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**

Chatham County 4-H had 1331 students enrolled in 2018. There were 63 clubs in Chatham County. Programs were conducted in 38 schools, both private and public. The Chatham County Extension 4-H program reached a total of 16,691 young people. Members participated in 4-H State Congress, State 4-H Council, District Project Achievement competition, summer camp and monthly club meetings. A total of seven new community clubs were established in partnership with community centers. These clubs reach out to limited-resource and at-risk youth within the city. County competition teams included forestry, wildlife, shooting sports and poultry judging. Chatham County 4-H also works on the Wildlife Enhancement Project, which provides educational activities for youth to learn vital research skills by investigating facts about local and invasive species. They use the skills learned to complete projects to increase biodiversity in partnership with the Audubon Society and the Superior Landfill. One of our Chatham 4-H’ers was selected to represent the state of Georgia at the 4-H National Conference. This selection process is very competitive and is one of 4-H’s highest honors.

**EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION (EFNEP)**

UGA Extension in Chatham County delivered free nutrition education to families with children and youth through Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP), which offers educational nutrition programs that help participants develop skills, increase knowledge and make behavioral changes that will impact their daily lives. Food demonstrations and taste-testing encourage clients to sample and prepare new foods. In 2018, UGA EFNEP directly reached 593 individuals in Chatham County, representing households of 2,594 individuals. Eighty-five percent of participants were caregivers for children under age 19. Community volunteers contributed 727 hours of their time, valued at $17,732. The Food Talk or Hablemos de Comida curricula attracted 363 participants to all sessions.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

UGA Extension assisted 4,537 Chatham County residents through Family and Consumer Sciences resources and programs on topics such as chronic disease prevention through nutrition and physical activity, managing personal finances, home-buyer education, healthy homes, food safety and preservation, and parenting. Chatham County Extension also provides low-cost, high-quality educational programs to increase the knowledge and skills of childcare providers. Quarterly trainings were offered, and 3,744 educational-contact hours were provided to 624 childcare professionals. Of those attending, 85 percent of childcare providers stated their skills were significantly improved as a result of the trainings. A total of 729 volunteer hours were contributed, valued at $17,707.

**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Chatham County Extension assisted 4,778 urban consumers in finding answers for their agriculture-related questions. Chatham County Extension supports the Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program with 126 active Master Gardeners. The Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm had a total of 28,875 visitors. This includes those visiting the gardens as well as those attending educational outreach programs.

ugaextension.org/chatham
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.