

# AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

## SPRING PRODUCTION MEETINGS

The Candler County Extension Office offered five spring production meetings in 2024. 145 participants attended meetings related to peanuts, tobacco, cotton, pecans and row crop weed and disease management. These meetings provide attendees with continuing education credits and updates on crop research, pest management and production practices. Several local businesses sponsored the meals for these meetings. Local producers also attended the Using Pesticides Wisely training required for those using the herbicide Dicamba. UGA Weed Scientists led this training to stress the importance of good stewardship.

## CATTLE AND FORAGE UPDATE



Candler County Extension ANR program hosted the 2nd Annual Cattle and Forage Workshop in Metter, GA on July 10, 2024. The workshop took place at the Georgia Grown Innovation Center and there were 55 attendees from 13 different counties in Southeast GA along with a few from South Carolina and Florida. Expert presenters taught about herd genetics and sire selection, biosecurity, cattle vaccinations, and external parasite management.

## GEORGIA-FLORIDA TOBACCO TOUR

The Georgia-Florida Tobacco Tour is a 2-day program that visits various tobacco farms and research plots across the two states. Tobacco is no longer evaluated at research stations in Georgia or Florida due to reduced production acreage, so all research is conducted in cooperation with local growers and managed by Dr. J. Michael Moore, UGA Tobacco Specialist, local county ANR Agents, and the growers. Extension faculty from across the Southeast, tobacco growers and plant breeders, industry representatives and Department of Agriculture employees attended this year's tour that began on June 18 in Candler County by visiting the Tobacco Black Shank Resistance research plot at H & H Farms. This trial featured useful data on several tobacco varieties. The 65 attendees also visited Chance Callaway's farm in Tattnall County to discuss new varieties being trialed and tested.



## CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION TEAM



**Susannah Lanier**  
CEC & 4-H  
Extension Agent



**Ross Greene**  
ANR  
Extension Agent



**Ashleigh Geurin**  
FACS  
Extension Agent



**Kate Duggan**  
Administrative  
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**Candler County Extension**

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JANUARY 1, 2024-JULY 31, 2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



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**GEORGIA**  
EXTENSION

# CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION



## STATE 4-H WINNERS

Several Candler County 4-H'ers experienced success at the state level this spring and summer.

- Agatha Grimes, Presley Douglas, Sutton Dekle, and Levi Sutton - 5th Place Team at State Poultry Judging
- Agatha Grimes won 1st place at State Congress in the Sheep & Meat Goats Project and was a Key Award Winner, both of these awards led to her earning Master 4-H'er status. Agatha was also elected to the 2024-2025 Georgia 4-H State Board of Directors.
- Presley Douglas won 2nd place at State Congress in the Communications Project, Elle Carter and Aubrey Waters won 3rd place in the Dog Care & Training and Public Speaking projects, respectively. Sutton Dekle placed 5th in the Sports project and Journi Morris was 7th in the Arts & Crafts project.
- Aubrey Waters received a Georgia 4-H Foundation Scholarship for \$1,000.



## CANDLER COUNTY SCHOOLS AG DAY

On March 22, 2024, Candler County Extension co-hosted an Ag Day at Metter Elementary School. **1,079 youth in grades PreK-5 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 about vegetables, participated in a petting zoo and learned about farm and forestry equipment.
- Students in grades 3-5 learned about agricultural lending, the importance of honeybees, Georgia's most important commodities and electricity.



## CANDLER COUNTY 4-H RABIES CLINIC

Candler County 4-H hosted its annual community-wide Rabies and Pet Vaccination Clinic on June 1. Pet owners were able to choose from several vaccination options in a drive-thru format. Through a partnership with Metter Veterinary Clinic, **205 cats and dogs were vaccinated this year.**



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# FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

## PROGRAMMING AND PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased capacity for service through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and aided **32** families with free tax preparation services from **8** different counties, with a total estimated savings of **\$8,000** for low-income families who can't afford to see a paid preparer.
- Invited to speak at the Metter-Candler County Chamber of Commerce "Women in Ag" Breakfast.
- Hosted a three-session "Right Bite Diabetes" series for **31** Candler County Hospital employees and community members interested in diabetes management resources.
- Recognized as **1st place State** and **1st place Southern Region** award winner for Excellence in Collaboration and Innovative Youth Development categories for cross-programming efforts in implementing youth cooking day events.
- Facilitated community professional panel for Metter High School's Culinary Arts class.
- Distributed **7** car seats to eligible parents and caregivers provided through Governor's Office of Highway Safety grant.



## 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.

### Impact:

- **176** hours of instruction
- **97** participants
- **77** Certified Food Protection Managers
- **\$282,282** savings in preventing foodborne diseases



Our FACS program also helped local Georgia FLEX student food entrepreneurs at Metter High School maintain compliance with state regulations by offering the ServSafe® Employee Food Handler certification course and exam, which serves as a pre-requisite for obtaining their Cottage Food License with the Georgia Department of Agriculture.



## OUR FACS AGENT IS ON A PODCAST!

Our FACS agent is co-host on the *Stacked Intent* podcast and provides research-based nutrition content.

Listened to in **11** countries!

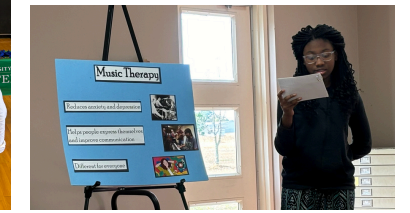
Search "Stacked Intent" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iTunes, iHeartRadio, or wherever you get your podcasts!



# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## 4-H PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT SUCCESS

In the Spring of 2024, **74 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. Participants learn important life skills in communication and public speaking. Candler County 4-H received several awards for participation and placing.



## 4-H'ERS VISIT CAPITOL



Ten Candler County 4-H'ers attended Georgia 4-H Day at the Capitol in February. The delegation visited with both Representative Butch Parrish and Senator Billy Hickman. These 4-H'ers were able to learn more about state government and issues being discussed in Atlanta.

## 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.

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

- 57 attended Cloverleaf Camp at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.
- 10 attended Junior Camp at Burton 4-H Center.
- 6 attended Senior Camp at Wahsega 4-H Center.

**Other summer 4-H activities included:**

- Georgia 4-H Ambassador Training Summit - 5 youth
- June Dairy Month Poster Contest - 9 youth
- Certified Teen Leader Training - 9 youth
- One Georgia Agricultural Program - 2 youth
- Cloverleaf Fish & Wildlife Day - 14 youth
- Cloverleaf Summer Cooking Fun Day - 10 youth
- State 4-H Council - 5 youth
- Junior/Senior Savannah Bananas game - 25 youth
- Splash in the Boro - 24 youth
- Junior/Senior Service Days - 46 youth
- Youth Lead Georgia Summit - 2 youth
- Georgia 4-H Watermelon Growing Contest - 5 youth

