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 Terrell County, 2018 will be remembered for extreme weather that negatively impacted agriculture. In October, the eye of Hurricane Michael passed through Terrell County as a Category 2 storm. As a result, our farmers are dealing with huge losses, including a 60-percent loss of cotton crops and 90-percent loss of pecan crops and trees. In the three months after the hurricane, Terrell County received 28.36 inches of rain compared to 7 inches for the same time frame from the previous year. This volume of rainfall pushed cotton and peanut harvests into 2019, resulting in lower yields and quality.

On a positive note, Terrell County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) programming is doing well. For the second year, Terrell County Extension participated in the Agricultural Water Efficiency Team (AgWET) project, placing moisture sensors in two cotton fields within the county. This project is helping growers increase irrigation efficiency and boost yields in cotton. Seth McAllister, the Terrell County Extension ANR agent, has cultivated a positive reputation for successfully using a drone in his programming. The use of this technology helped farmers and the local county government to identify and document damage from the hurricane for more accurate insurance claims.

4-H Youth Development
The Terrell County 4-H Club has celebrated many successes in 2018. 4-H youth enrollment for Terrell County more than doubled when school club meetings were added for all middle-school students. As a result, all students in fourth through eighth grades in Terrell County receive STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) enrichment programming based on grade-appropriate science educational standards on a monthly basis.

The Terrell County 4-H archery program completed its 12th year and currently has the highest-ranking high-school female for 4-H outdoor archery. Archery Coach Todd Cliett was honored as a state finalist for 4-H volunteer of the year. A team of six high-school-aged Terrell County 4-H’ers competed for the first time in the 4-H Food Product Development competition and placed third in state.

Terrell County 4-H was recognized for increased participation in District Project Achievement, state council and summer camp. The Terrell County 4-H Cooking Club received second place at the district level for most outstanding service project. Without a doubt, the achievement we are most proud of in our 4-H program is the successful application for a $30,000 grant that was used to purchase a new passenger van.

Family and Consumer Sciences
The Terrell County Family and Consumer Sciences program has introduced adult nutrition classes through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). These eight-week classes teach participants how to shop for and prepare healthier food. These classes are now being offered to a group of Terrell County 4-H teens as a way of encouraging healthier eating habits.
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.