

**2022
STANLY COUNTY
ANNUAL
REPORT**

Department Wide Overview

4,709

Face to Face Contacts

439

Volunteers worked with Agents to extend outreach efforts

\$143,401

Value of the volunteer hours contributed

344 hours

of Workshops, Seminars, & Hands-on Demonstrations

196,907

Responses to citizens through telephone, social media, email, and other non-face-to-face methods

4,788

Volunteer hours contributed

\$41,054

was collected through donations, grants, and user fees to expand programs and opportunities

MEET THE 2022 STANLY COUNTY TEAM

These professionals work together to meet the needs of local residents in the areas of Agriculture, Youth, Foods & More!



Molly Alexi
County Extension Director



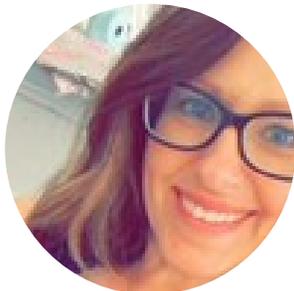
Chelsea Barber
Nutrition Program Assistant



Jared Butler
Extension Agent
Field Crops & Horticulture



Hayley Cowell
Extension Agent
Family & Consumer Sciences



Lisa Forrest
Administrative Assistant



Katelyn Stegall
Extension Agent
Livestock



Michaela Vick
Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development

INTRODUCTION



Our Stanly County Cooperative Extension Staff was proud to serve the citizens of Stanly County in 2022 by addressing issues and needs as identified by advisory groups, existing clients, and community partners.

Cooperative Extension provides educational opportunities to Stanly County citizens through workshops, training, and information requests via telephone, radio broadcasts, the newspaper, educational mailings, face-to-face contacts with citizens, and website visits. Extension continually strives, through educating and empowering the community, to maximize the County's return on investment.

In 2022, Extension Agents reported 4709 face-to-face contacts which included 344 hours of workshops, seminars, and hands-on demonstrations. Extension responded to 196,907 citizens through telephone, social media, email, and other non-face-to-face methods.

439 volunteers worked with agents to extend the outreach efforts of Cooperative Extension programming by contributing 4788 volunteer hours. These hours are conservatively valued at \$29.95 an hour and totaled \$143,401. In addition to this number, \$41,054 was collected through donations, grants, and user fees to expand programming and opportunities for Stanly County citizens.

N.C. Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of N.C. State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA-NIFA, and Stanly County. Stanly County Extension professionals translate research-based education from our state's land-grant system into everyday solutions through programs focused on Agriculture and Food, Health and Nutrition, and 4-H youth development.

HEALTH & NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Hayley Cowell is our Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, and Chelsea Barber is our Nutrition Educator. They work collaboratively to provide a wealth of educational programs that address public health issues, improve economic well-being, and help people make healthier, better-informed decisions. Programs range from, food safety, and food preservation, cooking classes, budgeting, and healthy living programs in our schools, churches, and community centers.

In 2022, 121 individuals learned how to prepare local foods, including through the use of home food preservation techniques. 110 participants increased their knowledge of safe home food handling, preservation, or preparation practices. 569 participants reported they increased their fruit and vegetable consumption after attending nutrition programming. 499 participants increased their physical activity.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



4-H is the largest youth organization in North Carolina and is open to all youth ages 5-18. Michaela Vick is our 4-H Youth Development Agent. She is a 4-H Alumnus and graduated from NCSU in 2020 with a degree in Animal Science.

4-H offers a wide variety of programs, projects, curricula, and activities. Popular 4-H events include presentations, judging contests, Project Record Books, and Overnight Camp. In 2022, 420 youth enhanced their knowledge of animals and agriculture; 378 enhanced their knowledge of consumer and family sciences; and 382 youth enhanced their knowledge of health. Stanly County's 4-H Summer Blast program provided 61 youth ages 5-18 opportunities to learn about science and agriculture, as well as the opportunity to develop a range of life skills through summer day-camp workshops about nutrition, physical activity, electricity, nature, livestock, and the arts. Parents responding to our survey responded that their children gained new interests after attending camp; noted that their children felt like part of a group while at camp; learned about things that interested them; gained new skills after attending camp; and showed improved responsibility. Additionally, 88% of survey respondents indicated that their children were eager and excited to participate in 4-H events in the future.



In 2022, Stanly County 4-H grew by two clubs. Our local 4-H program is home to the Rocky River Riders 4-H Club; The Barn Kids 4-H Club; and Kids in the Kitchen 4-H Club. These clubs focus on equine science, livestock science, and cooking/healthy living, respectively. We also partnered with the EE Waddell Center's after-school program, "Justus Kids," to offer 4-H group programming. 4-H also offered classroom curriculum materials in addition to club and individual projects. One of our most popular classroom curriculum programs was the Butterfly Project, in which second graders across the county cared for Painted Lady butterflies. Students were able to witness the full butterfly life cycle: from caterpillar, to chrysalis, to butterfly, to release. In 2022, 25 teachers used this 4-H curriculum in their classrooms benefiting 473 students.



LIVESTOCK

Katelyn Stegall is our Livestock Extension Agent. She works to provide educational programming for small and large scale livestock producers in Stanly County.

In 2022, livestock sales reached \$69,847,509.00, making livestock a vital part of the county economy. Programs were offered in several areas to educate farmers to make their operations more efficient and profitable.

In 2022, 96 individuals increased their knowledge of pasture and forage management, and learned how to develop management plans to better care for their livestock and 15 individuals learned how to start and care for a backyard flock of chickens. The Tri-County Livestock Newsletter reached 2,417 people in 2022, covering several topics in the areas of forage, beef, and miscellaneous livestock topics. Through our youth livestock programs, 30 youth increased their knowledge of showing cattle, goats, and sheep and 25 youth learned the basics of some livestock species through our livestock 4-H club. The annual Stanly County Youth Classic Livestock Show drew a crowd of over 150, with 65 showmen participating in the show. A forage demonstration test plot was planted and managed to showcase winter annual plants in order to promote use of these forages on farms, helping to cut the biggest cost on a livestock operation, feed costs. Extension recommended practices were adopted on several farms throughout the county in this area. Additionally, 11 hours of pesticide continuing education credits were offered, with over 100 individuals receiving credit hours.



HORTICULTURE & FIELD CROPS

Jared Butler is our Horticulture and Field Crops Agent. It was a very successful year for extension in horticulture and field crops. In field crops we had a cotton variety trial in Richfield to help growers with varietal recommendations. In horticulture we have made great strides in completing our demonstration garden. We have had grants and local support for raised beds and completing the path through the demonstration garden. Other important educational tools included pesticide education, winter meetings and a monthly field crops newsletter.

