

Title: Agriculture and Natural Resources Awareness Day Camps in Escambia County

Date: September 5, 2007

Project Leaders: Libbie Johnson Extension Agent I, Agriculture, Pamela H. Allen, Extension Agent IV, EFNEP

Team Members: Dorothy Lee, Extension Agent II, FCS, Beth Boles, Extension Agent III, Horticulture, Carrie Stevenson, Extension Agent I, FYN, Roger Elliott, Extension Agent II, Agriculture, Kay Brown, Extension Agent IV, 4-H, Andrew Diller Extension Agent II, Marine Sea Grant, Chris Verlinde, Extension Agent II, Marine Sea Grant

Collaborators: Escambia County Parks and Recreation Department, Florida Division of Forestry, Escambia County Neighborhood Environmental Services Division (Soil and Water Department), and Escambia County 4-H Foundation.

Abstract:

Four day camps focused on agriculture and natural resource awareness were organized and presented at the Langley Bell 4-H Center over a ten week period. Several other presentations were also incorporated at sites in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties that included Escambia County Parks and Recreation, Summer 4-H Camp at Timpooshee and the Resource Ranger Program at Naval Live Oaks Park. Topics of presentations included Agriculture in Escambia County, Natural Resource Hayride, Fishing Expedition, Eat a Rainbow of Colors, Plants and Butterflies, Project Learning Tree and Bluebirds in your Backyard. Two hundred and forty three youth attended the programs. Impact data was gathered from 80 youth. All questions showed an increase in knowledge at post.

Project Goals:

To target 150 urban/suburban youth with an agriculture awareness program

To bring together partners to establish quality youth education programs in the area of agriculture.

To develop lessons plans that target agriculture and natural resources awareness.

Project Activities

Four day camps scheduled at the Langley Bell 4-H Center targeted urban youth. These day camps were five hours in length. Youth rotated into four classes/workshops. Topics included Agriculture (hayride around camp and program on livestock and agriculture products grown in Escambia County, Nutrition (sample fresh fruits and vegetables), Natural Resources (water samples of the pond and fishing) and Horticulture (plants and butterflies). Workshops were taught by agents in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

Other speakers were from Florida Division of Forestry and Escambia County Neighborhood Environmental Services Division. Agricultural and Natural Resources topics were presented at several recreation centers, day camp sites, 4-H summer camp and other youth groups.

Outcomes and Deliverables:

A total of 80 youth were given a pre and post test. Four questions were selected to represent the workshop topics the youth would attend during the day camp. At post, there was an increase in knowledge on all questions. Over 90% of youth scored correctly on three of the four questions at post. 90% of youth could correctly identify the largest agricultural crop grown in Escambia County.

Each Extension Agent compiled a lesson plan to teach their respective area. These lessons were compiled into a curriculum resource book. These lessons will be used again in November for a special agriculture awareness program planned for area schools that will involve the Langley Bell 4-H Center.

A photo journal of the various workshops was compiled. Some of the pictures will be used in a traveling display that will be exhibited at the Pensacola Interstate Fair, District Faculty meeting, and other professional meetings throughout the next year. Exhibit will be used locally at several agriculture meetings held in Escambia County including Farm Bureau, Agriculture Advisory committees and the Escambia County Extension Council meeting.