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**

In 2018, the neighboring Randolph County Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) agent helped assist farmers, landowners and homeowners with their questions. Phone calls and site visits covered aquatic weed control in fish ponds, lawn weed control and pine-beetle damage in timber stands. Agriculture generated around $8 million in total farm-gate value in 2017, with timber sales accounting for 55 percent and row crops of peanuts, hay and cotton accounting for another 26 percent.

UGA Extension in Quitman County is in its fifth year of offering soil and water samples to the Quitman County Commission to satisfy Environmental Protection Department requirements for the water treatment facility. Through this partnership, Quitman County Extension is able to utilize the allotted county program funds to help Quitman County Commission cut the cost of having these tests performed.

**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

The Quitman County 4-H Club participated in a life simulation created by the agent. The simulated families comprised different variations of married couples with kids, single parents with kids, married couples with kids and an elderly dependent, or single parents with kids and an elderly dependent. Each head of the family had a set education level and an income that correlated with the national median income for an individual with that education level. The education levels consisted of not having a high school diploma, having a high school diploma, associate’s degree, bachelor’s degree, master’s degree or doctorate degree. Each family had to work through four weeks of going to work, getting their children to school, buying groceries, taking care of medical needs, paying bills and much more. With the different income levels of each family, the program was designed to demonstrate the financial constraints of families with lower income and education levels. The key objective of the life simulation is to show youth the hardships that may occur when trying to provide for a family on a limited income, as well as show them the correlation between education levels and income. In collaboration with the Quitman County School District, the program was piloted in the spring of 2018, with 70 middle-school students taking part in the simulation. The program was also showcased in the Southwest District Life 101 Financial Literacy Conference, where 57 youths participated in the event.

Quitman County 4-H continues to have active participation in camp and District Project Achievement (DPA). Six 4-H’ers attended Cloverleaf and Junior 4-H Camp, along with one Certified Teen Leader. Fifteen Cloverleaf 4-H’ers and two Junior 4-H’ers participated in DPA in 2018.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

In collaboration with Quitman County School District and Quitman County Family Connection, the Quitman County Early Literacy Task Force was formed in 2018. Through this task force, UGA Extension, the schools and Family Connections aim to educate parents on the importance of early exposure to books and reading. Through this task force, Quitman County Extension has also offered multiple sessions to parents on how nutrition effects learning.

ugaextension.org/quitman
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.

Learn more at:
extension.uga.edu

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution