



2019 ANNUAL REPORT: AUGUSTA-RICHMOND 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

The Augusta-Richmond County 4-H Club serves more than 1,900 students in area schools and in the community as a whole. Students in all grades are taught effective presentation skills and many go on to compete at the district and state levels. Fourth grade students are provided a curriculum that focuses



on the environment, the natural world and agriculture. Fifth grade student lessons focus heavily on developing science skills, covering various topics such as barrier island ecology and microorganisms. Middle school students are taught stress-reduction and team-building skills. High school students focus on skills to prepare them for adulthood and relationship smarts.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Richmond County Agriculture and Natural Resources collaborated with the Richmond County Board of Education, Engineering and Parks departments to implement the second season of chemical mowing on more than 600 acres of county-maintained properties. Chemical mowing is a combination of limiting, eradicating and suppressing vegetation that requires continual maintenance. These specially designed methods of weed control saved these partners more than \$300,000 in labor

and equipment cost by drastically reducing weekly mowing. Our collaboration will be expanded from school grounds, cemeteries and a few parks to include roadways and larger open areas.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Family and Consumer Sciences focuses on the wellbeing of citizens of all ages by providing education and outreach in the community. In 2019, FACS programming addressed issues in the areas of financial capability, job skills, food safety and preservation. Through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), poverty simulation programs and sharing curriculum with educators on teaching job skills in the classroom, 243 participants received 865 hours of education related to improving financial capability within the community. Additionally, hands-on workshops provided audiences of all ages with 200 hours of education on home food preservation and 469 hours of food safety education for both foodservice audiences and adult and youth consumers. FACS also participated in UGA Extension's internship program hosting a summer intern, an Augusta native who conducted research in sensory evaluation and gained experience in community education.

EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

UGA Cooperative Extension in Richmond County delivers nutrition education through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). EFNEP focuses on providing education in four core areas: budgeting, diet quality, food safety and food security. Federal, state and local resources are merged to reach limited-resource families who are caretakers of children. Participants are able to improve nutrition practices, learn how stretch their food dollars, prevent foodborne illness and try new recipes after completing this eight-week series. In 2019, Richmond County EFNEP program assistants delivered "Food Talk" and "Hablemos de Comida" curriculums, providing 2,639 educational sessions for adults and youth. Additionally, since 2018, Richmond County EFNEP has collaborated with nine new agencies, building agency partnerships to 31. Through community partnerships and outreach events, EFNEP continues growing to offer this excellent resource to residents in Richmond County.



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 201,554
*2019 Georgia Population Estimates,
Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budgets*

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 96/159
*2019 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

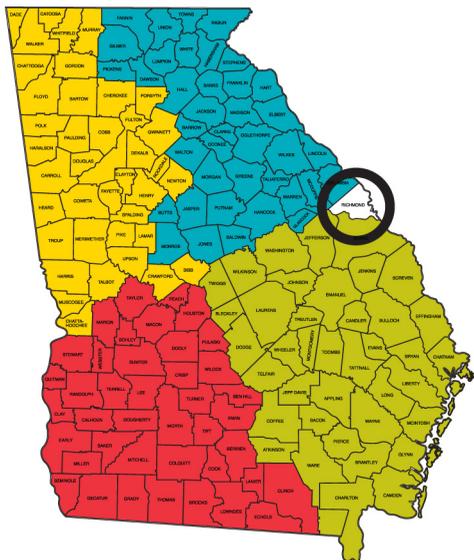
Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 7,820
Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

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

Jobs: 3,619

Output: \$1,225,682,589
*2020 Ag Snapshots,
UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development*

Farm Gate Value: \$8,381,037
Top Commodities: Container Nursery,
Greenhouse, Beef Cows
*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.