



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
EXTENSION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT: DOUGHERTY COUNTY

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.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Dougherty County pecan production is ranked number two in the state and Dougherty County has approximately 16,700 acres of pecans, making it the number one agricultural commodity in the county. In October 2018, about a week before harvesting was to begin, that commodity was hit hard by Hurricane Michael as it moved through the county. Tree tops were blown out, limbs were heavily damaged, and trees were uprooted throughout the county leaving the majority of the crop on the ground. Orchard conditions made harvesting very challenging. Farmers were expecting to harvest between 1,000 to 1,200 pounds per acre, instead they were only able to harvest less than half of the anticipated amount. One producer shared that he is able to harvest about two to three million pounds off of 2,300 acres in a good year. However, due to the storm, he was only able to harvest about 200,000 to 300,000 pounds.

Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension program provides annual/quarterly educational trainings/workshops to farmers to improve productivity while protecting the environment. The extension agent offers advice on pesticides to help farmers and homeowners to control and/or manage diseases and weed control, market products made from plants/animals, and assist farmers with establishing co-ops.

FVSU Cooperative Extension assists farmers with completing Farm Service Agency loan applications and farm plans, as well as the Natural Resources Conservation Service Cost-Share Programs applications.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

University of Georgia Family and Consumer Sciences Extension programs and publications provide chronic disease education, prevention and management programs for Georgians who are at risk for or suffering from diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, heart disease and/or cancer. Dougherty County offers a yearly Diabetes Cooking School and Cancer Prevention

Cooking School to inform county residents how good nutrition can prevent these diseases. By learning skills that address chronic disease, we can greatly reduce the cost of health care and teach people how to live healthier. Dougherty County FACS agent also provides free Virtual Income Tax Assistance (VITA) yearly working with the University of Georgia and University of Florida.

Recent statistics reveal that youth in Dougherty County lead the state of Georgia in sexually transmitted diseases and infections. Relationship and health education offered to this demographic teaches healthy relationships and goal setting for youth.

The federal Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) works with low-income families with small children and includes a seven-week nutrition demonstration program.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Dougherty County 4-H Program works collaboratively with the school system and the community to make a brighter future for 1,500 4-H members.

By offering 4-H programs and specialty clubs, such as Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging, Poultry Judging, Project Achievement, MilkMake and Peanutrition competitions, summer learning workshops and college tours, 4-H'ers learn invaluable life skills.

Science, engineering and technology, along with 4-H AgriScience programs, allow youth to receive extended education through experiential activities.

4-H'ers benefit from in-school, after-school and evening club meetings and activities. Dougherty County 4-H holds monthly club meetings in 11 elementary schools and four middle schools. High school students and home-schooled students take advantage of our monthly 4-H meetings held at the Extension office.

Dougherty County 4-H also teaches good citizenship skills by taking part in community service opportunities like Stash the Trash, volunteering at nursing homes and participating in local food drives.



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 91,243
*2019 Georgia Population Estimates,
Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budgets*

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 122/159
*2019 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 2,257
Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

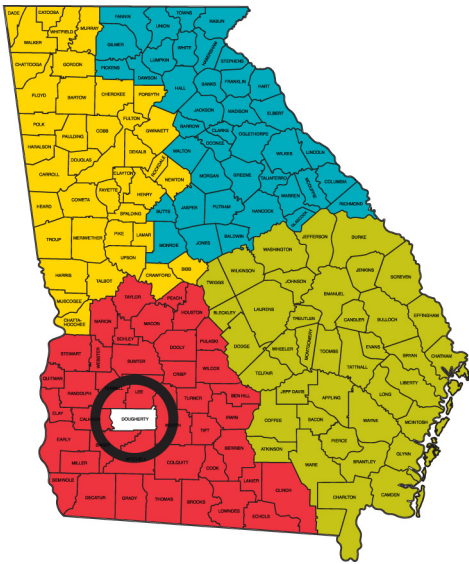
**Agriculture, Food, Fiber, Horticulture and
Related Total Economic Contribution:**

Jobs: 3,216

Output: \$626,132,214
*2020 Ag Snapshots,
UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development*

Farm Gate Value: \$57,260,402

Top Commodities: Pecans,
Horses-board, train, breed, Cotton
*2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report,
UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development*



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

was founded in 1914 by the federal Smith-Lever Act. It's a unique partnership between UGA, county governments and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's cooperative extension system of land-grant universities. Today, UGA Extension serves more than 21 million Georgians annually through a network of specialists, agents and staff who provide unbiased, research-based information driven by local needs and clientele input. From publications to in-person workshops and events, UGA Extension is ready to meet the needs of the state and its communities.

Learn more at:
extension.uga.edu

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 \$76 billion. More than 399,200 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 nearly 243,000 fourth- through 12th-grade students across the state. It helps them 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.