

2020 Extension Award Winners

<https://intranet.ces.ncsu.edu/north-carolina-cooperative-extension-awards/>

Ballance, Jean Woodley

CatieJo Black

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent

Hyde

Ms. Jean Ballance would be so proud of the work CatieJo Black has done in Hyde County in the short amount of time she has been here. She is building a program through passion, hard work and the love to help others in our communities!

Barnes, Carolyn Stanley and George Edward

Lauren Nelson

4-H & Youth Development Extension Agent

Tyrrell

With a “self-starter” attitude and dedication to making the best better, Lauren Nelson has made a career at Tyrrell County Cooperative Extension Service. As she grows the overall 4-H program, she plans to grow professionally and began her Masters Degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at NC State University.

Birckhead, Carol-Outstanding Award for County Extension Directors

Spring Williams-Byrd

County Extension Director

Burke

Through the years, Spring Williams-Byrd has not only gives back through her involvement in Associations, but she has also served on various committees and planning teams on the district, state and national levels. During Spring's tenure, she has continued to focus on leadership and teambuilding and making sure that “Cooperative Extension” is at the table. She is always willing to serve and help promote and achieve the mission of Cooperative Extension.

Black, Dr. Chester & Mrs. Lucy 4-H

Pam Kerley

4-H Program Assistant

Lee County

Words like innovation, enthusiasm and work ethic best describe this award recipient. Pam Kerley, 4-H Program Assistant, is always willing to "Make the Best Better" and is a tremendous asset to Lee County and N.C. Cooperative Extension. Great job Pam and thanks for all you do!

Boone, Dr. Edgar & Mrs. Ethel- Professional Development

Sally Dixon

4-H Youth Development Extension Agent

EBCI

In 2017, Sally Dixon brought life back to the EBCI 4-H Program. In the past three years, participation has grown from 0 to over 400 youth participants and has increased a program budget of 0 to over \$100,000 with grant funds. Sally has been successful in helping youth and volunteers preserve the Cherokee culture through 4-H programs.

Boone, Dr. Edgar & Mrs. Ethel- Professional Development

Shameca Battle

Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

Guilford County

Shameca Battle is a Family and Consumer Sciences Agent for Guilford County Cooperative Extension Office. During her tenure with Cooperative Extension she has served limited resource families and communities teaching them financial literacy. It's her goal to help individuals take care of their families while maintaining a healthy budget.

Boone, Dr. Edgar & Mrs. Ethel- Professional Development

Kittraine Sanders

Community and Rural Development Agent

Harnett County

Kittraine Sanders is the Community and Rural Development Agent in the Harnett County. She has worked with extension for over 24 years starting as the Nutrition Program Assistant and transitioning to the Community Development Associate and then to the Community and Rural Development Agent in 2005. Since then Kitt has been instrumental in providing innovative programming for both Harnett County and the state of North Carolina. Her program specialties included nonprofit organizational development, municipal strategic planning, business enterprise development and youth gardening.

Brickhouse, Charles M.

Margie Mansure

Extension Agent, FCS (Nutrition and Foods)

Watauga and Caldwell Counties

Through her role as an Extension Agent, Margie Mansure teaches community members good nutrition and health practices, and promotes the consumption of locally produced food through various approaches in Caldwell and Watauga Counties. From "Kids Can Cook!" classes for preschoolers all the way to cooking demonstrations at senior centers,

she has taught practical skills through healthy food preparation across the lifespan. Margie has enrolled in a culinary arts program at Caldwell Community College to refine her culinary and teaching skills, and will use this award to continue her culinary education.

Britt, Lois G.-Award for Outstanding Extension Agent

Johnny Coley

Area Extension Agent - Horticulture

Granville/Person

Johnny Coley is the Area Extension Agent providing horticulture programs in Granville and Person Counties. Examples of his programming include blueberry pruning demonstrations, revitalizing a blueberry research plot, conducting a Paw-Paw demonstration trial, managing the Extension Horticulture Training program at the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Butner, and providing Master Gardener training.

Caldwell, Dr. Billy & Mrs. Wilma- Leadership Award for County Extension Directors

Leigh Guth

Pitt County CED

Pitt

In 2005, Leigh Guth began working in Lincoln and surrounding counties on farmers market development, local food, and agriculture tourism. With advanced training in facilitation and multicultural education, she became the Pitt County CED in 2015 and works with local food and developing the team dedicated to serving Pitt County.

