COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Extension Office	Presenter(s):	Craig Gross
Meeting Date:	Wednesday, November 3, 2010	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of a request from the Extension Office that the County restore funding for a portion of an Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent's position.

Background/History/Details:

The University of Georgia and Fayette County have been partnering to offer educational programs and services through the Fayette County Cooperative Extension Office for several decades. The Extension Office provides Fayette County citizens with current, research-based materials and programs to help foster safe and informed decisions. Many of the programs not only provide much needed training to the public, but they also help the County comply with current storm water management regulations and guidelines.
The Extension Office typically would have two certified Agents that would provide these educational programs and services. The office has been without an Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent since July 2008 due to state and county hiring freezes.
These economic woes have forced the Georgia Cooperative Extension System to do a thorough review of their programming, staffing methods and focus. This intensive process has included input from county, district and state faculty and staff as well as many county commissioners, county civic and business leaders and numerous commodity groups. This new effort will allow for each county to have a flexible “tiered approach” to providing programs and services based on each county’s needs.

This process has helped Fayette County to receive “high priority” rating for a Natural Resources Agent. The University regrets that the position has been vacant for as long as it has and would like to start recruiting to fill the position. Their goal is to recruit and bring in an experienced agent that could start working in the county in as early as January 2011.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Permission to place this item on the November 18 agenda for approval which would allow staff to advertise and recruit for an experienced agent to provide Agriculture and Natural Resources programming.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

This position is a contract position between the University of Georgia and the County,requiring minimal funding. The annual commitment is about $17,574.00 for salary and all benefits. The position is paid directly from UGA and then the County is billed for in arrears.

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past?	Yes	If so, when?	
Do you need audio-visual for the presentation?	No	Back-up Material Submitted?	Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance	Yes	Reviewed by Legal	Yes
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	Approved by County Clerk	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension

Fayette County Extension
140 Stonewall Avenue West
Suite 209
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Phone: (770) 305-5412 ext. 5135
Fax: (770) 719-5533
Email: cegross@uga.edu

Monday, October 4, 2010

The mission of the Fayette County Extension is to provide lifelong learning to the people and to respond to people's needs and interest in agriculture and natural resources, families, 4-H and youth through education and information, using unbiased, research-based education.

The Fayette County Cooperative Extension, backed by the resources of Fayette County, the

University of Georgia, Ft. Valley State University and the Department of Agriculture, provides educational programs, information, materials, and actual assistance to the citizens of the county. Education and information is also provided to the citizens by telephone consultation, formal educational (classroom) programs, school programs, plant clinics, site visits, newsletters, news articles, radio and collaboration with other community agencies. Publications, web site and laboratory services are other delivery methods for safe - education and information to the county citizens.

The basic goal of the Fayette County Cooperative Extension Office is to provide information that will contribute to learning for life, which, in tum, helps citizens make informed decisions with unbiased, research-based information - this improving quality of life. We are also Fayette County's gateway to the University of Georgia and all the resources associated therein.

There is no doubt that the recent economic conditions have created strain and departments across the country. The State of Georgia and Fayette County is definitely no exception. The Fayette County Extension Office has lost one full-time Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent and two part-time program assistants because of the hiring freeze that the economic downturn caused.

These economic woes have forced the Georgia Cooperative Extension System to do a thorough review of their programming, staffing methods and focus. This intensive process has included input from county, district and state faculty and staff as well as many county commissioners, county civic and business leaders and numerous commodity groups. Essentially, this new model will allow for each county to have a flexible "tiered approach" to providing programs and services based on their own county's needs.

This review allowed Fayette County to be given a "high priority" rating for a Natural Resources Agent. The University regrets that the position has been vacant for as long as it has and would like to start recruiting as early as November 1, 2010 to fill the position. Their goal is to recruit and bring in an experienced agent that could start working in the county in early January 2011.

Sincerely,

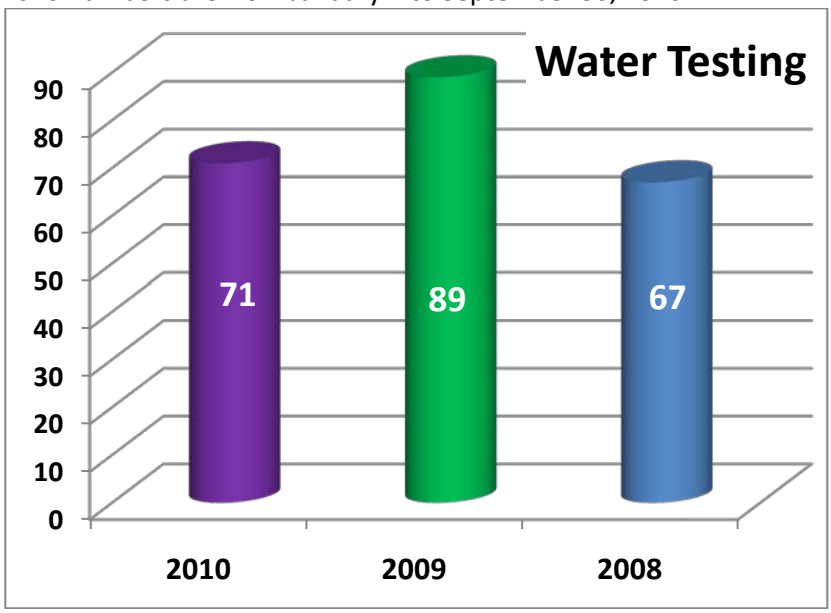
Craig E. Gross
County Extension Coordinator

Fayette County Cooperative Extension Office
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Program Coverage

The following information was compiled to help highlight the major programs that the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent would be coordinating and assisting with. The number of participants and programs conducted show that there is an increasing interest and need for an ANR Agent.

