

## Interview of a County Employee: Granville County—4-H Extension Agent

Jessica Smith Harris is the Granville County Cooperative Extension agent for 4-H Youth Development. She lives in Kittrell, North Carolina, in Granville County. Mrs. Jessica has college degrees in Bachelors of Science in Extension Education, Minor in Animal Science, Specialty in Equine Science and six hours away from completing Masters in Extension Education. She enjoys horseback riding, gardening, farming, water sports, cooking, and acrylic painting. She is employed by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, one half county and one half state employed and has been employed for seventeen months. She grew up in 4-H, part of the Nash County Lucky Spurs 4-H Club. She was very involved and knew she was going to age out, but she didn't want to give up 4-H. She originally wanted to be a veterinarian specializing in equine science, but didn't want to be on call all the time. She knew as an extension agent she would still be able to educate kids and adults in horse and livestock care. Mrs. Jessica went on to marry a Granville County citizen and got the job as the Granville County 4-H agent two months later. Mrs. Jessica enjoys seeing young youth become strong leaders.

Though she loves being a 4-H agent there are some challenges that she has to overcome. You must get along with different people, and there are different personalities and beliefs (which from personal experience, I understand that challenge). Also, even though you may believe something personally you must do what's best for your county and the people in it. Mrs. Jessica believes that 4-H develops life skills which are valuable to the community because today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. She loves her job, and it is what she felt like she was called to do.

I asked what Granville County had to offer as far as jobs for me one day. She told me that when it comes to other jobs, the sky is the limit. Granville County is so diverse. We have jobs in the medical field, research, business, and many more. Granville County is more old-fashioned than most other counties; we hang on to older traditions, and definitely are not up to date technologically. Though we may be older and not technologically up-to-date, people are nice and help out how and

when they can. When it comes to education the Vance Granville Community College South Campus is also located in our County, so you can get an Associates Degree without going far in many different fields.

Jacob Dickerson – Granville County