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

As the No. 1 dairy producer in the state, Macon County continues to lead the way. An estimated 15,000 head of cattle help keep the county's dairy production in the top spot, with a total dairy value of more than $46.4 million. Turfgrass production also brings Macon County another first-place position, with a total value of $23.2 million. Fodder grown to support the dairies place Macon County at No. 1 in silage production, with a $22.1 million value. Peach production places Macon County at the top, with a total value of $8.4 million. Macon County also places in the top five for pecan production with a $18.5 million total value. Row crops are an integral part of Macon County's bountiful agricultural production. Macon County is among the most diverse counties in crop production, with cotton, corn, soybean and other row crops accounting for a combined $46.3 million value. Poultry production is key in Macon County and is valued at more than $107 million. Programming efforts over the past year have focused on water-use efficiency and dairy production, along with crop production meetings, pesticide license assistance and on-site visits to all clientele. UGA Extension in Macon County strives to provide analyses of soil, water, feed, forage and nutrients to benefit the residents of Macon County.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Acquiring strong life skills is essential for today’s youth. The Macon County 4-H program serves an integral role in this education process. Through curriculum-based, in-school programs, Macon County youth in fifth through 12th grades receive education on healthy living, communication skills, proper etiquette and building healthy relationships with others. At the local level, various interest-based clubs are highly popular and engaging for youth. Clubs include cooking, drumming, gardening and sewing. These clubs allow youth to gain skills, interact with others and learn to make positive choices. Macon County 4-H'ers learned about healthy relationships through a Relationships Smarts course this year, helping to establish boundaries in healthy relationships for teenagers in the county. The Macon County 4-H Club often collaborates with other local 4-H programs to enhance the opportunities to interact with youth from other areas. These collaborating Extension programs include Peach, Taylor, Marion and Schley counties. Macon County 4-H'ers are able to participate in Project Achievement, a public-speaking competition where youth must research, write about and verbally communicate the skills they have learned about in their project areas. Georgia 4-H offers weeklong summer camping programs at five centers across the state. Through their participation in Macon County 4-H, youth have the opportunity to travel to these centers, learn about environmental education and build relationships with other youths from across the state.

ugaextension.org/macon
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.