

January 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

EXTENSION

Solutions in your community



# 2010 Annual Report



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The University of Maryland Extension-Queen Anne's County office offers University of Maryland educational and outreach programs to the residents of the county. University of Maryland Extension (UME) is an unique educational organization involving a partnership between federal, state, and county governments designed to give **"Solutions in your Community."** Queen Anne's County faculty strives to stimulate a positive learning experience, educating audiences in four critical areas: Agriculture & Natural Resources, Family & Consumer Science, 4-H & Youth Development programs and Home Horticulture including the Master Gardeners programs. Unbiased research based information is delivered to county residents through workshops, seminars, clinics, classes, newsletters and media efforts.

### Seven programming initiatives are identified in our teaching efforts.

- o Managing change in agriculture to enhance profitability and environmental quality
- o Improving food safety, diet, and optimal health
- o Promoting environmental stewardship and wise use of natural resources
- o Enabling local leaders and decision makers to achieve beneficial community outcomes
- o Building and sustaining the family and its resources
- o Improving aquatic resource production and stewardship
- o Enabling youth to reach their full potential as individuals and citizens



## 4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

As government and community resources diminish the need to increase volunteer engagement in our communities' increases. Trained and committed volunteers are needed to organize and coordinate positive youth development activities for our youth. University of Maryland Extension has a unique opportunity to provide resources for concerned citizens to develop their leadership and teaching skills to assist Extension Educators in outreach and extending the mission of 4-H and on a larger scale UME. Currently there are 138 active UME certified volunteers assisting with the Queen Anne's County 4-H mission. In 2010 the value of their services to the community was \$123,723.90 and for the last five (5) years the total is \$618,731.34.

### **4-H Pledge:**

My HEAD to clear thinking

My HEART to greater loyalty

My HANDS to larger service and

My HEALTH to better living, for My club, My community, My country, and My world.

**The 4-H Motto:** To Make The Best Better."The 4-H Emblem: Green 4 leaf clover with a white "H" on each leaf. Each leaf represents one of the four H's Head, Heart, Hands and Health.

The community club is the heart of the 4-H program, these clubs are led by trained volunteers. In 2010, Queen Anne's County had 19 4-H clubs with a total county membership of 297. There are more than 100 4-H projects to choose including animal science, food and fitness, citizenship, communication skills, safety, community service, leadership, environmental science, entrepreneurship, engineering and technology, workforce readiness, aerospace, computers, and more! The 4-H Project is the vehicle that is used to provide opportunities for the youth to develop knowledge and practice skills in four key areas identified as assets necessary for positive youth development.

- Life Skill Development (changes in knowledge, skills and behaviors in leadership, decision making, goal setting, organization, relationships, communications)
- Cognitive Development (changes in knowledge in technical subject matter, technology use, understanding of agricultural issues, and being an informed consumer)
- Moral Development (changes in ethical knowledge and behavior)
- Career Exploration (interest in agricultural and technological careers)

The educator is responsible for organizing, conducting and evaluating a non-formal, diverse, experiential learning based, and educational program . Youth ages 5 through 18 learn through workshops, clinics, the community 4-H club, specialized trainings, service learning, school classroom settings, afterschool programs and one-on-one instruction. An additional 2516 youth were reached with this programming in a multitude of subjects including embryology, conflict resolution, fitness, life sciences, agricultural literacy, ATV safety, fire and agricultural safety, recycling, reading enrichment, expressive arts, and food and nutrition.

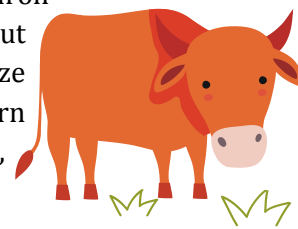


4-H members participate in a 2010 Holiday Workshop

**Quality Assurance Certification:** Animal agriculture is the largest component of Maryland agriculture based on value of production. To ensure long-term sustainability and profitability it is crucial to educate both youth and adult producers about evolving profitable practices and more critically about the emerging issues and regulations concerning meat animal production and consumer food safety. Both youth and adult producers are required to attend Quality Assurance Certification trainings every 3 years in order to have their market animals processed into the food chain. Extension personnel provide this certification training. In 2010, Fifty seven (57) youth completed this training and earned \$39, 081.80 by marketing their animals in the annual livestock sale.

