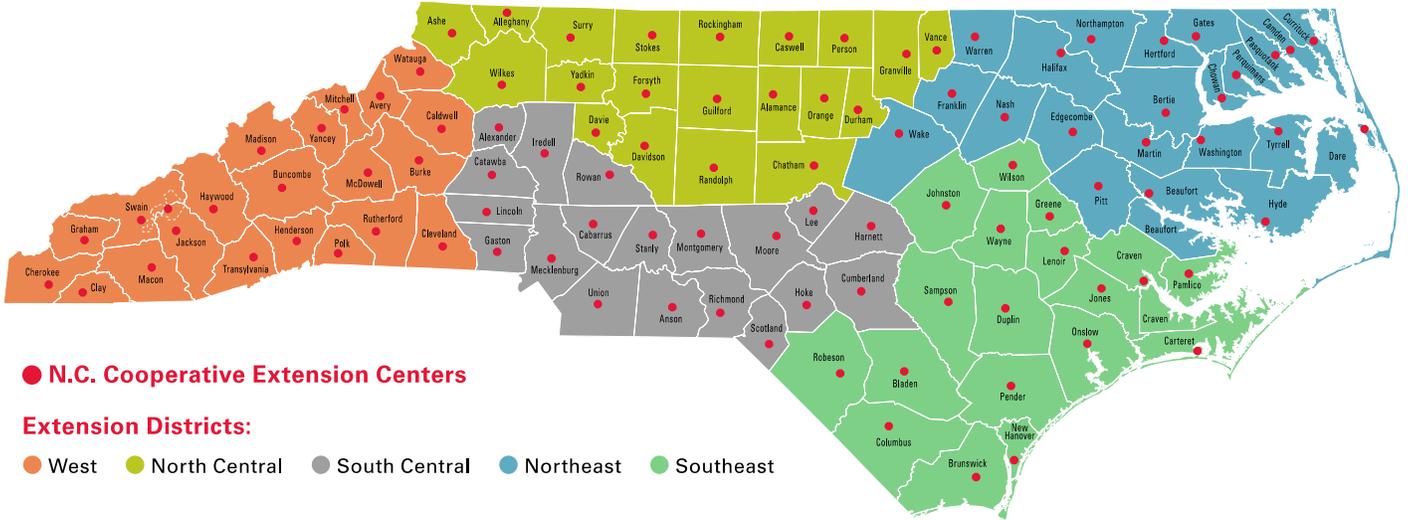


# Extending Knowledge, Enriching Lives

We extend research-based knowledge to all North Carolinians, helping them transform science into everyday solutions that improve their lives and grow our state.



## 101 Local Centers

Extension provides services in every county and the Eastern Band of Cherokee.



We deliver

**19,000+**

educational programs annually.



## \$2.1B Impact

Our annual economic impact on North Carolina, a 27-to-1 return on government investments each year.



## 1,100+ Experts

Subject-matter experts across the state identify local issues, research solutions and transfer results that help communities prosper.

[go.ncsu.edu/ExtensionImpacts](https://go.ncsu.edu/ExtensionImpacts)

# Polk County Center

**OVER 850 HOME GARDENERS AND SMALL FARMERS EDUCATED ON BEST PRACTICES IN 2020**

**OVER 600 YOUTH ENGAGED IN HANDS-ON STEM LEARNING IN 2020**

**OVER 1,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2020**

## THE POLK COUNTY CENTER HAS:

- 4 FULL TIME EMPLOYEES
- RESEARCH GARDEN
- LIVESTOCK PADDOCKS
- DEMONSTRATION KITCHEN
- MULTIPURPOSE AUDITORIUM



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## WE GROW COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Kudzu has long been recognized as an economic and environmental problem in Polk County. In 2020, County Commissioners reached out to Cooperative Extension for education and guidance on the issue.

In addition to speaking to community leaders about kudzu management, our County Extension Director held a class for professional landscapers to train them in removal of kudzu and other invasives. These efforts led to:

- A partnership with the Polk County Appearance Commission to combine resources and info.
- A matching grant program designed to help towns, non-profits, and HOAs with kudzu control.



## WE GROW SELF SUFFICIENCY



With food insecurity at top of the minds of county residents in 2020, our Family and Consumer Sciences agent focused heavily on training the public in different aspects of canning, fermentation, and pickling as ways of preserving foods grown or bought locally. While some socially-distanced, in-person programming was offered, local residents especially appreciated a series of video tutorials created to guide them through preservation basics.

## WE GROW CONNECTION WITH NATURE

With families stuck at home during the pandemic lockdown, the Polk County 4-H Youth Development agent brainstormed ways to get kids outside and interacting with their natural environment. The result of this planning was the creation of a hyperlocal curriculum:

"4-H in Your Polk County Backyard," which connects youth to the soil, plants, insects, and wildlife of their home region using hands-on projects and STEM-focused learning.

