



COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL

SERVING

Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay,
Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair,
Talladega and Tallapoosa Counties

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Education Grants

32

General Grants

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Area Wide Grants

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GENERAL FUND GRANTS

AREA WIDE

Valuing Our Veterans

Coosa Valley RC&D provided personal care, therapy, and activity items to residents of veteran homes in Pell City and Alexander City based on needs identified by the facilities' activities directors. Together, the two homes serve approximately 400 residents.



Pawsitive Impact

Coosa Valley RC&D provided requested supplies and essential items to animal shelters across Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair, and Talladega counties. Spay and neuter services for Coosa County residents, who currently lack access to a local veterinarian or animal shelter, were made available through collaboration with Alexander City Veterinary Clinic. As a result, 18 dogs and 7 cats were spayed or neutered.

Sow it Grows

Through the Sow It Grows project, Coosa Valley RC&D provided garden tools and equipment to the Alabama Eastern Star - St. Clair Chapter and installed raised bed gardens at Hope Cottage to support therapeutic gardening activities.

Thriving on Hope

Through the Thriving on Hope Initiative, Coosa Valley RC&D provided the Big House Foundation with items for children in foster care and supported Randolph County DHR with renovations to their visitation room.

Operation Aquatic Guardian: Empowering Rescue Divers with Essential Equipment

The City of Lincoln acquired essential open and underwater rescue equipment, enhancing emergency preparedness and supporting law enforcement agencies across Talladega, Calhoun, Clay, Etowah, and Randolph counties.

Southern Railroad Depot Museum Student Educational Field Trip Program

In partnership with Coosa Valley RC&D, the Piedmont Historical Society restored the Southern Depot and caboose, enhancing their role as an educational history museum. The site now offers safe, engaging field trip experiences for Alabama K-12 students and continues to develop new exhibits and displays.



Post 19 Facilities Improvements

American Legion Post 19 improved the safety, security, energy efficiency, and appearance of its facility. The upgrades enhance functionality, create a safer and more secure environment, and provide a welcoming space for community activities in Cleburne and surrounding counties.

Prescribed Burn Equipment Trailer

The Central Alabama Prescribed Burn Association promotes forest health using prescribed fire. A new trailer and safety equipment allow certified burn managers to safely guide landowners during on-site burns.





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SSSVP Aquafarming Project

Aquaponics systems were installed at Samson’s Strength Sustainable Veterans Project to provide sustainable food sources. These systems will supply fresh produce and fish for veterans in transitional housing and the surrounding community.



Talladega National Forest Discovery, Wellness & Stewardship

Wild Alabama led a variety of hikes and events in the Talladega National Forest that connected families, veterans, and community members to nature. The programs promoted wellness, outdoor exploration, and community engagement while teaching responsible recreation. Cleanup hikes and Leave No Trace education helped preserve the forest for future enjoyment.

Replacement Raft

The OARS Foundation acquired an upriver boat and safety equipment to further its mission of supporting first responders and military personnel. Through guided fly fishing trips, OARS provides outdoor therapy that enhances wellness, reduces stress, and strengthens community connections. The new equipment expands program access and ensures safe, meaningful experiences for participants.

Summer Camp for 20 Children Impacted by Childhood Cancer in the Coosa Valley RC&D region Through support from Coosa Valley RC&D, children from the region were able to attend Summer Camp at Camp Smile-A-Mile. This camp offers a safe, restorative environment for pediatric cancer patients, survivors, and their families to find comfort, joy, and connection. Families are able to build supportive relationships with others who share the same journey, creating a community of healing and resilience.

CALHOUN COUNTY

Composting Horse Manure and Stall Shavings at McClellan Horse Trails

The Calhoun County Commission enhanced waste management at Camp McClellan Horse Trails by adding a dual-axle trailer to improve the collection and composting of manure and stall waste. The material is processed into nutrient-rich compost and distributed to local farmers, helping fertilize gardens and pastures, improve soil health, and increase drought resilience. By turning waste into a valuable resource, this project supports sustainable agriculture, reduces waste, and benefits the community.



