



# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT: CARROLL COUNTY

**University of Georgia Cooperative Extension is working hard for its constituents. The following are examples of Extension’s impact in the county over the past year.**

## JOURNEYMAN FARMER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

There is an increasing need for educational programs for small-acreage farmers as the popularity and demand for locally grown agricultural commodities continues to rise. UGA Extension programs in Carroll, Coweta and Paulding counties collaborated to bring the Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program’s small ruminant training to these farmers.

The Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program included three training steps. Sixty-eight producers attended the



Small Farm Business Planning training, 24 participants attended the Small Ruminants Production training, and eight producers participated in the Hands-on Production Training as part of either a mentorship or internship. Six producers completed

the entire Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program.

Although the program assists producers with operating a viable farm business, it also discourages would-be farm business owners from opening a farm business before they are ready, preventing devastating business failures. Whereas some programs would be considered unsuccessful if 2 percent of the attendees completed the certification process, the Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program provides the necessary tools needed for those dedicated small-acreage farmers to run a successful farm business and also provides a realistic view of farming to those who might be better suited to other business ventures. It is just as important to prevent farm business failures as it is to encourage farm business successes.

## 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

“Growth” is the best word to sum up what has been happening in Carroll County 4-H. Staff have increased participation in all 4-H events and activities offered to Carroll County youth. The 4-H program’s goal is to be present in as many classrooms as possible within the county. Staff started the school year by asking educators what they needed to enhance their curricula in the classroom. The resounding response was science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Staff have been working with teachers to develop curricula that fit within their units, yet allows for the inclusion of a little bit of agriculture. The 4-H program has served as the community partner for many schools that are looking to become STEM-certified or to continue their certification. Through communication with teachers, Carroll County increased in-class programming from 42 meetings per month to 72 meetings per month. Carroll County 4-H has increased 104 percent in overall enrollment due to the dedication of staff, educators and volunteers.

## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



Cooking on a budget and focusing on good nutrition continues to be important for the Carroll County community. The six-week Teaching Cooking Matters class educates youth, adults and families about how to shop on a budget and create healthy, tasty meals at the same time. Each class puts their knowledge to the test when it is time to go on the grocery store tour. They are given money to purchase and create a healthy snack or meal. Youth are given \$7 each to go on a scavenger hunt and purchase and create a nutritious snack. They have to choose from three of the five U.S. Department of Agriculture MyPlate items: fruits, vegetables, grains, protein and dairy. Adults are given \$10 each to purchase a meal to feed a family of four. The adults had to include all five items from My Plate. Ten youth at a summer day camp and nine adults at the Carrollton Housing Authority gained the knowledge and skills to prepare healthy meals on a budget.



## COUNTY AT A GLANCE

**Population:** 118,818  
*2017 Georgia County Guide, Georgia Public Library Service*

**Georgia Health Factors Ranking:** 49/159  
*2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

**Georgia 4-H Enrollment:** 900  
*Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17*

**Agriculture, Food, Fiber, Horticulture and Related Total Economic Contribution:**

**Jobs:** 4,265

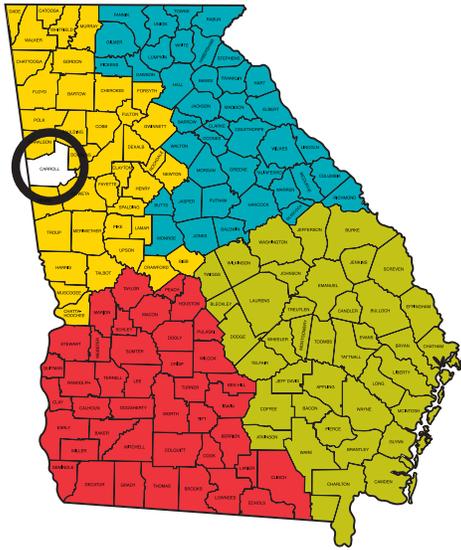
**Output:** \$636,556,858  
*2018 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development*

**Farm Gate Value:** \$223,659,781  
**Top Commodities:** Poultry (broilers), Poultry (layers), Beef (cattle)  
*2016 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development*

## UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

was founded in 1914 by the federal Smith-Lever Act. It's a unique partnership between UGA, county governments and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension System of land-grant universities. Today, UGA Extension serves more than 2.1 million Georgians annually through a network of specialists, agents and staff who provide unbiased, research-based information driven by local needs and clientele input. From publications to in-person workshops and events, UGA Extension is ready to meet the needs of the state and its communities.

**Learn more at:**  
[extension.uga.edu](http://extension.uga.edu)



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### Agriculture & Natural Resources

Goods and services related to Georgia's agriculture and natural resources affect each of the state's communities every day. Agriculture is Georgia's largest industry, and its direct and indirect economic impact totals \$73.3 billion. More than 383,600 Georgia jobs are directly involved in commodity or food- and fiber-related industries.

UGA Extension faculty and staff play a key role in the success of this industry by sharing university-based research for Georgians to use on the farm and at home. Recommendations in areas including soil fertility, pest management, plant and crop varieties, water quality, and herd health and management focus on maximizing production and profits while minimizing environmental impacts.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension agents also provide homeowners and communities with information on lawn care, landscaping, gardening and water conservation through a variety of workshops. Some agents also work with schools on projects like community gardens and farm-to-school programs. Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteers give thousands of hours of service to their communities by answering questions in county offices and creating educational opportunities.

### 4-H Youth Development



As the youth development program of UGA Extension, 4-H is also part of a national network. Georgia 4-H reaches more than 170,000 fourth- through 12th-grade students across the state and helps students develop the knowledge, life skills and attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is fulfilled through hands-on learning experiences in agricultural and environmental awareness, leadership, communication skills, citizenship, energy conservation, health, and food and nutrition.

Georgia 4-H'ers are well-known for sharing their knowledge and volunteering throughout their communities. At the school and county levels, students participate in club meetings organized by 4-H Youth Development Extension agents. At the state level, students participate in competitions, summer camps and conferences. Some 4-H competitions and events are also offered at the regional and national levels.

Research indicates that, as a result of participating in 4-H, members are more engaged in their academic studies, less likely to be involved in risky behavior, and more likely to graduate from high school and continue their education.

### Family & Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension specialists, agents and staff assist in addressing real-life issues faced by Georgians of all ages. They provide programs and the latest information on obesity, chronic disease, food and financial insecurity, family stresses, unhealthy housing, food safety and preservation, nutrition and more.

To help promote the positive development and safety of preschool, school-aged and adolescent youth, UGA Extension offers resources for parents, caregivers and others. Extension professionals in this program area lead consumer economics trainings and programs such as ServSafe®, Relationship Smarts, and PRIDE, a parent and teen driving education course.

Extension also promotes healthy lifestyles through statewide programs. Walk Georgia is a virtual, fitness-tracking resource that encourages physical fitness and healthy lifestyles to better the lives of Georgians. Other health programs managed by UGA include the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). These classes teach families how to stretch their food dollars, eat healthier meals and snacks, and reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses.