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.

**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

The Calhoun County 4-H Club, led by Shanda Ashley, provides various opportunities to the youth of this community to help them learn valuable life skills. Healthy lifestyles and financial literacy lessons are taught during club meetings held in the local schools. 4-H also offers opportunities such as the District Project Achievement competition, summer camp, robotics activities, Project SAFE (Shooting Awareness, Fun and Education) programs, livestock projects, Enviroscape classes and other 4-H events. The Calhoun County 4-H Club raises funds to assist with activity fees. These opportunities help to improve students’ public speaking skills, strengthen their decision-making skills, and enhance their math, science and writing skills.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

UGA Extension provides nutrition education programs and educational materials for adults and youth. By improving the overall health habits of Georgians, fewer hospitalizations and medications will be required, reducing health care costs for individuals, taxpayers, small businesses and corporations. Traci Aycock at the county Extension office can provide publications and assist residents in locating appropriate programs in nearby counties.

**WALK GEORGIA**

Through the Walk Georgia program, the UGA Extension office in Calhoun County invites residents, schools or businesses to increase personal physical activity level or to use as a worksite wellness program in a fun, community-oriented way. Individuals or groups can register for this free program online at walkgeorgia.org.

**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Peanuts, cotton and corn are the predominant crops grown in Calhoun County, and these crops are the main source of income for most farmers in the county. In 2017, the total farm-gate value was reported at more than $98.7 million in Calhoun County. If left uncontrolled, diseases can cause a greater than 50 percent yield reduction in some crops. With the valuable information provided by specialists and from on-farm data, producers, consultants and chemical salesmen can better protect crops. The more effective we are in disease control, the more impact we can have on profits and the economy of Calhoun County. A variety of educational activities have been designed and are being conducted to document yield-loss potential of row crop diseases, test new control programs and educate farmers on these diseases. Effective management and chemical control options are viable tools that all producers in the county must have to protect their crops. Educational programming led by UGA Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent Luke Crosson will also raise awareness among the general public and with public officials about Extension’s efforts and impact.

**HEALTHIER TOGETHER CALHOUN**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) awarded grant funds to UGA for fighting obesity in Calhoun County. As a result, Healthier Together Calhoun began in November 2016, with Calhoun County Extension working with UGA partners to implement community-based strategies to support behavioral and environmental changes for healthy eating and physical activity for children and families. Educational outreach has been conducted through 4-H and Family and Consumer Sciences with the help of a new program assistant, Stacey Williams, supported by the grant. A community coalition meets quarterly to work on established goals, future projects and measuring success.
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.

Learn more at:
extension.uga.edu