

SRPLN FCS State Report 2009

Reporting Institution:

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension: *Family and Consumer Sciences*

Program Highlights of Current Year:

New Parents. Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Extension specialists collaborated on *Guide for New Parents* which is a 12 article publication that includes content featuring research-based information on infant development, parenting, co-parenting and couple relations, child care, nutrition and health, food safety, housing and environmental safety, and financial management and planning. It reinforces the available resources and expertise of FACS Extension. From September 1 to December 30, 2008, 24 hospitals within 22 counties across Georgia distributed 8,600 (91%) copies of the *Guide for New Parents*.

Higher Income Audiences. We created 4 brochure inserts targeting higher income clients with educational opportunities such as insurance, retirement and investing. We also formed a FACS Outreach Action Council, made up of people with the ability and/or position to lobby for financial support of our programs, to serve in an advisory capacity at the state level.

Food preservation. UGA Cooperative Extension sold over 8,000 copies of our popular home food preservation resource manual, *So Easy to Preserve*. Agents reached almost 6,800 individuals with food preservation classes and consultations. UGA hosts the National Center for Home Food Preservation website (<http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/>).

Economic Distress. *When Your Income Drops* includes 7 fact sheets, a PowerPoint presentation, and several activities and worksheets to guide decision-making. This program was included as a new resource in the USDA-CSREES Family Economic News, the newsletter of the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education, and on the eXtension MiTTNet (Managing in Tough Times Network).

Lung Cancer Prevention. The FACS Extension Radon Education Program received EPA's Clean Air Excellence Award in May 2008 and is the only radon program to win a Clean Air Award. During 2008, program educators distributed 5,120 radon test kits to Georgia homeowners and found that 25% of them were elevated. Our five radon educators conducted 230 programs, classes, events and exhibits reaching almost 48,000 individuals. As a result of these educational efforts, 638 families adopted radon-resistant new construction and 804 families mitigated their homes.

Food Safety Certification for foodservice workers became a statewide requirement in December 2007. FACS Extension helps to address this need through the *ServSafe*® manager and employee training programs, reaching over 1,000 food service workers in the past year.

Banner Programs.

Walk GA is an innovative 8-week program designed to increase physical activity among Georgians through the use of a web-based tracking system. During the spring session, 4,407 Georgians enrolled and 3,036 were still participating at the end of eight weeks. During the fall session, 4,583 enrolled and 3,204 were still participating after eight weeks. Participants logged the equivalent of 1,061,803 miles. **Water Conservation Program** taught simple techniques for reducing their amount of water usage. Over 900 individuals participated in educational sessions and the majority indicated that they were more likely to practice water conservation behaviors as a result of their participation. This program was particularly timely with the severe drought in Georgia.

Personnel Update:

State Specialists:

Total = 15
Child & Family Development = 3 (2.25 EFT)
Food & Nutrition = 4 (3.88 EFT)
Housing & Consumer Economics = 4 (3.10 EFT)
Program Development & Evaluation = 3 (3.0 EFT)
Administration = 1 (1.0 EFT)

FCS County Agents:

Full-time, state-funded (or state/county combination) = 38
Part-time, state-funded = 6 (4 are early retirees with only one year of guaranteed employment)
Full-time funded by county only = 3; Part-time = 1
Full- or part-time funded by EFNEP = 10
Full-time funded by grants & contracts (or combination) = 11

Other FCS Educators:

Professional staff (program specialists/coordinators) = 14
Paraprofessional staff (program assistants) = 51

Budget Update:

Approximately 77% of the total budget for the Extension unit in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences was from extramural funding. FACS Extension specialists generated \$4 for every \$1 expended in state funds to support the FACS Extension unit.*

Budget cuts resulted in the loss of 1 full-time state specialist who did evaluation and impact reporting. Six experienced FACS county agents retired during the past year; 4 with federal early retirement. Personnel and operations were reduced for projects involving state agencies, because of budget cuts.

*County-based FACS agents are funded through the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, except for those agents funded through extramural projects. Salaries and operating expenses for state-funded agents are not reflected in the percentage above.

New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:

The Georgia Division of Aging Services partnered with Extension to launch a statewide initiative to train class leaders in the Powerful Tools for Caregivers program.

Mrs. Georgia 2008, Tiffany Hudak, partnered with FACS Extension to create awareness of lung cancer caused by radon.

FACS Extension applied for and was awarded federal stimulus money in cooperation with the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

We continue to actively seek endowment funding for county agent positions.

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