



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
EXTENSION



## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT: BUTTS 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

Agriculture contributes more than \$15 million annually to the economy of Butts County. The Butts County Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) agent is here to provide resources and information to local farmers and the general public. In 2019, the Butts County ANR agent initiated and participated in county and area agricultural educational programs and made numerous farm/site visits regarding pest management, soil fertility and issues of importance to farmers and homeowners. The following programs reached more than 200 farmers in Butts County and surrounding areas: Home Gardening programs (a series of three programs), Piedmont Cattlemen's Association meetings, the Small Ruminant Program, the Indian Springs Community Club program, Hay Field Day, Beef and Forage Field Day and Beef Herd Field Day.

### FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Butts County Extension does not have a Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) agent, however staff provides services by answering FACS questions using Extension resources and referring questions to FACS agents in surrounding counties.

### 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

For the fourth year, Butts County 4-H surveyed community leaders and teachers, who responded that teens in Butts County need more leadership development. In answer to this need, Butts County 4-H staff created leadership lessons for the Junior/Senior 4-H meetings each month. The lessons for the fourth year were: Where am I in the pack? Are leaders born or made? Should I lead, follow or just get out of the way? How can I help other be better leaders? How can I help this summer in Butts County 4-H? In 2019, 29 students participated. In the first year, students did not clearly understand the meaning of leadership. They all believed leadership meant being in charge. Slowly, the students began to understand what true leadership was. The second year, the program started with a lesson on why it is important for every group to have leadership, followed by lessons on the dynamics of leadership. The third-year program explored why should students choose to lead. This year we took an in-depth look at how students could help the leaders in their group. From the first year to the second year, the percentage of members who participated in leadership roles increase from 75% to 87%. The entire group did an excellent job of leading, each in their own way and assisting each other become better leaders. Along with improved leadership, the group showed teamwork skills. The entire group stated that they felt they had matured in how they view leadership, stating it was not just the person in charge, but it a function of each member of the group to show leadership. Former Butts County School Superintendent Robert Costley commented that "Butts County 4-H has had an awesome effect on the students in Butts County. They have taught them teamwork and leadership skills needed for success in life."



## COUNTY AT A GLANCE

**Population:** 24,193  
*2019 Georgia Population Estimates,  
Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budgets*

**Georgia Health Factors Ranking:** 69/159  
*2019 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin  
Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

**Georgia 4-H Enrollment:** 903  
*Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17*

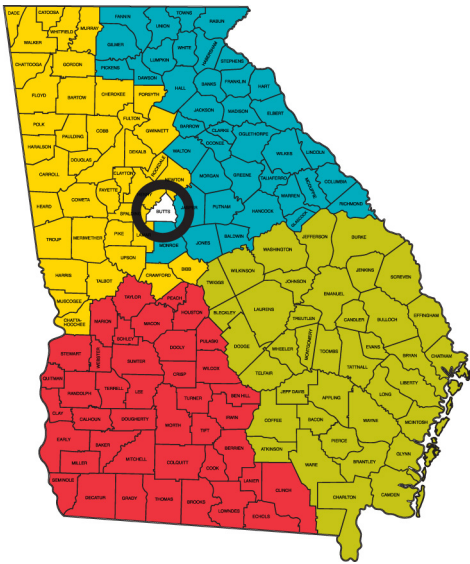
**Agriculture, Food, Fiber, Horticulture and Related Total Economic Contribution:**

**Jobs:** 4,62

**Output:** \$29,209,981  
*2020 Ag Snapshots,  
UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development*

**Farm Gate Value:** \$14,296,695

**Top Commodities:** Dairy, Cotton, Peanuts  
*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.