



2016 ANNUAL REPORT: WASHINGTON COUNTY

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension is working hard for its constituents. The following are examples of our impact in the county over the past year.

4-H ADDRESSES TEEN PREGNANCY

Among teens aged 15 to 19, Georgia has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country. According to 2014 statistics from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT data, 21.3 per 1,000 girls in Georgia aged 15 to 19 became pregnant. In Washington County, the birth rate for girls aged 15 to 19 was 64 per 1,000. This is much higher than the state average. Thirty-seven births were to teen 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 before marriage, developing good communication skills and determining values to help prepare for future goals by offering a program called "Relationship Smarts." Since then, over 370 students have been reached by the program. The majority of students who have participated in this program have gained confidence in establishing healthy relationships, reported they were very likely to use the skills learned and found the program overall either helpful or very helpful. One student recently commented: "I feel like it will help me make better choices when it comes to relationships and social media."

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. All kindergarten, first- and second-grade children in Washington County participate in a hand-washing lesson. Good hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of the flu virus and foodborne illnesses. Diabetes awareness classes and diabetes education classes are provided to all residents of the area at no cost. Lessons cover nutrition labels, portion control and meal planning. Two people die of diabetes-

related causes and 16 adults are newly diagnosed every five minutes in Georgia. A food safety program provides restaurant managers the opportunity to complete the national ServSafe® Manager Certification. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that each year, roughly one in six Americans gets sick, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases. Collaborating with the community and providing resources to help residents live a healthier lifestyle is a top priority for Cook.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Production agriculture on the farm level is an evolving process. From the changing of crops grown, to changing technology, to changing efficacy of pesticides, farmers are often left with unwanted, outdated and unusable pesticides that are difficult and expensive to dispose of. The Washington County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension agent was able to help secure an area Clean Day, sponsored by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and hosted in Laurens County, where these pesticides were safely collected and properly disposed of. Through participating in this event, Washington County producers were able to safely dispose of over 10,000 pounds of pesticides, saving over \$12,000 in cost to the producers. The area event in total collected 37,571 pounds of pesticides, and these products were removed from potentially harming the environment.





COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 20,690

2016 Georgia County Guide, UGA

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 90/159

2016 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 1087

Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY16

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

Jobs: 1,090

Output: \$105,681,709

2017 Georgia Ag Snapshots, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Farm Gate Value: \$42,504,649.20

Top Commodities: Pecans, Beef, Peanuts

2015 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 2.6 million Georgians annually through a network of specialists, agents and staff by providing unbiased, research-based information driven by local needs and clientele input. From publications to in-person workshops and events, Extension is ready to meet the needs of the state and its communities.

Learn more at:
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, with \$74 billion of direct and indirect economic impact. More than 411,000 Georgia jobs are involved directly 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 – a virtual, fitness-tracking resource – encourages improving physical fitness and healthy lifestyles in order 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.