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

Home of Soperton, the Million Pines City, Treutlen County is most commonly recognized for its forestry production. Although forestry is a major commodity for the county, it also supports the production of row crops including corn, cotton, soybeans, peanuts and tobacco. Aquatic services are available, and turfgrass, cattle and swine are also produced.

In 2018, UGA Extension in Treutlen County submitted soil, water, feed, forage and plant tissue samples for testing. County residents received assistance with agriculture-related questions in person, by phone and via email. For those holding state pesticide licenses, classes were made available in order to fulfill continuing education requirements. UGA Extension publications covering a wide variety of agriculture- and natural resource-related topics were also made available at no cost.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Treutlen County 4-H Club prides itself on the 4-H motto, “To make the best better.” We take pride in each one of our 4-H’ers and hope we can impact all aspects of their lives.

Treutlen County 4-H’ers have partaken in several community service projects where the worlds of work and play collide. 4-H’ers visit our local nursing home or assisted living center to pack food bags for the elderly, hand out donated goods, or sit at a piano playing and singing a tune to bring joy and serenity to residents. Our 4-H’ers especially love to visit the Treutlen County Senior Center to play bingo with Treutlen's senior citizens. Treutlen County 4-H also hosts a Color Run 5K. This is an event where all ages come together for health, competition, leadership and fellowship. We not only work inside our county, but recently visited the Ronald McDonald House in Savannah, Georgia, to donate pop–tabs that were collected by Treutlen residents to help those in need. While at the Ronald McDonald House, 4–H’ers prepared lunch and made heartfelt cards. By engaging in community service, youth learn how to become good leaders with needed skills to orchestrate a project to its full potential and to communicate the purpose of the project. This is a great example of the 4-H mission to “learn by doing.”

Beyond community service, 4-H’ers attend summer camps, summer events and 4-H events hosted by Treutlen County 4-H throughout the year. Through 4-H camping programs and events, youth are able to meet new people, learn life skills and have fun while exploring our great state. Our youth are our future and as Extension staff, community leaders, parents and volunteers, it is important to invest time and resources in our youth so we can “make the best better.”
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.