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

In its 2018 strategic plan, the Tattnall County School System identified a need to improve English language arts skills. In response to that effort, the Tattnall County 4-H Club partnered with local elementary schools to offer a speech-writing contest. More than 150 youths participated, which involved selecting a topic, researching that topic and writing an essay. First- through third-place winners in the speech contest were invited to compete in the Project Achievement process. In an effort to make the program accessible to youth from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and to minimize transportation barriers, workshops were held after school at each school where eligible youth attended. A total of 46 youths pursued this opportunity and competed with a speech and poster presentation (41), a cooking lab (two) or performing arts presentation (three). Through this process, youths were able to practice improved writing skills, create visual aids with technology, and become more confident speaking in front of others.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Families understand the importance of proper safety in vehicles and take steps to ensure that their children are transported in a safe manner. As a result, children are less likely to be injured or killed in vehicle crashes. The UGA Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) program can save the lives of young children. In Tattnall County, more than 300 children have received safer car seats since 2016. One hundred fifty booster seats have been inspected for use. Half of these seats were incorrectly installed but were usable, while the other half were out of date. Upon completion of the class, 100 percent of parents demonstrated the ability to install child seats correctly. This grant-funded program provided a savings of $30,000 to Tattnall County. As a result of the Child Passenger Safety Program, the FACS agent has integrated a teen-safety program. This program addresses seatbelts and distracted driving. A campaign and interactive program has been offered during prom week at Tattnall County High School. After the 2018 prom week, 30 percent of students reported wearing a seatbelt for the first time.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Tattnall County grows more than 4,000 acres of Vidalia onions, with an onion farm-gate value of nearly $51 million. For this reason, research was conducted to try and prevent a potentially devastating disease in Vidalia onions. Center rot in onions can cause significant damage in an onion crop, with up to 100-percent yield loss and severe economic damage. Research efforts were made to determine the stage of growth and the fungicide application that successfully controls and minimizes the incidence of center rot within onions. Throughout 2017 and 2018, research concluded that by utilizing Kocide 3000 during bulb initiation, bulb swelling or all three growth stages, farmers can reduce their center rot incidence by up to 20 percent, with a more than $5,000–per-acre value to the grower in fields with significant center rot incidence. These results were presented at multiple vegetable and Extension programs so that growers and onion-industry professionals would better understand center-rot control efficiency.
COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 26,267
2017 Georgia County Guide, Georgia Public Library Service

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 128/159
2018 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 991
Georgia 4-H Enrollment system, FY17

Agriculture, Food, Fiber, Horticulture and Related Total Economic Contribution:
Jobs: 3,216
Output: $527,679,217
2019 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: $324,647,633
Top Commodities: Poultry (broilers), Onions, Pork
2017 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
was founded in 1914 by the federal Smith-Lever Act. It's a unique partnership between UGA, county governments and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension System of land-grant universities. Today, UGA Extension serves more than 2.1 million Georgians annually through a network of specialists, agents and staff who provide unbiased, research-based information driven by local needs and clientele input. From publications to in-person workshops and events, UGA Extension is ready to meet the needs of the state and its communities.

Learn more at: extension.uga.edu

2018 ANNUAL REPORT: TATTNALL COUNTY

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.

ugaextension.org/tattnall