

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 4, 2023**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT: Les Hipp, Vice Chairman
Karl Sease, Council Member
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator
Katie Werts, Director of Planning and Development Services
Joanie Winters, County Attorney
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director
Donna Lominack, Auditor
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Jessie Long, Director of Parks and Recreation
Captain Ben Chapman, NCSO
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

ABSENT: Todd Johnson, Chairman

MEDIA: Orion Griffin, The Newberry Observer

Mr. Hipp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Scurry led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hipp said he was sitting in for Mr. Johnson who was with his son at a national golf tournament.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda

- a. Newberry County Council Public Safety and Courts Committee Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2023.
 - b. Newberry County Council Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2023.
 - c. Newberry County Council Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2023.
- Mr. Shealy made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Mr. Reeder gave the second and the motion passed 5-0.

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda.

- Mr. Sease made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Scurry and was approved 5-0.

3. Public Appearances:

a. Alana West - Newberry County 4-H.

- Ms. West came before council to give an update on Newberry County 4-H and provide highlights of what they do for youth in Newberry County.
- Ms. West said 4-H is not what it used to be 100 years ago, and they are more than cows and cooking and they provide different program areas through different delivery modules. They are open to youth 5-18 and utilize certified volunteers. Their program areas include animals and agriculture, natural resources, civic engagement and leadership, healthy lifestyles, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Ms. West added that their delivery modules include traditional clubs, camps or workshops, school enrichment programs and independent projects.
- Ms. West said their goal, as mandated by National 4-H, is to reach 20% of the youth in the county. If they do reach the 20%, she said the staff at South Carolina 4-H ask that they top that by 10% the following year. In

Newberry County, that target audience is 7,251 youth of which last program year they reached 1,811, right at 25% of the target audience. Of that, 85% were non-Hispanic, 15% Hispanic; 69% white, 28% African American and 3% other; 51% male and 49% female. Ms. West said if you compare those with Newberry County demographics, they are spot on.

- Ms. West said they have 76 kids participating in eight clubs (three shooting sports clubs, three cooking clubs, a sewing club and last year a virtual travel club).
- Ms. West said they had 68 youth participating in camps or workshops. She said school enrichment numbers are much higher with 1,727 participants. Ms. West said they had 27 children participating in independent projects last year.
- Ms. West said the money they receive from the government are to fund salaries, not necessarily to run programs. She said they had a lot of grants – over \$5,000 and they received in-kind gifts of over \$5,000 and over \$2,000 in generated revenue.
- Ms. West expressed her appreciation for the support the county gives 4-H and hopes that support continues.
- Mr. Reeder said he appreciates everything Ms. West does with 4-H and said he was in the program during his youth.
- Mr. Sease thanked her for a job well done and an excellent presentation.
- Mr. Hipp said that Ms. West was not only prepared but knows her work and said she knew a lot of statistics without having to think about them.

4. A Proclamation recognizing October 6, 2023, as *National Manufacturing Day*, and October 6-13, 2013, as *National Manufacturing Week*.

- Mr. Hipp read the Proclamation as follows: “WHEREAS, Newberry County is home to nearly 40 manufacturing firms, representing the largest business sector in our community, and employing more than 5,300 of our people; and WHEREAS, Manufacturing is one of the highest-paying business sectors in our community, averaging an annual salary of about \$58,000 per year or about \$29 per hour; and WHEREAS, combined these manufacturing businesses produce an annual payroll of more than \$300 million per year; and WHEREAS, Newberry County

has one of the largest manufacturing workforces in the State of South Carolina, accounting for more than 27% of our workforce, more than double the state's 12% and more than triple the nation's 8.4%; and WHEREAS, Manufacturing is the vanguard of local economies, leading to more new jobs and investment outside the manufacturing sector; and WHEREAS, in the last decade, Newberry County has welcomed 13 new manufacturing companies into our county, representing more than \$726 million in investment, and the creation of 1,690 new jobs; and WHEREAS, Newberry County's existing manufacturers have expanded 18 times in the last decade, investing more than \$241 million and creating more than 510 new jobs; and WHEREAS, five of the top 10 taxpaying businesses in the county are manufacturers, supporting local government, emergency response and local schools. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the County Council of the County of Newberry that October 6 shall be National Manufacturing Day, and October 6 through 13, 2023 shall be National Manufacturing Week in recognition of the many benefits and contributions of our manufacturing sector."

