



2019 ANNUAL REPORT: HENRY 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 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

It is vitally important in today's technologically advanced society that people understand how to use messages to generate meaning with various contexts, cultures and media. Oral communication is a prerequisite for academic, personal and professional success. While youth can vocalize thoughts, the knowledge to construct those thoughts through effective communication has been a basic component of the 4-H program since its earliest days. Competent communication skills can help lead youth to meeting the mission of 4-H as self-productive and contributing citizens.

Henry County 4-H staff conducted monthly educational instruction in 126 fifth grade classrooms for 2,790 students. One of the subjects was Exploring Communication – Stepping into a Demonstration. In the months following this program, 1,978 fifth grade students presented an illustrated speech in their classroom in front of their peers, with 71% of students who heard the lesson making a four to five minute presentation with visual aids.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Trainings were offered to all levels of providers to include teachers, child care providers, food service providers and administrators. The trainings focused on improving the child care environment and early development, as well as health and well-being. The Healthy Children Conference was established to bring together the community through an organization that could collectively focus on how to raise a community of healthy and safe children. The agent collaborated with educators, the Board of Education, counseling centers, nonprofit organizations, health care providers and specialists to provide a variety of educational trainings for professionals in Henry County. As a result of the child care trainings, more than 200 child care providers and educators received more than 1,000 hours of instruction. In adherence to licensure requirements, the 200 providers have the capacity to care for up to 10,000

children. Responses to session evaluations showed that 85% of the providers would introduce new activities for phonological awareness, incorporate what they learned into lessons, teach kids creative activities, and gained understanding of brain development. Overall, most participants showed a significant change in before and after evaluations that can be attributed to knowledge gained in the training.

One participant stated: "This program gives me more tools to use to improve my classroom." Another said, "The knowledge gained in the trainings will benefit children in my program." When reflecting on the Healthy Children Conference, an attendee left saying, "Working together builds a stronger foundation."

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2019, the Agriculture and Natural Resources program conducted 44 adult educational programs with 1,177 contacts and 76 agricultural programs and events with 4,424 contacts, processed 361 soil samples, conducted 42 water tests, made 8,166 contacts and conducted 35 site visits.

In addition to the educational programs, 10 TV shows were produced featuring gardening tips and healthy-eating advice. These shows have a viewership of 30,000 per show. The Henry County Farmers Market completed its 10th season with 2,286 consumers attending the weekly market. The Master Gardener Extension Volunteers contributed 2,340 hours to assist extension with educational programs. These volunteer hours have a value of \$54,902. The community garden in Heritage Park had a good season with approximately 200 visitors visiting the garden per week. The garden was featured in a video produced by the Georgia Farm Monitor, which aired on August 17 and was viewed by more than 1,000,000 subscribers.





COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 230,220
*2019 Georgia Population Estimates,
Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budgets*

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 24/159
*2019 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

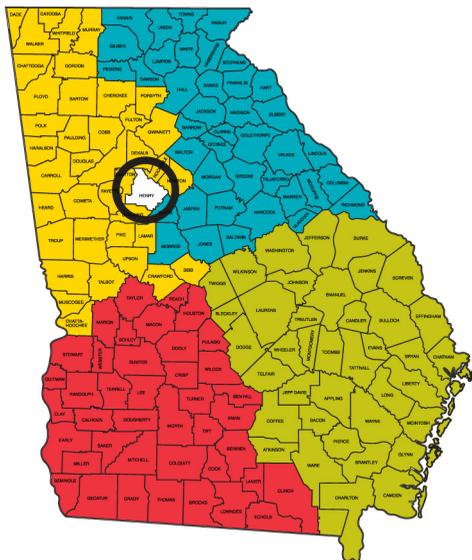
Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 5,036
Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

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

Jobs: 1,955

Output: \$82,437,332
*2020 Ag Snapshots,
UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development*

Farm Gate Value: \$14,936,888
Top Commodities: Horses-Board, train, Breed, Field Nursery, Hay
*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.