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

UGA Extension in Greene County conducts soil, forage and water tests for Greene County residents through the help of the Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories at UGA. In 2018, the Greene County Extension office made more than 93 site-visit contacts covering both traditional and urban agriculture-related issues. The varying focal points of these visits are a representation of the wide range of agriculture-related interests within our county. These on-site consultations addressed issues from forage production for local livestock producers to troubleshooting lawn issues for local homeowners. Working with the local cattle and poultry associations, as well as the local Farm Bureau office, the Extension office helps facilitate several agriculture-related educational opportunities for traditional agriculture producers and county youth. In 2018, more than 400 participants gained unbiased, research-based scientific information on local topics of interest and need.

Greene County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) continued to help provide horticultural learning opportunities for Greene County citizens. The volunteers assist the Extension office with urban agriculture site consultations and with coordination of free seminars to provide research-based information on horticultural topics. The MGEVs distribute information about gardening and related subjects to their communities. Through the MGEV program, Greene County Extension is able to serve a wider range of citizens with educational programming. The Greene County MGEV group is an invaluable asset to our Extension office as we work to best serve our community.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, the Greene County 4-H Club worked with local youths through in-classroom club meetings, Project Achievement and out-of-school learning opportunities. 4-H is the largest youth organization in the world. The Greene County Extension staff strives to uphold the state mission by assisting youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. Youth can be active members of 4-H from fourth grade to 12th grade. In this county, 4-H is one of few organizations that has traditionally conducted in-school meetings for fourth and fifth grades in all county schools. These meetings cover topics such as character development, building public-speaking skills, learning STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) topics through hands-on experiences and agricultural awareness. All lessons support the state standards for each grade to help enhance the everyday curriculum in the classroom.

Our office also provides after school activities in the areas of: poultry and livestock judging, shooting sports, culinary education, and a wide range of summer educational activities. Home school and cyber academy students are also involved in a number of after school and summer programs. Greene County 4-H maintains an active Junior and Senior Club that meets afterschool and focuses on leadership, citizenship, and career readiness and engages in various community service projects once a month. 4-H Teen Leaders are given opportunities to mentor to younger students and help Extension staff lead programs. Greene County 4-H’ers can attend district and state-wide events such as competitive events, leadership workshops, conferences, and camps.
COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 16,571
2017 Georgia County Guide, Georgia Public Library Service

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 70/159
2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 814
Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

Agriculture, Food, Fiber, Horticulture and Related Total Economic Contribution:
Jobs: 1,458
Output: $257,257,628
2019 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: $81,093,442
Top Commodities: Poultry (broilers), Greenhouse, Quail
2017 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

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.

Learn more at: extension.uga.edu