

Businesses line up to participate in weekend home, garden show

By ANDREW MOORE

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CLEMSON — More than 90 vendors and 3,000 people are expected to fill Littlejohn Coliseum in Clemson this weekend for the Oconee County Homebuilders Association Home and Garden Show.

Steve Thomas of the Homebuilders Association said there will be 95-100 booths, showcasing home improvement products, including plumbing, countertops architectural designs, windows, doors and siding.

"Whatever is new and cutting edge in homebuilding will be there," Thomas said.

The garden half of the event will feature several gardening clubs, along with the South Carolina Botanical Garden and professors and students from the Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences will perform demonstrations and presentations on topics ranging from organic gardening to native bugs and how they affect plant life.

Home Depot will also have a booth for wood-crafting activities for the children at the event.

Thomas said businesses are still bringing plenty of new developments to show to the public despite the condition of the economy.

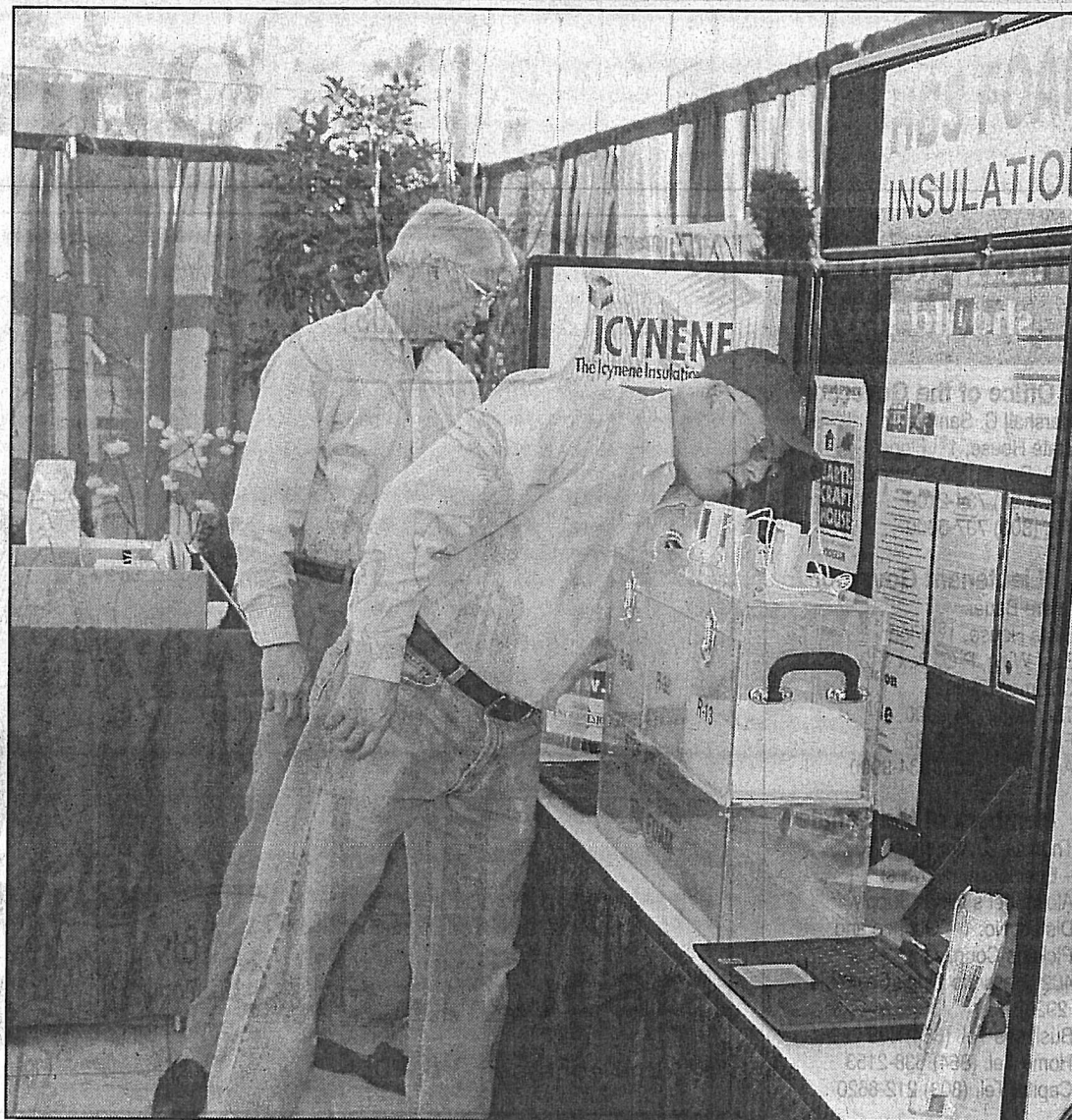
"We're down about 10 percent this year. We had about 115 booths last year," Thomas said. "But we're looking to have a fun time. It's a great opportunity for people to get out this weekend and forget about some of their troubles."

Admission is \$5. For those who bring in canned goods for the Collins Children Home, cost is \$4. Attendees will get the chance to register for a football signed by Clemson Tigers football coach Dabo Swinney or a basketball signed by Tigers basketball coach Oliver Purnell.

The show will be from 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

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Dean Gaskins, back, and Phil Holt, both with HBS Foam Insulation set up their display Thursday afternoon at Littlejohn Coliseum in Clemson before the Oconee County Homebuilders Association Home and Garden Show, which kicks off at 1 p.m. Friday.

Jessica Nelms/Staff