



2019 ANNUAL REPORT: COFFEE 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.

4-H

Community service and leadership opportunities are offered to 4-H youth monthly in Coffee County. 4-H members donate canned foods to support the local food banks and pop tabs to help the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Coffee 4-H donated 500 pounds of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Savannah. 4-H members also donated more than 400 canned foods during the year. 4-H'ers spend time giving service to the Adopt-A-Highway program, going to Pet Therapy visitation at local nursing homes and much more. Additionally, more than 230 members serve their clubs in leadership roles as club officers and 56 members have completed Georgia 4 H Certified Teen Leader Training. Currently, one member, Jeremiah Brantley, is representing 39 counties in Southeast Georgia as board member for the Southeast District Senior Board of Directors.



FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Coffee County Cooperative Extension implemented the SNAP-Ed program in Coffee County in 2016. This program is designed to teach low-income families how to prepare healthy, nutritious meals at a low cost. Since its beginning,

the program has been offered to more than 250 families, with great success. The two classes are Food Talk: Better U, which is offered over a period of four weeks, or Food Talk, which is held over a period of six weeks. These classes offer a combination of tips on meal planning, exercise for all ages, cooking on a budget, how to steer clear of hidden sodium and added sugars and more. Both the Food Talk: Better U and Food Talk courses are centered around helping families find the means to have family dinner ready in a matter of minutes. These courses are designed to teach the average family skills that are necessary to maintain healthy diets while leading the hectic lives most Americans lead.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agricultural and Natural Resources (ANR) information is offered to the community monthly in Coffee County. In 2019, Coffee County Extension ANR was involved in 10 on-farm research projects for tobacco, peanut and cotton crops. The on-farm tobacco research plot focused on the evaluation of Verimark and Admire Pro as stand-alone and combination treatments for control of tomato spotted wilt. The objective of the on-farm peanut research trial was to, develop, conduct and collect large-plot, on-farm, multi-year data on efficacy of fungicides on soil-borne diseases of peanut. The on-farm dryland cotton research plot in Coffee County was one of several Georgia Cotton program variety-testing sites. The data collected is of real importance to the growers in Coffee County and the state of Georgia. The results will be presented during annual winter county production meetings and through various print and online media.





COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 43,093
2019 Georgia Population Estimates,
Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budgets

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 143/159
2019 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 1,631
Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

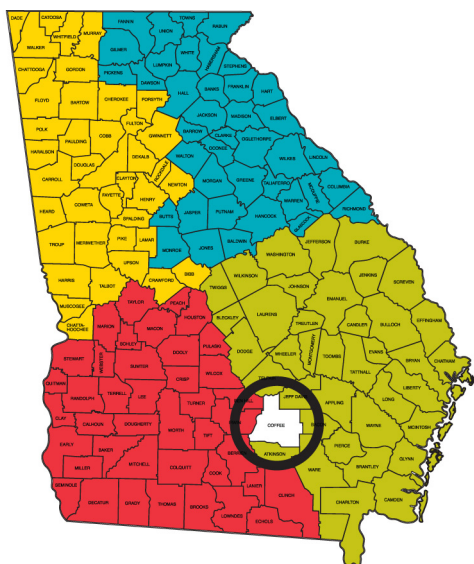
**Agriculture, Food, Fiber, Horticulture and
Related Total Economic Contribution:**

Jobs: 4,633

Output: \$905,451,627
2020 Ag Snapshots,
UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: \$296,226,660
Top Commodities: Greenhouse,
Horses-Board, Train, Breed, Container Nursery

2018 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 21 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

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 \$76 billion. More than 399,200 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 nearly 243,000 fourth- through 12th-grade students across the state. It helps them 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.