Weaver Cave Preserve Pollinator Garden and Habitat Enhancements

The Weaver Cave Preserve project enhanced the site through land management efforts, a new sitting area, and the planting of native wildflowers to establish a pollinator garden. Educational signage was installed to highlight pollinators and local wildlife, creating opportunities for visitors to learn while enjoying the preserve. These improvements promote conservation, support healthy habitats, and provide a welcoming space for the community to connect with nature.



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CHAMBERS COUNTY

Innovation Center

The Innovation Center, run by The Circle of Care for Families, received new computers, printers, and peripherals to enhance its business accelerator programs. These upgrades give local startups better access to technology, mentorship, and workspace, helping accelerate growth, create jobs, and boost the region's economy while fostering innovation.

LaFayette Courthouse Square Pocket Park

Lafayette Main Street transformed a vacant property across from the Chambers County Courthouse into a pocket park with signage, planters, lighting, tables, chairs, and shade structures. The park will host year-round programs and services, providing a vibrant community gathering space and enhancing the area's appearance.



CHEROKEE COUNTY

Finn House Backyard

Living Stone LLC, a nonprofit supporting children in foster care, improved the Finn House backyard to create a safe, welcoming outdoor space. Upgrades include a patio surface, shade structure, seating, borders, and landscaping, providing a comfortable area for children and caregivers while supporting long-term well-being.



Football Equipment Renovation

Gaylesville School acquired a new 5-man blocking sled to replace a 20-year-old model that could no longer be repaired. The sled supports over 100 student athletes. This equipment helps teach proper technique, improve instruction, and increase interest in sports, while promoting safety and skill development.

Senior Center Reading Nook

The Lanett Senior Center, housed in a building over 58 years old, installed a new heat and air unit for its computer lab and reading nook. This upgrade provides seniors with a comfortable environment to work on computers, read, and enjoy the space year-round. The project enhances the usability of the center and supports the well-being of its members.

Wildland/Technical Rescue PPE for McCord's Fire Department

McCord's Fire Department secured dual-certified wildland and technical rescue PPE to enhance firefighter safety and efficiency. The equipment reduces risks, protects structural gear, and ensures mobility during non-structural activities. Dual certification ensures the department is compliant with NFPA standards for wildland/urban interface firefighting and technical rescue.





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CLAY COUNTY

Body Armor for Officers

Lineville Police Department upgraded body armor for its officers to replace outdated and worn equipment. The new armor provides a higher level of protection, ensuring officer safety while performing their duties. This upgrade helps maintain the integrity of safety equipment and supports the department's mission to protect the community.



Kid's Fire Prevention and Safety Camp-Inflatable Smoke House

Shinbone Valley Volunteer Fire Department added a four-room inflatable firehouse to its Kids Fire Prevention and Safety Camp. The interactive structure provides hands-on training for children and department personnel, enhancing learning and engagement. This addition helps teach safety skills in a fun, memorable way while supporting the department's educational mission.



Lineville Park Trail & Parking Rehabilitation

The City of Lineville rehabilitated its one-mile City Park walking trail, improving drainage, the gravel surface, and overall appearance for daily users. Additional gravel was added to a new parking area to support growing baseball, softball, and soccer programs, serving over 500 youth annually. Crushed red rock was also applied to the infields of the park's four ball fields to create a better and quicker drying playing surface. These improvements enhance safety, usability, and recreational opportunities for the community.

CLEBURNE COUNTY

Cleburne County Animal Shelter

The Cleburne County Animal Shelter upgraded its facilities to safely contain and care for animals during intake. These improvements allow staff to provide medical care and prepare animals for adoption efficiently.

Empowering Futures: Workforce Development Initiative

HEARTS of Cleburne has advanced its Empowering Futures initiative, with support for technology and equipment, including computers and software, to equip participants with the skills and resources needed for sustainable employment.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

Upper Cane Creek Volunteer Fire Department has enhanced emergency response in Cleburne County, with support for a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus to keep firefighters safe during fires and hazardous incidents.



Outdoor Heated Concrete

The Cleburne County Animal Shelter upgraded its outdoor dog kennels with heated surfaces to keep dogs comfortable in all weather. This ensures the health and well-being of the animals while outside.

