



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
EXTENSION



2018 ANNUAL REPORT: MACON-BIBB 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.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The expertise of green industry professionals can set them apart from their competitors. Under the law, landscape professionals must acquire a commercial pesticide applicator's license to apply pesticides. Once certified, applicators must complete continuing education units (CEUs) to maintain their licenses. Macon-Bibb and Houston County Extension collaborated to present Green-Up 2018 last March. This program provided cutting-edge tips from Extension specialists and industry professionals and offered commercial pesticide CEUs. Thirty-two participants from 10 counties attended; 21 green industry professionals received a total of 84 hours of recertification credit. Researchers estimate a value of \$566 per hour of pesticide recertification credit hour earned. This equates to an increase in profit/cost reduction of \$47,544 for the professionals in attendance.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

After-school hours, considered to be from 3 to 6 p.m., are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex. To combat the trend, Macon-Bibb County 4-H offered after-school, weekend and summer activities focusing on career exploration, public-speaking development and community service. One hundred forty-two youths participated in the 111 activities Macon-Bibb County 4-H offered. These activities allowed 4-H members to become more independent and motivated. One 4-H'er stated, "I really enjoyed attending 4-H State Council. I had the opportunity to teach and lead a community-service workshop for other high school 4-H members. It was fun to interact with the other senior 4-H'ers in my community service class. I love to teach others how important it is to serve those in need from their communities." Another 4-H member said, "If it weren't for all the 4-H activities I would just be at home by myself after school. 4-H is fun and the office is a fun place to come hang out!"

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), chronic diseases (such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and hypertension) are "the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems" in the country. The county health ranking for Macon-Bibb County is 146 out of 159. Many chronic diseases are caused by modifiable behaviors, commonly referred to as "risk behaviors." Cancer, diabetes and related issues top the disease list in our community. More than 300 adults participated in nutrition-education programs intended to change behavior and encourage healthy lifestyles. Fifty-six of the program participants reported that they would decrease their intake of the "Salty Six" and replace them with healthier options. On average, 67 percent of cancer cooking school attendees said they would seek an appropriate cancer screening following the program.

Free nutrition education is offered weekly to Macon-Bibb County parents with limited resources. The University of Georgia Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) provided nutrition education using the Food Talk curriculum to 277 EFNEP participants, indirectly reaching 1,007 family members. Staff taught parents how to reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses, improve diet quality and prepare nutritious recipes on a budget. Clients who completed the Food Talk educational series reported measurable improvements. This included 91 percent who reported eating more fruits and vegetables, 77 percent who reported increasing their understanding of food safety, and 66 percent who reported comparing food prices while grocery shopping as a result of this program.



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 156,835
2017 Georgia County Guide, Georgia Public Library Service

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 98/159
2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 1,431
Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

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

Jobs: 4,077

Output: \$950,931,296
2019 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

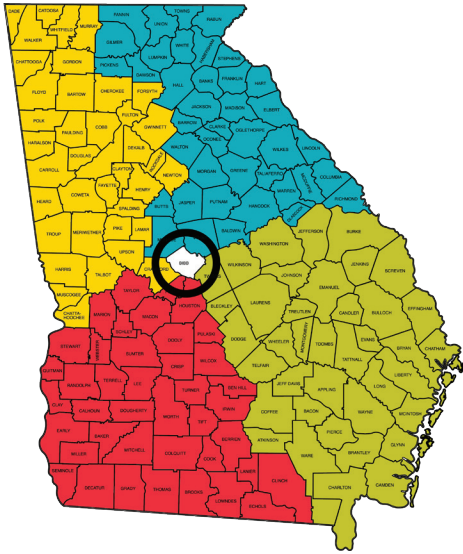
Farm Gate Value: \$10,689,277
Top Commodities: Poultry (broilers), Beef (cattle), Dairy
2017 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

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 2.1 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

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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, 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.