



# Dare County Cooperative Extension REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

North Carolina Cooperative Extension partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolina.

**Cooperative  
Extension Staff**

**Travis Burke, Interim  
County Extension  
Director**

**Katherine Irby,  
Extension Agent, 4-H**

**Jannie Spencer,  
4-H Counselor**

**Jennifer Thompson,  
Program Assistant**

**Donna Hanusik, County  
Extension  
Administrative  
Assistant**

★In 2014 Dare County Cooperative Extension worked tirelessly to address the issues identified as high priority in the most recent needs assessment surveys of the county. Capitalizing on the Centennial of Cooperative Extension allowed staff and volunteers to reach a broader audience and spread the knowledge of and appreciation for Cooperative Extension programming. The Dare County Center Extension staff reached **9,080** residents directly through face-to-face contact. Nearly **18,463** individuals were reached by non face-to-face means, which includes telephone, email, newsletters, news articles and radio.

★The combined total contacts were **27,543**. In addition, volunteers made **3,888** contacts. The volunteer work hours devoted to the County through Extension programs totaled a value of **\$219,828.60**. The total calculable program impact value was **\$1,036,625.81**



Jennifer Thompson, Donna Hanusik and Katherine Irby

## Futures That Work: School to Career Pathways

Strengthening critical life and educational skills in our youth is a top priority in Dare County so that they may have an edge in the global society. This is achieved through programs such as the 4-H away camp, 4-H clubs, science camp, 4-H congress, district activity day, 4-H youth council and more. Over \$47,822.40 in volunteer time by youth and adult volunteers was given to plan and coordinate activities sponsored by the youth council clubs. Over 3,100 youth face-to-face contacts were made. Critically necessary, quality, safe and affordable day care is provided to the families of

Dare County by the Dare County 4-H Out-of-School Time camping program. Over 125 families of K-5th grade and middle school youth were served by the 2014 Spring break, summer and after school camps. The youths involved in these programs have practiced appropriate skills in areas such as communication, critical thinking strategies, decision-making skills and goal setting strategies. Many have an improved understanding of science, technology, engineering and math. Grades have also improved as a result of the homework assistance in the after school program. Funding was received in the amount of over \$20,000 in grants and donations to support the 4-H programs.



NE District Teen Retreat, held in Rocky Mount, youth service learning project



4-H Summer Camp theme consisted of 6"Out of this World" weeks of Space

## Child Caregivers Will Effectively Use Recommended Practices and Community Resources

Promoting the health, safety and education of young people is a core mission of Cooperative Extension. This is accomplished by providing superior educational opportunities to local childcare providers. During the Northeast Region of NC Extension "Shooting for the Stars" Child Care Conference, 90 providers from across the region earned 5.5 hours of continuing education credit. These credits are imperative to continue the provider's education, learn new skills and enhance quality programming in their classrooms and centers.

## Consumers and Communities Will Enhance Plants, Animals and Landscapes Through Conserving Natural Resources and Protecting the Environment

The Dare County urban horticulture program focus of enhancing the fragile coastal landscapes and habitats, so essential to the tourist-based economy, while protecting and conserving natural resources, has resulted in the adoption of many environmentally sound management practices. Through programs such as the Coastal Gardening Festival, environmental field days, community fairs, farmer's

market booth, educational lectures and one-on-one consultations, nearly 8,000 Dare County residents have increased knowledge and have adopted best management practices in areas including: pest and wildlife management, plant selection, fertility, lawn care, pruning and water quality preservation. The modest estimate of the value for the urban horticulture program is nearly \$80,000.



Tree Planting held at the Dare County Center in honor of Extension's Centennial

## Landscape and Farm Professionals Will Adopt Safe and Secure Systems to Protect Environment.

The Dare County Center North Carolina Cooperative Extension partnered with the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Pesticide Assistance along with the staff of the Public Works Facility in Manteo for the collection and disposal of pesticides from Dare County. During the collection day 117 containers with a total weight of 1,191 pounds including 2 bulk liquid drums of pesticides were collected. This wonderful free service saved the county an average of \$7 per pound for a total savings of \$8,337 and eliminated a potential environmental hazard or human tragedy.

