



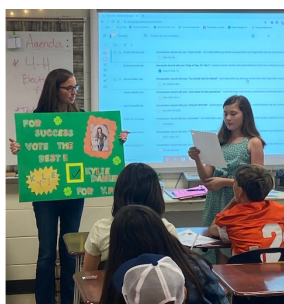
CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION



IN-SCHOOL 4-H CLUB MEETINGS & CLOVERLEAF 4-H OFFICERS

In school 4-H club meetings are the core of 4-H programming and provide students leadership experiences and hands-on learning. Students engage in group activities that promote personal development, a sense of citizenship, and character education.

Candler County 4-H partners with the Candler County Charter School System to see all 4th-6th grade students in Candler County. This is approximately 475 students. 7th-8th graders at Metter Middle School are also able to participate in monthly in-school 4-H meetings. During the fall semester, we had 104 in school 4-H club meetings.



4-H provides an outlet for young people to develop public speaking and leadership skills through the 4-H Officer program. **241 students campaigned to become elected as a 4-H officer and 100 of those were elected.**

62 of our 100 Cloverleaf 4-H Officers completed Officer Training in September. These students participated in team building activities to learn more about communication, leadership, and working together. Each month they speak in front of their peers in class when we start our 4-H meetings.



In addition to officer elections, other topics have been taught during in-school club meetings:

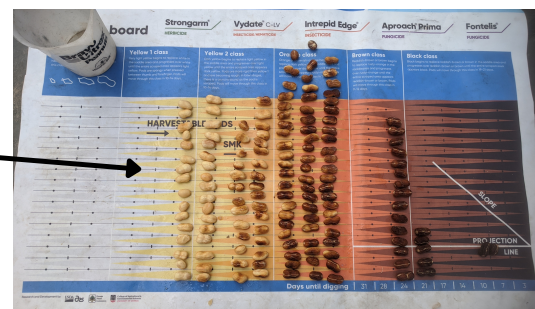
- Introduction to 4-H
- Public Speaking
- Agriculture
- Soils
- Leadership
- Communication



PEANUT MATURITY CLINICS

Peanut Maturity Clinics are a very important service that Extension Agents provide in peanut producing counties. Judging when to dig peanuts to maximize profitability can be a challenge, and is not an exact science. To check peanuts for maturity, 4 samples of 3-5 peanut plants per sample are pulled up from different areas within a field. These samples are then inspected for leaf disease, pod strength, and overall plant health. The peanuts from these plants are picked from the vines until a 32 oz. cup is filled. The peanuts are then placed into a mesh basket and blasted with a pressure washer for approximately 90 seconds. This removes the outer portion of the hull to reveal different shell colors that coordinate with a stage of maturity.

The peanuts are then placed one by one onto a **peanut maturity board** and judged by the overall percentage of mature peanuts.



This process is often repeated 2-3 times to monitor the growth stage of the peanuts to ensure digging is done at the optimal time. When the peanuts are at optimal maturity, agents and growers discuss the current weather forecast and determine a time window to dig their peanuts. **This process is important because digging too early or too late could cause yield losses of 300-1000 lbs. depending on the weather and crop conditions.** The estimated price per ton of peanuts was \$500/ ton so a loss of 500 lbs. would cost the grower \$125 per acre. On a farm that grows 300 acres of peanuts that would equal \$37,500 in lost revenue. This year the Candler/Evans ANR Agent conducted peanut maturity clinics at the Evans Office, Candler Peanut, and on farms. **The ANR Agent, Ross Greene, made 42 face to face contacts to check 64 peanut samples in Candler County, and made 31 face to face contacts to check 52 samples in Evans County for a total of 115 peanut maturity samples completed for the 2021 year. The total number of peanut acres planted for the 2021 crop year were 5,422 acres in Candler County and 1,602 acres in Evans County.**



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LOCAL RESEARCH TRIALS

For over 100 years, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension has provided free, reliable, research-based information based on the latest scientific research.

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA FORESTRY FIELD DAY

The Southeast Georgia Forestry Field Day was held on November 2, 2021 at the Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center. The 65 attendees viewed pine tree research plots. These different plots have eight-year-old long leaf pines from several different seed sources located all over the southeastern United States. Each plot had data to show the total height, diameter at breast height, percentage of malformed trees, and percentage of stand loss taken at 3 years of age. This is very important information because it provides pine tree farmers the necessary information to decide

which seedling genetics to purchase in order receive the best performance. When growers are deciding about planting pine trees, they need to pick the best performing genetics possible because they are investing in a 25-50-year crop. One of these best performing varieties for height and yield did not have a great survival rating at planting compared to other varieties, so to achieve the best results they are planting more trees per acre to receive a better final stand. Getting this information into the hands of our pine tree growers is very important to help them with the profitability and sustainability of their tree farms.



VIDALIA ONION VARIETY TRIAL

Vidalia Onions are an important crop for the state of Georgia with over \$100 million in economic impact statewide. Candler and Evans Counties are both included in the 20 counties that are allowed to market their onions as Vidalia Onions. There are many onion varieties and types grown around the world, but in order to be marketed as a Vidalia Onion those varieties must be placed into the official Vidalia Onion Variety Trial to be evaluated for at least 3 growing seasons to see if that variety meets the standards that are expected to be considered an official "Vidalia Onion Variety".

