

# 2007 Program Highlights

## Agriculture Faced Adversity

### *UT Extension Provides Support*



Adverse weather conditions in 2007 from spring to fall resulted in numerous hardships for local farmers. Agriculture remains to be the “lifblood” of the local economy in Haywood County, and UT Extension staff understands and assists in educational efforts to ensure stability and profitability for Haywood County producers. The agriculture agent highlights the following efforts:

- Made over **40 farm visits** in a **3-week period** to corn and wheat fields to assess freeze damage and give producers recommendations
- Planned, advertised, and hosted a “**Farm Financial Fitness**” meeting in response to disastrous crop year to aid in future planning and coping with financial stresses
- Planned and assisted in **UT Crop Budget Training** for 5 limited resource farmers using UT Budgets in Excel; each producer used a laptop computer
- Planted **6** different **variety demonstrations** of corn, cotton, wheat, and soybeans; Corn was lost to freeze; Harvested 5 variety demonstrations and distributed data to local producers via farm supply dealers
- Planned and hosted a **Cotton Variety Field Tour** to highlight the 24 cotton varieties in the CST at two locations; included Cotton, Weed, and Cotton IPM Specialist on agenda
- Attended **Beltwide Cotton Conference** to receive industry-leading educational information to assist in programming
- Conducted a **Crop Production Workshop** for 38 producers with the latest production information from UT Specialists and developed survey
- Distributed weekly IPM newsletter with timely insect and production updates on the web, over e-mail, and traditional delivery methods to over 60 Haywood County producers
- Provided **Integrated Pest Management** services for cotton producers including a scouting program, local moth trap counts and control recommendations

**UT Extension** agriculture research and staff are important links to information farmers receive and use. Based on surveys at the Crop Production Workshop, **100%** of survey respondents indicated they have adopted UT recommended resistance-management strategies of their farms (i.e. pre-herbicides, rotating chemistries, etc). **85%** of respondents indicated they feel like they harvest higher yields &/or quality using university trial data. **70%** indicated they used UT publications or internet sources when making changes in production practices. The respondents indicated they are realizing an **average increase of greater than 9% of soybean yield** by utilizing UT recommended production practices. ***Increasing the 5-year average yield of 38 bushels by 9% could generate \$1.37 million additional farm income to Haywood County producers.***



## Special Friends

*Creates Special Relationships*

“Special Friends” is a mentoring program targeting academically “at-risk” children. Children are paired with community volunteers for one-on-one contact. This program also focuses on career development. The adults help the students realize the importance of their education and to begin to set ambitions for their futures.

### **RESULTS:**

- Volunteers at the elementary schools visit the children a minimum of once a week to reinforce academic and social skills, provide support, and lend a listening ear.
- There are over 100 Special Friend pairs in Haywood County!
- The first children assigned a “Special Friend” are now in 11th grade!
  - Many have had the same mentor for 12 years. The High School and Junior High students meet with their adult friends each six-weeks for mini field trips within Haywood County.
  - Positive reinforcement is offered to these older students by phone calls, cards, and other means of support in addition to the group meetings.

## Family Matters

*Improving Family Life and Relationships*



### **Family Economics**

- “**Financial Fitness**” sessions were conducted with Mustard Seed clientele to improve levels of self-sufficiency through better money management
- **Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Debtor Education** classes were provided for clients from all over West Tennessee
- **Holiday Extravaganza 2007**, a class on creative ways to cut holiday costs, was presented to 25 people

### **Human Development**

- **Co-parenting** education was provided for more than two dozen parents with minor children who have filed for divorce
- “**Before You Tie the Knot**” pre-marital education course became available for those couples seeking a marriage license in Tennessee
- “**Girl Talk**” program reached 10 mother/daughter pairs with information on adolescent development and sexuality



# Resource Development

## *Financial Management Programs*



Programming efforts were targeted for limited resource clientele. Three hundred sixty-seven persons directly received educational information concerning financial management. Clientele were reached through workshops/classes, simulations, and news articles that covered estate planning, asset protection, wealth building, establishing bank accounts and credit, home purchasing, and retirement planning. Forty-six thousand people contacted through the news media. The workshops were conducted at the County Extension office, local churches, and schools. Fifty-two limited-resource clientele were taught the Tennessee Housing Development Agency's Homebuyer Education curriculum. Staff had one hundred thirty-six hours of follow-up visits to Homebuyer Education clientele. Sixty-eight persons attended the Landownership workshops conducted at the Douglas Community Center and Extension office. These materials focused on teaching financial management through a wealth building concept. The Rental Property Management workshop had twenty-one participants.

