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 AND AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture-based businesses in Seminole County, Georgia, account for approximately 49 percent of Seminole County’s total income and employ approximately 17 percent of the county’s population, making agriculture the third-largest employer following government and goods-producing industries. Furthermore, more than 70 percent of the county’s land mass is dedicated to crop production. With the average age of a principle farm operator at 58.5 years, this provides excellent career opportunities for agriculturally focused youth within the community.

The Seminole County Extension 4-H and ANR agents came together to implement an agricultural awareness campaign that would introduce 4-H’ers in Seminole County to agriculture career possibilities through more than 20 different programs in 2018. These programs included Seminole County Farm Tour, 4-H Crop Scouting School, 4-H Ag Business Camp, 4-H Precision Ag School, 4-H Land Judging Contest, 4-H Poultry Judging Contest, 4-H Cotton Boll Consumer Judging Contest, 4-H District Project Achievement (DPA) agriculture-related projects, several Seminole County Livestock Shows, FFA Career Day, Seminole County Elementary School Career Day, Fifth-Grade Farm Bowl, Fourth-Grade Corn Project, Basic Agriculture Tractor Safety, Industry Farm Safety tours, University of Florida Extension’s 4-H Ag Adventures Tour, Expo Class Basics to Agriculture, and an Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College/University of Georgia Tifton Campus College Tour.

The UGA Seminole County agriculture awareness campaign consisted of 23 educational programs for 4-H-aged youth within the community. Through the 23 programs, the campaign had more than 1,600 direct contacts with youths in the community and more than 650,000 indirect contacts with the community through 36 newspaper articles and more than 100 posts on the UGA Seminole County Facebook page. All participants in these programs were evaluated and all rated programs as excellent.

UGA Extension in Seminole County plans to expand and continue agricultural awareness campaign programs in the future.

ugaextension.org/seminole
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.