



2015 ANNUAL REPORT: NEWTON COUNTY

UGA Extension is working hard for your constituents. Here are some examples of successful projects completed in your county over the past year:

4-H'ers Gain Experience Through Service

Over last school year, all Newton County 4-H'ers were exposed to a variety of service projects, including monthly, themed food pantry collections, collecting soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, book collection for local literacy projects, Rivers Alive and the Great American Cleanup, donating holiday items for the homeless shelter, Christmas Day deliveries to fire departments and Relay for Life. Two 4-H'ers created and led a monthly science and technology project club, where fourth- through sixth-grade youth learn lessons in physics, chemistry, art and electronics through hands-on activities like building and testing catapults or Operation-style games using basic materials and recycled objects. Teen leader C.J. Harris said the best part of teaching is when "all the kids look to me and (to see) their faces when it lights up or buzzes, or explodes!" The seventh-grader also made national news for his 4-H service project printing prosthetic hands on his 3-D printer and assembling them with other 4-H members for children in need as part of the e-NABLE community.



Newton County Extension Helps Local Farmers Make Profitable Decisions

Newton County has eight farmers who recently started their careers in agriculture. Several have never performed any agricultural production practices. These farmers need research-based information along with an experienced

person to help them make smart decisions that will keep them in business. Experienced farmers need up-to-date information to keep them profitable. To help all Newton County farmers become and remain profitable, the Newton County University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agent planned and delivered a broad selection of educational programs in 2015. Some of the programming efforts included pesticide license certification and recertification safety training, a Cattlemen's Field Day that demonstrated good management practices, Produce Cover Crop Utilization Field Day and a how-to-start-a-small-farm class. With just six classes offered to the public and farming community, 179 participants were taught sustainable farming practices. Some participants learned how to save on fertilizer inputs. Others even earned their license to market farm fresh eggs to the public. One of the highest valued programs offered was recertification credits for pesticide licenses valued at \$160,000. In addition to these programming efforts, the Newton County agent was recognized by his county agent peers as the winner of the 2015 Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents Weed Science Award.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Newton County received a position as part of an \$8.2 million grant awarded to UGA from the Administration for Children and Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to improve the lives of children and families in the child welfare system in Georgia. The project will focus on creating positive and stable homes through the integration of research-based services designed to improve healthy marriage and relationship skills and promote economic stability. UGA students from the College of Family and Consumer Sciences and the School of Social Work will provide services such as child care, youth engagement and tax preparation; conduct in-home visits; and collect needs assessment data. The project also calls for hiring up to 30 part-time employees.

COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 112,697

2015 Georgia County Guide, University of Georgia

Health Factors Ranking: 50/159

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

4-H Enrollment: 1,008

Georgia 4-H Enrollment System FY15

Farm Gate Value: \$23,599,155

2014 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report

Agriculture, Food and Fiber-Related Total Economic Contribution:

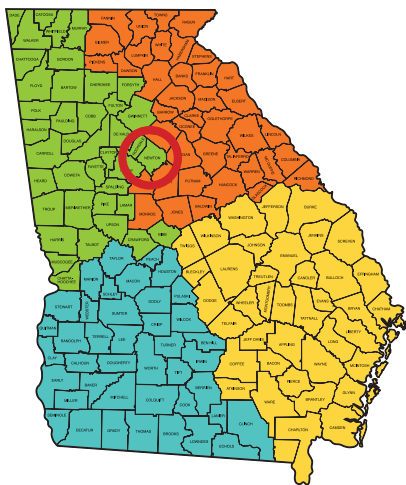
Jobs: 994

Output: \$158,298,113

University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Top Commodities: Beef, Ornamental Horticulture, Horses

2014 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report



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 USDA's 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 communities. For every dollar invested in UGA Extension, \$3 is returned to Georgia's economy, saving money in the long run.

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

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Georgia's agriculture and natural resource goods and services impact every community of the state every day. It's the state's largest industry with \$74 billion of direct and indirect economic impact. More than 411,000 jobs in Georgia 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 such as 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 and gardening through a variety of workshops. Some agents also work with schools on programs, like farm-to-school, as well as with community gardens. Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteers give thousands of hours of service to their communities through educational opportunities and by answering questions in the county office.

4-H Youth Development

As the youth development program of UGA Extension, 4-H is part of a national network. Georgia 4-H reaches more than 175,000 students in the state, ages 9 to 19, through developing 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, core learning experiences in agricultural and environmental awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation, and citizenship.

Georgia 4-H'ers are well known for sharing their knowledge and volunteering throughout their communities. Students can participate in school and county club meetings organized by 4-H Youth Development Extension agents as well as the state level through competitions, summer camps and conferences. Some 4-H competitions and events are also offered regionally and nationally.

Research indicates that as a result of 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 than youth who do not participate in 4-H.



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 the latest information and programs on obesity, chronic disease, food and financial insecurity, family stresses, and unhealthy housing, food safety and preservation, nutrition, and more.

UGA Extension offers resources for parents, caregivers and others to help promote the positive development and safety of pre-school, school-age and adolescent youth. 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 increasing physical fitness and healthy lifestyles in order to improve the wellbeing of communities. Other health programs managed by UGA include the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the 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.