In 1914, Cooperative Extension was established by the United States Congress through the Smith-Lever Act. The intent was to extend university research and knowledge to the local populace. Cooperative Extension is a national educational network delivered through the nation’s seventy-two land grant universities.

In Maryland, Cooperative Extension is known as the University of Maryland Extension (UME). UME operates through the University of Maryland at College Park, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Extension has field offices in all twenty-three Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

UME faculty and staff are professionals engaged in the delivery of educational programs that address issues of concern at the local and state level. They work to provide “Solutions in your Community” through key program areas including agriculture, environment and natural resources, 4-H youth development, food and nutrition, health and wellness, financial planning, home gardening and the Chesapeake Bay.

The year marked a change in leadership at the University of Maryland Extension. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources welcomed Dr. Craig Beyrouty as the new Dean. He arrives with more than 35 years of experience in teaching, research and Extension.

Programming is made possible through successful partnerships with local, state and federal government. UME programming is also supported by grants and donations. These partnerships allow UME to be accessible, reliable and relevant to all residents of Cecil County and the upper shore region.

In this report UME Cecil County is proud to share its outreach, programming and educational efforts of 2015.
VOLUNTEERS GIVE BACK!

**MASTER GARDENERS**
- 28 volunteers
- 1,092 hours of service to the community

Services valued at $25,198

**4H VOLUNTEERS**
- 284 Adults
- 8,520 hours

Adult services valued at $196,556
- 40 youth
- 3,500+ hours

Youth services valued at $28,875

4-H Volunteer Services valued at $298,222

**TOTAL VALUE OF SERVICE HOURS BY UME VOLUNTEERS**
$323,420

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**Master Gardener Program**

Doris is responsible for the Master Gardener program. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who work within the community to teach safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Doris provides on-going training for the Master Gardener volunteers and together they play an important role in organizing and administering the Master Gardener program through educational opportunities to youth and adults throughout the county. Master Gardeners are involved in a wide range of activities such as therapeutic horticulture, plant clinics, workshops, public events and demonstration gardens. Horticultural guidance, plant and insect identification, and weed and pest management are also provided by Doris through email, phone conversations and 1:1 consultation.

**Stakeholders and Partners**
- Cecil County Public Schools
- Cecil County Senior Services Program
- Cecil College Horticulture Club
- North Bay Environmental Center
- Cecil County School of Technology
- University of Delaware Extension
- Cecil County Economic Development Office
- Cecil County Department of Public Works
- Cecil County Farm Bureau

**Cross Collaborations**
- 4-H, MG in Schools - Green School (CCPS)
- MG, Forestry Board
- MG, Cecil College
4-H & Youth Development

4-H'ers are leading a Revolution of Responsibility - a movement for positive change in every community in America including right here in Cecil County, MD! 4-H youth are a living breathing, culture-changing revolution for doing the right thing, breaking through obstacles and pushing our country forward by making a measurable difference here in Cecil County.

3333 youth served through Cecil County 4-H Programs

449 youth enrolled in 24 traditional and special interest clubs
118 youth participated in 4-H sponsored overnight camping
3,052 youth served via outreach programs at 22 school/community sites

Grants Secured for Youth Program Funding - $57,910
AGsploration -- The Science of Agriculture Education - $5,000
EYSC & OJJDP - S.T.E.M. Education & Leadership Development - $52,910

“4-H has helped sculpt the leader I am today. Being a mentor for a younger member added to my leadership capabilities. I actively lead by example in upholding the six pillars of 4-H. Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship are fundamental principles which guide my life to “make the best better”. The one 4-H memory I will not forget is how I became a better person by giving my time and efforts to enrich the life of another person.”
J. S., 4-H Member

“I’ve done a lot of different things in my life- I was once mentored and now I’m the mentor- they teach me and I teach the children and they will teach their children- it’s been an experience in my life that I’m honored, pleased and proud for the people such as you all that help me help others.”
OJJDP Community Mentor
Therefore, we must educate our community on how to live healthfully!

Cecil County EFNEP for Families Program

EFNEP educators enable participants to learn about food resource management, acceptable nutrition practices, and food safety practices through fun and interactive lessons.

114 Adult
participants were provided nutrition education in partnership with churches, community centers, emergency food assistance sites, and public housing.

The University of Maryland is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Access Program.

37.6% of Cecil County residents are overweight and 26.7% are obese.

Therefore, we must educate our youth on how to live healthfully!

Cecil County EFNEP Youth Education Program

EFNEP educators enable youth participants to eat nutritious foods, participate in physical activity, and practice food safety through fun and interactive lessons.

114 Youth
participants were provided nutrition education in partnership with girls club, Parks, and YMCAs.

The University of Maryland is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Access Program.

18.8% of Cecil County children are overweight and 21% are obese.

37.6% of Cecil County residents are overweight and 26.7% are obese.

18.8% of Cecil County children are overweight and 21% are obese.

91% improved in Food Resource Management.
89% improved in one or more Nutrition Practices.
79% improved Food Safety practices.

92% improved knowledge and skills in one or more areas.
77% improved the ability to choose healthy foods.
43% improved physical activity.
42% improved food safety.
Agriculture

Doris provides support to producers throughout the year through educational programming and 1:1 consultations.