- Mr. Hipp said in addition to the Proclamation, Newberry County historically is one of the lowest and sometimes the lowest in the state for unemployment. He said we have a lot of other sectors that contribute to the economy, including the farm sector and many others.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to adopt the Proclamation, Mr. Shealy gave the second and the motion was approved 5-0.

5. **Ordinance No. 08-01-2023. An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the official zoning map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01 as revised and amended by Zoning Ordinance 06-11-16 and codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, establishes zoning classification and districts as to rezone two (2) real estate parcels totaling twelve and twenty-nine hundredths (12.29) acres designated as TMS No. 290-16 and TMS No. 290-12 from LC-Limited Commercial To RG-General Residential.**

a. Public Hearing

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 4, 2023

MINUTES

PAGE 4

- Mr. Hipp declared the public hearing open. With no one signing up or standing up to speak, Mr. Hipp declared the public hearing closed.

b. Third Reading

- Mr. Sease made a motion to approve the third reading, Mr. Reeder gave the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

6. Ordinance No. 08-02-2023. An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the official zoning map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01 as revised and amended by Zoning Ordinance 06-11-16 and codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, establishes zoning classification and districts as to rezone one (1) real estate parcel totaling two (2) acres designated as TMS No. 530-13 from LC - Limited Commercial to R2-Rural.

a. Public Hearing

- Mr. Hipp declared the public hearing open. With no one signing up or standing up to speak, Mr. Hipp declared the public hearing closed.

b. Third Reading

- Mr. Shealy made a motion to approve the third reading, Mr. Scurry gave the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

7. Ordinance No. 09-01-2023. An Ordinance authorizing the creation of a Capital Projects Account; authorizing an amendment to the Master Agreement governing the Greenwood-Newberry Industrial Park; authorizing the county to retain certain Fee-In-Lieu of Tax revenues to fund the Capital Projects Account; and other related matters.

a. Third Reading

- Mr. Reeder made a motion to approve the third reading, Mr. Sease gave the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

8. Ordinance No. 10-01-2023. An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the official zoning map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 12-24-01 as revised and amended by Zoning Ordinance No. 06-11-16 and codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances, establishes zoning classification and districts as to rezone one (1) real estate parcel totaling one (1) acre designated as TMS No. 339-1-10 from RG-General Residential to R2-Rural.

a. First Reading

- Ms. Werts said that on the property is a vacant, old building and the current owner wants to utilize the building for storage. However, under RG that is not allowed. Staff recommended the rezoning, and the Planning Commission approved the request.
- The rezoning will allow the owner to utilize the building for storage.
- Mr. Sease made the motion to approve the first reading and Mr. Scurry gave the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

9. Ordinance No. 10-02-2023. An Ordinance adopting the Newberry County Fire Protection and Prevention Code, providing for periodic inspections and enforcement of the code, and establishing a process for appeals and penalties for violations.

a. First Reading

- Ms. Werts said they have made an official hire for their fire marshal and this ordinance allows for the fire marshal to go into county

businesses and conduct periodic inspections. This ordinance will adopt the International Fire Codes and Administrative Chapters. Ms. Werts added that when the state adopts the new additions to the code, this ordinance will adopt the additions as well.

- Ms. Werts said this ordinance also gives the fire marshal the ability to write summons if a violation is found on the property and the business owner does not correct. Ms. Werts said they will have an opportunity to appeal to a Construction and Fire Board that will be created in a couple of weeks by ordinance.
- Ms. Werts said the fire marshal can write a citation, if needed.
- Mr. Hipp asked if this was strictly for businesses; Ms. Werts answered in the affirmative.
- Mr. Hipp asked if this was something common throughout South Carolina; Ms. Werts answered in the affirmative.
- Mr. Shacker said they currently conduct commercial fire inspections through the county's volunteer fire departments, and this will remove that burden from the volunteer fire chiefs. Mr. Shacker added that at times, if a re-inspection is warranted, the individual who did the initial inspection was not the same person conducting the re-inspection and this ordinance would ensure the same person is doing that.
- Mr. Shacker said the board referenced will also hear any building code appeals the county receives.
- Ms. Werts said the fire marshal will reach out to the local station and give them the option to conduct the inspection with him at the business.
- Mr. Hipp asked if this was in the current budget; Ms. Werts answered in the affirmative.
- Mr. Sease asked about the hierarchy of the position; Mr. Shacker said the salary was moved into Ms. Werts' budget, and they made the determination that the position would be in her department as it is a code related position.
- Mr. Reeder made the motion to approve the first reading, Mr. Sease gave the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

