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**

Lincoln County is a rural county that has agriculture as its base. Beef cattle, forestry, hay, horses, quail, wildlife and home gardens account for much of the major agricultural production in the county. These producers range from full-time cattle producers to forestry landowners to small family farms, and the need for educational support is very important. Since July 2017, Lincoln County has a county-funded an Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) agent based in the county office. He currently assists farmers, landowners and local homeowners with questions and concerns ranging from cattle and forage issues to ponds, lawns and home-garden questions. The ANR agent also serves as a resource for 4-H livestock projects, the Lincoln County Cattlemen's Association and the local Georgia Soil and Water Commission. Since July, he has worked closely with Lincoln County beef-cattle producers to plan excellent educational programs. UGA Extension offers soil, water and forage testing, which can be handled through the Lincoln County Extension office. The office also provides residents with a wide variety of free publications related to an array of agricultural topics. Some of these cover lawn care, the care of home orchards, insect control, herbicide and pesticide use, and beekeeping. The ANR agent also writes a weekly column in the local newspaper.

**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

In 2017-18, the Lincoln County 4-H Club had great success. In District Project Achievement, Lincoln County had 44 students participate at the Cloverleaf, junior and senior levels. One Lincoln County senior 4-H'er qualified and earned the right to compete at State 4-H Congress. In addition, Lincoln County had 10 4-H'ers compete in poultry judging, and the senior team qualified for state and captured third place honors in the state contest. Lincoln County had two 4-H'ers actively involved in 4-H beef projects.

The Lincoln County Annual Fund had great success with a 50 percent increase in donor support. Additional fundraising efforts have helped with camp attendance. In 2018, Lincoln County had 20 children attending 4-H summer camp. Fifty 4-H'ers participated in planned summer 4-H activities and events. Our community service efforts also increased, with 45 4-H'ers participating in various activities. Lincoln County 4-H has volunteered at the local food pantry and at Operation Backpack. Lincoln County seventh- through 12th-grade 4-H'ers helped organize and run a coat drive and a 4-H bake sale booth where all the proceeds went toward Troop Christmas Care packages for soldiers.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

Although Lincoln County does not have a full-time Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) agent based in the county Extension office, the agent in a neighboring county is willing to assist local residents with their questions. The agent has provided programming and education for youth participating in District Project Achievement food projects. A one-day 4-H Food Project Day Camp was offered for junior and senior 4-H'ers allowing potential food-project competitors to learn MyPlate recommendations. All of the junior and senior 4-H'ers also successfully completed the ServSafe® food handler training and began working on their portfolios. A half-day class was offered to Cloverleaf 4-H'ers covering a condensed version. One of Lincoln County’s senior 4-H’ers who competed in the dairy foods project area at Junior-Senior DPA qualified to compete at State 4-H Congress.
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.