**Agricultural Safety:** Youth aged 14 to 16 are required to successfully complete a 24 hour Federal Department of Transportation certification program prior to working with agricultural machinery or livestock. Agricultural producers are liable and will be fined if they employ youth that have not had this training. Annually an average of ten (10) youth successfully complete this written and skill based course and are prepared to work in agriculture.

**Queen Anne's County Fair:** This annual weeklong event is held at the Queen Anne's County 4-H Park. This highlights county agriculture, youth accomplishments, and community service organizations with over 20,000 visitors in a week. . Our kick off event, which signals the opening of the Queen Anne's County 4-H Fair is the annual 4-H All Star cake auction. Grand Champion, Champion and 1st place cakes, are placed into the cake auction. Each 4-Her receives 25% of the proceeds and the All Star organization scholarship fund receives 75% of the proceeds. The 2010 cake auction raised over \$5,000 to support our local 4-H scholarship fund. Eight well deserving 4-H members received this generous scholarship in 2010. 4-H members also participate in a variety of Indoor Entries. In 2010, 4-Hers entered over 930 products ranging from photography to environmental science to candy making. All entries are judged by local volunteers from throughout the community. There are 23 grand champion categories, all of which receive donated prize money from local business and private individuals. 4-H members from around the Eastern Shore participate in livestock shows (beef, dairy, swine, sheep, poultry). Additionally, community member's help support 4-Hers by attending our annual livestock sale. Entries from each market species category are auctioned off and 4-Hers receive those proceeds.



**4-H Leadership:** 4-H Club Officers from the 19 clubs attend trainings to learn how to conduct their monthly meetings utilizing proper Parliamentary Procedure. Youth serve as the officers under the direction of an adult mentor. Every club conducts a community service project each year contributing volunteer time and resources back to the community. As an example, the 4-H Llama club coordinated a regional collection of wool to ship to the Gulf to assist with the oil clean up. Youth learn valuable skills in organizing and physically doing community service. Queen Anne's 4-Hers participated in County and State Public Speaking, Horse Bowl, Horse Judging and Hippology, Livestock Skillathon, Rabbit Judging, Rifle Matches, State Portfolio Interviews, National 4-H Congress and the Queen Anne's County and Maryland State Fairs.

**Workforce Preparation:** Queen Anne's County has the largest public speaking program on the shore. Each club has youth compete in four (4) separate divisions; Prepared, Extemporaneous, Radio and Dramatic. After club eliminations over one hundred youth participate in the county public speaking contest. Over the past decade Queen Anne's County has had at least one and usually two state public speaking champions each year. In addition over 200 youths a year are trained in recordkeeping and financial management. Of these one hundred and sixty (160) submit detailed record books detailing their goals, accomplishments and financial documentation of their 4-H projects. Fifty Four (54) high school aged youths were trained in how to prepare a resume and submitted them along with their job applications, scholarship applications and college applications. Twenty Eight (28)

## 4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

teens attended trainings to become teen camp counselors and teen leaders within their club, county or state teen council. The youth then teach other youth and develop their leadership and communication skills in the process. Currently there are two 4-H members on college scholarships for their marksmanship skills that they developed in the county 4-H Marksmanship Club.

### Emergency Preparedness

Extension staff coordinate with the Department of Emergency Services to serve as a subject matter and networking contacts for disaster planning for large animals and agriculture products. In the February 2010 blizzard Extension staff served as verifiers to assist cattle producers in applying for federal disaster aid for death loss due to barns collapsing and killing livestock.

## AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Queen Anne's County is the largest producer of corn, wheat and soybeans in the state. The county has approximately 155,000 acres in production agriculture with the average farm size of 351 acres. There are approximately 443 full time farmers and 800 part-time farmers and farm owners. The production of these commodities is critical not only to the economy of the county and the state, but also the poultry industry on the Delmarva Peninsula. The average age of the farmer has increased over the past decade, while the number of farms has increased and the average acreage has decreased. With the influx of environmental pressures, escalating production and living costs, farmers are looking for new ways to diversity their operations to be more profitable. Farm profitability is vital to the longevity of the county's full time and part time farmers. Agronomy, grain marketing, poultry and alternative agriculture are the needs of the farming community in the county. Programs include: Annual Agronomy Day, Queen Anne's Grain Marketing Club, Harvest Breakfast, Poultry Production - Commercial and Back yard flocks, Organic Grain and Forage Production, Nutrient Management, Pesticide Certification, Integrated Pest Management, Risk Management, Home Grown Series on QATV, and Annie's Project - Women in Agriculture. The vehicles for communication are a newsletter published 6 times a year, an email listserv for timely information and the Home Grown series which airs on QACTV.