### **Other Highlights:**

- Follow-up evaluation visits and telephone calls revealed that sixty-three persons opened checking accounts for the first time.
- Thirty-eight persons received monthly one-on-one financial management coaching sessions.
- Sixty-two persons began to have payroll deductions that allowed them to take advantage of employer offered retirement programs and stock options.
- Fourteen of the fifty-two persons that attended the THDA Homebuyer Education classes closed on mortgage loans. Another eleven became mortgage ready.
- As a result of the Land Management workshops, twenty-one persons wrote wills as part of estate planning and thirteen people consulted with government professionals concerning timber and CRP programs.
- Eleven landlords indicated that as a result of the Rental Property workshop they had a better understanding of eviction laws.
- Fifteen participants of the Rental Property workshop indicated that they increased their tax knowledge of rental property.

## **4-H @ Work in Haywood County**

- **551** 5th and 6th grade 4-H members learned about being a smart shopper through finding the best price, determining product value, understanding the pull of advertising, and distinguishing between needs and wants.
- **291** 8th grade 4-H members were taught about job skills such as communicating a positive attitude, what makes a valuable employee, maintaining a positive attitude, improving employee/employer communications, and the various aspects of customer relations.
- **352** 7th grade 4-H members were taught the multi-session On My Own curriculum. They learned to select a career, paycheck tax deductions, insurance needs, and how to maintain a checking account.

# Healthier Lifestyles

*Striving for Healthier Haywood Countians through...*



## Nutrition & Food Safety

- Delta Health Initiative grant from Le Bonheur Community Outreach was secured for a three-year period (through 2010) to offer programs on disease management and prevention
- **“Tennessee Shapes Up”** weight management program targeted educators with “After-School Shape Up”- 15 participants lost weight, had improved blood pressures, or lowered their cholesterol values
- **Tennessee Nutrition & Consumer Education Program (TNCEP)** reached Food Stamp eligible clientele in the school system, housing authority, senior center, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and other venues with messages about keeping food safe and enjoying a healthy diet on limited income
- **“Food & Youth Initiative” (FYI)**, a nutrition and physical activity promotion program for third graders, was implemented at East Side School to 180 students.

## Health & Safety

- **“Dining with Diabetes”** classes were held in Brownsville and Stanton for diabetics and their caregivers to learn about disease management
- **“Lace Up for a Good Life”** competition was held with employees of four schools, during which they walked as part of a team and logged their miles- more than half of participants experienced weight loss during the seven-month contest

# Master Beef Producer

## *Local Producers Earn Namesake*

Five local beef producers completed courses in 2007 to become “Master Beef Producers”. The Master Beef Producer program is offered thru UT Extension and in conjunction with surrounding counties. The program consists of 10 in-depth educational sessions covering all aspects of beef production. Sessions are taught by UT Extension Agents or trained professionals in their area of expertise. One recent graduate commented, “This (Master Beef program) is the best investment I’ve made in my cow herd.” The Master Beef Producer Program is an extensive educational program that was developed to provide information to assist you and other Tennessee cow-calf producers improve the profitability of your cow-calf operations. The Adult Agriculture Agent assisted their efforts by:

- o Attended 4-day Master Beef Trainer Training and received educational information to assist in teaching Master Beef sessions
- o Planned and assisted with multi-county Master Beef Producer Series – Taught 2 sessions (Reproduction and Genetics) to 25 participants
- o Held BQA trainings in office as needed for beef producers
- o Assisted 11 producers in applying for and Ag Enhancement Funds; assisted in filling out applications, supplying documentation, etc.



## Book Jam 2007

*We're still Jammin'!*



The national literacy program "Reading Is Fundamental" (RIF) continues in Haywood County for the eleventh year. All students enrolled at Anderson Early Childhood Center, Haywood Elementary, East Side Elementary, and Sunny Hill School were given the opportunity to choose a book free of charge at each of three distributions held at the schools. In addition, students enrolled in the Head Start Centers, located in Brownsville and Stanton, also received 3 free books. Funds for these books are raised locally through a United Way grant; a state Family Resource Center grant; Civic Clubs; and individual donations and memorials.

- Over **2100** students were given a total of approximately **6,558** books this school year alone.
- Volunteers, including parents, community individuals, local businesses, and high school students, assisted with small group activities related to reading as well as reading to the children.
- In the upcoming year, plans are to continue the RIF project and serve all students at the **four** elementary schools and Head Start Centers in Haywood County.