There are approximately 40 varieties that are available for growers to plant as Vidalia Onions and the variety trial has 54 total varieties planted in it right now all of which were hand planted by 6 County Extension Agents, 3 Research Center Staff, and 7 GCI inmates.

Some of these are new varieties being reviewed and others are existing varieties that are being monitored for performance to make sure they are not having issues. The 54 varieties are planted in 20-foot plots and they are replicated 4 times. The plots are also hand clipped and graded by the same crew that does that planting.

Each plot is weighed before and after it is graded to establish a marketable yield for each variety. They are also monitored for disease issues during the grading so if one particular variety has a lot of issues that can be documented. This data collected from this report is published for growers and industry workers to use in making their planting decisions. The Candler/Evans ANR Agent, Ross Greene, along with other agents from the UGA Onion Research Team seeded the onion plots on September 27, 2021 and transplanted them into the variety trial on November 30, 2021.

This plot will be harvested and graded in May of 2022.

LAB SERVICES

Sample Type	Number Submitted
Soil	38
Plant Tissue	4
Microbiology	2
Feed & Forage	6
Water & Pond	7
Animal Waste	1
Total	58



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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

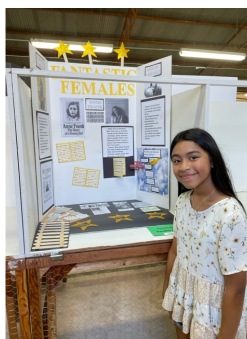
KIWANIS OGEECHEE FAIR MINI-BOOTHS

Each year the Kiwanis Ogeechee Fair provides 4-H'ers the opportunity to showcase their knowledge of a topic of their choice. 4-H'ers choose a topic to research and then create an educational display. These displays are viewed by fair patrons throughout the week and 4-H'ers are able to earn awards and prize money.

21 Candler County 4-H'ers exhibited mini-booths, many of which were recognized for their superior quality. In the Cloverleaf Division, Gavin Braswell won Best Floor Display. In the Junior Division, Alexis Driggers won Most Educational. In the Senior Division, Mady Martin won Grand Champion, Makahyla Meade won Reserve Champion and Aubrey Waters won Most Original Topic.

Jaxson Douglas won 1st place and Natalie Edenfield won 3rd place in the Cloverleaf Agriculture category. Agatha Grimes won 1st and Presley Douglas won 2nd in the Senior Agriculture category. Mady Martin won the Senior Gardening category.

Following the fair, 4-H'ers also displayed their mini-booths in the lobby of Queensborough Bank for local residents to view. A Business After Hours event was held to highlight the work of these 4-H'ers.



COTTON BOLL & CONSUMER JUDGING TEAM

Participating in educational judging events helps 4-H'ers learn to make and defend decisions, work with a group, and to speak in public. These events provide an opportunity for 4-H'ers to learn about a variety of topics while gaining valuable life skills.

Candler County had 3 students, Zoie Daughtry, Presley Douglas and Agatha Grimes, compete at the District CBCJ Contest held on November 10. *This was all of their first time participating in this contest!* These students gained knowledge about cotton as an agricultural crop and about four every day consumer items. They placed 1st at District and advanced to state where they earned 10th place. Congratulations!



OTHER 4-H HIGHLIGHTS

This fall was a busy time of growth, learning and fun for Candler County 4-H members. Some of the other activities and events that we participated in:

- **Cloverleaf Fall Break Fun Day - 17 students**
- **Celebrated National 4-H Week in October**
- **Georgia 4-H Day at the Georgia National Fair - 20 students**
- **Fall Livestock Shows - 10 students**
- **Project S.A.F.E. 4-H BB - 9 students**
- **Project S.A.F.E. 4-H Shotgun - 9 students**
- **Junior Conference at Rock Eagle - 8 students**
- **Weekend in the Classic City Conference at UGA - 3 students**
- **Cloverleaf Peanutrition Fun Day - 7 students**
- **Fall Forum Conference at Rock Eagle - 5 students**
- **Teen Leader Training - 6 students**



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COMMUNITY & SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS



Candler County Extension participated in several school events including:

- Sponsorship of MES Pumpkin Reading Carnival
- MES Trunk or Treat
- MES Heritage Days Cotton Lesson
- MES FIRST LEGO League Robotics

Candler County Extension hosted and participated in several community events including:

- Co-Hosted Southeast Georgia Show Goat Clinic
- Co-Hosted Candler County Farm Tour
- Visited Boys & Girls Club
- Visited Guido Gardens Silver Servants
- Hosted pumpkin painting at Witches Night Out
- National Night Out
- Lighting of Metter



DAUGHTRY NAMED MASTER 4-H'ER

In December, Zoie Daughtry earned a seat to attend National 4-H Conference in March 2022, leading her to be named a Master 4-H'er.

National Conference, held each year in Washington, D.C., is an opportunity for high-school aged youth to increase their knowledge, resources and skills while discussing topics affecting youth nationwide. Delegates are empowered to create positive social change in their communities.



CONNECT WITH US!



912-685-2408



**Candler County
UGA Cooperative Extension**



@candler4h



www.extension.uga.edu/candler



Scan with phone camera for more 4-H information

CANDLER COUNTY EXTENSION TEAM



Susannah Lanier
CEC/4-H Extension Agent



Ross Greene
ANR Extension Agent



Kate Duggan
Administrative Assistant



Mary Emma Gainous
4-H AmeriCorps Member



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