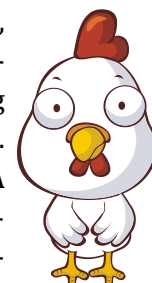


**Annie's Project** is a signature University of Maryland Extension program. This program was adapted from curriculum in the Midwest Annie's Project is a farm management course for women involving the 5 areas of risk management (production, marketing, human resources, legal, financial). Annie's Project was delivered to 9 sites in Maryland and Delaware in 2010 educating 146 women. As a result of Annie's Project for 2010 67% of participants will update their insurance policies, 95% will create a business plan and 96% will update their estate plans 95% of participants will use computers to increase their farm efficiency, 91% would check their credit reports annually, and 89% are better prepared to complete financial statements.



*Shannon Dill Talbot County, Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources (Left) and Jennifer L. Rhodes, Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources (Right) host Annie's Project in conjunction with Chesapeake College*

**Poultry Farm Management Training & Certification for New Growers** was developed for potential poultry growers as part of the New Source Performance Standard for EPA's Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. The state extension program was developed by J. L. Rhodes and J. R. Timmons. The course includes introduction to poultry farm management, best management practices, site and production area management, maintenance, mortality and manure handling, state and federal regulation compliance, vegetative environmental buffers, financing and emergency preparedness. Two classes were held in 2010 training 60 people. 57% rated the workshop excellent, 89% had a better understanding of a broiler operation. Unexpected outcomes included existing poultry growers, government employees (FSA, NRCS, MDA and UME), poultry company employees, banks and farm credit loan officers attending. This group indicated that this training would help them have a better understanding of the many aspects of a poultry operations and would help them serve their customers better.



**Risk Management** – A new program that addresses the current volatility and small price margins of agricultural producers. This program includes topics of creating budgets, grain marketing, lease agreements and crop insurance. Fifteen rural business providers including banks, lenders and advisors have been trained as well as 125 farmers. As a result of the workshops, participant intentions include: 81% creating crop budgets, 77% increasing communication with landlord and 92% having new resources. In follow up evaluations, attendees have incorporated excel worksheets into their operations and created outreach materials to landowners.

**Grain Marketing:** Grain marketing is extremely important to farm profitability. Queen Anne's County has an active marketing club that meets every other week through the year and practices trading commodities with a model farm. The meeting is open to all farmers and landowners. The meetings also include meeting with county commissioners for county updates, discussions about the latest on farm technology and presentation from local



businesses on current issues. Adding just a few cents per bushel can make a big difference to farm income. When compared to United States and Maryland average prices received, the club continues to be above average in price per bushel for corn (+0.60 for 2 years), soybeans (+0.68 for 2 years) and wheat (+.04 for 2 years). Informal surveys of marketing club members report that the club helps to make marketing decisions on the farm. "What I practice at the club I can implement on my own farm," and "Very relevant to the agriculture community and to the broader issues of local government as well" reports two farmers and participants. Farmers and landowners are always interested in learning better marketing skills.

**Nutrient Management :** The University of Maryland Extension's (UME) Agricultural Nutrient Management Program, which is funded by Maryland Department of Agriculture, (MDA) focuses on reducing pollution in the Chesapeake Bay from plant nutrients applied to cropland. The Program provides (1) nutrient management planning services to Maryland farmers through a network of Nutrient Management Advisors located in all county Extension offices and (2) continuing education and technical support to certified Nutrient Management Advisors and certified farm operators via state and regional nutrient management specialists. For more information on the agricultural nutrient management program, visit [www.anrnp.urnd.edu](http://www.anrnp.urnd.edu). Nutrient Management is a vital part of farm planning. All farmers use nutrients in one form or another to grow their crops efficiently and for maximum production. Queen Anne's County, being the number one grain producing county in the State of Maryland requires the use of as much or more nutrients than any county in Maryland. The Nutrient Management program in the Extension Office helps farmers to fulfill the requirements of planning as set forth by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. On average the Extension Nutrient Advisor writes about 65 plans per year covering approximately 35,000 acres. This is about 24% of all tillable land in the County.

## AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

### Integrated Pest Management-

Agricultural crops are of considerable importance to the Maryland

economy and also vital to other industries, which rely upon certain field crops for feed, food and fiber. The Extension office personnel provide professional, unbiased research based information and solutions to growers and residents of Queen Anne's County facing IPM problems.