Pickleball Court

Cleburne County High School added a new pickleball court to give students access to one of the fastest-growing sports in the country, promoting teamwork, fitness, and inclusive play. The court also serves faculty, families, and local residents, encouraging healthy lifestyles, community connection, and new opportunities for recreation and events.

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COOSA COUNTY

Master Builder Robotics

Coosa County Schools Master Builders Robotics has strengthened its lab with robot materials, LEGO sets, tools, and a utility cart, allowing students to explore coding, design, and collaboration.

Project Exercise – Move it, Shake it, Shrink it

The Town of Rockford enhanced its central playground with an outdoor exercise area for adults, providing accessible fitness options for the community. This facility promotes regular physical activity, improves overall health, and offers a convenient, safe, and free alternative to distant gyms.

ETOWAH COUNTY

Etowah County Youth Livestock Facility ADA Improvements

The Etowah County Youth Livestock Facility was upgraded to improve accessibility, safety, and functionality. These improvements make the facility more welcoming and easier to use for youth events and community activities.

Fire Station Standby Generator

Ballplay Bend Fire Department has improved its station with the purchase of a standby generator, ensuring emergency power for faster response times and a safe, functional space for both firefighters and the community during outages.

Portable Education/Meeting Supplies

Etowah County Soil and Water Conservation District enhanced its ability to host outreach and educational events by improving event resources and equipment. These upgrades make it easier to engage the community and provide informative, well-organized programs across the county.

Wags & Wellness Dog Park

The City of Glencoe's new Wags and Wellness Dog Park features fencing, seating, landscaping, and signage to enhance safety, comfort, and enjoyment. These amenities promote wellness, encourage physical activity, and strengthen community connections. The park serves as a hub for recreation and social interaction for both people and pets.



RANDOLPH COUNTY

Auslin's Chapel VFD

Auslin's Chapel Volunteer Fire Department acquired new PPE, providing firefighters with up-to-date equipment to maintain safety and efficiency while serving Randolph County.



RHS Volleyball

Randolph County High School Volleyball upgraded team equipment, providing high-quality gear for practices and games to enhance performance and play.

Woodland Senior Center Handicap Bathroom Update

Woodland Senior Center remodeled its bathrooms to create a clean, safe, and accessible environment. The upgrades provide comfort for senior citizens and accommodate community use for meetings and other activities.



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ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Gardening Station at Doris Stanley Memorial Library

The Doris Stanley Memorial Library's Gardening Station provides hands-on learning for all ages and encourages community engagement. It connects youth and adults through educational programs and fosters interest in gardening, nutrition, and local heritage.

Rain Barrel Workshop

St. Clair County Soil and Water Conservation hosted a Rain Barrel Workshop to teach residents how to capture and use rainwater for their yards and gardens. The project provided ready-to-install rain barrels, making it easier and more affordable for residents to adopt sustainable practices.



St. Clair County EMA Weather Camera

St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency enhanced weather monitoring and public safety with two new weather cameras, providing real-time data to improve preparedness and emergency response across the county.

TALLEDEGA COUNTY

Faith Empowerment Worship Temple Multipurpose Center

Faith Empowerment Worship Temple upgraded its multipurpose center with new equipment and remodeling, creating space for programs and services that support families and the community.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Celebration for Underprivileged Children

Talladega Seven Organization provided Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas gifts to over 200 children and families, helping residents at or below 50% of the poverty level celebrate the holidays.



TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

Eastside Enhancement

Tallassee Redevelopment Authority, focused on supporting local business districts, has enhanced the East Tallassee and Carrville areas by adding lighting, seating, planters, and greenery, creating a welcoming space for businesses, shoppers, and visitors.



Water & Rope Rescue Equipment

Union Volunteer Fire & Rescue serves 74 square miles and 41 miles of shoreline along Lake Martin, where rescue operations often involve challenging terrain and water emergencies. The department upgraded life-saving equipment to meet NFPA standards, providing essential gear for rescuing victims and protecting first responders. Staff were trained on the new equipment, and storage was modified to ensure it is ready for use. These improvements enhance safety and efficiency during emergencies.

