



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
EXTENSION



2017 ANNUAL REPORT: WASHINGTON COUNTY

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

Assisting farmers with crop production is an ever-changing and challenging task. The big challenge with the cotton crop this year was the silverleaf whitefly, an insect pest proven to be an economic problem affecting cotton yield and quality. Populations of this insect have the potential to explode and cause damage very quickly. Educating producers and scouting fields helped to identify the pest in the county and Extension personnel found thresholds that were slightly above treatment levels.



However, one treatment for the county would have cost more than \$60,000 and was not a cost included in producers’ budgets. Additionally, one treatment would not have been enough to adequately control the pest if the population progressed at the expected rate. The agent recommended delaying application of pesticides

until after the predicted hurricane passed to maximize effectiveness. The storm brought wind and rain that completely wiped the insect out and eliminated the problem. Although this was unexpected, the agent’s recommendation to delay the application of pesticides saved cotton producers in Washington County a significant amount of money on a less-than-stellar cotton crop.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

The Washington County Family and Consumer Sciences agent, Georgeanne Cook, provides programming that improves the health, wellness and financial capability of individuals and families served. Kindergarten, first- and second-grade children in Washington County participate in a hand-washing lesson. Good hand-washing is the No.1

way to prevent the spread of the flu virus.

Two people die of diabetes-related causes, and 16 adults are newly diagnosed with diabetes, every five minutes in Georgia. Diabetes awareness classes and diabetes education classes are provided to all residents of the area at no cost. Diabetes lessons cover nutrition labeling, portion control and meal planning.

A food safety program provided 168 restaurant managers the opportunity to complete the national ServSafe® Manager Certification at a reduced cost. The \$50 savings for each participant added up to \$8,400 in total certification savings. Collaborating with the community and providing resources to help residents live a healthier lifestyle is a top priority for Cook.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Georgia has some of the highest pregnancy rates among teens aged 15 to 19. In Georgia, 21.3 out of 1,000 girls between 15 and 19 became pregnant, according to the 2014 Annie E. Casey Foundations’ KIDS COUNT report. In Washington County, the birth rate for girls between the ages of 15 and 19 was 64 out of 1,000. This is much higher than the state average. Thirty-seven births were to teenage mothers in 2014.

Beginning in 2013, Washington County 4-H focused on helping youth become more knowledgeable about making positive relationship choices, understanding the consequences of having sex, developing good communication skills and determining values to help prepare for future goals. The club offered a program called “Relationship Smarts” that has reached over 600 students. The majority of students who participate in this program have gained confidence in establishing healthy relationships, reported they were very likely to use the skills learned, and found the program either helpful or very helpful. One student recently commented, “I feel that I will make better decisions. When I’m in a situation, I will know how to handle it.”



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 20,695
2017 Georgia County Guide, Georgia Public Library Service

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 59/159
2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 1,175
Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

Agriculture, Food, Fiber, Horticulture and Related Total Economic Contribution:

Jobs: 767

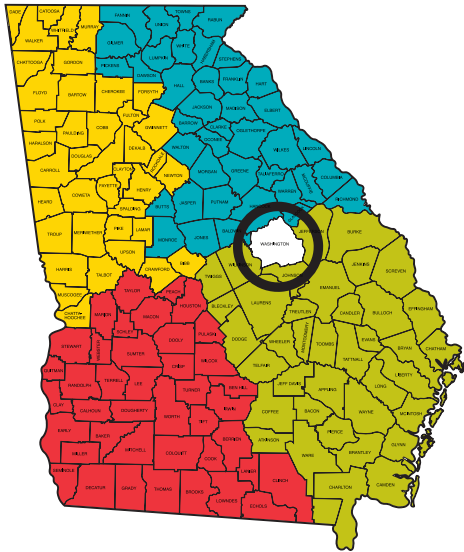
Output: \$80,866,043
2018 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: \$52,847,825
Top Commodities: Timber, Pecans, Corn
2016 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



The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

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 \$73.3 billion. More than 383,600 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.