



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Peanuts to Peanut Butter

Marchant, S.¹ and Varnedore, T.²

The University of Georgia, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

¹ 4-H Agent, Jeff Davis County Cooperative Extension, Hazlehurst, Ga. 31539

² Agriculture Agent, Jeff Davis County Cooperative Extension, Hazlehurst, Ga. 31539



Situation:

Youth of Jeff Davis County are aware of fields and farming. However, when asked to provide detail about specific crops grown in their home county, many youth are unable to identify crops or provide information about how those crops are beneficial. There was an increase of peanut acreage in Jeff Davis County from 1700 to 10,120 over a two year period. A program was necessary to educate youth about the increase and importance of peanuts to the Jeff Davis County citizens.



Extension Response:

As an effort to educate the Home School population (pre-school – 6th grade), Jeff Davis County Extension Agents developed and implemented a series of activities to raise awareness regarding peanuts in the county and state. Classes and exhibits were used to educate this group.



Results:

As a result of this program, youth developed exhibits to showcase the knowledge gained from participation in the Peanuts to Peanut Butter Workshop. Students displayed a variety of educational exhibits that focused on peanuts. Exhibits included such information as economical impact on Jeff Davis County and the State of Georgia and the increase of acreage in the county. Agronomic practices such as parts of the peanut seed and the functions of plants, planting dates, fertility requirements, necessary fungicide sprays used, peanut insects and their control are some examples used for exhibits. Students also included factors related to determining peanut maturity such as digging dates, combining, and drying methods.

Uses of peanuts was another focus area for these displays. 4-H'ers studied the volume of peanuts used in Georgia and the United States. Students learned about different segments of peanut uses including food products, confections and candies, oils, spreads, and livestock feeds. Also, non food uses such as medicines, fire logs, and paint were displayed.

Fifteen students created and displayed six exhibits at the Jeff Davis County Agricultural Fair. These exhibits were viewed by approximately 5,000 visitors during the week. From a total of eighteen exhibits including a variety of topics among the Jeff Davis County 4-H Clubs (grades 1-12 including Home School), the peanut displays received excellent reviews. The display entitled "Peanuts to Peanut Butter" received Best of Show Award. This display focused on the quantity of peanuts grown in Georgia and how they are used in making peanut butter. This first place group was from the Home School Club.

Objectives:

1. Raise awareness of peanuts as a cash crop among Jeff Davis County youth.
2. Utilize the maturity classification procedure (Hull Scrape Method) and its impact on harvest time.
3. Classify uses of peanuts for human consumption, processing and livestock feeds.



Activities:

1. A class was held for Home School. This class used hands-on activities to teach the value and uses of peanuts. Students discovered facts about peanuts using a trivia game format in which they answered questions in groups from a collection of fact cards.
2. Students pulled peanuts from the vines in 32 ounce increments, and blasted using the Hull Scrape Method. Then they placed the scraped peanuts on the Maturity Profile Board where they determined the level of maturity and days until harvest.
3. Students used peanuts to make Old Fashioned Peanut Butter.
4. All members of the class created and displayed a Peanut Exhibit at the County Fair for one week.

