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## NC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer 2012 Program



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### What is the Master Gardener Volunteer Program?

- Sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension Volunteer Program
- Community Involvement
- Continuous Education
- Social Implications-The Rowan County Master Gardener Association



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### Office Policies


- Please note that it is a working office
- Office hours are 8am-5pm M-F
- Please notify secretaries when you come into the office for security and other reasons
- Please ask to use copier and other office equipment unless you get permission



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### Game Rules


- Class will begin at 1:00 pm
- Laptops are permitted-internet access
- No cell phones or texting during class
- Hold questions until reach a stopping point
- Read your e-mail
- No grandchildren



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### What are my responsibilities?

- Sign Agreement form
- Attend Classes
- Participate in class/team projects
- Periodic tests
- Pass final exam
- Volunteer at 45 hours back to Cooperative Extension as payment
- Keep records of volunteer hours
- Positive atmosphere for group
- Work as a team with others
- Specific educational projects for Extension programs



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### Restrictions

- Provide unbiased, research-based information
- Cannot endorse product or place of business
- Cannot make pesticide recommendations
- News articles, press releases, newsletters, leaflets must be reviewed and approved
- Cannot sign contracts or grants on behalf of Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener Program
- Cannot use MGCV credentials while working for commercial enterprise
- Cannot testify in courts using MGCV as qualifying credentials



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### The Mission


Helping people put knowledge to work to improve their lives



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### History


- 1862 – The Morrill Act
  - Provides grants to each state to build a public institution to teach agriculture, military tactics, mechanical arts and classical studies.
  - Provide members of the working classes with a liberal yet practical education



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### History

- 1920s and 30s – Extension's role changes to emphasize efficiency of production and marketing
  - Supports government plan to increase family food production as an anti-poverty program
- 1936 – For the first time, every county in NC has a farm demonstration agent



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### History


- 1964 – Civil Rights Act integrates separate Extension programs
- 1972 – Congress provides funds to encourage 4-H to reach new audiences



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## History

- 1991 – NC Agricultural Extension Service changes it's name to North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
  - New name emphasizes the cooperative nature of the organization's efforts.



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## Cooperative Extension Today

- Extension is continuing its mission of helping the state's people use research-based knowledge to improve the quality of their lives.
- Programs are available to people of all ages and from all walks of life.
- Continues to evaluate and provide latest, research based information.







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## Extension Today




- NC Cooperative Extension is headquartered at NC State University
  - Partnered with NC A&T State Univ.
  - US Department of Agriculture
  - County Government



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## Extension Today


- Extension Specialists at NC State Univ. and NC A&T State Univ. provide technical training and support for field faculty
- Field faculty are the bridge between the land-grant college and the citizens
  - Extension center in each county
  - County center designs programs that focus on local needs



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## Extension Programming




- Changing demographics and needs
- Fewer farms, but more smaller growers
- Farmers markets and local foods
- Commercial landscape becoming more important
- Homeownership increasing



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### Confusion with NC Department of Agriculture

- Often Confused with NCEA
- Organization funded by state, federal and local government

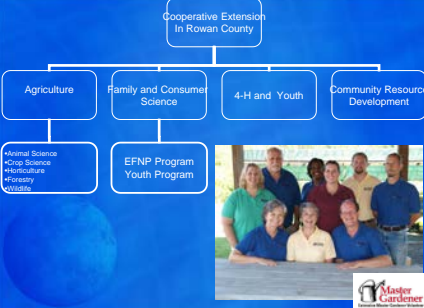

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### Advisory Council

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### Cooperative Extension In Rowan County





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### Agriculture

- Agriculture contributes 27% of the state's total income and provides for 22% of its jobs
- \$50 million gross income to Rowan County
  - Traditional field crops
  - Livestock
  - Horticulture

Master Gardener Volunteer Program  
Farmers Markets



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### Horticulture

- 2 million acres of managed turf in NC
- \$600 million per year in maintenance costs
- Nursery and landscape industry contributes an additional \$600 million per year to state's economy
- Extension provides people with education and assistance to manage landscapes effectively
  - Master Gardener Volunteers contribute more than 45,000 hours each year to help people in their counties.
  - Salisbury Farmers Market
  - China Grove Farmers Market
  - Rowan-Salisbury School System



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### Natural Resources Management


- Water Quality
- Soil conservation
- IPM
- Forest Management
- Waste Management
- Management of home environments, both inside and out through recycling, water screening, and effective lawn care



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### Family & Consumer Education

- Began in 1912 with Girl's Canning Clubs
- Extension Homemakers
- Focus today is on preventive education programs for families in both rural and urban areas
  - Budgeting
  - Economic loss protection
  - Financial planning
  - Food quality and safety
  - Elder care and aging
  - Increase awareness of health, safety and environmental issues
  - Credit Use
  - Health care costs
  - Economic choices
  - Reduce household waste
  - Nutrition for better health



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### Youth Development


- 4-H
  - Head, Heart, Hands, Health
- Focus on total development of young people
  - Agriculture
  - Life sciences
  - Consumer sciences
  - Child care
  - Workforce preparedness
  - Leadership development
  - Environmental stewardship



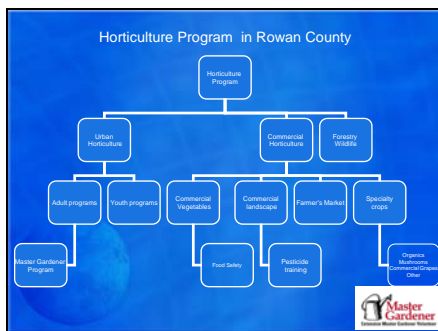

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### Community and Rural Development

- Nearly half of population of NC lives in rural areas
- Training people to understand organizational structure and leadership
  - Helps people learn to become leaders
  - Assess community needs
  - To develop and acquire resources to meet their needs
  - And work with other agencies and organizations to address issues of concern
- Many of today's important issues relate to the environment



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### Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

- Rowan County Fair
- Salisbury Farmer's Market
- China Grove Farmer's Market
- Pocket Garden Project
- Elementary School Gardens
- Garden Columns
- Radio programs
- Soil demonstration aids
- Turf plots?
- Computer IT help?



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### Master Gardener Volunteer Projects



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### Outdoor Teaching Structure



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### Turf Demonstration Trials



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### Youth programming efforts



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Millbridge Discovery Garden



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Millbridge Elementary Summer Camp and other school activities.



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Salisbury Farmers Market projects



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China Grove Farmers Market-  
Market at the Mill



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Educational displays and booths  
for Cooperative Extension



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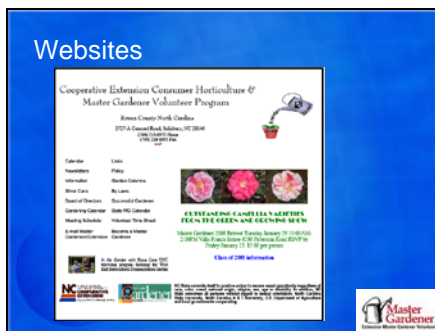
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