



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
EXTENSION

## 2018 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**

Making the best decisions in a farming operation is always complex and usually difficult. UGA Extension recommendations often make these decisions easier by providing unbiased, research-based information. If the research can be done locally with a county producer, the data is more applicable to local producers. To assist Washington County farmers, the Washington County Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) agent has worked with Extension specialists to perform on-farm research projects with local producers. Research projects conducted in 2018 were included in the UGA On-Farm Cotton Variety Evaluation program. As part of a state effort, 14 varieties of cotton were planted in large blocks and evaluated to yield. The Parasite Resistance in Beef Cattle Study Evaluation was assessed to determine the level of resistance to dewormers in beef cattle in Washington County. The On-Farm Corn Nutrient Study Evaluation was performed to determine nutrient availability and uptake during progressive growth stages of corn. This will give farmers a better understanding of how to fertilize for corn production. Demonstrated research is important to help farmers understand and have confidence in recommendations from UGA Extension in Washington County.

### **4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Georgia has one of the highest pregnancy rates in the nation among teens age 15 to 19. According to 2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics, 23.6 in 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19 became pregnant in Georgia. In Washington County, the birth rate for girls aged 15 to 19 was 32.6 in 1,000, higher than the state average.

The county saw 19 births to teen mothers in 2016. Beginning in 2013, the Washington County 4-H Club focused on helping youth become more knowledgeable about making positive relationship choices, understanding

the consequences of having sex before marriage, developing good communication skills, and determining values to help prepare for future goals by offering a program called Relationship Smarts. Since then, more than 1,050 students have been reached. The majority of students who have participated in this program have gained confidence in establishing healthy relationships, reporting that they were very likely to use the skills learned, and overall found the program either helpful or very helpful. One student recently commented, "This program helps build up confidence and helps you get through certain obstacles in friendships and relationships."

### **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

Washington County Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Agent Georgeanne Cook provides programming that improves the health, wellness and financial capability of individuals and families served. The agent offered Virtual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) to the community free of charge, creating a tax-preparation savings of \$4,250.

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

A food safety program provided 168 restaurant managers the opportunity to complete National ServSafe® Managers Certification. The cost savings of \$50 each for 119 individuals adds up to \$5,950 in savings for our participants. Collaborating with the community and providing resources to help residents live a healthier lifestyle is a top priority for Washington County Extension.



## COUNTY AT A GLANCE

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

**Georgia Health Factors Ranking:** 94/159  
2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

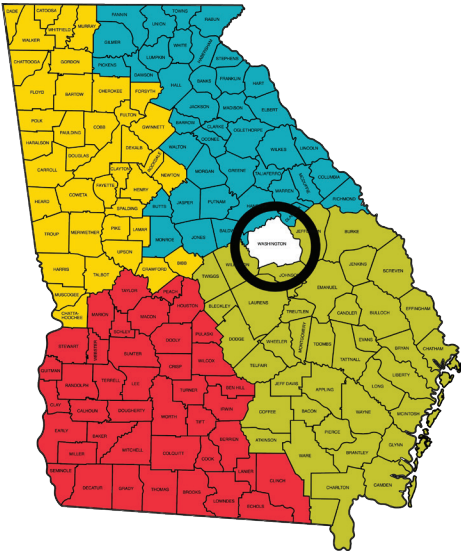
**Georgia 4-H Enrollment:** 1,204  
Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY17

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

**Jobs:** 1,108

**Output:** \$99,408,532  
2019 Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

**Farm Gate Value:** \$55,264,237  
**Top Commodities:** Timber, Pecans, Peanuts  
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](http://extension.uga.edu)

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### 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.