

APRIL 2019

ANR Report

THE EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER OF
PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Well Water

While a majority of Pike County utilizes well water in some capacity, many residents do not know about well water testing and its importance. Home wells should be routinely tested to ensure not only the health of those drinking the water but also for the health of the home. Completing a test such as an expanded water analysis allows homeowners to see if their water is corrosive which could lead to damaged pipes within the home. It can also tell whether the water is outside of the EPA standards for healthy drinking water. Additionally, wells should be tested for the presence of bacteria to ensure safe drinking water.

Water testing and consultation is available through the Pike County Extension office. Call the office today to learn more about your well water quality.

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Common Testing Services

SOIL TEST- \$8
BASIC WATER- \$24
EXPANDED WATER- \$64
TOTAL BACTERIA/ E. COLI- \$46
FORAGE- \$24
RADON IN WATER- \$40
HOME CLOSING KIT- \$95
RADON IN HOME (AIR)- \$15



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Pike County

Pike County Farm Tour Highlights Local Agriculture

March 29, 2019 Pike County Farm Tour exposed students and special guests to the vital world of agriculture within Pike County. The tour welcomed students from FFA and 4-H to experience the vast reach of agriculture. The tour first visited University of Georgia's Bledsoe Research Farm located in Williamson where attendees learned about turfgrass breeding and research, wheat breeding and genetics, and well as the use of technology in agricultural research.

The tour stopped at Bottoms Nursery where everyone learned about what it means to be a family farm. While learning about small fruit producing plants, students also learned being a farmer also means being a mechanic, businessman, field worker, electrician, welder, and so much more.

Caldwell Farm hosted a delicious lunch provided by Pike County Farm Bureau and Pike County Agribusiness Authority. All attendees enjoyed the picturesque views of the Flint River while hearing moos in the background. Caldwell Farms demonstrated working cattle and artificial insemination as a way of improving herd genetics.

The last stop was Wild Daisy Farm located in Molena where the Meeks have created a unique straight to consumer operation. Students were able to take in the views of fresh lavender while hearing about farm to table and diversifying operations.

Overall, Pike County Farm Tour was a great day celebrating local agriculture. The tour could have lasted weeks without truly capturing the reach of agriculture within this community, but it did capture the heart that makes the industry so unique. Thank you to everyone that made the day such a success!



Matt Bottoms of Bottoms Nursery explains potting during Pike County Farm Tour

Beekeeping Workshop Will Yield Answers

The importance of pollinators and interest in beekeeping are both on the rise within the Pike County community. Following a successful Beekeeping Workshop this past November, Pike County Extension is set to host another program at the end of the month. On April 25 from 6-8pm at the Concord Event Center, UGA Master Beekeeper, Jim Quick, will answer any questions beekeepers or those interested in beekeeping may have.

The program will follow a question and answer format so attendees will be able to learn more about their specific interests and areas of concern. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to come with questions and a thirst for knowledge. This program will also be an opportunity to connect with fellow beekeepers in the area, so come ready to meet those in the community with similar interests.

The event will cost \$10 at the door. An RSVP is requested by April 22 to ensure enough refreshments for everyone. Please contact the Pike County Extension office or Brooklyne Wassel directly to reserve your spot in this program. Incredible local speaker, delicious refreshments, door prizes, and fellowship, what is not to enjoy?

Mosquitoes Bring Serious Health Concerns

Mosquito season is upon us. A horse has tested positive for Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in Lowndes County. EEE is one of the most pathogenic among all of the mosquito-borne, encephalitis-causing viruses. The clinical disease is severe with a human-case fatality rate of over 50% (90-95% in horses). The type and severity of illness in humans depends upon the age and health of the individual. EEE can infect people of any age, but young children and infants are particularly vulnerable. Children, the elderly, immuno-compromised individuals, and sometimes apparently healthy adults all can develop acute encephalitis with high fever, drowsiness, lethargy, vomiting, convulsions, and coma.

Last year's rains coupled with this year's rains will keep the swamps and low lying areas wet for the foreseeable future. There are still aspects about the EEE disease cycle that are unclear. The current understanding is that the virus cycles among birds and bird feeding mosquitoes in the swamp areas below the fall line in Georgia. Bridge vectors (other mosquitoes that feed on both the infected birds and horses or people) serve to move the virus out of the bird/mosquito cycle. Mosquito populations are expected to be significant this spring, so be sure to protect your equine family members as well as yourself.

Eliminate all standing water that you can, but also recognize that there are going to be large amounts of "natural" habitats this spring. Light colored, loose fitting clothing will make you less attractive to mosquitoes. Wear pants and long sleeves to reduce the amount of exposed skin. Use EPA approved repellents. The active ingredients DEET, picaridin, IR3535 and oil of lemon eucalyptus have proven to be safe and effective. DEET, picaridin and IR3535 are approved for use on children 2 months or older. Adults should apply the repellent to their hands and rub the exposed skin of the children. Complete coverage is essential. Wash the treated skin with warm, soapy water when you are not exposed to the mosquito populations.



Culiseta melanura, mosquito vector of EEE

Irrigation Simplified

Irrigating is an essential part of most fruit and vegetable producers' lives, but it is also quite possibly one of the most frustrating. There are numerous methods to wade through and gadgets to purchase, but what is the correct method? What technology is absolutely necessary?

Thankfully, UGA Specialist, Andre de Silva, has simplified the process and hopes to aid producers in making sound irrigating decisions which will lead to better water management, more productive yields, and less headache overall. This online resource combines plant water requirement, planting date, and rainfall data to provide a personalized irrigation schedule that is downloadable. This resource is completely *free*! If you have any questions about irrigating for better production or how to utilize this brand new resources, please contact the Pike County Extension office.

The new irrigation manager can be found online at:

irrigating.uga.edu

Dates to Remember

Within Pike County

4/4 - LUNCH AND LEARN: POLLINATORS AND BENEFICIAL INSECTS

4/22 - 4-H HORSE CLUB MEETING

4/25 - BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP

5/6 - 4-H HORSE CLUB MEETING

5/30 - SUCCULENT WORKSHOP

6/29 - EQUINE ENTHUSIAST WORKSHOP

*FOLLOW UGA EXTENSION PIKE COUNTY ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS

Other Extension Events

4/5 - FAIRGROUNDS FARMERS MARKET (SPALDING)

4/11 - BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP (MERIWETHER)

4/16 - FOOD 4 THOUGHT PESTICIDE CREDIT (UPSON)

4/18 - EGG CANDLING CERTIFICATION (SPALDING)

4/23 - SMALL RUMINANT WORKSHOP (MONROE)

4/29-30 - SOUTHERN WOMEN IN AG ADVANCED CATTLE WORKSHOP (TIFT)

5/14 - DISEASE DETECTIVE (MERIWETHER)

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Stay up to date with Extension

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