

MEET OUR TEAM



Bonnie Weber
Administrative Assistant



Blake Carter
Extension Coordinator
ANR Agent



Morgan Triplett
4-H Agent



Melissa Jacobs
4-H Educator



Shannon Gray
4-H Program Assistant



Silvy Tompkins
4-H Program Assistant



An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**EFFINGHAM COUNTY
UGA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

uge3103@uga.edu | 912-754-8040

INTRODUCTION

UGA Cooperative Extension meets people's needs by providing educations in agriculture and natural resources and 4-H youth development, offering free publications to the public, and acting as a resource for answering questions.

OUR ORGANIZATION

MISSION

The mission of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service since 1914 is to extend lifelong learning to Georgia citizens through unbiased, research-based education in agriculture, the environment, communities, youth and families.

VISION

Our vision is to provide empowering, impactful programming containing unbiased, research-based information to Effingham County residents in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources and 4-H Youth Development.

*Reputation &
Collaboration*

*Integrity &
Persistence*

*Community
Needs-Driven*

OUR ANNUAL REPORT DETAILS IMPACT OF
EXTENSION IN EFFINGHAM COUNTY FROM
NOVEMBER 1ST, 2022 TO OCTOBER 31ST,
2023.

COUNTY IMPACT

Over the last year UGA Extension Effingham County has provided many programs and services to the community around us. This can be seen from the over **25,000 men, women, and youth** that our office has helped or interacted with since November 2022.

COUNTYWIDE EVENT

Effingham County Extension/4-H has now hosted the second annual Boo-in-the-Park fundraiser. The fundraiser is a way to help youth and their families attend summer camps in 2024. Camp costs have risen drastically over the last two years. Rallying community partners and local businesses together, the Boo-in-the-Park fundraiser provides community members and their families a family friendly Halloween experience, featuring trick-r-treating, face painting, bounce houses, fresh food off the grill, and a movie in the park to end the evening.

BOO-IN-THE-PARK '23

- OVER 300 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE
- 21 COMMUNITY PARTNERS INVOLVED
- RAISED OVER \$6000 TO HELP COVER CAMP EXPENSES



4-H PROGRAMMING

We Provide monthly in-school educational programs for all 5th grade students in county. We are also piloting 6th grade classes at Ebenezer Middle School this year with hopes of adding all 6th grade classes next year! We also offer opportunities for youth to participate in service learning projects (collect food for food pantries, collect pet food for animal shelter, collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, collect items and stuff stockings for Backpack Buddies, write thank you letters to first responders, and more!) that will benefit citizens in Effingham County. The local 4-H program has received numerous awards for achievement in Project Achievement, as well as for excellence in camping programs.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Current enrollment: **1585 4-H'ers**
- **71%** of the **Jr/Sr Project Achievement Participants placed in the top 3**
- **100%** of the **Cloverleaf Project Achievement Participants placed in the top 3**
- Effingham County 4-H **took 184 campers to Cloverleaf Camp** receiving **the 3rd largest camping county in the State.**

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

Club Meetings and Age Groups

- Cloverleaf (grades 5 & 6)
- Junior (grades 7 & 8):
- Senior (grades 9-12)
- Home School (grades 4-12)

Summer Camp Programs

- Cloverleaf Camp | Rock Eagle
- Senior Extreme Camp | Rock Eagle
- Wilderness Challenge Camp | Wahsega
- Junior Camp | Fortson
- Marine Resources Camp | Burton

Educational Opportunities

- Project Achievement
- Judging Teams
- Project S.A.F.E. Shooting Sports team
- Officer Training
- Deans Award
- Georgia 4-H Achievement Scholarships

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Effingham County 4-H Archery Team won 1st Place at State** for the Cloverleaf Compound Team
- **4-H Agent won Georgia Outstanding New Extension Professional Award**
- **67 Effingham County 4-H'ers** participated in the **2023 Effingham County Fair Mini Booth Competition.**



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMMING

Effingham County agricultural enterprises are estimated to have exceeded \$53 million. UGA Extension functions as a service not only to those entrepreneurs engaged in agriculture, but also to homeowners and industry throughout the county. On average Effingham County Extension works with individual county residents to distribute sound scientific recommendations to solve a broad array of issues involving wildlife, water, soil, crop production, and livestock production just to name a few. Over 600 soil, plant, and water samples are submitted through our office annually to help address those issues. Of all the industries represented in Effingham agriculture, forestry products comprise the most income flow, second only to row crops, followed by cattle and forages in third.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **7929 individuals** sought assistance from Effingham County Extension in the form of phone calls, face-to-face office visits, and emails
- **243 site visits** were made upon request of clients with 68 issues or concerns diagnosed.
- **700+ samples** were submitted to UGA Agriculture Laboratories

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

- **32 educational sessions** were offered with a combined **792 teaching hours**
- **2000+ participants** in programs
- **Conducted and participated in 6 research studies**, with 3/6 getting National Exposure and one currently in an Academic Journal Review Process

2023 NATIONAL & STATE RECOGNITION/HONORS

- **Southeast Georgia Extension Conference Winner:** Research Poster: *Analyzing the Effect of Nematodes on Cotton Varieties*
- **State Winner:** Research Poster: *Analyzing the Effect of Nematodes on Cotton Varieties*
- **National Semi-Finalist:** Research Poster: *Analyzing the Effect of Nematodes on Cotton Varieties*
- **National/State Winner:** Educational Notebook for Programs: *Master Agribusiness-Manager*
- **National/State Winner:** Search For Excellence in Forestry and Natural Resources Programming
- **1 National Presentation; 2 State Presentations** given since November 1st, 2022
- **8 Poster Presentations** given at both State and National Levels