



## Chattooga and Douglas Counties 2008 Summary

Bringing urban and rural counties together to help youth increase their awareness and understanding of agriculture and both urban and rural lifestyles, issues and economic opportunities.

<b>County Demographics</b>	<b>Chattooga</b>	<b>Douglas</b>
Population	26,797	124,495
Population Density	85/sq. mile	492 / sq. mile
Median Household Income	\$33,065	\$53,834
Poverty Level	18.5%	9.7%
Total Farm Gate Value	\$16,452,436	\$5,775,995
Ornamental Horticultural Value	\$0	\$2,035,000

### **Learning Experience**

Twelve Chattooga and Douglas County youth participated in the 2008 Governor's Urban/Rural Youth Exchange Program (GUREP) with Georgia 4-H. During the Exchange, youth visited partner counties for several days where they experienced life on the Farm, participated in an Arts and Crafts Festival, volunteered at a homeless shelter, and visited other area attractions that were representative of the urban and rural communities where the exchange was conducted.

The purpose of the GUREP is to allow youth the opportunity to explore agriculture, economic opportunities and culture found in their partner counties. The program helps broaden the horizons of each student participating and allows them to see life from a different perspective.

### **Learning Outcomes / Student Observations**

Through the experience, youth from both counties had the opportunity to discuss major challenges faced, agricultural industry and the opportunities for youth in their respective counties. Observations made by the participants included:

- Water Quality and pollution were common economic issues face in each county.
- Although agriculture in urban and rural counties vary, it is a vital part of the local economy.
- Urban counties offer more career and entertainment opportunities for youth but there are increased chances for "risky behaviors."
- Rural youth seem to value obtaining a drivers license more than urban youth that have more transportation opportunities available.