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 Dawson County 4-H Club’s archery and BB teams have hit a bull’s eye with the Project SAFE (Shooting Awareness, Fun and Education) program. They have doubled the number of participants in the past three years due to the hard work and dedication of Dawson County 4-H-certified volunteers and Project SAFE coaches. Currently there are 16 BB, one air rifle and 21 archery participants in Dawson County. In the past three years, five archery coaches, seven BB coaches and one air rifle coach have completed Project SAFE training. The Dawson County Project SAFE teams have raised more than $7,500 to help keep registration fees at a minimum for 4-H students. A total of 600 coaching hours were accrued this past year and 250 hours were accrued by risk-management-trained 4-H volunteers in assisting, chaperoning, transporting and fundraising for the teams. Volunteer time is worth $23.07 per hour, according to the federal government. The monetary value of hours volunteered is more than $19,500.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
Although Dawson County does not have a Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) agent based in the county Extension office, we strive to assist local residents with their questions. Common questions cover food safety, food preservation, dealing with mold and mildew, healthy meal planning, nutrition, family budgeting, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) resources and more. These issues and others are answered through a wide variety of free UGA Extension publications available at the county office and phone conferences with FACS agents from surrounding counties. Often neighboring FACS agents are conducting programming that our county residents are welcome to attend. Our office provides programming information to residents.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UGA Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent Clark MacAllister assists farmers and homeowners with many topics including soil fertility, safe pesticide usage, private pesticide license testing, water usage, home gardening, small farm start-ups, and crop and pasture management. The UGA Extension office in Dawson County also provides soil, water, forage and plant-pathogen testing through the Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratory at UGA.

The Amicalola Regional Farmers Market was started by a local group of citizens and stakeholders to promote consumption of local produce and crafts. The group was able to secure a market venue at Veterans Memorial Park and worked with the local board of commissioners to secure permits. The farmers market had several new and returning vendors from the 2017 market. The UGA Extension agent acted as market manager for the market season. The Amicalola Regional Farmers Market successfully increased access to fresh, local fruits and vegetables to citizens of Dawson County and surrounding areas.
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.