Water Testing	2010	2009	2008
Basic Water Tests	49	65	42
Water Bacteria Tests	11	10	11
Pond Diagnosis	12	8	14
Water Well Testing	3	6	
TOTAL NUMBERS	75	89	67

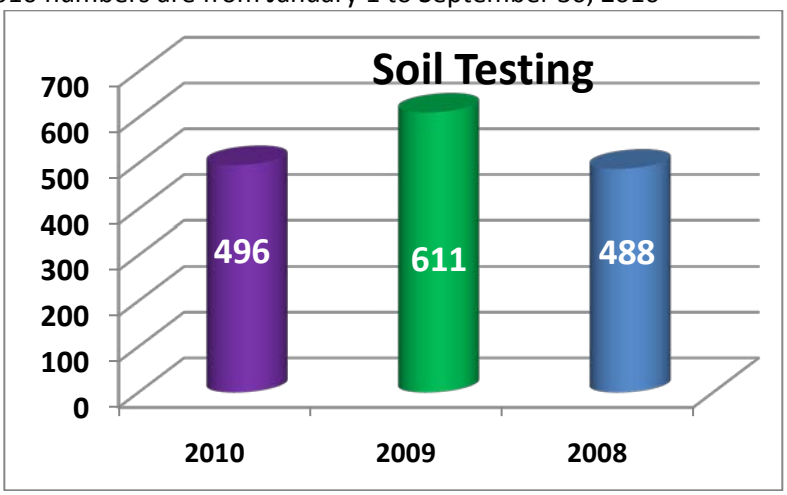
2010 numbers are from January 1 to September 30, 2010



Soil Testing

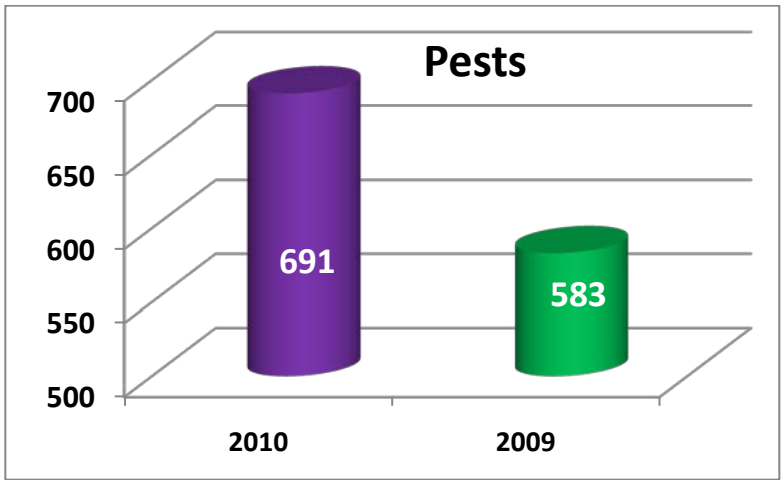
	2010	2009	2008
Soil Nutrient Tests	477	609	488
Soil Nematode Assay Tests	26	2	0
Soil Chemical/Pesticide Testing	2	0	0
Soil Petroleum Tests	2	0	0
TOTAL NUMBERS	507	611	488

2010 numbers are from January 1 to September 30, 2010



Pests

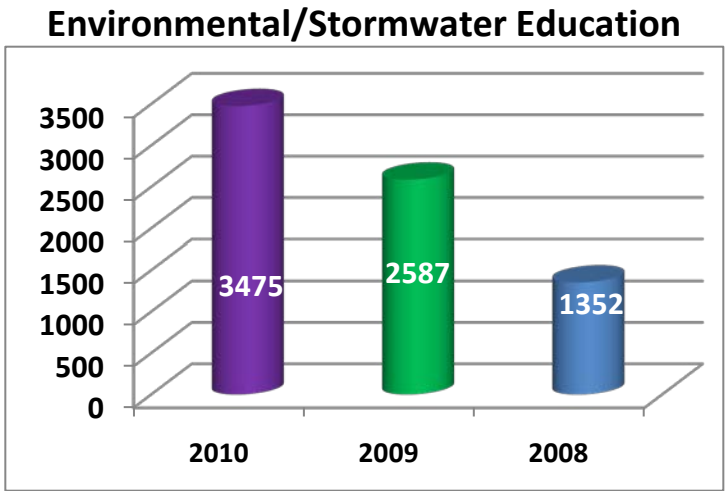
	2010	2009
DDDI Submissions	39	24
Home or Office Follow Up	379	297
Plant Disease ID and Recommendations	143	116
Tree Pest ID and Recommendations	94	112
Turf Pest ID and Recommendation	36	34
TOTAL NUMBERS	691	583



