to identify the species of nematodes present in Georgia. This ongoing program has 25 current samples that will be tested with the goal of providing timely information to growers by December. This information will help growers make management decisions for the 2024 crop season.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT SUCCESS

In the Spring of 2023, 79 4-H'ers in grades 4-12 competed at District Project Achievement. Students choose a project, research a topic and write and deliver a presentation. 95% of Candler County 4-H'ers placed in the top 3 in their project area. Four high schoolers attended State 4-H Congress in July to compete against other district winners. Presley Douglas placed 1st in the Swine Project and earned Master 4-H'er status.



4-H POULTRY JUDGING



Twelve Candler County 4-H'ers competed in the Georgia 4-H Southeast Poultry Judging contest. 4-H'ers learn and understand standards used in poultry and egg production and marketing. Participants judge both live specimens and market poultry, identify parts of birds already prepared for market, and evaluate eggs for the quality and readiness for market. The Junior Team placed 1st in the contest with several team members earning individual awards.

4-H SUMMER CAMP & OTHER SUMMER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Candler County 4-H hosted several educational and recreational programs this summer in which students learned independence, built team work, practiced leadership skills and more.

81 youth and adult leaders attended camp at one of Georgia's 4-H Centers this summer.

- 65 attended Cloverleaf Camp at Wahsega 4-H Center.
- 7 attended Marine Resources Camp at Burton 4-H Center.
- 8 attended Junior Camp at Camp Fortson.
- 1 attended Senior Camp at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

Other local summer activities included:

- June Dairy Month Poster Contest - 7 youth
- Certified Teen Leader Training - 10 youth
- Cloverleaf Fish & Wildlife Day - 15 participants
- Cloverleaf Summer Cooking Fun Day - 19 youth
- State 4-H Council - 3 youth
- Candler READS Literacy Event - 11 youth
- Junior/Senior Macon Bacon baseball game - 22 youth
- Splash in the Boro - 24 youth

