# COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Department: | Extension Office | Presenter(s): | Craig Gross |
| Meeting Date: | Thursday, November 18, 2010 | Type of Request: | Consent |

Wording for the Agenda:

Approval of a request from the Extension Office that the County restore its 20% portion of funding for an Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent's position, in an annual amount not to exceed $17,600, with the allocation commencing with the six-month remainder of FY 2011 which begins on January 1, 2011.

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. The 80% balance of funding for this position will be paid by UGA. The County will make its payments to UGA, not to the employee.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval to fund from contingency the County's 20% portion of salary and benefits for a position in the County Extension Office known as an Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent effective January 1, 2011. The amount requested of $8,790 would be paid to UGA as technical services for the remainder of FY 2011.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Funding of $8,790 from contingency is needed for the remainder of the 2011 fiscal year.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past? | Yes | If so, when? | Wednesday, November 3, 2010 |
| Do you need audio-visual for the presentation? | | Back-up Material Submitted? | Yes |

## STAFF USE ONLY

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Approved by Finance | Yes | Reviewed by Legal | |
| 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***

Friday, November 5, 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. Attached you will see a definition of each one of these service tiers as well as a map on how the resources are planned for the state.

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,

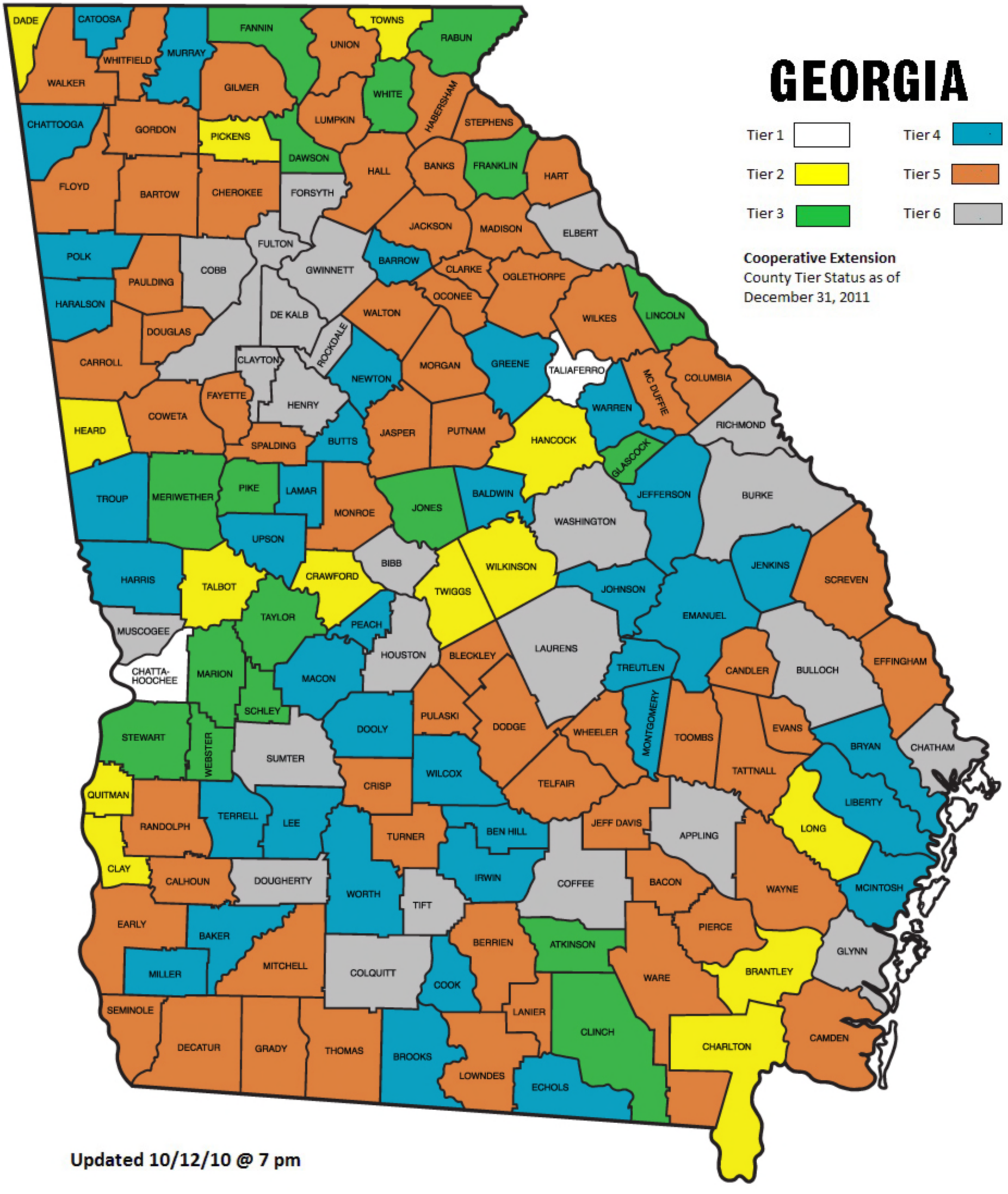
Craig E. Gross
County Extension Coordinator

# Service tiers

- Tier 1 - basic 4-H program delivered through school systems. No physical Extension office.
- Tier 2 – office with one employee; basic service for lab tests, information on available training; access to publications, online resources; core 4-H programs.
- Tier 3 – adds to service available a Tier 2, a shared agent with a neighboring county.

