University of Georgia Cooperative Extension is working hard for its constituents. The following are examples of our impact in the county over the past year.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Since 2013, Barrow County 4-H has presented fifth-grade career lessons to approximately 2,700 participants. At the request of the guidance counselors, Barrow County 4-H staff continued to present these lessons each year.

In 2015-2016, the 4-H staff delivered the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) program to every fifth-grader in the Barrow County School System and Bethlehem Christian Academy in four of the monthly club meetings, reaching 893 students. One class from each elementary school (281 students) was randomly selected to complete a survey with questions relating to each lesson. Students completed the survey in April 2016 after the government and public administration lesson. From the results of the surveys, the students demonstrated what they had learned. After the finance lesson, 94 percent of students correctly identified at least one of the four best things they should do with their money: share it, invest it, save it or spend it wisely. Eighty-five percent of students correctly identified at least three of the six ways to spend less money while on a tight budget. After the information technology lesson, 71 percent of students correctly identified at least two of the three vocabulary words associated with information technology. After the marketing lesson, 88 percent of students correctly identified at least two of the four terms related to marketing. After the government and public administration lesson, 90 percent of students correctly matched at least three of the five government departments with the type of assistance provided.

Barrow County 4-H is committed to “making the best better,” and will continue to deliver 4-H and CCRPI lessons in the 2016-2017 school year at the request of school counselors. In addition, for the 2016-2017 school year, Barrow County 4-H staff will be presenting career exploration lessons to eighth-graders as a resource for the eighth-grade career development classes at all four Barrow County School System middle schools. The school’s career, technical and agriculture education director requested that Barrow County 4-H staff present these additional Georgia 4-H CCRPI lessons.

4-H PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Twenty-eight seventh- and eighth-grade students have completed the Barrow Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Leadership Program. The 4-H Program Development Team worked with the Barrow County Chamber of Commerce and the UGA J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development to make this program a success. When surveyed, 98 percent of participants reported feeling that the series of lessons was a valuable use of their time. Ninety-eight percent believe that what they learned in the lessons will make them better leaders. Ninety-three percent planned to put into action what they learned in the next three months. One student stated, “I learned all the effort it takes to be a good leader along with how valuable leadership is.”

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Alicia Holloway was hired and began work as the Barrow County Agriculture and Natural Resources agent on Dec. 1, 2016. Holloway received her bachelor’s degree in agriculture education and her master’s degree in horticulture from UGA. She worked as an agriculture education teacher at Clarke Middle School for two years. She completed an internship with Oconee County Extension, where she worked with 4-H and agriculture. She has a strong background in school and community gardens and worked on curriculum for the Georgia Master Gardener program.
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, with $74 billion of direct and indirect economic impact. More than 41,000 Georgia jobs are involved directly 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 – a virtual, fitness-tracking resource – encourages improving physical fitness and healthy lifestyles in order 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.

Population: 78,078
2016 Georgia County Guide, UGA

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 44/159
2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 1105
Georgia 4-H Enrollment system, FY16

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

Jobs: 2,751
Output: $410,389,659
2017 Georgia Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: $32,377,317.20
Top Commodities: Broiler, Beef, Hay
2016 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Related Total Economic Contribution:

Population:

44/159

2016 ANNUAL REPORT: BARROW COUNTY

COUNTY AT A GLANCE

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 2.6 million Georgians annually through a network of specialists, agents and staff by providing unbiased, research-based information driven by local needs and clientele input. From publications to in-person workshops and events, Extension is ready to meet the needs of the state and its communities.

Learn more at:
extension.uga.edu

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