AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Contributing nearly $20 billion to agriculture in the U.S., honeybees play a vital role in Georgia’s farming communities. With strong blueberry production that benefits from pollination, Clinch County is no exception. Kimberly Kester, Clinch County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension agent, teaches youth and adults about honey production, honeybee pollination and how bees impact our food supply. She provides producers assistance with routine soil analysis, nematode sampling and plant-tissue analysis. Additionally, research projects in the timber industry are conducted. In collaboration with university specialists, on-farm research results in improved crop varieties, enhanced integrated pest management and increased profitability. Animal producers also benefit from management advice and university research publications provided by the agent.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Clinch County 4-H Club is expanding possibilities for many 4-H’ers, opening them up to opportunities they might not otherwise have, which is very rewarding. In 2018, Clinch County 4-H took 89 children to camp and 28 children to District Project Achievement (DPA). Our programs are important because children receive an educational experience that is fun while they develop self-confidence and responsibility and practice good habits that lead to healthier lifestyles. Clinch County 4-H promotes an annual Christmas fruit-sale fundraiser that provides funding for 4-H programs, such as summer camp rallies, DPA reward trips, DPA registration fees, Trunk or Treat held at Clinch County Elementary School and Clinch County Middle School, Honors Day Awards, and pizza parties. The intent is to make all camps as affordable as possible for our 4-H’ers. Clinch County Extension offers two additional fundraisers — Yankee Candle sales and candy bar sales. These fundraisers are used to fully cover or help offset camp costs, giving children of all economic backgrounds in Clinch County the opportunity to benefit from the life lessons learned at 4-H camps and DPA events.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

UGA Extension provides answers for Georgians about canning, freezing, food preservation and safety each and every day. Foodborne illnesses can be costly to the state and community, and they can even be deadly. The elderly, the chronically ill and young children are at high risk for complications due to foodborne illnesses that are likely to require hospitalization. Preventing illnesses keeps parents from missing work and losing pay that can be spent for goods in the local economy. Improperly thawed or mishandled food can be an economic disaster for a family. To assist county residents, publications featuring all aspects of food preservation and food safety are available in the local Extension office.
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.