**2021 Program Impact Summary Report
January 2022**

*NC Cooperative Extension in Pender County is a cooperative agreement between federal, state and local governments to bring research-based education to the citizens of Pender County. North Carolina State University (65 departments) and North Carolina A & T State University (8 departments) have 400 faculty who receive Cooperative Extension funding at the federal and state level to conduct research and support the work of Extension Agents at the county level. In addition, NC Cooperative Extension has offices in all 100 North Carolina Counties, allowing Pender County Extension Agents to draw on this expertise as well. And with more experience using video conferencing the expertise and experience of these faculty is more readily available to Pender County residents than ever before.*

*Pender County’s Extension program has five full time staff: County Director and Field Crops Agent, Consumer Horticulture and Local Foods Agent, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Administrative Assistant and the Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) Program Assistant and two part time staff: the 4-H and Empowering Youth and Families (EYFP) program assistant (PA’s). On average these positions are funded at a 50:50 split between NC State University and Pender County government.*

*Covid continues to influence education programming efforts but in 2021 Agents and PA’s worked face to face with 5,626 clients. We offered 192 programs offering 1,287 hours of instruction. They also met face to face in one-on-one meetings or office visits with an additional 4,761 clients. Agents and PA’s also shared research-based information via social media, email, telephone and websites with an estimated 411,395 individuals (up 234% from 2020). Through fund raising and program sponsorships, and volunteer commitments, Agents and staff raised $23,201 in grants, fund-raising and an additional $97,348 volunteer time and in-kind donations to support Extension programs in Pender County.*

*The Agriculture, Consumer Horticulture and Local Foods and Environment and Natural Resource agents consulted with and conducted on-site and in-person education programs to address crop production, forestry, storm water and landscaping problems in for Pender County residents. The Consumer Horticulture Agent and Pender County Extension Master Gardener volunteers maintain flower beds around the Ag Building, the Burgaw and Hampstead Libraries and assist with gardening and maintenance at Poplar Grove Plantation. Their efforts (65 active volunteers) saved county residents $90,281 in county employee labor in 2021. Three, on-farm research demonstrations were conducted in 2021. One got planted but was flooded out and not harvested, a second never got planted due to untimely rains in July and the third began in December 2021.*

*The 4-H Youth Development program organized and led 24 summer day camp activities, livestock shows, district and state activity and demonstration events, teen leadership retreats and teen council programs and other county, district and state activities.* *More than 500 youth participated, and 26 adult volunteer leaders contributed 270 volunteer hours (at the federal volunteer rate of $25.98/hour) saving Pender County $7,015 in program support. The 4-H Juntos program, which focused on helping Latino youth at Pender High School work towards higher education opportunities, was dissolved in 2021 due to conflicts between NCSU and Pender County Schools. There are five active 4-H clubs in Pender County with 83 youth participating. The Holly Shelter 4-H Shooting Sports club had one member become a national champion in pistol shooting at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship in pistol in Omaha, Nebraska. Thirty 4-H youth participated in the annual goat show at the Cape Fear Fair and Expo. Fourteen youth and eleven adults helped decorate and represent Pender County 4-H in the Burgaw Christmas parade.*

*Our Administrative Assistant – Reatha Hoffman – will be retiring Jan 31, 2022, after 27 years of service to NCSU and Pender County Cooperative Extension. Please stop by the Agriculture Building on January 28, 2022, to congratulate Reatha on her retirement and to thank her for her years of dedication to the citizens of Pender County. We will miss her.*