10. Consideration of a motion to authorize the submission of an application to the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) for a Parks and Recreation Development Fund (PARD) grant to make improvements to Lynch's Woods Park.

- Ms. Long said the scope of the work for the project being submitted is a quarter mile bike path that will have fun elements incorporated throughout, a 16x24 outdoor educational structure that will have a classroom space, benches and storage and she said they are looking to get bicycles for younger youth and safety gear.
- Ms. Long said this project is estimated at a total of \$48,000 and this grant is an 80% reimbursable grant. She said the grant portion will be \$38,400 and county portion \$9,600.
- Mr. Sease asked if this was separate from the previous project that was on the news. Ms. Long said that was correct and this will be in a different portion of the park.
- Mr. Shacker said this would just be asking for council's authorization to submit the grant application with the understanding any decisions to accept the grant, as well as budgeting the revenues and expenditures, would come back to council for consideration.
- Mr. Shacker said they are recommending the council consider establishing a special revenue fund for Lynch's Woods. This would be dedicated to the park, and there is seed money that the county has had for years (when the park was deeded to the county) and money from the Spartan Race.
- Mr. Hipp asked before it comes back to council for final approval, he would want to know if the bicycles and safety gear element would require an additional person. Ms. Long said they already have a part-time person who works in Lynch's Woods, and they are not looking to add another person, at this time.
- Mr. Reeder made a motion to authorize Ms. Long to submit the application, Mr. Sease gave the second. The motion was approved 5-0.
- Ms. Long reminded council about the Kids in Park Grand Opening on October 25 in Lynch's Woods.

11. Appointments

a. Board of Zoning Appeals – District 6.

- Mr. Scurry made a motion to appoint Mr. Sam Ziady to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Mr. Reeder gave the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

12. Executive Session.

- Not needed.

13. Public Comments.

- Ms. Lominack said on September 26th, the staff of the Auditor's Office opened the tax books and put them in the mail. She said 32,741 records went out for a total bill of \$45,358,149.02 (school and county). She said she wanted the council to know the Auditor's Office has gotten it done with the help of the county assessor.
- Mr. John Valosen, of Blade Runner Road, Prosperity, spoke about his difficulty getting fiber internet to his area of the county and asked if the county could assist.

14. Comments/Requests from County Administrator.

- Mr. Shacker gave an update on the Capital Project Sales Tax; he said last week they went through the process to recommend an architectural firm to design the projects. He said when you select an architect you do so based on qualifications because state law prohibits choosing based on price. He said staff are in the process of zeroing in on those fees to bring back to

council for a recommendation. He said as of right now, it looks like they will recommend two firms because it would be difficult for one to design all those projects.

- Mr. Shacker said they have the proposals in from vendors for the general ledger software and the county received five bids. He said they are in the process of reviewing and as quickly as they can, will bring a recommendation to council.
 - Mr. Hipp asked which employees were on the committee to choose the software. Mr. Shacker said the committee consisted of Karen Lindler-Smith (County Treasurer), Debbie Cromer (Finance Director), Eric Nieto (I.T. Director), Crystal Waldrop (Purchasing Director), Karen Brehmer (Deputy County Administrator) and himself.
 - Mr. Hipp said that is a good cross-section of everyone who should be there.

15. Comments/Requests from Council.

- Mr. Scurry said it was good to be here.

