



2017 ANNUAL REPORT: JEFF DAVIS 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

To provide the agricultural community with a way to receive crop news and updates, Extension agents in Jeff Davis and Wheeler counties created a blog, Plow Points. This method of communication enables them to reach many people with timely information from UGA Extension, which saves producers time and money when making critical farm-management decisions. Many crop pests can show up quickly, so the rapid dispersal of information is necessary. When the blog is updated, an email is sent to a group of subscribers to let them know about the post. The Plow Points group has nearly 50 subscribers of farmers, agricultural business people and community members. Tags are added to the posts on the blog to direct nonsubscribers to information from Extension. During 2016 and 2017, Jeff Davis and Wheeler County agents made 77 posts to the blog. In the past year, 722 users viewed the information on the blog, and there have been 3,681 page views. The most viewed posts from this year covered whitefly control in cotton. Posts made in July and August on identification, thresholds and control of whiteflies received 351 views. Those producers who received and followed Extension recommendations saved \$5 to \$16 per acre, depending on the insecticide combinations used. Delayed or inadequate treatment of whiteflies not only costs growers money for insecticide, it also costs them in lost yields. The Plow Points blog is a quick reference that producers can use to easily access the information they need at any time to make key management decisions on their farm.

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS

Sometimes, even in rural, predominantly agricultural communities, people are unaware of the influence of agriculture on their daily lives. According to the 2016 farm gate report, Jeff Davis County has a farm gate value of more than \$80 million. Even in areas of southern



Georgia, where cotton, peanuts and cattle are prominent and beehives are plentiful, youth rarely make the connection between farm and fork. Farm tours, Farm Day, in-school programming and agricultural literacy were implemented to raise agriculture awareness among youth. A barn bookcase with 60 agriculture-related books was donated to the school to promote literacy. In addition, Georgia-grown products were promoted at an in-school event. Students attended farm tours and a one-day Farm Day event to further this awareness. According to a survey, 70 percent of students stated they developed a better understanding of agriculture in the community. Students stated, "I want to thank a farmer," and "I want to become a farmer." Over 60 books were donated to



the school library. According to teacher surveys, 73 percent strongly agree that agriculture awareness programs are needed and beneficial to their school and 62 percent stated that the agriculture books have been an extremely useful addition to the school. Students stated, "I love the books. They are fun to read." Students also helped to implement a one-day Farm Day in which teachers and primary school students gained knowledge about agriculture. Youth development programs in Jeff Davis County continue to focus on highlighting and promoting agriculture through literacy, hands-on activities and competitive events.



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 15,398

2017 Georgia County Guide, Georgia Public Library Service

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 115/159

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

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 418

Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

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

Jobs: 1,445

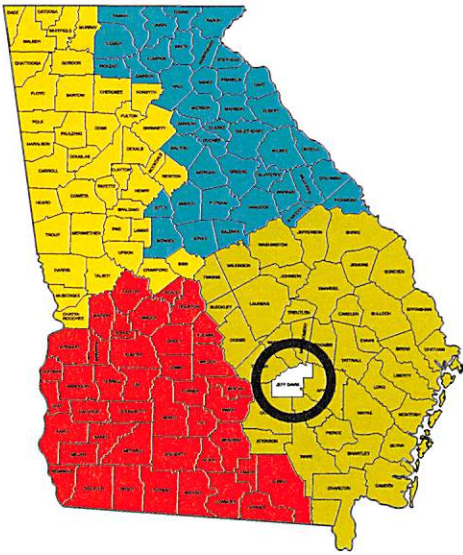
Output: \$244,093,191

2018 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: \$80,255,631

Top Commodities: Poultry (broilers), Cotton, Peanuts

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

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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.