**Soil Testing-** Soil testing is a useful tool that can help ensure the efficient use of applied plant nutrients. Soil tests provide a means for assessing the fertility status of a soil. The University of Maryland Extension Office will be happy to process your soil and give you recommendations for crops, gardens and lawn samples.



*Brown marmorated stink bug nymphs and adult on crabapple*

## HOME HORTICULTURE & MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Today, there over 75 active Master Gardeners in the county, working to further the mission of educating Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. The Maryland Master Gardener vision is a healthier world through environmental stewardship. Queen Anne's County Master Gardeners Volunteers work on a variety of projects in cooperation with local schools, government agencies, the green industry and civic and environmental organizations. Annually, Queen Anne's County Master Gardeners volunteer over 5,000 hours of service and offer many classes that are free and open to the public. Additionally, outreach activities within the county have increased by 70% since 2008.



**A Garden Affair:** Master Gardeners hold an Annual Garden Affair on the third Saturday in May at the Centreville Library & Historic Wrights Chance. Master Gardeners partnered with Corsica River Conservancy, Adkins Arboretum, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, Kennard Elementary Advanced Ecology club, 4-H, Wrights Chance, the Town of Centreville, Queen Anne's County Commissioners, the Centreville Library, Queen Anne's County Department of Education, and Department of Public Works. The goal is to educate the community on environmental horticulture practices. This event is free to the public and has a variety of educational demonstrations including

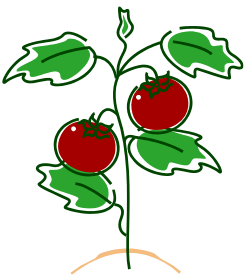


*Master Gardener, Sabine Harvey talks to homeowners at the "Ask a Master Gardener" booth at the 3rd Annual Garden Affair*

composting and rain barrel construction. Exhibits included, Ask a Master Gardener Plant Clinic, Growing Great Herbs, Container Gardening, Grow It Eat It, Beneficial Bugs, Rain Gardens, Composting, Bay-Wise, Rain Barrels, and projects for children. Additionally, Master Gardeners obtained a variety of donations from local businesses to offer as door prizes. Over 375 community members attended (adults & children).

**Bay-Wise :** Living within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, Marylanders play a vital role in the health of our streams and tributaries. The Bay-Wise Residential Landscape Management program was developed by the University of Maryland as a part of the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener program. Its purpose is to provide information and guidance to help people create healthier gardens and landscapes using sustainable practices. This year Master Gardeners developed a Bay-Wise lecture series that was given throughout Queen Anne's and Caroline County. Topics included: Why Fertilize: Composting, Fertilizing Wisely & Lawn Care Basics, Managing Water Wisely: Shoreline plantings, Rain gardens & Rain barrels, Gardening for Wildlife with Native Plants and Know your Bugs: IPM. In total 8 classes were held reaching 72 people. Additionally, In cooperation with Caroline, Queen Anne's and Talbot County-Department of Planning, Bay Wise Master Gardeners participated in the tri county Compost Bin and Rain Barrel sale at Chesapeake College. Master Gardeners provided educational demonstrations on composting and setting up rain barrels. At the sale, 57 residents from all three counties took a survey on composting and water conservation. They each received a fact sheet on composting and received a HGIC magnet. 70% of the individuals surveyed did not currently own a rain barrel or compost bin. 53% of the individuals surveyed said they were interested in reducing food waste and conserving water in times of drought. The remaining 47% were interested in decreasing fertilizer usage, increasing gardening skills, and reducing run off and pollution.

**Grow It Eat It:** The Grow It Eat It campaign is a collaboration between the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and the Home and Garden Information Center. This venture addresses the growing need of Marylanders to learn how to start and maintain successful food gardens. As part of Maryland's Food Gardening Network, Queen Anne's County Master Gardener Volunteers offer Beginner Vegetable Garden classes and workshops. All classes and workshops will be given by Master Gardener Volunteers across Queen Anne's County at community locations and to groups upon request. Our vision is one million gardeners in the state producing their own affordable, healthy food. In 2010, Queen Anne's County Master Gardeners Volunteers taught 8 classes in Stevensville, Sudlersville, and Centerville on the 12 simple steps to food gardening, composting, extending the season, the magic of veggies and vegetable IPM. Additionally, Master Gardener Volunteers partnered with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Farm Service Agency (FSA) in the People's Garden initiative in order to offer free vegetable, herb, and flower seeds at all of



the classes, clinics, and booths throughout the county. In total 200 seed packets were distributed and 109 adults and children were reached. 44 individuals that took the basic vegetable gardening class were surveyed. 80% of the 44 already had a vegetable/herb garden. Additionally, 75% of the 44 were already practicing "in ground" gardens. After the class, 44% had an increased interest in the University of Maryland Salad Table/box as a method of vegetable/herb production. 80% of the 44 were interested in food gardening as a way to save money and have a healthier diet.