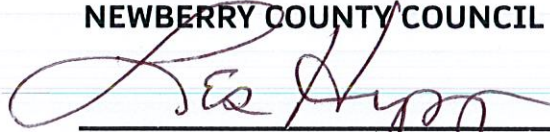
16. Future meetings:

- a. Newberry County Council – October 18 at 6 p.m.
- b. Newberry County Council – November 1 at 6 p.m.
- c. Executive Committee – November 6 at 6 p.m.
- d. Newberry County Council Goal Setting Session – November 9 at 6 p.m.
- e. Veterans Day – Offices Closed - November 10

17. Adjournment

- At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Shealy made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Reeder gave the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Les Hipp, Vice-Chairman



Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council

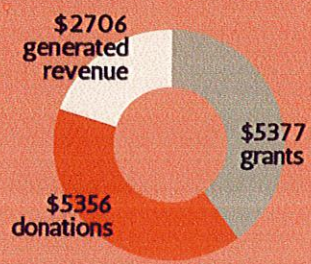
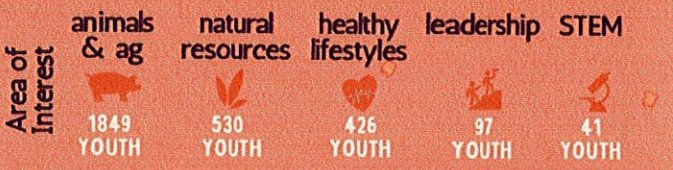
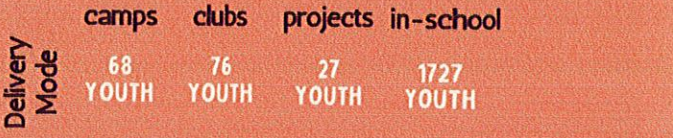
Minutes Approved: 10/18/2023



NEWBERRY COUNTY 4-H

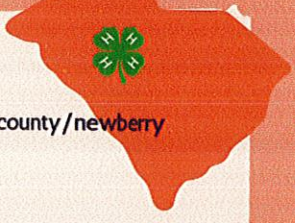
2022-2023 REVIEW

Over **1800** total participants (25% of youth ages 5-18)
+ 229 from previous year



82 adult volunteers
+ 7 from previous year

4-H Agent, Alana W. West
 awillin@clermson.edu
 803.768.8442
www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/county/newberry
 @NewberryCounty4-H



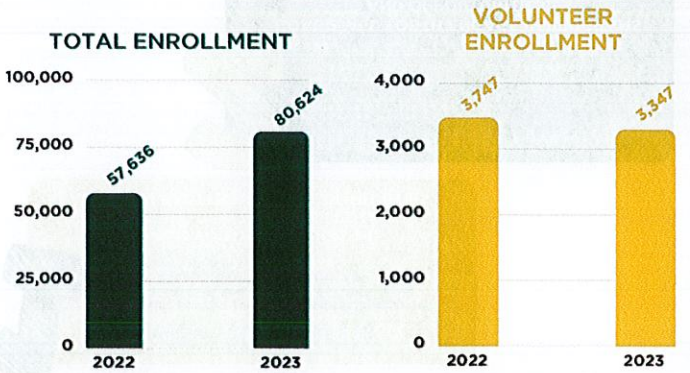
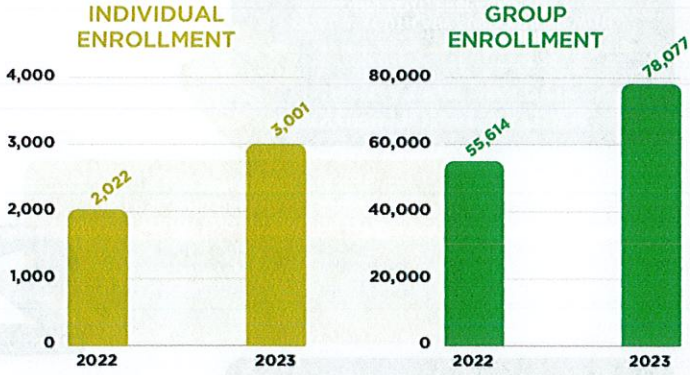
Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.