Cope, Victoria Jean- Award for 4-H Agents

Rachelle Purnell

4-H Agent

Mecklenburg County

Rachelle Purnell serves as the 4-H agent in Mecklenburg County. Since her start in 2019, Rachelle has worked collaboratively to change the narrative of 4-H programming in her county. Rachelle is passionate, determined and can always be found laughing and smiling as she enjoys the Extension journey with her peers.

Cowden, James - Cooperative Extension Recognition for North Central District

Bryan Cave

County Extension Director

Surry

Bryan Cave, CED in Surry County, began his Extension career in Surry County in 1988 as an Agricultural Agent working in livestock and forages. In 2007, he became CED in

Surry County. He has also taken upon the responsibility of being Interim CED in Stokes, Alleghany, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties.

Dalla- Pozza, Ada B. Professional Development

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Extension Leadership Award

Matt Lenhardt

Associate Extension Agent, Horticulture

Iredell

Matt started in Iredell County June 6, 2016 as Assistant Extension Agent, Horticulture and has done an outstanding job in his program area. His positive attitude, work ethics and team player make him a tremendous asset to Iredell County and North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. Matt collaborates with other agents and agencies to enhance the quality of programs for the citizens of Iredell County. Some of the programs that he has initiated and developed with his leadership include NC Agritunity, a regional conference and trade show that targets the small farm community and Extension Gardener Carolina Lawn Care which is a statewide program. Through Matt's leadership in the horticulture program area he has worked diligently collaborating and building relationships with other agencies in the county as well as agents in surrounding counties to enhance the quality of programs for the citizens not only in Iredell County but across the state.

Hyatt, Fr. George & Mrs. Virginia

Sally Dixon

4-H Youth Development Extension Agent

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program budget of 0 to over \$100,000 with grant funds. Sally has been successful in helping youth and volunteers preserve the Cherokee culture through 4-H programs.

Jones, R.E. Program Award

Sarah Perry

EFNEP Program Assistant

Lee County

The impacts that Sarah has been able to make in the limited time she has been with Cooperative Extension are nothing short of amazing. Her passion for serving low income families and the relentless drive and positive attitude she has displayed under challenging circumstances has also been extremely admirable.

King, Dr. Russell C. & Mrs. Connie H. Extension Program Teamwork Award

Cameron Lowe

County Extension Director

Currituck

The Currituck County Staff consisting of Cameron Lowe, Olivia Patchel, Sherry Fischlschweiger, Adam Formella, Sherry Lynn, Sheila Gregory, Stephanie Minton, Tom Harrell, Billy Caudle, and Chris Blaha has a combined 88 years of experience with Extension. The team has developed an integrated local foods program to improve community health measures.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

4-H Agent Award

Sally Dixon

4-H Youth Development Extension Agent

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in her county. Rachelle is passionate, determined and can always be found laughing and smiling as she enjoys the Extension journey with her peers.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

4-H Agent Award

Denise Sherrill

4-H Agent

Henderson

Denise Sherrill has served admirably as Henderson County 4-H agent since 2004. She has touched countless lives in her program that will have an impact for years to come. She runs a very robust program that includes clubs, camps and school enrichment. She is loved by her 4Hers and parents alike and is a respected leader in Henderson County.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Administrative Professional Award

Rhonda Gaster

Administration Assistant

Lee

The importance of Rhonda Gaster to our office cannot be overstated. The entire Lee County team feels blessed to have such a wonderful individual to work with on a daily basis and cannot think of anyone more deserving or worthy to receive the NCCE Foundation Search for Excellence in Extension Award.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Agriculture Agent Award

Andy Burlingham

Extension Agent

Pitt

Andy Burlingham has been serving as Pitt Counties Livestock and Forages Extension agent since 2011. In that time, he has helped many producers improved the productivity and profitability of their operations. Andy is also very involved with youth livestock activities including shows, judging, skillithon and quiz bowl teams

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Agriculture Agent Award

Jenny Carleo

Area Specialized Grain Agent, South Central District

South Central Extension District

Jenny Carleo is an Area Specialized Grain Agent in the South Central District housed in Iredell County. She is committed to ensuring the science conducted at the University

and County levels is disseminated effectively to improve the lives of North Carolina citizens through both her commitment to assisting the County Extension Agents in her district and the Specialists with whom her expertise transcends. Jenny has led the initiative to work with grain specialists across corn, soybeans, and small grains to develop high-impact videos that have been a core part of continued programming throughout the pandemic. She has worked successfully with commodity boards to secure the funding needed to run this program and is a shining example of needed adaptability to most effectively serve our clientele.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Agriculture Agent Award

