2018 ANNUAL REPORT: LUMPKIN 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

The UGA Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) agent in Lumpkin County, 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 startups, and crop and pasture management. UGA Extension in Lumpkin County also provides soil, water, forage and plant pathogen testing through the Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories at UGA.

The Lumpkin County ANR agent was instrumental in setting up applied research in wine grapes all over north Georgia. The agent helped secure several grants to fund research testing the efficacy of different leaf-pruning and trellising techniques in north Georgia vineyards. Research trials were evaluated for the disease control and development of fruit quality. Many local producers will use this research data to modify canopy-management techniques and reduce disease levels.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Many Lumpkin County students are unable to attend 4-H summer camp due to lack of expendable family income. Fifty-four percent of students are on free or reduced lunch. Many Lumpkin County youth have never been to the ocean or coastline. Lumpkin County 4-H chose to attend 4-H camp at Camp Jekyll. The 4-H camping program assists youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. There was a 30 percent increase in the cost of attending 4-H camp due to the registration and transportation costs.

The Lumpkin County 4-H Club conducted fundraisers to offer scholarships for youth to offset the increase in camp registration by asking individuals and businesses to donate money. A total of $4,200 was raised. Students were required to write a letter stating why they wanted to attend and why they were deserving of a scholarship. Out of 43 scholarship letters, the Lumpkin County 4-H Program Development Team selected 12 students to receive full or partial scholarships. A total of 93 students and volunteers attended the camp. Student testimonial examples included:

“If I did not get a partial scholarship, I would have never gotten to see the beach for the first time.”

“I have never ridden a bike before camp. We never have had the money to buy one.”

“It was nice to know I would be getting to eat good food at breakfast, lunch and dinner and not worry if there was enough food for me and my family.”

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Although Lumpkin County does not have a Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) agent based in the county Extension office, local Extension personnel strive to assist local residents with their questions. Common questions cover food safety, food preservation, dealing with mold and mildew, health meal planning, nutrition, family budgeting, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) resources and more. These and other issues are answered through a wide variety of free UGA Extension publications available at the county office and through phone conferences with FACS agents from surrounding counties. Neighboring FACS agents often conduct programming that Lumpkin County residents are welcome to attend. The Lumpkin County Extension office provides information about programming in surrounding counties.

ugaextension.org/lumpkin
**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.

---

**COUNTY AT A GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 33,484</th>
<th>2017 Georgia County Guide, Georgia Public Library Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 27/159</td>
<td>2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 1,241</td>
<td>Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Food, Fiber, Horticulture and Related Total Economic Contribution:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs: 1,775</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output: $204,876,595</td>
<td>2019 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Gate Value: $43,681,395</td>
<td>2017 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Commodities: Poultry (broilers), Grapes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 2.1 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

ugaextension.org/lumpkin