



2015 ANNUAL REPORT: BULLOCH COUNTY

UGA Extension is working hard for your constituents. Here are some examples of successful projects completed in your county over the past year:

Understanding the Farm Bill

The Agricultural Act of 2014 was passed in February 2014. Normally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has 90 days to write the rules and regulations, but the changes in the 2014 bill were so extensive that the first set of regulations was not released until September 2014. Upon release, farmers were faced with making decisions based on the changes to commodity programs, such as base reallocation, yield updates, Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC).

The Bulloch County University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agent collaborated with experts from UGA, the USDA Farm Service Agency and private industry to host a series of educational farm bill and insurance meetings for growers and agribusiness personnel in his region. The agent also assisted many producers one-on-one, which enabled them to make the best decisions for the duration of the farm bill. The current low prices make these decisions more important as safety net payments are expected to trigger in 2015-2016. The ARC and PLC payments could reach \$4,000,000 for Bulloch County based on current price projections.

Small Farm Business Planning

Bulloch County's agricultural economy is constantly changing, and new trends are creating opportunities for current producers and those new to agriculture, which could provide an entrance into various markets. Whether producers are developing a new venture or adapting an existing operation to meet new demands, having an understanding of the market and proper preparation are vital to a successful agricultural enterprise.

The Small Farm Business Planning Workshop was a collaborative project of UGA Extension in Bulloch and Jenkins counties, Fort Valley State University Extension

and UGA Small Business Development Center. The workshop covered important tools and resources an agribusiness needs to establish a solid foundation during its formative years. Participants learned business basics such as defining a target market, record keeping, understanding cash flow and the importance of a business plan.

Youth Encourage Literacy for Families

In 2015 Bulloch County 4-H held a book drive in all 70 4-H clubs in the county, and each club worked toward collecting gently used children's books. Senior 4-H members, 4-H staff and program development team members worked together to identify local organizations and agencies that could benefit from the donated books. Bulloch County 4-H saw a great response to this community service project and had over 4,100 books donated, which were then given to local agencies and groups such as Safe Haven Women's Shelter, Sallie Zetterower Elementary School and several child care centers. The largest donation was made to the Department of Family and Children Services; DFCS was able to provide over 150 children with age-appropriate books to help develop their reading skills. The Bulloch County social service manager said, "It is our hope that providing low-income children with a collection of books will not only provide them with opportunities to enhance their knowledge, but also provide opportunities to experience the bonding that occurs when parents and children read books together."



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 78,019

2015 Georgia County Guide, University of Georgia

Health Factors Ranking: 62/159

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

4-H Enrollment: 1,714

Georgia 4-H Enrollment System FY15

Farm Gate Value: \$149,648,830

2014 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report

Agriculture, Food and Fiber-Related Total Economic Contribution:

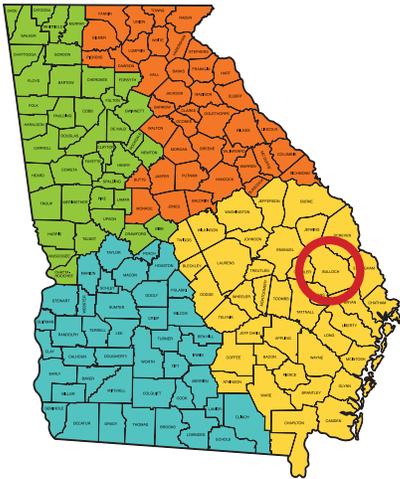
Jobs: 3,213

Output: \$379,312,647

University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Top Commodities: Cotton, Peanuts, Broilers

2014 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report



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 USDA's 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 communities. For every dollar invested in UGA Extension, \$3 is returned to Georgia's economy, saving money in the long run.

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

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Georgia's agriculture and natural resource goods and services impact every community of the state every day. It's the state's largest industry with \$74 billion of direct and indirect economic impact. More than 411,000 jobs in Georgia 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 such as 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 and gardening through a variety of workshops. Some agents also work with schools on programs, like farm-to-school, as well as with community gardens. Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteers give thousands of hours of service to their communities through educational opportunities and by answering questions in the county office.

4-H Youth Development

As the youth development program of UGA Extension, 4-H is part of a national network. Georgia 4-H reaches more than 175,000 students in the state, ages 9 to 19, through developing 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, core learning experiences in agricultural and environmental awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation, and citizenship.

Georgia 4-H'ers are well known for sharing their knowledge and volunteering throughout their communities. Students can participate in school and county club meetings organized by 4-H Youth Development Extension agents as well as the state level through competitions, summer camps and conferences. Some 4-H competitions and events are also offered regionally and nationally.

Research indicates that as a result of 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 than youth who do not participate in 4-H.



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 the latest information and programs on obesity, chronic disease, food and financial insecurity, family stresses, and unhealthy housing, food safety and preservation, nutrition, and more.

UGA Extension offers resources for parents, caregivers and others to help promote the positive development and safety of pre-school, school-age and adolescent youth. 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 increasing physical fitness and healthy lifestyles in order to improve the wellbeing of communities. Other health programs managed by UGA include the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the 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.