

Agriculture & Home Extension (cont'd)

Performance Measures				
	FY15	FY16	FY17	Change 16 to 17
Workload Measures				
Citizens Assisted	26,585	30,469	27,200	(3,269)
Programs Presented	469	412	465	53
4-H Youth Enrolled	2,140	2,000	2,200	200
Samples Analyzed and Identified	800	896	850	(46)
Efficiency Measures				
Volunteer Hours Supporting Programs	16,140	19,864	19,925	61

Throughout the history of Cooperative Extension, volunteers have been a critical resource to extend knowledge to the community. While the university-provided training and expertise of professional staff is necessary for program design and implementation, it is often the volunteer staff that fulfills the service levels expected by citizens.

Volunteers within the 4-H program serve as judges and coordinators for various contests held throughout the year at the local and state levels. Others serve as counselors for camps and conferences held at either the Jamestown 4-H Center or on the campuses of Virginia Tech and Virginia State. Many volunteers serve as club leaders working throughout the year with youth groups that range in size from six to thirty-plus members between the ages of five and nineteen. Each year Henrico Master Gardener volunteers contribute in excess of 7,000 hours to the Environmental Horticulture program and make thousands of citizen contacts by phone and in person. They assist residents who call the Horticulture Helpline, visit the Extension Office, or participate in various educational programs offered throughout the County at a variety of venues. Popular programs include the Speakers' Bureau, Junior Master Gardeners, Gardens Growing Families, SMART Lawns, and Tree Smarts.

The Family and Consumer Sciences program addresses tasks most relevant to the cornerstone of a healthy community: the family unit. This program helps citizens learn to make good choices for themselves and their families in the areas of food,

nutrition, and health & family financial management. Financial education courses teach critical thinking skills related to consumer goals, needs, and wants. The workshops offered teach a range of basic financial concepts including spending plans; understanding credit and financial institutions; and recordkeeping. These classes are held in a variety of settings including churches, schools, and workplaces. Tax preparation assistance is given on an annual basis to those who meet income guidelines, with special focus on the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Nutrition education is provided through community workshops, in-school and afterschool educational programs, and interactive displays at public events. These programs are designed to help citizens make healthy lifestyle choices for nutrition and health. The Family Nutrition Program is designed to teach low income citizens how to make the best use of their food dollars and make healthy dietary choices.

The Agriculture and Home Extension approved budget for FY2016-17 continues to reflect only Henrico County's contribution to the Department's annual expenses. The personnel complement includes two support staff positions. A total of five Extension Agent positions, whose funding is located in the operating portion of the Department's budget, are paid directly by Virginia Tech. Henrico County reimburses Virginia Tech for 100.0 percent of the salary and benefit costs of two Extension Agent positions, and 50.0 percent of the salary and benefit costs of the other three Extension Agent positions.