Matt Jones

Extension Agent - Ag (Horticulture)

Chatham County

Since 2018, Matt Jones has served as the Horticulture Extension Agent for the Chatham County Center with Commercial Ornamental and Consumer Horticulture programming duties. Matt also serves as the EMG Volunteer Coordinator for Chatham County and is beloved by volunteers, colleagues, and clientele alike.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

FCS Agent Award

Renay Knapp

Extension Agent - FCS

Henderson

Renay Knapp has been the Family & Consumer Science agent for Henderson County since 2001. She has built a great following in her program. She runs a traditional but progressive FCS program. She has been integral in the ECA programs in the county and is a great resource for residents in Henderson County.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

FCS Agent Award

Rhonda Peters

Family & Consumer Science Agent

Montgomery

In Rhonda's career as the FCS Agent in Montgomery County, she has influenced youth and families to build strong and supportive relationships while making healthy food and physical activity choices. Framing these aspects with solid financial management techniques, families are empowered to live their best lives.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

North Central District Team Award

Search for Excellence-Ag/ANR-Team - North Central District

Team Members:

Sara Drake – Davidson

Phil Rucker – Davie & Yadkin

April Bowman – Forsyth

Jonas Asbill – Randolph

Lauren Greene – Wilkes

Margaret Ross – Jones

Richard Goforth – Harnett

COVID-19 caused gaps in the food supply chain and empty shelves caused panic in many consumers and led to an increase in the number of people wanting to raise their own backyard poultry flocks for meat, eggs, or both. Many had never raised poultry before and needed guidance and instruction, so our team offered a variety poultry programs.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

Northeast District Team Award

"Virtual" Blackland Farm Managers Tour Video Team

Andrea Gibbs, Hyde

Jalynne Waters, Washington

Gene Fox, Beaufort

Chasady Quinn, Beaufort

Ashley Latham, Beaufort

Samantha Bowden, Beaufort

This team went above and beyond to produce a series of videos which became the virtual version of our canceled field day.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

South Central District Team Award

Pasture Poultry, Farm to Table- Union

Rachel Owens

Livestock Extension Agent

Union County

The Pasture Poultry-Farm to Table Team consists of Aaron Moore, Small Farms Agent, Rachel Owens, Livestock Agent, and Marcus McFarland, FCS Agent, of Union County. This series was designed and intended to provide an educational and practical look at small scale chicken production as well as utilization in the kitchen.

NCCE Search for Excellence Awards (Sponsored by NC Grange)

West District Team Award

Eighth Grade Agricultural Awareness and Career Field Day

Hannah Worrell, Steve Pettis, William Terry Kelley, Karen Blaedow, Denise Sherrill, Tikiyha Ancrum, Emily Capps and Erin Norton - Henderson County
Henderson

The Henderson County team established a field day for eighth graders in the county to help them become more aware of agriculture in the county and teach them about careers associated with agriculture. The event has grown from 100 to 341 participants in three years. The goal is to include every eighth grader in the county. Teachers and students alike have praised the event. The County Commissioners were so impressed they have included this effort in their regular budget.

Overall Grange Team

Overall District Winner

Search for Excellence-Ag/ANR-Team - North Central District

Sara Drake – Davidson

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April Bowman – Forsyth

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Lauren Greene – Wilkes

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NCCE Search for Excellence - Overall Agent Winner

Overall Agent Winner

Pasture Poultry, Farm to Table- Union

Rachel Owens

Livestock Extension Agent

Union County

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Research Friend of Extension Award

Thomas Kon
Assistant Professor
Horticulture

Dr. Tom Kon has been a member of the NCSU Department of Horticulture for almost four years. In that time he has established a nationally recognized program in apple management research. His work on tree fruit thinning and training and pruning high-density orchards have helped make the NC apple industry more profitable and sustainable.

Smith, Jr., Lathan F. Award of Excellence in 4-H Award

Denise Sherrill
Extension Agent - 4-H
Henderson

Denise Sherrill has served as the 4-H agent in Henderson County for the last 22 years. She has built one of the most robust 4-H programs in the state which includes camps, school enrichment and clubs. Her youth always excel in competitions and she has had 17 Honor Roll inductees in her tenure. Her compassion, work ethic and love for her youth is evident in her programs.

