



## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT: BULLOCH 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.***

### AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Bulloch County farmers planted 48,073 acres of cotton in 2017, and the county had a cotton farm gate value of \$34,839,146 in 2016. In order for growers to make budgets work, they must achieve high yields. Currently, UGA fertilizer recommendations by yield goal peak at three-bale cotton. The agent collaborated with Glendon Harris, UGA Extension agronomist, Cromley Farms and Bulloch Gin to conduct a large, on-farm, irrigated cotton fertility trial. The objective of this research was to determine whether higher rates of nitrogen and potassium plus foliar fertilization could increase cotton yields and return on investment (ROI). The most economical treatment and highest ROI — \$24.08 — was the UGA recommendation of nitrogen for three-bale cotton and UGA-recommended, soil-applied potassium plus foliar potassium, the UGA recommendation for high yield goals. This increase in yield applied to the acres of cotton planted in 2017 produced a \$1,157,598 increase in profits for Bulloch County cotton producers.

In Bulloch and surrounding counties, beef cattle and forage production accounts for a major part of annual farm gate income. To expand the knowledge of area beef producers, educational programs are held in conjunction with semimonthly Ogeechee Cattlemen's Association dinner meetings. The multicounty Ogeechee Cattlemen's Association consists of members from Bulloch, Screven, Effingham and Candler counties. A partnership between Bulloch County Extension and the Ogeechee Cattlemen's Association provides producers with opportunities to enhance their profitability. In 2017, 250 beef cattle and forage producers attended educational opportunities meant to enhance their production practices and profitability. Program participants gained knowledge and discovered new ways to improve their individual operations. Individualized observation and verbal contacts show that producers have implemented new management practices based on information they received during educational meetings.

### 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

More than 500 Bulloch County students enrolled in the Move on When Ready program to encourage college readiness. Bulloch County 4-H developed a College and Career Readiness Day for seventh- through 12th-grade 4-H'ers that provided the opportunity for students to



learn more about different career paths, postsecondary options and admission requirements, and professional development. In June 2017, Bulloch County

4-H'ers participated in College and Career Readiness Day. They met with career development specialists and discussed and explored individual postsecondary and career interests. Stan Lee, a local veterinarian, and his assistant spoke with the students about their job duties. Club members also toured Georgia Southern University and Ogeechee Technical College, where they learned about numerous accredited programs, admission requirements and financial aid options and toured state-of-the-art laboratories. The 4-H'ers gained hands-on knowledge about resume building, entrance exam scores, business etiquette and professionalism from staff members and department heads.

### FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Although Bulloch County does not have a Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) agent based in the county Extension office, we strive to assist local residents with their questions. Common questions cover food safety, food preservation, dealing with mold and mildew, healthy meal planning, nutrition, family budgeting, and more. Neighboring FACS agents conduct programming that our county residents are welcome to attend.



## COUNTY AT A GLANCE

**Population:** 75,343

2017 Georgia County Guide, Georgia Public Library Service

**Georgia Health Factors Ranking:** 57/159

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

**Georgia 4-H Enrollment:** 2,380

Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

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

**Jobs:** 2,820

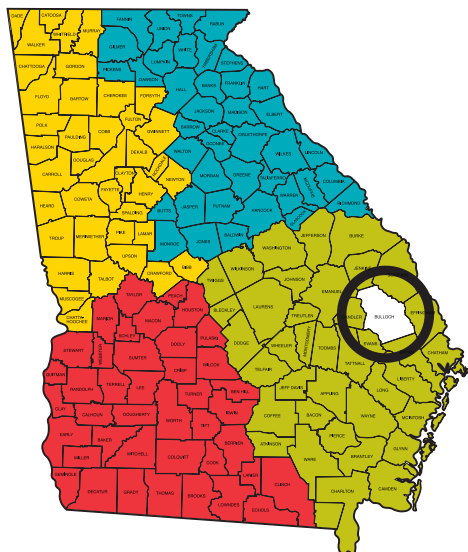
**Output:** \$378,013,022

2018 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

**Farm Gate Value:** \$158,948,280

**Top Commodities:** Cotton, Peanuts, Poultry (broilers)

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.