WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2012
On behalf of the University of Maryland Extension (UME) of Washington County, we are proud to present our 2012 Annual Report. The highlights in this report are just a snapshot of how we helped local residents improve their lives. Our mission is to extend trusted research-based information from the University of Maryland to individuals, families, and communities so that they can use the information in practical ways.

UME helps citizens support the agriculture industry, protect our natural resources, enhance the well-being of youth and families, and foster the development of strong, stable communities. UME faculty and staff provide Washington County residents with a broad range of workshops, seminars, classes, newsletters, individual consultations, and media efforts. Our outreach is further expanded through the efforts of our strong core of volunteers. Whether they are leading 4-H clubs, serving on our advisory committee or working as Master Gardeners, our volunteers are the backbone of our programs.

All of this is made possible through a successful three-way cooperative arrangement with the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the United States Department of Agriculture, and Washington County Government. Our County Commissioners have been long-standing, generous supporters of UME. We have been wise stewards of these funds while still providing high quality programs to the public.

As you will see in this report, UME’s successful outreach efforts provide solutions to make life better for Washington County residents. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me. As always, we welcome your input.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer T. Bentlejewski
Area Extension Director
Western Maryland
Making a Difference in Washington County

The University of Maryland Extension of Washington County provides solutions in your community. We help residents, both adults and youth, make real differences in their lives. Empowering them make changes related to farm management, food production, financial security, health and nutrition, as well as youth leadership are just a few of the life-changing efforts in which we focus. The following is a summary of UME’s impacts in 2012:

- Conducted 1,022 workshops, seminars, and consultations in Washington County
- Reached over 3,530 youth & 6,740 adults
- Enrolled 274 youth in the Washington County 4-H Program
- Collaborated with 65 4-H volunteers who donated 10,149 hours valued at $230,000.
- Educated Master Gardeners who then volunteered over 6,300 hours in the community valued at $143,000.
Agriculture has changed dramatically, especially since the end of World War II. Food and fiber productivity soared due to new technologies, mechanization, increased chemical use, specialization and government policies that favored maximizing production. These changes allowed fewer farmers with reduced labor demands to produce the majority of the food and fiber.

Some terms defy definition. "Sustainable agriculture" has become one of them. In such a quickly changing world, can anything be sustainable? What do we want to sustain? How can we implement such a nebulous goal? Is it too late?

Every day, farmers develop new, innovative strategies to produce and distribute food and fiber sustainably. While these strategies vary greatly, they all embrace three broad goals, or Pillars of Sustainability which include the following:

- **Profit over the long term**
- **Stewardship of land, air and water**
- **Quality of life for farmers and their communities**

There are almost as many ways to reach these goals as there are farms.

A cattleman or dairy farmer might divide his land into paddocks in a rotational grazing system to better manage soil and water resources while improving animal productivity. A field crop farmer might implement a rotation to break up pest cycles, improve soil fertility and cut costs, or use cover crops—non-cash crops grown for their benefit to the soil and ability to suppress weeds. A fruit and vegetable grower might try a new marketing approach such as selling directly to restaurants in a nearby city to gain a larger share of the consumer food dollar. No one recipe works on every farm and ranch.

To address these issues UME Washington County offers educational programs targeting in all three areas and all sizes of producers from backyard poultry flocks to large grain producers. In 2012 through a variety of meetings, workshops and field days nearly 1,500 people engaged in these programs to improve both their bottom line and their environmental footprint.

"After taking the poultry class, we added a chicken flock to our operation and we have added over $20,000 to our annual farm income!” reflected one class participant.
Horticulture & Master Gardeners

Our Horticulture Educator answered approximately 1,000 horticulture-related questions from calls, visits, and emails using the latest research-based information. She also contributed monthly articles to the Herald-Mail newspaper which has a circulation of about 32,000 in the tri-state area and a website that receives 265,000 unique monthly visitors.

In addition to being an educator, she is also the Coordinator of the Washington County Master Gardener program. The primary objective of the Master Gardener program is to educate people within the community about good horticultural practices. It consists of a 40-hour series of classes on horticulture-related topics and volunteer service to various approved projects and events within the community.

Since the inception of the Washington County Master Gardeners program in 1995, it has grown to include 97 Master Gardeners. In 2012, over 6,300 hours of volunteer service were given to the county. Hours were donated at the bi-weekly Plant Clinic held at the City Farmers Market in Hagerstown, the Demo garden located at the University of Maryland Extension- Washington County office in Boonsboro, the Four Square Garden at the Washington County Rural Heritage Museum in Boonsboro, the therapeutic garden at the Western Maryland Hospital Center in Hagerstown, the WWII event in Williamsport, San Mar Children’s Home in Boonsboro, and Memorial Recreation Center Inc. in Hagerstown, and at a variety of other locations. Overall, the local Master Gardeners were highlighted in at least 10 articles published in the Herald-Mail.

