



2016 ANNUAL REPORT: FRANKLIN 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.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Franklin County has one of the highest farm gate values in the state, and the broiler industry contributes a great deal. Franklin County also ranks high in hatching layer production and beef cattle production. Many of the programs offered through Franklin County Extension address issues that arise within the cattle industry. The Extension office also offers programs addressing topics like home gardening; wheat and soybean production; and pesticide application, which is covered in an annual class. Issues-based programming is a main focus for UGA Extension. During the recent period of drought, for example, the Extension office offered drought programs and information for farmers.

Through university resources, the Extension office is able to provide answers for homeowners and farmers on many topics including soil fertility, safe pesticide application, water use, home gardening, and crop and pasture management. The Extension office provides soil, forage and water testing through the Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories at UGA. Agents can also identify plants, insects, diseases and weeds, and give fertilization and pest management recommendations. In addition to the services that are offered, the local Extension office is developing programs to further educate farmers and homeowners by bringing new information to the people of Franklin County.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Franklin County 4-H offers a world in which students can receive educational opportunities that will last a lifetime. Students in fifth grade participate in monthly in-school club meetings during science classes that correlate with



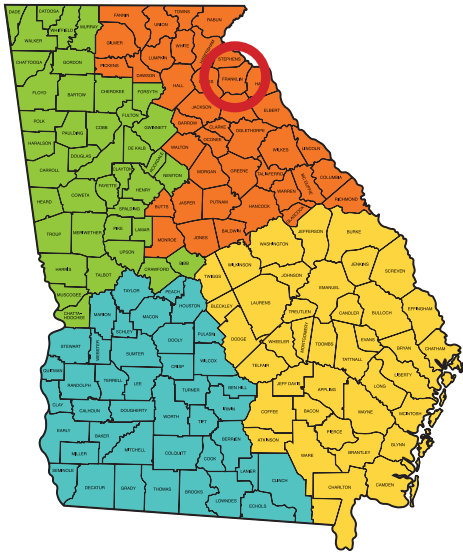
the current studies of that class. Middle and high school students have the opportunity to participate in Club Day meetings at their schools and are currently being taught healthy lifestyles curricula. A homeschool program is currently promoting citizenship and healthy lifestyles.

All Franklin County 4-H members have an opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities that include Project Achievement, Forestry Judging, livestock exhibiting, Poultry Judging, Livestock Judging and community service projects. Many summer-season educational activities are also offered, such as the summer camping program through Georgia 4-H and local day camps.

Students participating in Franklin County 4-H are encouraged to participate in citizenship and leadership activities. Our goal is to help produce active community leaders for tomorrow. Students are encouraged to participate in classroom and school governments and to attend meetings of our local governments.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Although Franklin 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 and more. These issues and others are answered through a wide variety of free UGA Extension publications available at the county office and through 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.



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 22,419

2016 Georgia County Guide, UGA

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 59/159

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

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 283

Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY16

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

Jobs: 1,711

Output: \$534,319,271

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

Farm Gate Value: \$401,762,961.50

Top Commodities: Broiler, Layers, 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

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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, 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.