



2016 ANNUAL REPORT: DAWSON COUNTY

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

The Dawson County 4-H Archery and BB teams have hit a bull's-eye with the Georgia Project Shooting Awareness, Fun and Education (S.A.F.E.) program. They have doubled participants in the past year due to the hard work and dedication of Dawson County 4-H-certified volunteers



and S.A.F.E. coaches. Currently there are 18 BB and 19 archery participants in Dawson County. This past year, three archery coaches and five BB coaches went through the Georgia 4-H S.A.F.E. training. The Dawson 4-H S.A.F.E. teams have raised over \$5,000 to help keep registration fees at a minimum for 4-H students. A total of 400 coaching hours were accrued this past year and 250 hours were accrued by

risk-management-trained 4-H volunteers in assisting, chaperoning, transporting and fundraising for the teams. Volunteer time is worth \$23.07 per hour, according to the federal government. The amount of hours volunteered in terms of monetary value is over \$15,000.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

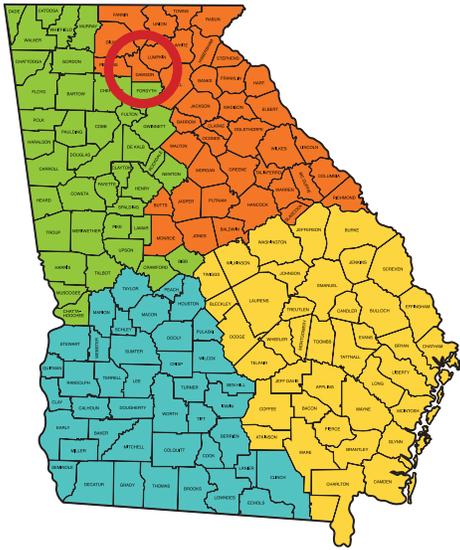
Although Dawson County does not have a Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) agent based in the county Extension office, we strive to assist local residents with their questions. Common questions cover food safety, food preservation, dealing with mold and mildew, healthy meal planning, nutrition, family budgeting, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) resources and more. These issues and others are answered through a wide variety of free UGA Extension publications available at the county office and phone

conferences with Family and Consumer Sciences agents from surrounding counties. Neighboring FCS agents often conduct programming that our county residents are welcome to attend. Our office can provide information about programming in surrounding counties.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Clark MacAllister, UGA Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources agent in Dawson County, assists farmers and homeowners with soil fertility, safe pesticide use, private pesticide license testing, water use, home gardening, small farm startups, and crop and pasture management. The UGA Extension office in Dawson County also provides soil, water, forage and plant pathogen testing through the Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories at UGA.

The trees in Dawson County parks enhance beauty and provide shade to citizens, but they also pose a safety risk to park patrons. The UGA Extension agent in Dawson County, an ISA-certified arborist, performed tree risk assessments in all three Dawson County parks to help ensure the safety of park users. Hazardous trees were either pruned or removed based on the agent's recommendations. Local taxpayers saw a savings benefit of around \$15,000 from using the services of the UGA Extension agent rather than an outside arborist. The Dawson County government was also able to keep lower liability insurance premiums by addressing park tree hazards.



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 23,983

2016 Georgia County Guide, UGA

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 15/159

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

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 516

Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY16

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

Jobs: 758

Output: \$130,770,775

2017 Georgia Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: \$63,755,404.64

Top Commodities: Broiler, Breeder Pullet Units, Beef

2015 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 2.6 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

The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

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 411,000 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.