

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 CROP PRODUCTION MEETINGS 2026

The Candler-Evans Extension Office hosted seven spring production meetings this year in partnership with the Tattnall County Extension Office. These meetings covered a wide range of agricultural topics, including peanuts, pecans, cotton, tobacco, forages, weed management, and pond management. A total of 250 participants attended the meeting series.

These programs are designed to give local farmers and landowners practical, up-to-date information they can use on their operations. University of Georgia Extension specialists joined the meetings to share the latest research, production recommendations, and management updates for several crops and agricultural topics important to our area. Participants also had the opportunity to earn pesticide Continuing Education Units (CEUs), helping them maintain their pesticide licenses while learning new management practices and recommendations.

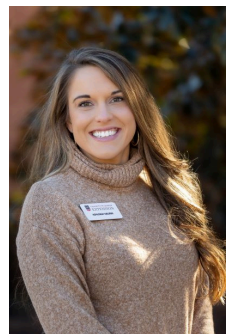
One highlight of the meeting season was the weed management meeting, where the ANR Agents prepared and served a fried catfish lunch for attendees. The meal was very well received and added to the positive feedback from participants throughout the spring meeting series.



CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION TEAM



Susannah Lanier
4-H Agent/CEC



Ashleigh Geurin
FACS Agent



Ross Greene
ANR Agent



Piper Jones
4-H Educator



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CANDLER COUNTY HOSTS 2ND COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

After a very successful and much needed outreach event in 2025, Candler County Extension along with various community partners and agencies hosted the Candler County Community Baby Shower on February 22, 2026 at Metter Methodist Church. 67 families were registered into a charity tracking system for access to additional resources and over 200 attendees were present. Resource agencies shared information regarding domestic violence, lactation consulting, government assistance resources, healthcare resources, literacy education, car seat safety, and more.

Local churches, businesses, 7th Mile Farm and Kiwanis and Rotary clubs donated items for babies and infants while also providing refreshments for those that attended. Door prizes for the event were donated by local businesses and resource agencies. We would like to thank Metter Methodist for graciously hosting and the planning committee for all of their hard work to bring resources together to support healthy families.



METTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AG DAY

On March 19, 2026, Candler County Extension co-hosted an Ag Day at Metter Elementary School. Over 1,000 youth in grades PreK-5 learned more about agricultural careers and businesses. The program was designed to highlight the importance and diversity of Georgia agriculture.

- Students in grades PreK-2nd grade made butter, planted seeds, sampled root vegetables and learned about our most important agricultural commodities.
- Students in grades 3-5 planted pine trees, learned about native and invasive species, made cava bowls and participated in a drone demonstration.
- All students participated in a petting zoo and learned about farm equipment.



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.

FREE TAX PREPARATION NUMBERS INCREASE FOR 2026

The Candler County FACS Program wrapped up another successful tax season providing free preparation and electronic filing services for Candler and surrounding county residents, drawing clients from Tattnall, Evans, Bulloch, Emanuel, Laurens, and Toombs counties. Between the Candler and Evans County offices, our FACS agent held 69 appointments. With an estimated cost savings of \$400 per client, the service saved clients an estimated \$24,800. This service is made possible through a partnership with the Internal Revenue Service and the Charles Schwab Institute of Financial Planning, which allows certified volunteer preparers to assist eligible taxpayers at no cost. This service has grown in Candler and Evans Counties with many clients returning annually and sharing via word-of-mouth to friends and family members. Our FACS agent is proud to offer such an impactful program and looks forward to continuing this impactful outreach in years to come.



PROMOTING TEACHER WELLNESS IN "THE HOME STRETCH"

Our FACS Agent had the opportunity during Mental Health Awareness month to help our Metter Elementary School teachers take a moment for themselves to breathe, relax, and re-center as they prepared to make it through "the home stretch" of the school year. 14 teachers participated in the breathing, yoga, and mindfulness exercises and were able to take back some stress management techniques to promote strong bodies and minds! Special thanks goes to MES Principal Jennifer Lewis for prioritizing teacher mental health and wellness.



HARVEST OF THE MONTH PROGRAM RECAP



The 2025-2026 school year brought the opportunity to introduce the "Harvest of the Month" program to K-2 students at Metter Elementary. In partnership with school nutrition staff, our FACS agent utilized resources from the Georgia Farm to School program and delivered in-classroom tasting experiences featuring seasonal fruits and vegetables and how they are planted, grown, harvested, and ways to enjoy them, to approximately 400 students. The HOTM program culminated with the Metter Elementary School Ag Day in March, which highlighted root vegetables. We can't wait to continue this program next year and share more about Georgia Grown produce!

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT

4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime as they research, write and deliver an informative presentation about a topic of their choice.

In the Spring of 2026, 91 4-H'ers in grades 4-12 competed at District Project Achievement. These students learn skills in communication and public speaking. Candler County 4-H received several awards for participation and placing. Congratulations to all of these 4-H'ers.



4-H POULTRY JUDGING

11 Candler County 4-H'ers competed in the Georgia 4-H Southeast District Poultry Judging contest. 4-H'ers learn and understand standards used in poultry and egg production and marketing, and apply the standards in a realistic decision-making situation. The Senior Team placed 5th at District and the Junior Team placed 1st.



4-H PROJECT SAFE SHOOTING SPORTS

26 Candler County 4-H'ers participated in Project SAFE Shotgun and BB teams this year. These 4-H'ers attended weekly practices and competed at district matches in March and April. 14 of them advanced to state competitions to represent Candler County 4-H.



4-H'ERS OF THE YEAR

In early May, Candler County 4-H recognized participants in various 4-H program for the year. Among these, seven were selected as 4-H'ers of the Year: Elijah Mbulo, Jase McNair, Presley Lanier, Abigail Boudreau and Jaxson Douglas.