Environment/Stormwater Education

	2010	2009	2008
Private Pesticide Certification	48	9	2
Youth In School Programs (two programs) +	1273	1453	1110
Youth Home School Programs (two programs)	23	11	0
Adult Education Programs (11 classes)	1417	750	237
In Depth MG Classes (train the trainer)	31	17	3
Plant Clinics	683	347	
TOTAL NUMBERS	3427	2578	1350

+ not all classes have been completed for 2010

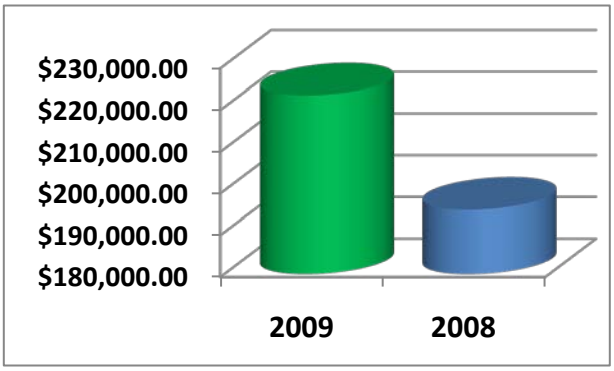


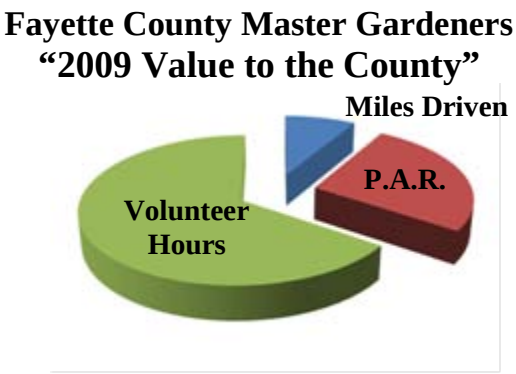
Master Gardener Program

	2010	2009	2008
Active Master Gardeners	134	121	95
Interns	26	14	10
Plant a Row for the Hungry Harvested	23,025	27,846	10,777
Fruit Distributed to food banks/shelters	62,925		
Volunteer Hours Worked	**	6,370	6,322
Value to the county	**	$222,831.99	$195,425.71

** Numbers not yet compiled for 2010

In 2009, Fayette County Master Gardeners traveled 33,992 miles in support of education, diagnosing pest problems, and other volunteer roles





CAES Griffin Campus
1109 Experiment St.
Flynt Bldg., Room 227
Griffin, GA 30223
October 5, 2010

TO: Craig Gross
CEC, Fayette County

FROM: Greg Price

Greg Price
District Extension Director
Northwest District

Enclosed is the amended county contract for the Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Attached is the budget. Once the budget is approved, please have your Chairman sign two copies of the contract letter and return to my office. Two completed signed documents will be returned to your office for the Board of Commissioners files and your files.

bd

enclosure

Northwest District Extension
1109 Experiment St.
Flynt Bldg., Room 227
Griffin, GA 30223

Dear Mr. Price,

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that we wish to amend the agreement between the Fayette County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, for the provision of Extension Programs to our County. The term of this agreement shall be from July 1, 2010 through June, 2011. An annual budget is attached.

Sincerely,

Chairman
Board of Commissioners
Fayette County, Georgia

_____

County Extension Coordinator Date

_____

District Extension Director Date

_____

Associate Dean for Extension- CES, UGA Date

_____

Dean & Director of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, UGA Date

_____

Vice-President for Public Service & Outreach, UGA Date

Fayette County
Board of Commissioners
July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011

AMENDED

ANNUAL SALARY	
Craig Gross, CEC, 4-H Agent	12,000.00
Vacant ANR Agent	12,000.00
Jeanette Martin, Secretary	13,419.00
	37,419.00
ANNUAL BENEFITS	
Teacher's Retirement (10.28%)	
Craig Gross, CEC, 4-H Agent	1,233.60
Vacant ANR Agent	1,233.60
Jeanette Martin, Secretary	1,379.47
	3,846.67
Social Security (7.65%)	
Craig Gross, CEC 4-H Agent	918.00
Vacant ANR Agent	918.00
Jeanette Martin, Secretary	1,026.55
	2,862.55
Health Insurance	
Craig Gross, CEC 4-H Agent	3,403.28
Vacant ANR Agent	3,403.28
Jeanette Martin, Secretary	6,538.46
	13,345.02
Life Insurance	
Craig Gross, CEC, 4-H Agent	18.60
Vacant ANR Agent	18.60
Jeanette Martin, Secretary	34.92
	72.12
Yearly Total	$ 57,545.36

*UGA will disperse all payroll, tax and insurance payments for employees and will bill Fayette County monthly for Fayette County's actual contribution to total.

Please send the bill to the following address:
Mary Holland Finance Director
140 Stonewall Avenue West
Fayetteville, GA 30214