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**

In 2018, 4,055 clients contacted the UGA Extension office in Bartow County by phone, email and in-office consultations with farm, lawn and garden questions. More than 470 soil, water, forage, insect, weed and plant-disease samples were processed through the local office.

There is a growing need to increase agricultural awareness and communicate the historical context of modern agricultural advancements, as many consumers are two and three generations removed from farming. The Bartow County Extension office collaborated with the Bartow History Museum to create an interactive exhibit titled “The Call of the Land: Cultivating Bartow’s Agricultural Legacy.” More than 3,500 people viewed this exhibit from April through September.

As a complement to the exhibit, the museum worked with the local Extension agent to coordinate a tour of historic and modern farming locations in Bartow County. A total of 43 people attended the bus tour. Tour evaluations indicated that 100 percent of respondents learned something new about the history of agriculture in Bartow County. The agent was also invited to present an evening lecture at the museum titled “A Brief History of Agriculture in Bartow County” with 30 attendees.

**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Georgia 4-H is an integral part of the education system of our state. Positive relationships and sustained collaborative efforts between 4-H and local schools result in strong communities and better-educated youth.

The 4-H agent and program assistant conducted a special College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) lesson for Cartersville City Schools during the past three years for 1,050 fifth-graders. Over six years, 6,000 Bartow County School students were instructed as part of the CCRPI curriculum. The four career clusters for fifth graders were: Finance, Government and Public Administration, Informational Technology and Marketing.

At the conclusion of one of the classes, 99 percent of students indicated that they learned about a new career as a result of their participation and 69 percent will consider entering one of these four careers. Over the past two years, Cartersville City and Bartow County elementary schools’ CCRPI scores have steadily increased.

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES**

Providing Bartow County with health, food safety and nutrition initiatives has become a cornerstone of the Extension office. In 2018, Bartow County Extension staff completed three programs on health and wellness including free nutrition-education classes through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) program, training restaurant and food service managers in food safety, and partnering with the American Cancer Society to offer a cooking school centered on cancer prevention.

In 2018, Bartow County SNAP-Ed taught 180 participants how to enhance healthy eating behaviors including food resource management, food safety, food preparation, healthy weight management and increasing physical activity.

Bartow County staff trained 45 Food Service employees in ServSafe®, a food safety certification program including 7 Northwest District health inspectors.

The Extension office conducted a Cooking for a Lifetime Cancer Prevention School that taught participants about cancer screening guidelines and recommended nutrition and physical activity practices for cancer prevention. The program connected women without insurance to low- or no-cost screening services in their area. Bartow County did better than the state average by recruiting one of the highest percentages of uninsured women with 38.9 percent qualifying.
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 $73.7 billion. More than 392,400 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.