## Local Foods Availability May Be Enhanced Through Consumer Education and Market Development

The Dare County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution July 21, 2014 in support of the establishment of Outer Banks Local Foods Council. The Dare County Local Foods Task Force came together December 16, 2013, hosted by the Dare County Cooperative Extension, bringing together key stakeholders and community members to generate ideas to improve the local food system. Professional facilitators from the College of the Albemarle and Elizabeth City State University were utilized for initial meetings of the Task Force. In 2014, the Task Force was given the job of formulating a suggested charter for

Food Council, securing support from the Dare County Board of Commissioners for a Food Policy Council Resolution and recruiting efforts for initial food policy council membership. The Outer Banks Local Foods Council will serve as a forum to discuss food issues, foster coordination between sectors in the food system, assess the current food situation using data and measurements, make recommendations on how to improve the current situation, and launch and/or support programs and services that address local needs. In recruiting initial members, the Task Force will strive to bring together all the food system elements.



(Amanda Hooper, Jennifer Thompson, Lucinda Hudgins and Karen Brown) Dare County Local Foods Task Force formulating the Outer Banks Local Foods Council

## Citizens Will Address Community Issues and Challenges through Volunteerism

The coastal environment presents challenges to local citizens, many of which are unfamiliar with the beach area. The Master Gardener Volunteers assist Extension in providing

horticultural outreach to help answer the questions that are generated. Dare County Master Gardeners assist county residents with outreach efforts via phone calls, walk-in visits,

speaker's bureau, festivals, farmers market, community garden, exhibits and maintaining the Outer Banks Arboretum and Teaching Garden. During 2014,

there were 99 Master Gardeners who provided 5,770 volunteer hours of service, 2,404 hours of training and travel time, donated 45,522 travel miles and raised \$16,709 in fundraisers and donations. The total service contribution of the Master Gardener Volunteers to Cooperative Extension programming is valued at \$127,748. The Master Gardeners made 3,530 contacts. Over 161 meetings, programs, events and arboretum workdays were organized and attended by the Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners play a vital role in educating residents about sound ways to protect and preserve the environment.

Dare County families face challenges to health, personal finance and well-being. Dare County Extension and Community Association (ECA) works to strengthen families through

leadership development and volunteerism. The ECA provided door prizes valued at over \$300, distributed 29 lapghans and 19 shoulder wraps that they handmade to a local nursing facility, made possible by donations from members and \$25 from the Association. Dare County ECA provided the gifts for the presenters of the Aging with Gusto conference, valued at over \$100 worth of gifts. Dare County ECA also made 460 cards for the local nursing facilities for the holidays valuing over \$100. Also, in cooperation with the Samaritan's Purse International Relief Organization's "Operation Christmas Child" project, members purchased, boxed, wrapped and shipped shoeboxes with clothes, supplies and toys for 25 needy children abroad this project was valued at over \$300 in total. Dare County ECA partnered with Dare County Center who collects soda

tops and plastic bottle tops to support the Ronald McDonald House and the county dialysis center. 2,449 soda tops and 100 plastic tops. In addition, they collected 108 Box Tops for Education and 108 Labels for Education that was donated to a local elementary school for credit. Dare County ECA sold Christmas Wreaths and raised \$125 for their local association. In 2014, members provided over 1,849 hours of service hours. The total volunteer service contribution of the Extension and Community Association was \$40,937.00. In total the Dare County ECA contributed over \$41,862.00 to the thriving welfare and prosperity of Dare County families, North Carolina families, as well as those abroad.



### *Extension Advisory Council*

Bonnie Bennett  
 Bob Hopkins  
 Robert McClendon  
 L'Tanya Murray  
 Phyllis Neal  
 Stanley Oliver  
 Janice Tillett  
 Margarette Umphlett  
 Nancy White  
 Tim White  
 Virginia Tillett  
 Moncie Daniels

### *Dare County Master Gardener Advisory Board*

Jonnie Combs  
 Christine Stadther  
 Barbara Koebelin  
 Lynda Wood  
 Kaye Lyerly  
 Larry Zittrain  
 Doug Miller  
 Becky Cade  
 Vickie Schreffler  
 Lois Chatham

Jo Voigt  
 Valerie Morell  
 Mary Stoudt  
 Linda Foster  
 Veelee Donahue  
 Bob Hopkins  
 Susan Lynch  
 Gary Thomas  
 Joe Newsom  
 Marilyn Canning

### *4-h Youth Council*

Warren Judge  
 Kathy Burrus  
 Gail Hutchison  
 David Strickland  
 Hunt Thomas  
 Matt Witter  
 Catisha Bryant  
 Linda Austin  
 Abby Haywood  
 Nathan Butcher  
 Brady Creef  
 Jordan Carmen  
 Tim White

### **CONTACT US**

**Dare County Center**

**517 Budleigh Street, P O Box 968, Manteo, NC 27954**

**252.473.4290**

**dare.ces.ncsu.edu**