In the winter, Doris hosts an Agronomy Day for the agricultural community where 83 participants showed up for the most comprehensive day of certification and recertification for the farmers in our county. This day is filled with educational topics presented by our University of Maryland Faculty, UMD Graduate students, MDA staff, NRCS staff and many local agricultural business exhibitors. Some of the educational topics were Pesticide and Nutrient Management Regulation Updates, Soil Health, EQIP for 2015, Soybean Growth and Maturity, Cover Crop Suppression on Weeds and Insects, Certainty Program, Farm Bill Update, and Plant Diseases.

Doris is an active member of the AG Showcase Committee. The AG Showcase Day is held on a Tuesday at the Cecil County Fair each year where Farmers are encouraged to come for a half day of networking with other farmers, local businesses, local agencies and State Legislators. Farmers hear directly from the experts about many farming topics and receive hands on training like the Grain Engulfment Training that was offered this year. The Grain Engulfment Training was open to all farming families, 4-H members, FFA members, and all Emergency Personnel (local and state). This training was conducted by Perdue Agribusiness group and it provided real life saving demonstrations and training for those participating. This training came in to motion in a real life situation not even a month after the training day at the Fair saving a 71 year old man’s life when his foot got caught in a grain auger. After 4 hours of rescuing efforts the victim was taken away from the scene with only a broken leg.

Nutrient Management

Nearly all Maryland farmers are required to follow a certified Nutrient Management Plan. Cecil County Extension’s Nutrient Management Advisor assists our county’s farmers in complying with this requirement by providing them with certified plans. The University of Maryland Extension’s Agricultural Nutrient Management Program, which is a component of the University of Maryland’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, focuses on reducing the pollution of the Chesapeake Bay by plant nutrients from cropland.

Our Nutrient Management Advisor wrote 163 nutrient management plans covering 6,197.9 acres of land for 55 farmers in the county. These plans are written for the farmer at no cost, resulting in a $30,989.50 savings for farmers who utilized UME’s nutrient management program.
Family and Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Science programs focus on the areas of Healthy Finances, Healthy Homes and Healthy Living.

Financial Management programs teach people the skills they need to manage their money wisely, reduce debt, manage and improve credit, prevent identity theft, and plan for the future. The following financial workshops have been offered to After School Youth Programs, Businesses, Community Organizations, Church Groups, Libraries, and Youth Groups:

- **Your Financial Checkup**: a basic money management workshop
- **Reading Makes Cents**: introduces kids to key financial concepts and provides parents with tools and resources to help their children build sound money management skills.
- **Small Steps to Health and Wealth**: provides insight into why people behave the way they do and practical tips for changing behaviors to improve the quality of life.

Health and Wellness Programs include: food preservation workshops, nutrition and wellness workshops and a unique program called **Smart Choice Health Insurance**. This program assists participants in understanding health insurance options in order to make smart health purchase decisions.

Healthy Homes programs are to improve personal and family health through awareness of indoor health hazards and strategies to improve indoor air and drinking water quality and safety measures. A variety of classes, workshops, and trainings reach specific audiences including youth and the general public, health professionals and caseworkers, and day care providers. Participants learn how to make homes, schools and work places safer and healthier by minimizing problems related to:

- Indoor air quality and asthma triggers
- Drinking water quality and maintaining private well systems
- Lead, radon and carbon monoxide poisons
- Exposure to mold, dust and dust mites
- Household chemicals and pesticides
- Safety hazards
Sea Grant

Regional Watershed Restoration Specialists from the University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension’s Watershed Protection and Restoration Program provided grant and stormwater management technical assistance to four government agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations.

In cooperation with the County Master Gardener Coordinator, technical assistance was provided to the Westview Shores homeowners’ association regarding native plant recommendations in the Critical Area. The Specialists gave two presentations and participated in two events reaching 135 individuals.

Specialists provided technical assistance that resulted in grants totaling $633,710 being awarded to communities or groups that work within the County. Additionally, they served on the Cecil County WIP Advisory Committee.

Of special note is that the first class of nine participants in the Cecil County Watershed Stewards Academy officially graduated and received the title of Master Watershed Steward. Along with completing a class project, they are working on or have completed their capstone projects.

**Class Project:** The first class installed a bioretention facility along with native plants to treat stormwater runoff from a portion of the parking lot at the County Administration building and installed two rain barrels on the nearby pavilion.

**Capstone Projects:**

Rain barrel workshops and raffles in the town of Perryville (20 barrels raffled off)

Installation of rain barrels and a meadow at Calvert Elementary School

Installation of a bioretention facility at Chesapeake City Elementary

Installation of a butterfly garden that is irrigated by a rainwater harvesting system at Conowingo Elementary

Installation of a bioretention facility in the parking lot near North East Town Hall (Spring 2016)
Cecil County Extension Advisory Council Members

Extension Advisory Council Members are volunteers who work with Extension faculty and staff to assist in identifying critical needs in the community that Extension might possibly address. Specifically members work with faculty and staff to assist in:

- identifying issues that Extension programming might address
- building collaborations and partnership
- informing clientele, support groups and the general public about Extension, its mission and programs
- developing support for Extension Programs

In Cecil County, we are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our Extension Advisory Council Members:

Kordell Wilen, President  Linda Dyekman, Member at Large
Christy Michaud, Vice President  Rita Bowers, Member at Large
Tracy Reynolds, Treasurer

Faculty and Staff

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Don’t just get answers. Get solutions from someone you trust

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