# Service tiers

- Tier 4 – adds to Tier 3 service, a full-time, county-based agent.
- Tier 5 – adds to Tier 4, two or more agents with one serving as county coordinator.
- Tier 6 – adds to Tier 5, a full-time coordinator with multiple agents funded through various sources. Has programming in all three program areas.



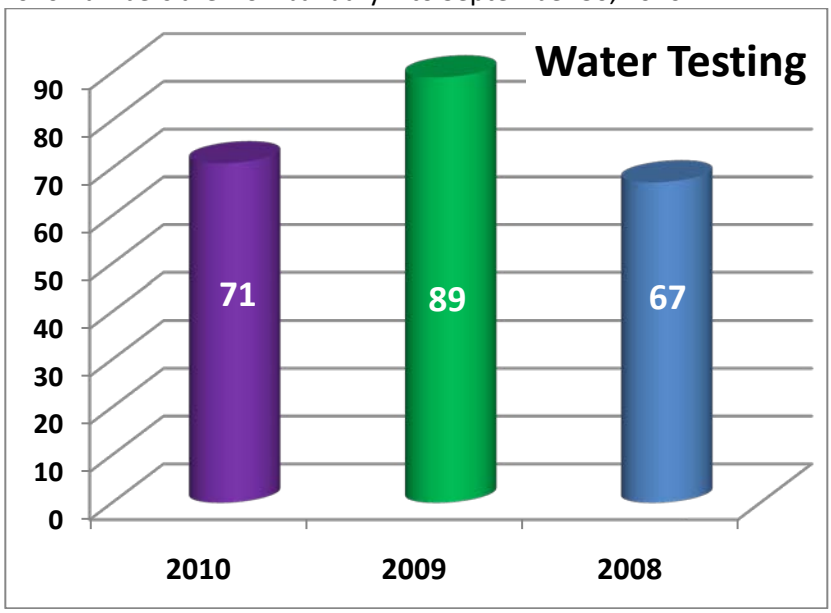

**Updated 10/12/10 @ 7 pm**

# 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 |

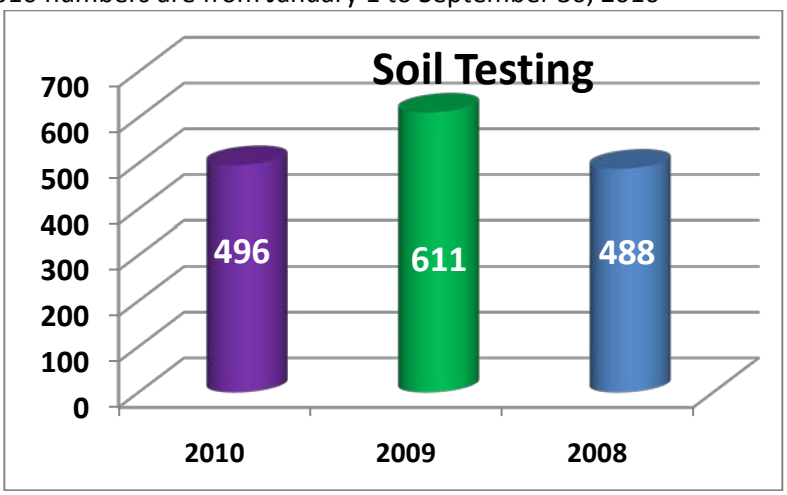
2010 numbers are from January 1 to September 30, 2010



## Soil Testing

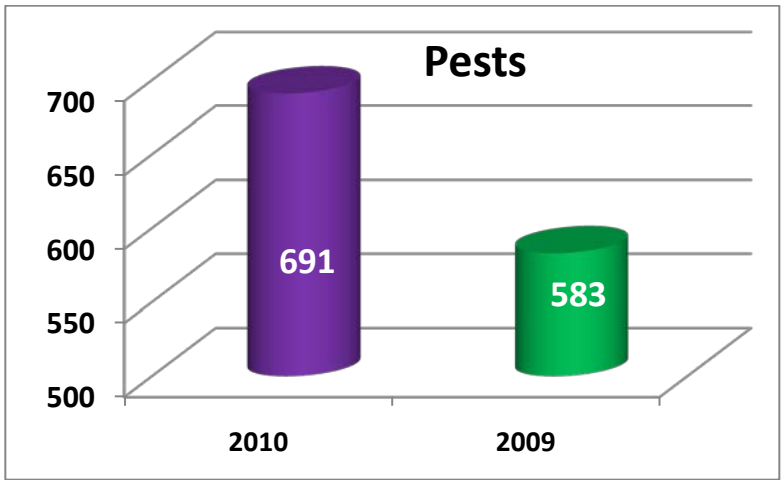
| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Soil Nutrient Tests | 477 | 609 | 488 |
| Soil Nematode Assay Tests | 26 | 2 | 0 |
| Soil Chemical/Pesticide Testing | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Soil Petroleum Tests | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL NUMBERS | 507 | 611 | 488 |

