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**
Sustainable farms produce crops and raise animals without relying on practices that degrade soil, water or other natural resources. By growing a variety of plants and using techniques such as crop rotation, conservation tillage and pasture-based livestock husbandry, sustainable farms protect biodiversity and foster the development and maintenance of healthy ecosystems. Sustainable farms also bolster local and regional economies, creating good jobs and building strong communities. Because of the importance of sustainable farms, UGA Extension in Harris County offered programs on drip irrigation, vegetable and flower gardening, backyard poultry flock management, egg candling, pesticide recertification classes, weed management in pastures and hay fields, goat nutrition, pasture management for horses and improved profitability for small ruminants. The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) agent collaborated with the UGA Forage Team to teach the UGA GrassMasters program. This program is a coordinated effort between the UGA Extension Forage program and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The GrassMasters program is a seven-week program for livestock and forage producers. The program covers various aspects of production including soil health, fertilization, weed management and grazing management. All seven sessions in the program are focused on quality forage production that reduces weed competition and economic losses for livestock and forage producers. This program is coordinated by and offered through county Extension offices in Georgia.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
The Harris County 4-H Club was excited to offer more science opportunities to students. The 4-H program was able to reach more students by starting an after-school science club called “C-4 4-H Club at Creekside School.” Members engage in hands-on science experiments once a month. It has been a fun and educational program promoting STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math), and science doesn’t end there. All types of science in agriculture were taught to seventh- and eighth-graders during special in-school time. Some lessons were composed of building components and cognitive thinking to go along with the engineering of STEAM. Students learned the importance of working together in order to achieve an outcome. Harris County 4-H is composed of many different judging teams, shooting sport disciplines, public speaking and much more to occupy different personalities. Volunteer leaders offer their skills to help in the programs. Everyone works together for the common goal of engaging children to be self-sufficient and contributing adults.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
We do not have a Family and Consumer Sciences program in Harris County. We call on Muscogee County Extension for assistance.
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.