



2016 ANNUAL REPORT: CHARLTON COUNTY

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

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Charlton County 4-H is excited to have the participation of fourth-grade students in addition to middle and high school students. The inclusion of fourth-grade students has increased activity and interest in 4-H competitions and activities.

Highlights from the past year include participation in standard 4-H events such as District Project Achievement, judging events and service projects, but Charlton took it a step further. To kick off the Summer Fun Program series, we offered three sessions of 4-H Horse Camp. Thirty-six participants learned or sharpened riding skills. In the early fall, we offered a "Fun Chicken Show," which boasted 82 birds divided into 10 categories. An estimated 350 people mingled around the cages before and during the afternoon show asking questions. Charlton County 4-H is excited about our 2016 growth, and we look forward to continuing to "make the best better."

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Charlton County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources program offers many services to local clientele. The program offers soil, water and plant analysis through the university's laboratories, as well as in-office and on-site consultations on a wide array of issues. The Extension agent assists clients with issues such as pond management, lawn health and maintenance,



gardening issues and strategies, and livestock care and maintenance. The county had an increase in people doing soil testing this past year.

With cattle prices remaining steady, area cattlemen have had a very positive outlook for the cattle industry. The Southeast Georgia Cattlemen's Association (covering Bacon, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn and Ware counties), representing \$10.3 million in brood cow value, has seen an increase in membership and individuals attending monthly meetings. More than 40 cattle producers attended an area Cattlemen's Field Day and gained knowledge in beef quality assurance, vaccination programs, forage improvement and replacement heifer selection. We look forward to growing and sharing our knowledge with our clients.



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 13,489

2016 Georgia County Guide, UGA

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 79/159

2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 370

Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY16

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

Jobs: 633

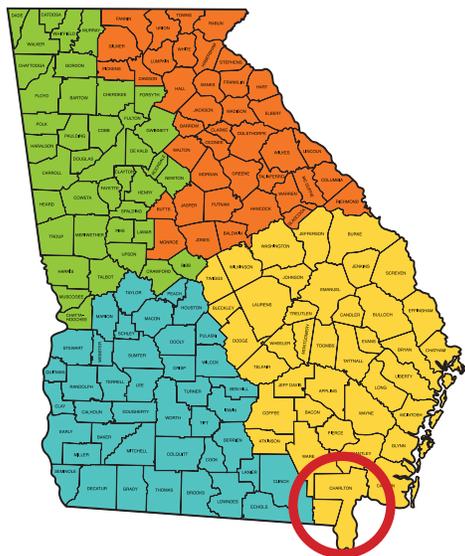
Output: \$59,525,219

2017 Georgia Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: \$25,746,240.41

Top Commodities: Timber, Agritourism, Breeder Pullet Units

2015 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 2.6 million Georgians annually through a network of specialists, agents and staff by providing unbiased, research-based information driven by local needs and clientele input. From publications to in-person workshops and events, Extension is ready to meet the needs of the state and its communities.

Learn more at:
extension.uga.edu

The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

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, with \$74 billion of direct and indirect economic impact. More than 411,000 Georgia jobs are involved directly 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 – a virtual, fitness-tracking resource – encourages improving physical fitness and healthy lifestyles in order 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.