## Residential Horticulture

*Helping Make Haywood County More Beautiful*

The University of Tennessee Extension (UTE) staff continued its Master Gardener (MG) program with 12 class sessions. Staff also conducted 3 ornamental horticulture/lawn care workshops for the general public contacting 167 homeowners. Collaborative relationships were developed with area nursery growers which assisted with the educational efforts of the MG program. Volunteers of the program completed fifteen projects throughout the community. The Haywood Master Gardener web-site had 2,791 contacts. UTE staff wrote 29 articles (105,800 contacts) that related to home horticulture. Staff also served as consulting agency for County and City Parks Commission (PC) (which also manages Schools System athletic playing fields). The staff conducted a training session for the PC on agricultural chemical use.

### Other Highlights:

- MG program had an enrollment increased of 13% (to 68 members).
- 7 PC employees received 12 hours of training on proper use of agricultural chemicals.
- MGs volunteered 851 hours of service to the community.
  - An IRS value of \$15,352 saved by local government.
- Staff provided 52 hours of landscape designs for government/non-profit buildings resulting in a savings of \$1548.

# Haywood County Family Resource Centers -

## *Involving Families in their Children's Education!*



The Haywood County Family Resource Centers are a cooperative effort between the UT Extension and the Haywood County School System. The mission of the Centers is to help parents help their children succeed in school and life by offering an extensive line of educational materials for free-loan. There are 2 sites on the campuses of Anderson Early Childhood Center and Haywood Elementary. Peggy Jackson, Sr. Program Assistant, oversees the daily operations of the centers with assistance from two personnel provided by Haywood County Schools. The Centers combined have over 13,000 items to be loaned to parents, children, and teachers.

### **RESULTS for FY 2007:**

- 4,571 parents utilized the Centers
- 9,511 educational items were checked out
- Over 8,000 worksheets were chosen by parents to assist their children with extra practice on classroom skills
- Due to the special reading promotion, "The Family Reading Wall of Fame",
  - 57,908 books were read during the 2006-07 school year at the 3 elementary schools.
- Over 2000 different Haywood County families have now registered to check out materials from the Centers.
- Mrs. Jackson coordinates monthly meetings for preschool parents at Anderson.
  - An average of 83 parents chose to attend these monthly meetings for seven months
  - An average of 26 parents attended 8 "come and go" parenting events called "Happy Hour" for Parents in the fall of 2007.
- The Family Resource Centers sponsored a Food Drive to benefit the local Carl Perkins Center which works with many children also assisted through the Family Resource Centers' programs – over 1600 food items were collected within a two week period.

# UF Extension

## Program Contacts

Who do we **serve** in Haywood County?

- We **serve** the Agriculture community
  - farmers, agribusinesses, gingers, landowners
  - 3,983 contacts
- We **serve** families and children
  - TNCEP, Family Resource Centers, Tennessee ShapesUp
  - 30,941 contacts
- We **serve** community resource development
  - small businesses, organizations, Enterprise Community
  - 403 contacts
- We **serve** youth development
  - 4-H programming
  - 9,173 contacts



*We serve YOU, Haywood County!*  
*44,500 total contacts in 2007*

### How do we serve them?

Farm and home visits

Newsletters and e-news

Group meetings

Clients visit in office

Demonstrations

Telephone calls and letters

# Meet Your Haywood County Staff

□ **Walter Battle, County Director**

- Responsibilities: Resource Development & Agriculture



□ **Tennille Short, Extension Agent II**

- Responsibilities: Adult Family and Consumer Sciences

□ **Peggy Jackson, Senior Program Assistant**

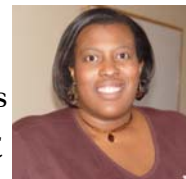
- Responsibilities: Family Resource Centers

□ **Sharon Sparks, Program Assistant**

- Responsibilities: TNCEP Nutrition Education Program

□ **Katie Wyatt, Health Educator**

- Responsibilities: Delta Rural Health Initiative



□ **Tiffany Thomas, Extension Agent III**

- Responsibilities: 4-H Youth Development



□ **Tracey Sullivan, Extension Agent II**

- Responsibilities: Adult Agriculture



□ **Barbara Bond, Senior Secretary**



□ **Jessica McBride, Summer Intern**

- 2007 Agriculture Internship, UTM