



# BURKE COUNTY EXTENSION



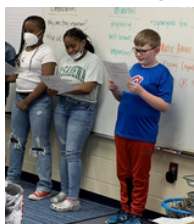
## 4-H OFFICERS & CLUB MEETINGS

In school 4-H club meetings are the core of 4-H programming and provide students leadership experiences and hands-on learning.

Burke County 4-H partners with the Burke County School System, Edmund Burke Academy, Faith Christian Academy, and Burke County Homeschool Cohort 4th-5th grade students in Burke County. This is approximately 651 students.

Since school started in August, we have had in school 4-H club meetings.

4-H provides an outlet for young people to develop public speaking and leadership skills through the 4-H Officer program.

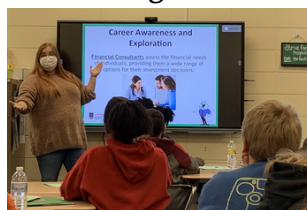


**There were 250 students that campaigned to be a 4-H Officer and 140 were elected.**

These students participated in team building activities to learn more about communication, leadership, and working together. Each month they speak in front of their peers in class when we start our 4-H meetings.



In addition to the officer elections, these are the other topics that have been taught during in school club meetings:



- Introduction to 4-H
- Project Achievement
- Summer Camp
- Smart Snacking
- Handwashing
- Water Maze
- Mental Health
- Georgia Agriculture

## NEW FACE ON THE EXTENSION TEAM



Savannah Kennedy

4-H County Extension Educator

Savannah Kennedy started on November 1, 2022. She was the AmeriCorps State Member in Bulloch County for one year before joining our team. She comes to us with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a double minor in Psychology and Human and Family Development from Georgia Southern University. She is a Tattnall County native and has been involved in 4-H since she was in the 5th Grade, she even served as a Rock Eagle Camp Counselor for 3 summers.



"4-H has been an intracule part of my life. I credit 4-H with giving me the skills, confidence and leadership to be successful.

I am so thankful and excited to start my professional career here in Burke County."

-Savannah Kennedy



# AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The 2021 Farm Gate Survey for Burke was \$168,936,329, highlighting the importance of the agricultural industry in the county. Burke County Extension's Agricultural & Natural Resources Agent works to address critical needs associated with this diverse agricultural base.

Burke County annually ranks in the top 10 counties for corn production in Georgia. Growers continued to commit more acres to corn production over the past few years and indicated the continued trend in 2022.

Growers turn to Extension for guidance on variety selection, as well as, planting and crop management recommendations. Among other practices, variety selection, integrated pest management and proper rate and timing of fertilizer application are critical points in profitably producing a corn crop. The agent in Burke collaborated with Jefferson County Extension Agent and UGA Southeast Research and Education Center superintendent to develop a research trial to assess the performance of several corn hybrids under Extension recommended management to maximize profit margins.

## LOCAL RESEARCH TRIALS

For over 100 years, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension has provided free, reliable, research-based information based on the latest scientific research.

### CORN VARIETY TRIAL



The trial was designed to compare commercially available varieties of corn that growers could readily access versus experimental varieties. Basic Extension crop management recommendations were followed. The corn varieties were randomized and replicated three times to account for field variations. Plant stand counts were made and yield data was collected at harvest across all plots.

With 22,760 acres planted to corn in 2022 in Burke County, this commodity has a large imprint on the counties' agricultural economy.

Variety choice and the way a particular variety fits a grower's management can significantly impact corn yield. In this trial, the difference in yield from the top yielding variety to the lowest yielding variety was 35 bushels. With average corn prices at \$6.50 /bushel, the impact of determining the optimum variety is \$228 /acre when choosing between the highest and lowest yielding varieties. If this applied to a modest estimate of 25% of the corn acres in Burke County, there could be a \$1,296,750 increase in income to growers.



# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## CLOVERLEAF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT (4-6TH GRADERS)

Georgia 4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime. Students choose a project area of interest, research the topic, and write and present a demonstration. 4-H'ers develop self-confidence, leadership, creativity, public speaking, record keeping, and other skills.



67 Burke County 4th-6th grade 4-H'ers traveled to Metter to compete with their demonstrations against students from 14 counties in our district competition. 61 students placed in top 3 for their project and 6 placed in the top 10.

We are so proud of these brave 4-H'ers for speaking in front of others!  
Burke County also was recognized for highest amount of participants at competition.

## WILDLIFE JUDGING TEAM WON 1ST PLACE AT DISTRICT AND 2ND PLACE AT NATIONALS

Participating in educational judging events helps 4-H'ers learn to make and defend decisions, work with a group, and to speak in public.

