



Anson County Early College Inducts New Class into National Honor Society

This is a release from Anson County Early College: Anson County Early College is proud to announce the induction of a new class of National Honor Society Members. This national organization recognizes outstanding high school students who have demonstrated excellence in service, scholarship, leadership, and character. Our honor society members run the Toys for Tots program at ACEC during the fall semester, Relay for Life in the spring, while being required to conduct a minimum of four hours of community service each month. The Early College chapter is directed by Kristin Park and Jennifer Buckingham, teachers at the school.

Anson County Early College's third National Honor Society induction took place on October 3rd in the South Piedmont Community College auditorium. The criteria for acceptance into the Honor Society includes a minimum 4.2 GPA, both college and high school classes, combined, a history of service and leadership, as well as teacher approval in the area of character.

Honor Society president, McKayla Ricketts welcomed all guests and honorees and other current members led the program. Brooke Stovall, Ben Tillman, Akira LeGrand and Hannah Ross addressed the honor society mission of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

The new members inducted were: Beyonka Berry, Thomas Buckingham, Kaitlin Carpenter, Cheyenne Douglas, Subree Hall, Kurstin Hartsell, Caleb Henry, Gavin Jones, Kaylee Lomax, Patience Marshall, Vontarya McBride, Brianna McCollum, Erin McIntyre, Julian Suriba, Kazoua Thao, Callie Thompson, Nathan Tucker, Amber Walsh, Abigail Ward and Kayli Wilson.

Carri Decker, Principal of ACEC, was the guest speaker. Mrs. Decker is very excited about the large class of new inductees and can't wait to see what this group will accomplish. *Article by Rhonda Benton, Photo by Kristin Park*

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Extension Notes Helping Children Cope With Disasters

Between the regular violence reported on television, the recent hurricanes, and now the shooting in Las Vegas, our young people have had a lot to digest. As adults, we have felt at a loss over how to cope. Just think how those younger than us must feel. Disasters can leave children feeling frightened, confused, and insecure. Whether a child has personally experienced trauma or seen the event on television, it is important for parents to be informed and ready to help ease their child's stress.

According to child psychologists, children may respond to disaster by demonstrating fears, sadness or behavioral problems. Younger children may return to earlier behavior patterns, such as bedwetting, sleep problems and separation anxiety. Older children may also display anger, aggression, school problems or withdrawal. Some children who have only indirect contact with the disaster but witness it on television may develop distress.

Adult behavior, thoughts, and feelings often influence children's reactions. Parents can help meet their child's emotional needs in several ways. Encourage young people to share thoughts and feelings about the incident. Clarify misunderstandings about risk and danger by listening to their concerns and answer questions. Also, maintain a sense of calm by validating children's concerns and perceptions by discussing plans for safety.

Listen to what the child is saying. If a young child is asking questions about the event, answer them simply without the elaboration needed for an adult. Some children are comforted by knowing more or less information than others; decide what level of information your particular child needs.

Try to understand what is causing anxieties and fears. Be aware that following a disaster, children are most afraid that the event will happen again, someone close to them will be killed or injured, or they will be left alone or separated from the family. To help reassure children, personal contact is reassuring. Hug your children. Spend extra time with them such as at bedtime. Re-establish your daily routine for work, school, play, meals, and rest. Involve your children by giving them specific chores to help them feel they are helping to restore family and community life. It also a good idea to monitor or limit exposure to the media. News coverage related to a disaster may elicit fear and confusion and arouse anxiety in children. Particularly for younger children, repeated images of an event may cause them to believe the event is recurring over and over.

If parents allow children to watch television or use the Internet where images or news about the disaster are shown, parents should be with them to encourage communication and provide explanations. This may also include parent's monitoring and appropriately limiting their own exposure to anxiety-provoking information.

By Janine B. Rywak, County Extension Director

USDA Issues Farm Safety Net and Conservation Payments

Total exceeds \$9.6 billion

On October 3 Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced that over \$9.6 billion in payments will be made to producers through the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Conservation Reserve (CRP) programs. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing approximately \$8 billion in payments under the ARC and PLC programs for the 2016 crop year, and \$1.6 billion under CRP for 2017.

"Many of these payments will be made to landowners and producers in rural communities that have recently been ravaged by drought, wildfires, and deadly hurricanes," Perdue said. "I am hopeful this financial assistance will help those experiencing losses with immediate cash flow needs as we head toward the end of the year."

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in revenue or prices for covered commodities. Over half a million producers will receive ARC payments and over a quarter million producers will receive PLC payments for 2016 crops, starting this week and continuing over the next several months.

Payments are being made to producers who enrolled base acres of barley, corn, grain sorghum, lentils, oats, peanuts, dry peas, soybeans, wheat and canola. In the upcoming months, payments will be announced after marketing year average prices are published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service for the remaining covered commodities. Those include long and medium grain rice (except for temperate Japonica rice), which will be announced in November; remaining oilseeds and chickpeas, which will be announced in December; and temperate Japonica rice, which will be announced in early February 2017. The estimated payments are before application of sequestration and other reductions and limits, including adjusted gross income limits and payment limitations.

Also, as part of an ongoing effort to protect sensitive lands and improve water quality and wildlife habitat, USDA will begin issuing 2017 CRP payments this week to over 375,000 Americans.

"American farmers and ranchers are among our most committed conservationists," said Perdue. "We all share a responsibility to leave the land in better shape than we found it for the benefit of the next generation of farmers. This program helps landowners provide responsible stewardship on land that should be taken out of production."

Signed into law by President Reagan in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation program in the United States. Thanks to voluntary participation by farmers and landowners, CRP has improved water quality, reduced soil erosion and increased habitat for endangered and threatened species. In return for enrolling in CRP, USDA, through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Participants enter into contracts that last between 10 and 15 years. CRP payments are made to participants who remove sensitive lands from production and plant certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and increase wildlife habitat.

For more details regarding ARC and PLC programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. For more information about CRP, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp. To locate your local FSA office, visit offices.usda.gov.

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