AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Bulloch County planted 23,400 acres of peanuts in 2017 with a farm-gate value of $22.5 million. Peanut diseases such as leaf spot and white mold require growers to use foliar-applied fungicide programs to reduce severity and increase yield potential. In 2018, a study was conducted in a white-mold-infected peanut field in Bulloch County. Research protocol included nine different fungicide treatments: Proline, Propulse, Prosaro, Elatus, Muscle ADV, Fontelis, Echo 720, Miravis, Priaxor and Convoy. There is a strong relationship between white-mold incidence and peanut yield. There was a 1,436 pound per acre yield difference between the highest- and lowest-yielding fungicide programs. The Elatus and Miravis fungicide programs performed best. The three-block Elatus fungicide program was the top yielder at 5,311 pounds per acre. The four-block Muscle ADV program yielded the lowest at 3,875 pounds per acre. The difference in yield was attributed to underground white mold. This increase in yield applied to the acres planted of peanuts in Bulloch County, showing a $5.6 million increase in profits.

More than 3,500 jobs in Bulloch County are in agriculture or related fields. Whether producers are developing a new venture or adapting an existing operation to meet new demands and opportunities, having an understanding of necessary business skills are vital to being successful. UGA Extension in Bulloch County routinely collaborates with UGA and Georgia Southern Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to assist new and existing producers and agribusinesses gain the technical and financial knowledge needed to be successful. Bulloch County Extension worked with UGA/GSU SBDC to present a workshop called “Digital Media for Agribusiness.” This workshop introduced participants to digital-media basics that will help expand their marketing potential. Participants learned how agribusinesses can use digital and social media outlets to target new customers and create market demand. The

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Equipping youth with leadership skills and opportunities is an important aspect of youth development. While Georgia 4-H offers numerous leadership activities and conferences, Bulloch County 4-H wanted to increase focus on local leadership among our active middle- and high-school 4-H’ers to better equip them with skills and tools to be effective leaders. Bulloch County 4-H developed a new methodology for selecting formal leadership within its junior and senior clubs for 7th to 12th graders. Those interested in serving as club leaders completed an application and interview process. Once selected, new officers attended a two-day intensive planning retreat along with monthly planning meetings, and adhered to a list of expectations that included involvement in community service, 4-H fundraisers, Project Achievement and planning meetings. Twelve Bulloch County 4-H’ers were selected to serve as club leaders. These 4-H’ers participated in the planning retreat and have completed other requirements set forth in their officer contract. 4-H’ers are gaining more experience in planning, organizing and implementing programs and activities while remaining highly engaged in the overall 4-H 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, 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.