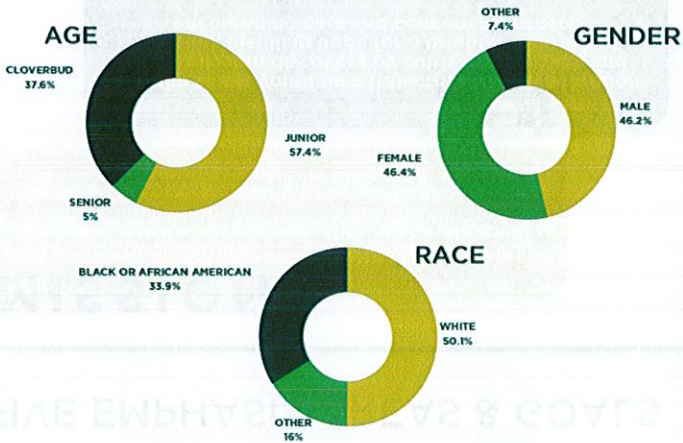
SOUTH CAROLINA 4-H A SNAPSHOT

4HOnline Enrollment

For years ending in 2022 and 2023



2023 DEMOGRAPHICS



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS ARE OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, RACES, ETHNICITIES, COLORS, GENDERS, RELIGIONS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITIES, POLITICAL BELIEFS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, MARITAL OR FAMILY STATUS AND ALL OTHER CHARACTERISTICS.



CLEMSON® PSA IMPACT REPORT - NEWBERRY COUNTY

All data reported below on Clemson University Cooperative Extension & PSA operations in Newberry County was collected from unit University reports and reporting systems for FY 2021-22.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

www.clemson.edu/Newberry

County Coordinator: Alana West

1860 Wilson Road, Newberry

Program Participation* (an individual participating in multiple sessions of programs or different programs may be counted more than once in the program measures listed below)

138 educational programs, individual lessons, and workshops conducted using direct methods

134 4-H Youth Development **1** Forestry & Wildlife
3 Livestock & Forages

1,415 people participating in educational programs

1326 4-H Youth Development **35** Forestry & Wildlife
54 Livestock & Forages

1,595 reporting increase in knowledge (from educational programs)

1506 4-H Youth Development **35** Forestry & Wildlife
54 Livestock & Forages

1,436 reporting use of information received for reported programs

1436 4-H Youth Development

1,358 other educational contacts

(individuals receiving information by phone, office, and/or farm visits)

12 Forestry & Wildlife **1339** Horticulture
4 Livestock & Forages **3** Water Resources

1 participant in Extension New & Beginning Farmer Program 2018-22

Volunteer Information

4 Master Gardener volunteers

17.25 Master Gardener volunteer hours

75 4-H volunteers (4-H information taken from ES237 federal report September 2021-August 2022)

450 4-H volunteer hours (estimated at 6 hours per volunteer)

\$12,424.18 Total value of volunteer hours worked

(Volunteer value in South Carolina estimated at \$26.59 per hour. Source: Independent Sector)

Clemson Extension's "Making It Grow" Television Show in 29th Year

According to the South Carolina Educational Television State Accountability Report for FY2020-21, "Making it Grow", a joint production of Clemson University Cooperative Extension and South Carolina Educational Television, was the network's most viewed local show. The Telly award-winning weekly gardening program is in its 29th year. According to Trac Media, an average of 8,398 households* in the SCETV broadcast area viewed each episode in the calendar year of 2021.

Making it Grow is also livestreamed on Facebook and has a lifetime post total reach of 1,387,185.

* This number is conservative as it does not account for the SC Channel and only represents one episode's viewing.



Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

LIVESTOCK POULTRY HEALTH

www.clemson.edu/lph

Clemson Livestock Poultry Health (LPH) serves as South Carolina's animal health authority, state meat and poultry inspection department, and the state's veterinary diagnostic center. LPH has a major role in protecting the health of food animals (beef, poultry, swine, etc.) and other livestock and preserves access to domestic and export markets. These critical services significantly impact economic activity in the state's agribusiness industry. Livestock, poultry, and products represent 64% of agricultural products sold in South Carolina. The state ranks 9th in the nation in sales of poultry and eggs, with a market value of \$1.6 billion (USDA 2017 Census).

