



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
EXTENSION

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT: BULLOCH 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.*

### **GEORGIA HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY PROGRAM HAS TWO-FOLD BENEFIT IN BULLOCH COUNTY**

Crop damage caused by deer has been a major problem in Bulloch County for a number of years. Damage to crops has been increasing exponentially and has become a costly economic issue for commodity producers. The Georgia Wildlife Federation (GWF) has a program in the state that allows for deer to be processed and made available to local food banks. Bulloch County Extension Program Development Team members wanted to investigate possible solutions to row crop depredation, mainly in cotton, by deer in Bulloch County. The Georgia Hunters for the Hungry program was initiated in Bulloch County in fall 2015. Local funds were raised in conjunction with the GWF fund donation. Local meat processors agreed to participate in the Hunters for the Hungry program. The processed meat is utilized at the local food bank in Bulloch County and is distributed to those in need. The Georgia Hunters for the Hungry program provides opportunities during hunting season for hunters to share their harvest with those in need. A total of 1,650 pounds of processed deer meat has been provided to the local food bank since the initiation of the Hunters for the Hungry program in Bulloch County. There is still an issue with deer crop depredation in the county, but the program has provided an avenue to alleviate some of the problem. Benefits of the Hunters for the Hungry program has been two-fold; the meat provided by hunters helps feed those who are less fortunate and the program offers support to help manage the deer population in Bulloch County.

### **4-H'ERS DEVELOP PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS THROUGH PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT**

In order to better prepare youth for oral presentation and communication, Georgia 4-H utilizes Project Achievement. Participants research a topic of their choice, prepare a speech and visual aids and then present in a competitive setting.

The Bulloch County 4-H staff and Program Development Team found Project Achievement to be an area that needed attention for growth.



Fifth and sixth grade 4-H'ers learned the Georgia 4-H Friends Finding Your Way to Project Achievement curriculum focusing on the steps for developing an effective presentation: choosing a topic, writing an appropriate and educational speech and creating visual aids that are useful and valuable. Students interested in pursuing Project Achievement met individually with 4-H staff and volunteers over a three-month period to prepare for the county-level competition.

Seventh through 12th grade 4-H'ers participated in portfolio workshops, demonstration practices and dress rehearsals with feedback from volunteer judges and 4-H staff.

Eighteen seventh through 12th graders competed at Southeast District Project Achievement. Thirteen of these placed in the top three in their category and five advanced to State Congress, where one 4-H'er earned Master 4-H'er status. At Bulloch County's Cloverleaf Project Achievement, 75 fifth and sixth graders presented speeches. Of those participants at Cloverleaf County Project Achievement, 46 advanced to compete at District Project Achievement. Because of these efforts, Bulloch County 4-H received honors for increases in Project Achievement participation at the district level and saw an improvement in the number of 4-H'ers placing in their projects.

One Bulloch County 4-H'er stated that participating in Project Achievement taught her how to conduct research and be creative. Another emphasized the confidence and positive thinking that she gains by competing.



## COUNTY AT A GLANCE

**Population:** 77,296  
*2019 Georgia Population Estimates,  
Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budgets*

**Georgia Health Factors Ranking:** 68/159  
*2019 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin  
Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

**Georgia 4-H Enrollment:** 1,985  
*Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17*

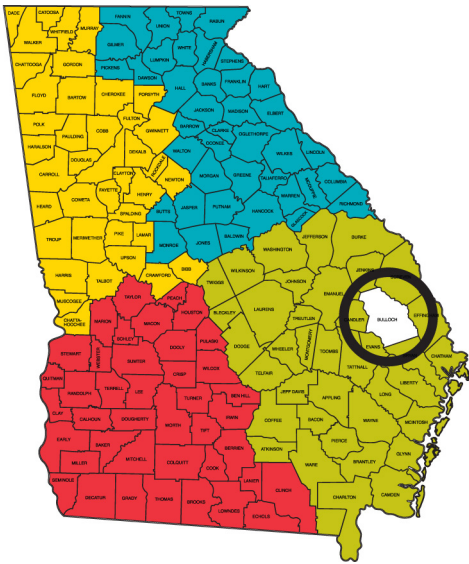
**Agriculture, Food, Fiber, Horticulture and  
Related Total Economic Contribution:**

**Jobs:** 1,985

**Output:** \$291,993,565  
*2020 Ag Snapshots,  
UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development*

**Farm Gate Value:** \$137,174,589

**Top Commodities:** Timber,  
Horses-board, train, breed, Cotton  
*2018 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 21 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](http://extension.uga.edu)

### 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 \$76 billion. More than 399,200 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 nearly 243,000 fourth- through 12th-grade students across the state. It helps them 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.