Stewart, Dr. R. Marshall & Mrs. Jan -4-H Leadership Award

Denise Sherrill
4-H Agent
Henderson

Denise Sherrill has spent the last 22 years shaping the lives of youth in Henderson County. As a 4-H agent she has developed a very robust 4-H program. She has served on numerous District and State committees and is a valued resource in the county for her leadership skills and knowledge.

Zublana, Dr. Joe & Mrs. Lise- Program Impact Award

Charlie Cahoon; Wesley Everman
Assistant Professor and Extension Weed Specialist; Associate Professor and Extension Weed Specialist
Crop and Soil Sciences

Drs. Cahoon and Everman are Extension Weed Specialists in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department. The Auxin Herbicides-Best Management Practices training is just one example of their exemplary extension impacts. Since 2017, 10,839 pesticide applicators have received the training, which has been invaluable to protecting high value crops in NC.

NC Fruit Extension Team's Award of Distinction

Committee: Dr. Hannah Burrack, Paige Burns Clark, Bill Cline, Dr. Mark Hoffman, Dr. Daniel Tregale.

The NC FET seeks to recognize agents with outstanding programs in support of the fruit industry in North Carolina. County agents, cross county agents, area agents, and program assistants from all subject matter areas (horticulture, FCS, 4-H) are eligible.

Award winners for 2020 are:

1st place:

Kathryn Holmes

Kathryn has served as the horticulture agent for Rockingham County for over 25 years. Her vast knowledge of best management practices and array of innovative programs have made tremendous positive impacts on the farmers she works with. Kathryn's programs have made Extension a trusted and valuable resource in the region.

2nd place:

Matthew Lenhardt

Matt started with Extension in Iredell County in 2016. His programming provides production information and hones the skills of his growers resulting in improved profitability. Matt also works directly with new producers, such as a dairy farmer who experimented with a small strawberry operation which he is expanding due to the project's success.

3rd place:

Johnny Coley

After a career in the nursery industry, Johnny became a cross county horticulture agent in Granville and Person Counties in 2016. His program helps growers improve production, while his work reviving a Paw-Paw variety trial and blueberry trial at the near-by Oxford Research Station, provide opportunities for training and demonstration.

2020 Epsilon Sigma Phi Xi Awards

Epsilon Sigma Phi Team Award "Backyard Ag 101" Virtual Program

Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is an honorary Extension fraternity recognizing excellence in the Cooperative Extension community. It provides opportunities for networking, fellowship and collaborative efforts. It fosters standards of excellence in the Extension System and develops the Extension profession and professional. North Carolina's Xi Chapter includes members from North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University.

Summary Statement

Team members Johnny Coley , Horticulture Extension Agent (Granville), William Landis, ANR Extension Agent, (Franklin/Warren), Paul McKenzie, Horticulture Extension Agent, (Vance/Warren), Matthew Place, Livestock/Field Crops Extension Agent (Warren) and Kim Woods, Livestock Extension Agent (Granville/Person) planned and implemented a virtual series, Backyard Ag 101, in order to provide information to people with beginning and/or small scale agricultural or horticultural interests. This was especially timely due to the Covid-19 outbreak limiting in-person training while at the same time compelling individuals to become more self-sufficient due to perceived food shortages. Attendance was high and evaluations were so positive that a second round was also implemented.

County Performance Awards

Northeast District--Currituck County

Summary Statement:

The Currituck County Extension staff have launched a number of innovative programs during the COVID-19 pandemic that have kept Extension at the forefront of non-formal education in Currituck County and the region. Staff has come together to utilize the situation as an opportunity and a catalyst to develop new skills, try new delivery methods, and reach audiences that have never before attended extension programs. These efforts have been met with great success.

South Central District--Anson County

Summary Statement:

With little to no training, all staff has implemented the use of Constant Contact, programmatic video, text messaging and video calls to maintain contact to clients. Staff

have kept groups involved by participating in food pantry drives, tornado relief drive, participation in pesticide training and program workshops. Parents and youth are using virtual format to attend an eight-week series that targets the whole family component to improve behavior and parenting skills. Sending out informational flyers to county employees have increased interest and participation for future programs with many first-time participants. Collaboration efforts with cross county programs have also been initiated. is ever present and during these times it is critical. This year, Anson staff has grown, expanded and maneuvered to ensure clients and citizens of the county are being served. Being amateur in the technology world, we came together, attacked the issue and created our new path for programming. We are a small staff, but together we have become a mighty force that have made lasting impacts in our county with implemented outreach strategies.