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EDUCATION FUND GRANTS

AREA WIDE

Coosa Valley RC&D + Partners Outreach Events

RC&D hosted 10 workshops with 300 attendees across 10 cities, partnering with ACES, NRCS, and FSA to raise awareness, educate residents, and connect them to local resources.



Care Closets Because We Care

Coosa Valley RC&D's Care Closet initiative provided 81 schools across 11 counties with essential personal care items and non-perishable food. By addressing students' basic needs, the program helps them focus, learn, and thrive in the classroom while supporting their well-being with dignity. The initiative highlights the impact of community-driven solutions in promoting youth success.



C-C-C Youth Leadership

Coosa Valley RC&D supported this area-wide Youth Leadership Program, serving high school juniors across Calhoun, Cleburne, and Cherokee Counties. The program develops leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills through workshops, activities, and engagement with local leaders, while providing meals, transportation, and materials to ensure equitable access. It fosters connections and volunteer opportunities, inspiring students to make a positive impact in their communities.



CLICK's Hands Down Community Garden and Wellness Project

Children Lifted Innovatively and Creatively Through Knowledge purchased tools, equipment, curriculum, and supplies for the Hands Down Community Garden and Wellness initiative, providing fresh produce, STEAM education, healthier lifestyles, and green community spaces.

Prescribed Fire Management/Emergency Management Mobile Unit

Alabama Cooperative Extension System purchased equipment for a Prescribed Fire and Emergency Management Mobile Unit to support land management, biodiversity, wildfire suppression, and educational workshops. The mobile unit serves Cleburne, Calhoun, Cherokee, Talladega, and Coosa Counties and can be used by Extension offices or emergency management agencies to enhance public awareness and community preparedness.

CALHOUN COUNTY

Wayfinding Signage

Wayfinding signage along the Choccolocco Creek Watershed educational trail has improved navigation and enriched visitor experiences by providing information about local ecosystems, wildlife, and conservation. The signage encourages families and school groups to engage with nature, fostering environmental awareness and promoting lifelong learning while supporting the community's connection to and stewardship of natural resources.



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Faith Christian Greenhouse

Faith Christian School installed a greenhouse, added benches, and prepared the site with posts and gravel, expanding hands-on science and agricultural education while giving students more opportunities to learn horticultural skills, teamwork, and work ethic outdoors.

Piedmont High School Fire Academy

Piedmont High School Fire Academy has upgraded its training program, purchasing two sets of structural firefighter gear and a forcible entry door to provide students with essential practical experience.



CHAMBERS COUNTY

Senior Center Computer Lab and Classroom

Lanett Senior Center purchased ceiling fans, LED light fixtures, electrical supplies, and a PA system, and completed electrical installation to improve comfort, lighting, and communication.

City of LaFayette Healing Zone

The City of LaFayette used funding to purchase new playground equipment as part of its Healing Zone initiative to revitalize the Original City Park. This broader effort focuses on creating a welcoming space where citizens can enjoy recreation, relaxation, and community connection. By enhancing the park's amenities, the City aims to support both physical and mental well-being for all who visit.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Beyond the Classroom Walls

Gadsden State Community College Cherokee Campus created an outdoor classroom and green space by adding picnic tables, umbrellas, and seat pads, providing students with a place to study, relax, and connect with nature while supporting mental health and learning.



CES Sensory Garden Walls

Centre Elementary School created a Sensory Garden with raised beds, plants, herbs, sensory tools, and gardening supplies. The garden provides students Pre-K through 4th grade with opportunities for hands-on learning, emotional development, and connection with nature.



FFA National and State Conventions

Spring Garden High School FFA students attended the Alabama FFA State and National Conventions, gaining skills in collaboration, communication, and responsibility while creating lasting memories and bringing new knowledge back to their chapter.

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Sand Rock FFA Community Garden and Greenhouse

Sand Rock Ag Department and FFA developed a greenhouse and community garden on campus to expand student learning in horticulture and vegetable production. The project allows students to gain hands-on experience while sharing produce and gardening knowledge with the community.

