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

There are many people who own dogs and cats who have failed to realize their pets need to be vaccinated. This protects the animal from contagious diseases, and it is important to keep their essential vaccinations up-to-date. Although some pets are kept mostly indoors, many diseases are airborne and pets can easily be exposed. Convenient and affordable vaccines are offered through the Clay County Extension office as a fundraiser for the Clay County 4-H Club. Local veterinarian Todd Tabb donates his time and services each year in May to help make the public aware of the importance of pet vaccination and to offer vaccinations at a reduced price. We saw 44 clients and 71 dogs and cats. Dogs received combination shots that included distemper, parvovirus, influenza, hepatitis and rabies vaccinations. Cats received leukemia and Fluvac four-way distemper vaccines and rabies shots. Combination vaccines were $25 for dogs and $36 for cats, and rabies shots were $11. The prices remain the same this year.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

For years, peanut producers have been longing for a growth regulator in peanuts. Many have tried the growth regulators used in other crops only to come away disappointed. Many producers feel that vine growth is taking away from the peanut plants’ ability to produce the highest potential nut crop. Now, Apogee has emerged as a growth regulator that may actually be effective.

In trials in Clay County fields, Apogee was applied to 18 rows by the length of the field and replicated four times. The rate used was 5.0 ounces per acre. The initial application was applied when 50 percent of the lateral branches were touching, and the second application was applied two weeks after that. This trial was then taken a step further to try to eliminate other variables that may affect the outcome. One variable we could take out was the planting date. Four more trials were performed across a single grower's entire planting season.

Across all planting dates, the Apogee worked at controlling vine growth. It was very easy to pick out the treated plots visually, but at a cost of $50 per acre, would it prove worth it? The answer is yes. On the first planting date, Apogee outyielded the untreated check by 500 pounds per acre and had a return on investment (ROI) of $45 per acre. On the second planting date, Apogee again outyielded the check, this time by 100 pounds per acre, and had an ROI of $136 per acre. The third and fourth planting dates followed the same pattern, with the third being 980 pounds better and an ROI of $114 per acre, and the fourth 620 pounds better and an ROI of $54 per acre. Across the four trials, Apogee had an average yield of 775 pounds per acre better than the untreated peanuts and an average ROI of $87.25 per acre. This work has led to an additional 6,000 to 7,000 acres treated with the product. This is an increase in potential profit of $567,125 combined for those growers. Many more have expressed that they will use this method in the upcoming year after struggling with vine growth this year.
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-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.