Growing Healthy Habits (GHH)

GHH is a Maryland Food Supplement Nutrition Education Curriculum being piloted for the 2012–2013 school year at Ruth Ann Monroe Primary School. Each week approximately 200 second graders are delivered nutrition messages to increase fruit and vegetable consumption. The GHH curriculum incorporates Maryland State curriculum objectives. GHH uses growing food as the teaching vehicle to link nutrition and gardening concepts in both in-school and out-of-school youth educational settings.

This piloted program is a collaborative effort of several program areas within UME.
Annie’s Project funded by a grant from the Northeast Risk Management Education Center and coordinated by UME Extension Educators Shannon Dill and Jenny Rhodes was conducted in eight sites across Maryland and Delaware. Class sessions covered the five areas of risk management: production, market, financial, legal and human resources. In Washington County Annie’s Project was hosted by UME-Washington County Extension Educator, Lynn Little and Washington County Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Leslie Hart. Across Maryland and Delaware, 83 women (nine in Washington County) participated in the 2012 program.

2012 Impact results for Washington County

100% of participants:
- Reviewed their property titles and lease agreements
- Wrote business and marketing plans.
- Used computers to increase their farm efficiency
- Prepared financial statements
- Updated/created estate plans
- Used Personality IQ to increase communication and family relations

71% of participants:
- Changed their insurance policy (ies)

88% of participants:
- Checked their credit reports

Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) aims to teach low-income families and children basic nutrition and physical activity. Lessons are taught in a series using curriculum that is appropriate to the audience. Lessons for adults include food safety, meal planning and saving money on food bills. Cooking demonstrations and healthy recipes help families prepare simple healthy meals for the whole family on a budget. Also, third-graders at Title I schools learned how to read new nutrition labels to make better food choices. With a greater emphasis on physical activity, they learned to limit time spent watching television and playing on the computer. The new My Plate icon was used to encourage children to teach their parents how to assemble a healthy meal.

Accomplishments for the year include:
- Over $40,000 in federal funding from USDA funded nutrition education in the county
- 642 nutrition education classes and workshops were taught
- 597 youth and 44 adults were reached through nutrition and physical activity education
The Washington County 4-H Youth Development Program strives to provide positive high quality youth development programming in order to cultivate resilient, knowledgeable and well-rounded citizens for the community. This is accomplished through 4-H Clubs, School Enrichment, Community Outreach and Summer Programming/Camping where youth are engaged in educational and experiential activities aligned to instill, develop and allow for practice a variety of life skills.

In 2012, the Washington County 4-H Team, along with numerous adult and youth volunteers, prepared and presented annual events such as the 4-H Recognition Night, Spring Swine Show, participated in the Wills Fair, Washington County Ag Expo and Fair, as well as the Maryland State Fair. They expanded their School Enrichment offerings and brought Kids Growing with Grains back to the county. New in 2012, the 4-H Program provided Outreach activities at Memorial Recreation and Girls Inc. in Hagerstown, implemented a Going Green initiative for the 4-H newsletter, expanded committee opportunities for youth and adults, developed new program offerings and collaborations such as 4-H in the 40’s with the Williamsport WWII and USO Event and STEM Activities as a Saturday Plus Program at the Discovery Station in Hagerstown. As we look back at 2012, The 4-H Team is proud to note the following statistics from the four major program delivery areas:

**Clubs:** There were 274 youth enrolled in the traditional 4-H Club Program in 16 different community clubs.

**School Enrichment:** Over 1,500 youth reached. School Enrichment programs included (not exclusively): Embryology, Goods From the Woods, Junior Master Gardener, and Junk Drawer Robotics.

**Outreach:** Over 500 youth reached. Events included (not exclusively): Spudfest hosted by the Washington County Rural Heritage Museum, Eastern Elementary School Community Resource Night, Williamsport WWII and USO Event, Washington County Ag Expo and Fair.

**Summer Program/Camping:** *Project Explorations! Day Camp* reached 41 youth.
Faculty and Staff

**Extension Educators:**
- Lynn Little, Family and Consumer Sciences
- Jeff Semler, AGNR
- Jamie Kenton, 4-H Youth Development
- Annette Ipsan, Horticulture
- Derrick Bender, CRED

**Nutrient Management:**
- Rich Spoonire, Advisor

**Assistants:**
- Lois Manfull, EFNEP Nutrition Assistant
- Shannon Uzelac, 4-H Program Assistant
- Amy Simmons, Admin. Assistant
- Diane Woodring, Admin Assistant
- Susan Stoy, Office Assistant
- Dr. Jennifer T. Bentlejewski, Area Extension Director

**Washington County Extension Advisory Council**
- Teresa Shank, Treasurer
- Sarah Price, Assistant Treasurer
- Kim Buchanan, Community Action Council
- Karen Greeley, Master Gardener
- Chad Hamilton, 4-H Member
- Kent Reid, 4-H UME Volunteer
- Kathy Rabon, Towson State University
- Leslie Hart, WCEDC– Ag Marketing

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.