LPH Certificates of Veterinary Inspections (CVI*): 350

Livestock: 578 Equine: 120 Poultry: 1,265,781 Other: 25
 Total animals included on all CVIs in county: 1,266,504

*CVI are required for interstate movement of animals across state borders. Livestock & Poultry Health has authority over processing and monitoring CVIs to ensure they meet all requirements in the law or regulation. One certificate may include more than one animal.

LPH SC Meat-Poultry inspection department facilities inspected:

Processing only: 1 Total : 1

Emergency Preparedness, Response, & Recovery: LPH is the primary agency for Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF-17) of the State Emergency Operations Plan that involves animal and agriculture emergency response. LPH partners with several support agencies to help the State Emergency Management Division and the Governor coordinate statewide resources needed to support South Carolina citizens in all hazards and disasters. LPH, Regulatory and Extension personnel manage the ESF-17 desk at the Emergency Operations Center.

South Carolina Assists Other States with Animal Evacuations During Hurricane Ida

South Carolina officials issued a temporary waiver of certain requirements for farm and companion animals being evacuated due to Hurricane Ida. The action was requested by agriculture officials in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, where **Hurricane Ida** made landfall as a major storm. South Carolina and states throughout the Southeast took similar action during past hurricanes to save the lives of valuable livestock and pets. The waivers apply only to animals being evacuated from the hurricane.



REGULATORY SERVICES

www.clemson.edu/regulatory

The responsibilities of Regulatory Services include the eradication and prevention of plant pests; regulation of pesticides and fertilizers; seed, turfgrass and organic certification; and inspection of shipment and sale of trees, plants and shrubs. (Source: South Carolina Code of Laws Section 46-9-10)

PESTICIDE REGULATION

139 Licenses 34 Inspections 780 Pesticide Sample Analysis

AGRICULTURAL TESTING & ANALYSIS

939 Soil Samples 7 Animal Feed & Forage Samples
 55 Animal Waste Samples 1 Plant Tissue Sample

PLANT INDUSTRY

10 Grower Nursery Inspections 16 Dealer Nursery Inspections
 5 Nursery Compliance Agreements 3 Fertilizer Inspections

DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

3 Plant & Turf Problem Diagnosis 5 Nematode Assay

Preventing Spread of Asian Longhorned Beetle

The Department of Plant Industry continued work on the state's largest coordinated response to an **invasive species**. Since 2020, 6,781 infested and high-risk trees have been removed on properties in Charleston, Hollywood, and Johns Island in Charleston County and a small portion of Ravenel in Dorchester County.





COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences



Newberry County 4-H Youth Development 2022-23 Annual Report

4-H is a positive youth development program that operates as an arm of the Land Grant University system. Newberry County 4-H is under the umbrella of Clemson University and the Extension Service. 4-H opportunities are available for youth ages 5-18 to participate and for adults to volunteer. Program delivery modes include clubs, camps/workshops, in-school enrichment, and independent projects which cover topics in the fields of animals and agriculture, natural resources, civic engagement and leadership, healthy lifestyles, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

As of 2021 (census.gov), Newberry County: 7251 youth ages 5-19
 9% Hispanic / 92% non-Hispanic
 66% white / 30% black / 4% other
 49% male / 51% female

The 4-H Year runs September 1 through August 31.

Website: www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/county/newberry.html

Facebook: Newberry County 4-H

4-H Agent and County Coordinator, Alana W. West: awillin@clemson.edu, 803.768.8442

Volunteers

- 2022-23: 82
- 2021-22: 75
- 2020-21: 59
- 2019-20: 81
- 2018-19: 74

2022-23 Funding

• Grants	\$5,377
• Gifts/In-Kind	\$5,356
• Generated	\$2,706
Total	\$13,439

NEWBERRY COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

1860 Wilson Road, Newberry, SC 29108

4-H Agent, Alana W. West

P 803-768-8442 | E awillin@clemson.edu

<https://sites.google.com/view/newberry-county-4-h>

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

Public Comments Sign-In Sheet
Newberry County Council
October 4, 2023
6:00pm

NAME-PLEASE PRINT	NAME-PLEASE PRINT
1. Donna Lominack	11.
2. JOHN VALOSEN	12.
3.	13.
4.	14.
5.	15.
6.	16.
7.	17.
8.	18.
9.	19.
10.	20.