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 Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) agent for UGA Extension in Pierce County assists clientele with plant health, integrated pest management and cultural management practices by delivering university-based research that underscores environmental stewardship and capitalizes on production. Six on-farm research trials were conducted in Pierce County in 2018 to evaluate insecticide programs for gall-midge in blueberry, nematode suppression in cotton, herbicide application in blueberry, nozzle selection in peanut, insecticide applications in tobacco, and the use of a growth regulator in commercial rabbiteye blueberry. These projects provide a scholastic contribution in supporting agent and specialist recommendations working with the various commodities across the state.

Throughout winter 2018, the ANR agent provided educational programming for 206 producers through local programming. Producers were provided timely information on production and management practices to assist them with challenges and issues occurring throughout the season. Through networking with producers, educational programming and local needs-assessed research, the county agent plays a key role in impacting Pierce County’s $60 million agricultural industry.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Pierce County 4–H Club focuses on the importance of youth acquiring knowledge, life skills and attitudes that will lead them to become educated, independent and contributing citizens. Pierce County 4–H focuses on these core values while implementing ANR lessons into the 4–H Youth Development program. Pierce County Cloverleaf 4–H’ers have the opportunity to learn the importance of agriculture in their daily lives through in-classroom meetings. Due to the importance of hands–on learning, each Cloverleaf meeting incorporates Georgia Standards–based lessons and activities that encourage students to “get down and dirty” while learning about agriculture. The lessons and activities allow students to be challenged while exploring and discovering the world of agriculture. Junior and Senior 4–H’ers also have the opportunity to expand their knowledge of agriculture through livestock shows, District Project Achievement, Ag in the Classroom and much more. Pierce County 4–H hosts the annual 4–H/FFA Hog Show that allows students to exhibit responsibility, knowledge and care for their animals. We will continue this tradition next year while expanding the showing area to accommodate more participants and spectators. Pierce County 4–H will continue to serve the community and help youth experience agriculture and gain life skills throughout the upcoming year.

ugaextension.org/pierce
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 P.R.I.D.E., 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.