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.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
Living in rural Georgia, kids tend to struggle with how they spend their time. If they are not engaged in some type of school sport, then generally there isn’t much left to do. In Montgomery County, 27 percent of the population is below the poverty level. The Montgomery County 4-H Club strives to provide positive and affordable programs. After-school workshops and weekend events in 4-H help youth develop leadership skills, meet new people and become more productive citizens. In 2018, we had more than 112 youth involved in approximately 15,658 hours of service learning in 4-H. We met our Cloverleaf Camp quota last year and 4-H’ers participated in junior camp and senior camp. Montgomery County also had 4-H’ers participate in various activities such as State Council, district and state BB competitions, Fall Forum and several livestock events such as the Junior Livestock show in Perry, Georgia, and other livestock shows around the state. Youth in 4-H give back to the community through organized community service programs throughout the year. We are teaching youth about the importance of giving back, improving our communities and developing innovative solutions to solve problems, large or small. 4-H’ers learn skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, community engagement and a sense of compassion, confidence and pride.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Pantoea ananatis, a gram-negative bacterium also known as “center rot,” is a significant problem for local onion producers. Center rot in onions can cause significant damage in a crop and is the most significant postharvest disease of Vidalia onions. This pathogen can cause significant economic damage, up to 100 percent yield loss. Onions infected with Pantoea when stored will rot from the center and deteriorate, infecting otherwise healthy onions stored with them. The three identified stages include first-leaf senescence, bulb initiation and bulb swelling. Based on these stages, we used three treatment options within these stages to determine the best treatment times and options. Throughout 2017 and 2018, research concluded that by utilizing Kocide 3000 during bulb initiation, bulb swelling or all three growth stages, farmers could reduce their center rot incidence by up to 20 percent. This would be a greater than $5,000-per-acre value to the grower in fields with significant center rot incidence.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
Although Montgomery County does not have a Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) agent based in the county Extension office, we strive to assist local residents with their questions. Common questions cover food safety, food preservation, dealing with mold and mildew, nutrition, family budgeting, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) materials and more. These issues and others are answered through a wide variety of free UGA Extension publications available at the county office and phone conferences with FACS agents from surrounding counties. Neighboring FACS agents often conduct programming that our county residents are welcome to attend.
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.