Burke County 4-H'ers had to learn and memorize 42 species. They had to continue to know the nine additional species they had studied for the state competition. These 51 species had to be recognized by the students using their skulls, tracks, pelts, and cries. As part of the competition, they had to write a wildlife management plan and present it to the judges individually, as well as demonstrate their understanding of the plant communities, successional stages, and wildlife found in the eastern deciduous forest, wetland, and urban ecoregions. They also had to complete a written exam to demonstrate their understanding of these topics.

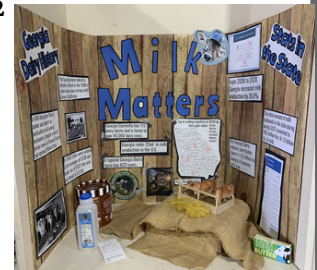


2nd place Senior Team at National Level: Burke County's team earned second place with several students placing in the top 10 individually. Josiah Brantley, Emmaline Cunningham, Tony Gray and Susanna Murray.

## OTHER 4-H HIGHLIGHTS

This fall has been a busy time of growth, learning, and fun for all of our Burke County 4-H members. These are some of the other activities and events that we participated in:

- Celebrated National 4-H Week during October 2-8, 2022
- Educational Minibooths at Burke County Fair in Waynesboro, GA - 14 students (All won 1st, 2nd or 3rd)



Minibooth created by: Emree Williams

- Pumpkin Decorating Contest held at the Burke County Public Library - 21 entries
- Peanut Recipe Contest over 70 recipes turned in
- Southeast District Junior Conference at Jekyll 4-H Center - 5 students
- 8 Junior/Senior Meetings held - 40 total students present.
- Junior/Senior Kayaking Trip - 11 students



# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## PROGRAMMING AND PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Our FACS program has been working to establish relationships within the community through:

- Partnered with 21st Century to host Science Chefs at Blakeney Elementary School
- Provided multiple educational content for the True Citizen newspaper.
- Offered six ServSafe® Manager courses and eight exam-only sessions, providing education to eighty-five food service employees. Of these, fifty-one have earned ServSafe® Manager Certification
- 24 taxpayers took advantage of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a twenty percent increase in clients over the 2021 season. These clients saved approximately \$9,600 in tax preparation and related fees.
- Local coordinator for the Georgia DPH Child Occupant Safety Project's Car Seat Mini-Grant, providing no cost child safety seats and education to parents.



## LOOKING FORWARD FOR FACS

UGA Extension Family and Consumer Sciences outreach, resources, and programs help improve the quality of life for individuals and families in Georgia. We provide training, disseminate research-based publications, and link families, businesses and communities to university faculty and resources.

- Introducing Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) for Burke County community members
- ServSafe Manager Certification courses

**VITA**  
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

This service is free, local, and confidential. E-file with one of our trained volunteers and have your refund directly deposited to get ALL of your money even faster.

**Call now:  
Appointments  
begin January 30!**

UGA Extension Burke County  
715 W 6th St, Waynesboro, GA  
706.554.2119

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File your taxes for FREE with UGA Extension!

THE FOOD INDUSTRY'S LEADING FOOD SAFETY AND SANITATION PROGRAM

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Waynesboro, Ga 30830  
Questions? Contact 706-554-2119

**\$150** All Inclusive Registration Fee:  
• 12 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION • CERTIFICATION EXAM  
• COURSE BOOK • DRINKS AND SNACKS  
• STUDY MATERIALS • DURING TRAINING

Course topics include food safety at all stages, facilities and pest management, cleaning and sanitizing, and more!

Register online or by mail

scan to register

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# LAB SERVICES

Whether you'd like to increase your crop yield, test your water, or make sure your creek isn't polluted, we can help. We provide testing for soil, plant tissue, water quality, animal waste, feeds and forages, pesticides, and much more!

Sample Type	Number Submitted
Soil	861
Plant Tissue	4
Microbiology	7
Feed & Forage	59
Water & Pond	20
Animal Waste	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>968</b>

*The above breakdown is the total number of samples submitted for 2022 by Burke County Extension.*

# CONNECT WITH US!



Burke County UGA Extension/4-H



@burkeco4h



[www.extension.uga.edu/burke](http://www.extension.uga.edu/burke)



[site.extension.uga.edu/burkeag](http://site.extension.uga.edu/burkeag)



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## BURKE COUNTY EXTENSION TEAM



**Courtney Scott**  
Administrative Assistant



**Makenzy Veldboom**  
4-H AmeriCorps Member



**Meridith Meckel**  
4-H Extension Agent



**Peyton Sapp**  
CEC & ANR Extension Agent



**Savannah Kennedy**  
4-H Educator



**Terri Black**  
FACS Extension Agent



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Burke County



## Burke County Extension

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