



2017 ANNUAL REPORT: MCINTOSH 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

The McIntosh County Extension office provides valuable agricultural and natural resources services to local residents. Commonly used services include plant, water and soil testing through UGA laboratories; delivery of research-based publications; and on-site consultations for homeowners and farmers. With the addition of an Agriculture and Natural Resources agent in December 2016, McIntosh County residents now benefit from in-county educational programs developed to address local interests such as honeybees, pollinator conservation and community gardening.

Commercial saltwater fishing and timber are McIntosh County's largest and most profitable agricultural industries, but there is growth in other agricultural areas. The cultivation of commercial blueberries and olives is growing, as is production of organic vegetables and a diverse mixture of livestock, including small ruminants, beef cattle, bison and honeybees. To help homeowners and farmers with these commodities, the Agriculture and Natural Resources agent develops programs to promote small farm development, small ruminant production, organic and conventional fruit and vegetable production, and backyard chicken flocks. Hobbyist Beekeeper and community gardening programs currently operate in McIntosh County. The Hobbyist Beekeeper program provides basic beekeeping instruction and demonstrations for beginners with no experience. A newly created beekeeping club with 19 members supplements the Hobbyist Beekeeper program by promoting the sharing of knowledge and resources among members.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

A growing trend in McIntosh County is community and school gardens. The Extension office in McIntosh County received an increased volume of requests relating to gardening and horticulture. Studies show that youth



gardening experiences can increase children's physical activity, confidence in their ability to make positive changes in the environment, and can positively redirect at-risk youth. A key component to increasing student awareness of horticulture and healthy

lifestyles involves increasing their awareness of where their food comes from and demonstrating the value of horticulture. During the 2017 school year, McIntosh County 4-H used gardening programs for students in fourth through eighth grades. The programs' goals involved supporting youth in their understanding of math, science and nutrition, and changing their attitudes.

Tammy Tyre, McIntosh County 4-H agent, took a lead role in promoting and coordinating programs around the Farm to School initiative. McIntosh County 4-H collaborated with the McIntosh County School District and received the Golden Radish Award, which recognized the outstanding Farm to School program. The Golden Radish Award publicly recognizes school districts for all aspects of Farm to School, including hosting taste tests and gardening with students. "UGA Extension is so excited to promote healthy eating habits and incorporate Georgia's great agricultural food products into our school lunchrooms," said Associate Dean for Extension Laura



Perry Johnson. McIntosh County 4-H also received a grant from Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation to establish a 4-H Sprouts program. An after-school garden club gives middle school students experience

working in raised beds at the 4-H office. Volunteers with the newly formed Sprouts program are helping to "Grow McIntosh 4-H!"



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 13,866

2017 Georgia County Guide, Georgia Public Library Service

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 56/159

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

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 556

Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

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

Jobs: 298

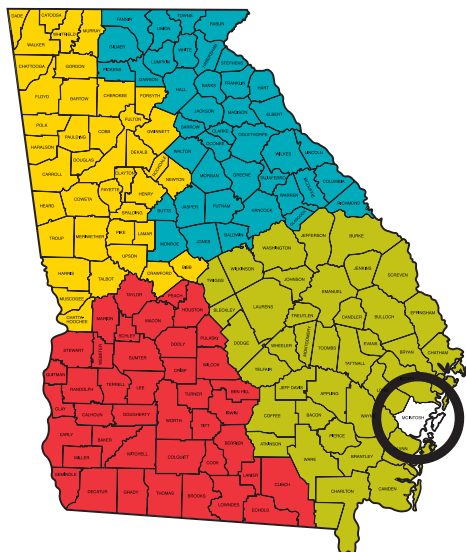
Output: \$36,139,133

2018 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: \$25,735,179

Top Commodities: Timber, Blueberries, Hunting Leases (duck)

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.