Agriculture and Natural Resources

Each year, UGA Extension in Worth County offers programs to educate residents about relevant topics. In 2018, Worth County Extension offered producers educational classes on row crop production, row crop disease and weed management, forage production and forestry management, as well as livestock educational meetings. By collaborating with the Georgia Forestry Commission and the local Cattlemen’s Association, Worth County Extension reached many members of the community. UGA Extension also distributed a monthly newsletter that reached more than 250 individuals in Worth County and helped them make timely decisions through updated information. Extension conducted five different research farm trials to benefit local producers: a cotton variety trial, a peanut tillage trial, a corn nutrient-tracking trial, a peanut white-mold trial and a peanut inoculant trial. With peanuts being a major source of income for most Worth County farmers, determining the proper time to dig peanuts is a major factor. Worth County Extension held 45 peanut maturity clinics at three different locations in the county from late August until late October, with a total of 836 peanut samples checked using the hull-blast method to determine the approximate digging date. More than 95 percent of farmers polled said that they relied on these clinics to help them determine when to dig their peanuts. Through these efforts, more than 1,000 people received exposure to unbiased, research-based educational programs related to agriculture and forestry production.

4-H Youth Development

The Worth County 4-H Club helps youth develop skills that are valuable to themselves and the community, helping them grow into successful adults. In 2018, Worth County 4-H had an enrollment of 406 youths in a total of 32 clubs. Monthly 4-H club meetings were held for Worth County fifth-grade, homeschool, middle-school and high-school students. Fifteen members participated in Cloverleaf District Project Achievement, while 11 4-H members were contestants in Junior/Senior District Project Achievement. Campers in 2018 included Cloverleaf, Junior and Senior 4-H’ers. Worth County had entries in the lamb, meat goat, beef cattle and swine livestock shows. Georgia 4-H Project SAFE (Shooting Awareness, Fun and Education) had members from Worth County 4-H compete at district and state matches. Four Worth County 4-H’ers won the Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays Shotgun State Match and went on to win the 2018 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship. In addition, many Worth County 4-H members participated in multiple fundraisers to support 4-H projects like camp and District Project Achievement. A total of 20 certified adult volunteers assisted 4-H with various projects. Members of 4-H have donated to the Ronald McDonald House, delivered cards to a local nursing home and helped Worth County citizens clean up after Hurricane Michael.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Worth County Extension collaborated with the Worth County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to hold the annual Flu Vaccination Day, during which more than 100 people received a flu vaccination. This event also served as a training ground for EMS personnel and volunteers should a major disease outbreak or natural disaster occur. With the help of Tift County Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Agent Roxie Price, all Worth County second-grade students received a lesson about added sugar. This lesson created the awareness of the amount of sugar they are drinking in sodas, sports drinks and juice.

ugaextension.org/worth
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.