...Madison County Teens As Planners (TAP) program. Because volunteering is vital to the health of public libraries and communities, students volunteered services throughout the summer and school year. To date, five TAP members have logged approximately 150 hours which has saved the library and the county about $1,500.00. “It’s been a delight working with these young men,” said the branch manager. “Their eagerness to help and great attitude makes even the busiest days a pleasure. The expanded building has made staffing tricky, and their assistance frees us up to work directly with the patrons.” The TAP program is funded through USDA NIFA Children, Youth and Families at Risk Sustainable Communities Project (CYFAR-SCP).

...health and nutrition education efforts. Due to the resurgence of consumer interest in locally grown produce at farmer’s markets, Family and Consumer Sciences Agents have developed a series of “Farm, Fresh and Fast” publications to be distributed at local farmer’s markets and u-pick farms to inform consumers how to select, prepare and store fresh fruits and vegetables. Shoppers are more likely to make wiser food choices and save money when provided information on how to use fresh products when they are in season. Research shows increasing fruits and vegetables in our diets can result in lower medical expenses due to improved health and well-being.

...programming in Clarke and Oconee Counties. In 2012, the program provided 40 nutrition and wellness programs, including Cancer Prevention Cooking Schools, Walk-a-Weigh Health and Fitness, and Power to Prevent Diabetes, helping 609 participants adopt new habits, including making healthier food choices and increasing daily physical activity. These practices lead to a healthier body and weight control. This helps our community by reducing healthcare costs over the participant’s lifetime, saving taxpayers money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

...Burke County Employee Health and Wellness Program. Health care costs are a rising portion of the county’s budget and employee health issues can cause poor performance and decrease workplace safety. In an effort to reduce health care costs for the Burke County Board of Commissioners, and improve the health, safety, and well-being of the county’s workforce, the Burke County Family and Consumer Sciences agent implemented a health and wellness screening and education program. Through two events, 232 county employees have been screened for health issues and have been reached with important health and wellness information.