



2016 ANNUAL REPORT: JEFF DAVIS 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.

LEADERSHIP GROWS HERE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Virtual University states that "Effective leadership is a constant personal challenge requiring a key set of competencies and



the ability to build productive relationships and coalitions." Leadership opportunities and Teen Leader trainings were provided to youth in grades five through 12. Additional

opportunities to lead were provided to youth through collaborations with local schools and instruction at civic group meetings, events and presentations. As a result of trainings and leadership opportunities, 100 percent of youth stated that they were confident about serving as Teen Leaders after training. Seventy-three percent of trained youth used the skills learned to provide leadership to others at summer events, after-school events, summer camp and as presenters at the local awards ceremony. One training program participant said, "I learned how to work with younger students and how to lead meetings." These trained youths also coordinated and led a leadership class for fifth-grade officers. Ninety percent of the fifth-grade officers stated that they felt confident about leading a club meeting after the training. Ninety percent of participants stated that they learned their role as an officer. All of the youth who completed officers' training were able to state qualities of a good leader and give examples of how to use these qualities to follow basic parliamentary



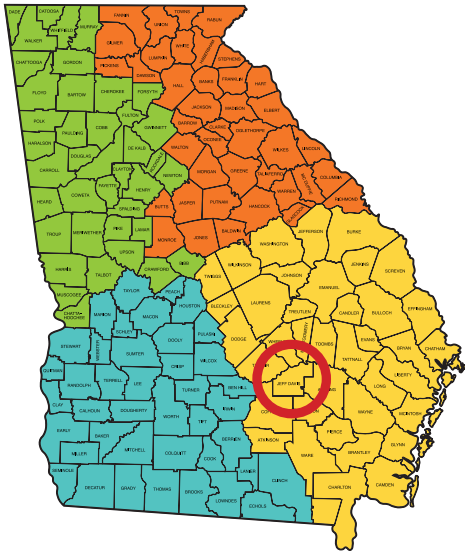
procedures. These youth are leading others and initiating opportunities for leadership growth. One officer said, "I am excited about becoming an officer and leading my club."

PEANUT MATURITY CLINICS AID IN HARVEST

For most runner-type peanuts grown in south Georgia, it takes between 135 and 150 days to mature. In years when the weather is extremely variable, maturity can be affected. High temperatures this past summer, coupled with dry conditions, altered the way this year's peanuts matured. Some peanuts started maturing much earlier than normal. Some nuts went beyond optimal maturity and began deteriorating. Checking peanuts using the hull scrape method is very important for growers to use in deciding when to harvest their fields. Very rarely is a farmer able to harvest by plant date alone. The method involves removing the outer hull of the peanut and laying it out on the peanut maturity profile board. Then we crack some of the nuts open and see if the inside is as mature as the outside of the hull. The number of sound, mature kernels affects the grade and, ultimately, the money received for the crop. A second-year peanut grower commented, "The peanut clinics gave me confidence that I was digging my crop at the right time." This year in Jeff Davis County, we held 14 peanut maturity clinics. Through these clinics, we reached the majority of peanut growers in the county and blasted 122 samples from approximately 5,000 acres grown in Jeff Davis County. Continued work is being done to relate what we see on the maturity board to the final harvested grade at the peanut mill.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Jeff Davis County does not have a Family and Consumer Sciences agent based in its office, but we still strive to assist local residents with questions. Common questions relate to food preservation, dealing with mold and mildew, and SNAP-Ed materials. These topics are answered through free UGA Extension publications and through phone conferences with Family and Consumer Science Extension agents in surrounding counties.



COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 15,300

2016 Georgia County Guide, UGA

Georgia Health Factors Ranking: 128/159

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

Georgia 4-H Enrollment: 392

Georgia 4-H enrollment system, FY16

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

Jobs: 2,140

Output: \$409,640,165

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

Farm Gate Value: \$87,170,221.29

Top Commodities: Broiler, Cotton, Timber

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.