CLAY COUNTY

Agriscience/FFA Animal Science Learning Lab

Clay Central High School developed an Agriscience/FFA Animal Science Learning Lab, giving students hands-on experience in cattle management, breeding, nutrition, and processing while supporting Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) projects and practical learning.



Project Student Safety

Ashland Elementary School has improved student safety on its campus installing safety fencing to secure outdoor areas and allow students to access restrooms without carrying classroom keys. The project enhances campus security, giving students and parents greater peace of mind.

CLEBURNE COUNTY

Greenhouse Area Renovations

Cleburne County High School has renovated its greenhouse area to provide students with hands-on experience in plant and aquaponics systems. The improvements allow students to learn plant and fish cultivation, explore self-sustaining ecosystems, and develop skills to share with the community.

Safety Improvements at RHS Softball Field

Ranburne High School has upgraded its softball field to enhance safety and the game-day experience for players and spectators. Improvements include materials and equipment for the field, seating areas, and essential utilities.



Cleburne County High School Soccer Advancement Initiative

Tiger Booster Club, Inc. has supported the growth of Cleburne County High School's boys' and girls' soccer programs, enhancing training, practice, and game-day experiences. Items purchased include soccer balls, bags, a Pro Mannequin for free-kick practice, and a Veo Cam 3 for recording and analyzing games.

Fruithurst Elementary School Outdoor Shade Structure

Fruithurst Elementary School has added a shade structure to their playground, providing students with a safe space to enjoy outdoor play and physical education while reducing exposure to harmful UV radiation.

Ranburne Elementary School Playground

Ranburne Elementary School has installed a new playground, replacing the old 15-year-old set. The updated playground provides students with a safer and more engaging space to support physical activity and play during the school day.



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COOSA COUNTY

Enrichment for Bridgeways Coosa County Programs

BridgeWays, Inc. offers educational and enrichment programs for youth in Coosa County, including day camps, Kids Night Out, Volunteer Youth Corps, and a Community Clothing Closet. They expanded their outdoor space with picnic tables, a playhouse, sandbox, waterslide, and storage, creating a safe, engaging area that supports physical activity, social-emotional growth, and hands-on learning for children and families.

Extended Educational Tutoring

First Baptist Church expanded its tutoring program for K-12 and college students in Math, Reading, and Science by adding computers, desks, and upgrading electrical infrastructure, creating more one-on-one learning opportunities to help students strengthen skills, improve grades, and succeed academically.

School Event Storage

Coosa County Schools improved their event capabilities with a new storage building helping create a more organized and welcoming environment for students, parents, and community members attending school functions.

Student Commons

Rainbow Middle School has transformed their library into an inclusive Student Commons, creating a flexible learning space for STEM projects, hands-on activities, and sensory breaks. Funds were used to provide couches, furniture, games, a TV, and makerspace centers, offering all students a welcoming area for learning, peer mentoring, and ACAP preparation

Student-Run Farm and Flower Stand Initiative

Windy Van Hooten Teaching Garden's Student Run Farm and Flower Stand Initiative helps elementary students develop practical skills in math, entrepreneurship, and customer service. Funding allowed for garden beds, plants, seeds, irrigation systems, and landscaping materials, creating hands-on learning opportunities and a space for students to grow, harvest, and sell fresh produce and flowers to the community.

Playground for Glencoe Elementary School

Glencoe Elementary School replaced its old playground with new, modern equipment, providing students a safe space for physical activity, social interaction, and creative play.



ETOWAH COUNTY

North Alabama Training Classroom

Attalla Fire Rescue upgraded their Training Classroom, creating a modern, technology-equipped space for EMTs, paramedics, and firefighters to complete continuing education in a more interactive and effective learning environment.

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Career Skills and Opportunities On The Go

Randolph-Roanoke Career Technology Center introduces students from local schools to diverse career pathways through field trips, expos, and hands-on learning. Career-enhancing materials and simulator equipment were purchased to support the program.

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School Event Equipment

Woodland High School enhanced school events with logo chairs, a podium, and branded backdrops, creating a polished, professional setting that strengthened school pride and unity. Students, staff, and community members now enjoy more engaging and memorable ceremonies and assemblies, fostering school spirit and celebrating achievements.

