

ACES Coordination of MG Programs, 2003 to 2018

- 2003 – Since inception and through 2003, ACES had a County based system for program delivery. All programs were led by an Extension Agent in the local office (pond mgt, timber mgt, food safety, home horticulture, etc.). Most Agents lead programming in multiple topic areas.
 - Between 1981 and 2003, MG classes were held in 36 Alabama counties
 - Of these, 7 counties held classes once or twice, but did not sustain a local MGA (Washington, Escambia, Butler, Barbour, Lamar, Fayette, Lawrence)
- 2004 – Extension program delivery changed to a regional design and was led by Regional Extension Agents (REAs) from 15 program teams. Each REA is responsible for programming in a single topic area, in multiple counties. Some have full responsibility for these programs in each county, while others work in partnership with an Agent in that County office.
 - Reassignments and new hires created 14 REA positions for Home Grounds, traditional horticulture (the program team that supports MG) – note, this became 13 REAs in 2009
 - Efforts were made to equally distribute MG responsibilities across the 13 REAs. Having more MG programs in some parts of the state compared to others, this was not completely possible, but Agents had the flexibility to manage these responsibilities as the team decided.
 - (see attachment)
- 2004-2018, MG classes were held in 14 new locations
 - Of these, 6 “counties” maintained local MGAs for several years (Coffee, Russell, Randolph/Clay, Cleburne, Cherokee, St. Clair) – note that Russell recently disbanded
 - And 8 counties were unable to, or decided to not, maintain an MGA (Sumter, Marengo, Hale, Macon, Chambers, Bibb, Coosa, Marion)
 - Home Grounds Agents shifted their MG responsibilities slightly in 2015; in effort to help each other.
- 2004-2018 – Several County Extension Coordinators (CECs) and two County Agents continued to work with MG classes and local MGAs (Covington, Houston, Dale, Barbour, Elmore, Tallapoosa, Lee, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Calhoun, Blount, Jackson, Morgan).
 - In 2018, 7 local Agents remain active with MG classes and/or the local MGA
 - 12 Home Grounds REAs remain on staff and 1 vacancy is expected to be replaced in 2018
- Fall 2018 – a new regional map is being implemented
 - The ACES will continue to have CECs in each County office (7 currently work with horticulture)
 - The Home Grounds team will continue to have 13 REAs (providing the vacant position is replaced)
 - MG responsibilities remain disproportionate among Home Grounds REAs. Some are responsible for MG in a single county, while others have MG responsibility in several counties (up to 6 counties).
 - We do not yet know if the REAs will be allowed to continue their current strategy for managing MG responsibilities.
- [This is a simple a report for historic perspective]