**Plant Clinics:** "Ask a Master Gardener-Plant Clinic's" is a program where Master Gardener Volunteers in conjunction with the University of Maryland Extension provide information to home gardeners at the Centerville and Chestertown Farmers Markets.

- Master Gardeners look at samples of ailing plants to make diagnosis, give recommendations, answer questions, and provide printed information on a variety of gardening subjects.

## HOME HORTICULTURE & MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

- At the Ask a Master Gardener plant clinics are conducted from **May to September**
- The Chestertown Farmers Market Plant Clinics in Fountain Park start on first Saturday in May from 8am to 12pm and runs every other Saturday through September.
- The Centreville Farmers Market Plant Clinics on Lawyers Row start on the first Wednesday in May from 8am to 12pm and runs every other Wednesday through September.

**Booths:** Master Gardener Volunteers have informational booths at many of the mid-shore events to promote environmental stewardship. In 2010, Master Gardeners were present at Kent Island Day, Kent Island Federation of the Arts-Garden by the Sea Tour, Adkins Arboretum Spring Plant Sale, An Eastridge Garden Spring Open House, Chestertown Tea Party, Tri-County rain barrel and compost sale, the Queen Anne's County 4-H Fair, and Corsica River Awareness Day.

**Junior Master Gardeners:** The Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program engages children in novel, "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that **promote a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind.** JMG encourages youths to be of service to others through service learning and leadership development projects and rewards them with certification. Each spring Master Gardener Volunteers offer a 6 week JMG program after school at Kennard Elementary. Children receive hands on experience in soils, ecology, plant propagation, hydrology, insects and integrated pest management, plant identification and vegetables, herbs and fruits. Children are able to relay key concepts that they had learned throughout the course during the final session. Parents, teachers, school administrators and students have commended the program and requested to have it held again.

**Demonstration Gardens:** The Queen Anne's County Master Gardener Volunteers have four demonstration gardens that are maintained on a monthly basis. Each garden may serve many functions from improving storm water management issues, creating microhabitats for native wildlife and educating citizens.

- Centreville Library Rain Garden
- Millstream Park Garden in Centreville
- 213 North Garden in Centreville
- Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge Butterfly Garden in Rock Hall



*Master Gardener Booth at the 5th Annual Corsica River Awareness Day.*

Queen Anne's County Master Gardener Volunteers educated 229 individuals on pollinators and pollinator friendly gardens. Additionally, children were also able to get their picture taken with their favorite pollinator cut out made by Master Gardeners.

# Upcoming Events

## 4-H

- 4-H Camp-June 20, 2011 to June 24, 2011
- 4-H Fair August 8, 2011 to August 13, 2011

## Agriculture & Natural Resources

- Queen Anne's Grain Market Club-Every other Tuesday Morning at 6:30 AM
- Agronomy Day—Friday, March 4, 2011
- Mid Atlantic Organic Crop Production-Tuesday, March 8, 2011
- Harvest Breakfast-Friday, November 18, 2011
- Annie's Project- January 26, 2011. Offered at 6 locations throughout Maryland and Delaware
- Poultry Farm Management- For New & Existing Growers-  
March 22 & 30, 2011

## Horticulture & Master Gardeners

- Grow It Eat It Classes- Start February 9, 2011 through June 2011. Fifteen Classes offered throughout Queen Anne's & Kent County
- JMG at Kennard Elementary-May 4th to June 8th
- A Garden Affair- Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 10am to 2pm at the Centreville Library & Historic Wrights Chance
- Plant Clinics
  - Centreville- Wednesday, May 4, 2011 from 9AM to noon
  - Chestertown—Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 8 AM to noon
- Booths
  - Chestertown Tea Party-Saturday, May 28th
  - Adkins Arboretum-Saturday, April 16th
  - 4-H Fair-August 8th to August 13th
  - Corsica River Awareness Day-Saturday, September 17th

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