2010 numbers are from January 1 to September 30, 2010




## Pests

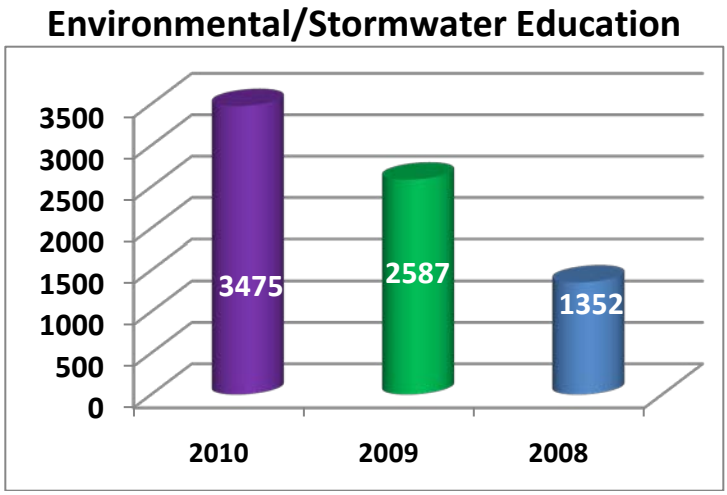
| | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|
| DDDI Submissions | 39 | 24 |
| Home or Office Follow Up | 379 | 297 |
| Plant Disease ID and Recommendations | 143 | 116 |
| Tree Pest ID and Recommendations | 94 | 112 |
| Turf Pest ID and Recommendation | 36 | 34 |
| TOTAL NUMBERS | 691 | 583 |



## 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

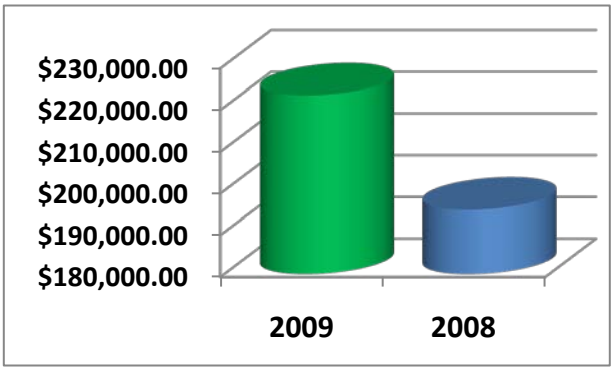


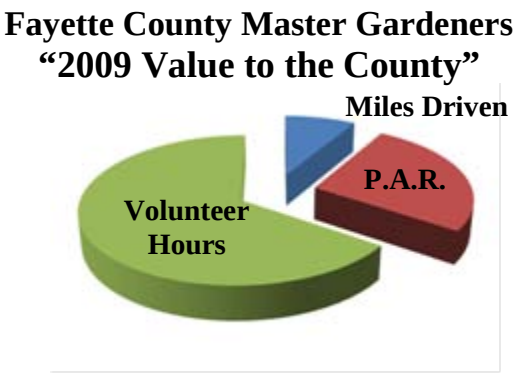

## Master Gardener Program

| | 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



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 our 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 for Fiscal Year 2011 from July 1, 2010 through June, 2011. The adjusted 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
# Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2011
# July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

| | |
|---|---|
| **ANNUAL SALARY** | |
| Craig Gross, CEC, 4-H Agent | 12,000.00 |
| Vacant ANR Agent | 6,000.00 * |
| Jeanette Martin, Secretary | 13,419.00 |
| | 31,419.00 * |
| **ANNUAL BENEFITS** | |
| Teacher's Retirement (10.28%) | |
| Craig Gross, CEC, 4-H Agent | 1,233.60 |
| Vacant ANR Agent | 616.80 * |
| Jeanette Martin, Secretary | 1,379.47 |
| | 3,229.87 * |
| Social Security (7.65%) | |
| Craig Gross, CEC 4-H Agent | 918.00 |
| Vacant ANR Agent | 459.00 * |
| Jeanette Martin, Secretary | 1,026.55 |
| | 2,403.55 * |
| Health Insurance | |
| Craig Gross, CEC 4-H Agent | 3,403.28 |
| Vacant ANR Agent | 1,701.64 * |
| Jeanette Martin, Secretary | 6,538.46 |
| | 11,643.38 * |
| Life Insurance | |
| Craig Gross, CEC, 4-H Agent | 18.60 |
| Vacant ANR Agent | 9.30 * |
| Jeanette Martin, Secretary | 34.92 |
| | 62.82 * |
| Yearly Total | $ 48,758.62 * |

(*) The contract amendment is based upon ½ of the annual commitment for the ANR Agent position as the amended budget would not take effect until the second half of the fiscal year.

- 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. If a staff member chooses not to utilize some of the benefits, the county will not be charged for them.

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