Swing into Fun: Enhancing Play with New Swings for Our Playground

Rock Mills Jr. High School purchased a swing set, enhancing the playground and providing students with more opportunities for physical activity, social engagement, and play. The swings also benefit visitors from the Randolph County Learning Center, creating a welcoming and inclusive space.

Woodland Fire Scout Program

Woodland Volunteer Fire Department's Fire Scout Program introduces youth, adults, and seniors to emergency services, providing hands-on experience with E911 simulations, AED use, and basic rescue skills. The program also offers guidance on educational and career opportunities in public safety, strengthening preparedness and empowering participants to respond confidently in emergencies.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Women in Ag

St. Clair County Conservation District's Women in Ag program equips women with practical farm skills and resources through a two-day workshop. Participants gain hands-on experience in livestock care, machinery use, and farm management, while receiving an Emergency Farm Kit to support daily farm tasks and build confidence in agricultural work.



Gross Out Camp

Fresh Air Family's Gross Out Camp, supported by Coosa Valley RC&D, gives children hands-on opportunities to explore science and nature through local wildlife, experiments, and outdoor learning. The camp fosters curiosity, teamwork, and confidence while providing families with safe and educational summer childcare.



PCGCG Greenhouse Upgrade

The Pell City Gateway Community Garden upgraded its greenhouse to better support seed starting, plant growth, and educational opportunities for the community. Improvements, including updated irrigation, garden supplies, shelving, and hardware, allow plants to grow more effectively and reach harvest sooner. The greenhouse also serves as a learning hub where community members can gain hands-on experience with seed starting and plant care, supporting the garden's mission to educate and provide fresh produce to the local community.

St. Clair County 4-H Clover Classroom

The St. Clair County Alabama Cooperative Extension System's 4-H Clover Classroom offers summer classes that spark curiosity through hands-on lessons in science, gardening, and leadership. With support from Coosa Valley RC&D, the program was able to reduce costs for campers, making these enriching opportunities more accessible while highlighting the broader benefits 4-H provides beyond the traditional classroom.





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TALLADEGA COUNTY

AIDB Ag Improvement Plan

The Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind continues to expand agricultural opportunities across its campuses. Students at the Joe Tom Agricultural Center, Helen Keller School, Alabama School for the Blind, and Alabama School for the Deaf benefit from new beekeeping, livestock, and horticulture supplies, which help maintain gardens, care for animals, and provide hands-on learning that supports personal growth and academic achievement.



SHORT Races to Read Birthday Event

The Squirrel Literacy Initiative supported early childhood readers across Alabama through the SHORT Races to Read program. The initiative featured a high-energy virtual event with videos, interactive booklets, and school visits, encouraging reading and STEM learning while providing educators with lesson plans aligned to state standards.



Sustaining Experiential Learning at Camp Cosby – Outdoor Education Program

Coosa Valley RC&D supported the Outdoor Education Program at Camp Cosby with grant funds for program services, food, and supplies. The program encourages students to learn about themselves while living and working cooperatively in a community environment.



B. B. Comer Memorial Library Storytime Room Renovation

B.B. Comer Memorial Library renovated its Storytime Room, creating a more engaging and comfortable space for children’s programs, early literacy activities, and community events.

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

Lake Martin Championship Rodeo

Benjamin Russell FFA Alumni & Supporters enhanced the Lake Martin Rodeo experience by improving seating and supporting event operations, providing a better experience for participants and spectators.

Laptop Computers for Tallapoosa County Extension Office

Tallapoosa County Alabama Cooperative Extension System purchased laptops and accessories to create a mobile classroom and computer lab. This setup allowed them to offer computer classes, workforce development, resume-building sessions, school registration support, and other educational opportunities to underserved communities, seniors, and families, expanding access to technology and learning resources.

Swine Time: Educating and Supporting Youth Involved in Animal Agriculture

The Alabama Youth Livestock Scholarship Foundation provided educational programs and guest speakers to teach youth exhibitors about animal care, breeds, feed, and biosecurity. Nearly 100 Coosa Valley RC&D families benefited, strengthening local food production.



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