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.

AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Superior research and education is the driving force of innovation, and no one knows this better than UGA Extension. UGA Extension in Screven County is currently experiencing a vacancy in agricultural programming. Filling this vacancy is a must as Agricultural and Natural Resources (ANR) is an ever-changing field. Therefore, in order for producers to maintain a high level of progression, delivering unbiased education is essential. In addition, decreases in commodity prices have only helped to increase the importance of Extension programming, which is critical to aiding farmers with day-to-day decisions. The new ANR agent will address these issues, as well as pasture management, cotton, peanuts, corn, organics and livestock. A large focus will also be put on forestry and wildlife plus youth-programming judging events.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
In 4-H, youth pledge their hands to larger service. By doing this, they are showing that they can help others. Screven County 4-H’ers and community members were given the opportunity to serve others after Hurricane Michael caused more than $3 billion worth of damage to Georgia’s agriculture industry and left thousands with damaged homes and no electricity. There were many 4-H families living in southwestern Georgia who were severely impacted by the storm. The Screven County 4-H Club quickly stepped in to pledge their hands to larger service. The 4-H staff immediately reached out to Extension agents in southwestern Georgia to offer help and assistance. After a brief conversation, several critical needs were identified. In just a few days, 4-H youths in Screven County collected items, and a trailer from Screven County was packed full of supplies and delivered directly to the 4-H offices in Decatur, Seminole and Miller counties. The supplies included 3,600 bottles of water, 240 rolls of toilet paper, 30 packages of paper plates, 15 large boxes of cleaning supplies, 2,200 baby diapers, 450 packages of baby wipes, 20 large boxes of canned food items, 25 large boxes of individually wrapped food items, 13 boxes of personal hygiene products, 125 children’s books and 90 cans of pet food. All of these items were collected by 4-H’ers and then distributed to 4-H’ers in the affected areas.

Screven County 4-H’ers practice pledging their hands to larger service on a regular basis, not just when disaster strikes. Students participate in monthly community-service projects that benefit the local community. In 2018, approximately 375 youths participated in more than 600 hours of planned community service projects in Screven County. Because of their involvement in 4-H community service projects, youths can see how their service can have a positive impact on others around them.

ugaextension.org/screven
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.