



News Release

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Cooperative Extension

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Cooperative Extension Receives Award For Military Outreach

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Cooperative Extension has received the Local Government Federal Credit Union Excellence in Innovation Award for its programs that support military personnel and their families. The honor included a \$1,000 cash prize that Cooperative Extension will use for military outreach.

The award was presented in August at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners annual conference in Pitt County, and the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners recognized the award-winning team on Oct. 19. Krissy Dubovec, representing the credit union, and Neil Emory of the state association attended the board meeting to congratulate the team, which included Extension agents, Fort Bragg officials and Master Gardener Volunteers.

Cooperative Extension serves military members and their families at Fort Bragg through 4-H Youth Development programs, agricultural training for active military service members and the Warrior Transition Battalion Tranquility Garden for wounded warriors and soldiers in transition.

The 4-H Youth Development program provides training, site visits, technical assistance and daily support to military youth centers in order to increase participation and youth engagement. As a result of the outreach, 42 4-H clubs were chartered at five sites; 65 4-H volunteers were trained and 517 youth enrolled as club members in 2014. Military youth took part in the Cumberland County Fair and earned top prizes in exhibits.

Cooperative Extension trained 60 Civil Affairs soldiers in basic agriculture production. The training, at no cost to the Army, focused on teaching indigenous populations how to rebuild or improve their quality of life in war-torn regions. Extension agents provided hands-on experience to include inspecting livestock for diseases and parasites and small-scale vegetable production.

The Warrior Transition Battalion at Womack Army Medical Center utilized the expert knowledge and services of the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program to restore the Tranquility Garden. The garden is used as a therapeutic activity for wounded soldiers and soldiers in transition. The garden serves the purpose of rehabilitating and providing wounded service members with an occupational skill through their recovery.

Members of the award-winning team are Lisa Childers, Extension Director; George Quigley, Extension Advisory Chairman; Liz Joseph Lahti, Livestock Extension agent; Jessica Drake, Youth 4-H Extension agent; Kenny Bailey, Horticulture Extension agent; U.S. Capt. Sarah Luciano, veterinarian officer; Amy Stidham, Extension Master Gardener volunteer; Amy Walker; and Army Lt. Col. Roy Walker, Warrior Transition Battalion commander.

The Cooperative Extension Office is located in the Agriculture Center, 301 E. Mountain Dr., Fayetteville. For more information, call 910-321-6860 or go to cumberland.ces.ncsu.edu.



From left, Krissy Dubovec of the Local Government Federal Credit Union; Neil Emory of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, George Quigley, Extension Advisory Chairman; Lisa Childers, Cooperative Extension Director; Liz Lahti, Livestock Extension agent; Jessica Drake, Youth 4-H Extension agent; Kenny Bailey, Horticulture Extension agent; Capt. Sarah Luciano, U.S. Army Veterinarian officer; Amy Stidham, Extension Master Gardener volunteer, Amy Walker and Lt. Col. Roy Walker, Warrior Transition Battalion commander, at the Oct. 19 Board of Commissioners meeting. Back row are Commissioners Charles Evans, Larry Lancaster, Marshall Faircloth, Chairman Kenneth Edge, Jeannette Council, Jimmy Keefe and Glenn Adams.