UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Talbot County 2015 Impacts

Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives ~ Trusted Research, Local Experts

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.

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 accessible, reliable and relevant to all resident of Queen Anne’s county as the mid-shore region.

In this report UME Talbot County is proud to share its outreach, programming and educational efforts of 2015.

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.
AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture and Natural Resources continue to be the foundation of Talbot County’s economy, rural character, and rich history. Talbot UME provides outreach and research based information and education for agriculture production and farming.

**Talbot County Corn Club** – Acknowledged as the oldest continuous corn club in the country, the Talbot County Corn Club’s 63\textsuperscript{rd} year hosted 23 adult participants and 8 youth participants. The goals of the club include increased production, yield, and profitability. The average yields for entries were 227 bu/ac while the Maryland average was 171 bu/ac.

Nutrient Management

The 1998 Water Quality Act created a number of regulatory requirements for farms applying nutrients. Nutrient Management plans are one of those requirements. Farmers following nutrient management plans save money and protect the environment by efficient use of manure and fertilizer. The Talbot Extension Office plans over 30\% of farmland in Talbot County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Talbot Co Acres Planned:</th>
<th>28,985 acres</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Talbot County Producers:</td>
<td>66 farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Farms</td>
<td>428 Farm Tracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>$117,281</td>
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**Crop Production Programs**

- 113 recertified in pesticide private applicator
- 65 recertified for nutrient voucher
- 51 attended grain marketing workshops
MidAtlantic Women in Agriculture - delivered risk and farm management training to women in the region through a variety of learning environments. In 2015 the program reached 2,255 participants.

181 Regional Women in Ag Conference
43 Annie’s Project Graduates
473 Webinar Participants
35 Farm Tour Participants
805 Newsletter Recipients
718 Social Media Followers

Beginning Farmers - The Maryland Collaborative for Beginning Farmer Success will increase the number of successful beginning farmers and acreage farmed in Maryland, with an emphasis on practical training for beginning farmers. Activities for this project include education, mentoring and apprenticeships for beginning farmers to explore, develop, refine and implement knowledge and skills. The three year program completed in 2015 with the following results:

- Reached 2,855 beginning farmers through face-to-face meetings, workshops, and conferences.
- More than 25,600 web visits and web/video views of over 11,400.
- Developed 65 mentor relations and 22 on-farm apprenticeships.
- Participants have built their business by: Increasing my farm profitability (3.68), Growing products for market (3.62) and Selling farm products (3.55). Of those responding to the survey 18 have purchased or rented land, 24 have started a farm enterprise and 32 have started their business. Training has increased profitability by 31% an average of $525 to $1,048 per participant.

FOOD SUPPLEMENT AND NUTRITION EDUCATION (FSNE) PROGRAM

FSNE is a federally funded program that provides direct and indirect nutrition education to help individuals and families eligible for SNAP establish healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors. FSNE programs cover adult and youth programming within 5 program initiatives: school community, youth out of school, food assistance sites, preschool and childcare centers, and farmers markets.

In 2015, FSNE educated more than 31 adults eligible and receiving SNAP how to purchase healthier food options on a budget through a series of financial management classes and Grocery Store Tour. Creating more than 127 contacts.
4-H is open to all youth of ages 5 through 18. Extension personnel and volunteers plan and carry out learning experiences that supplement content learned in school. Participation in 4-H helps members develop life skills including communication and leadership. Talbot 4-H strives to reach new, diverse, and under-served audiences. All 4-H programs incorporate the essential elements of youth development: mastery (Head), belonging (Heart), service (Hands), and independence (Health).

2015 4-H Youth Development Program Participants

89 youth were enrolled in community and special interest 4-H clubs
1,112 youth participated in extended-duration school and community programs that reached diverse audiences including racial and ethnic minorities and low-income families
4,180 teaching contacts were made through educational outreach programs

Science Education

National Academy of Sciences reports conclude that, although science and technology are becoming more integral to our lives, science literacy of U.S. residents is declining. In addition, projections indicate that within twenty years the U.S. may not produce enough qualified applicants for science jobs. To address this need, 4-H offers programs that improve scientific literacy and generate interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers.

The Adventures in Health Science career program connected Mid-Shore teens with medical professionals and allowed participants to explore health care careers. Post-surveys documented that 88% feel better prepared for the workforce and 94% would like to have a job related to medical science. By working with the public school system and other organizations, 4-H created opportunities for students to investigate numerous other career sectors. Through lessons related to agriculture, environmental science, and engineering, 4-H made more than 2,300 youth teaching contacts and helped students learn about the sources of their food, strategies for improving Chesapeake Bay water quality, and science skills and processes.

Community Service and Life Skills

Talbot 4-H members completed numerous service projects that benefited local communities. Surveys of senior members documented that 100% believe they can make a difference in their communities through service; 100% gained communication skills; 89% have the confidence to speak in front of groups; and 100% would like to serve as community leaders.
Healthy Living Education

Centers for Disease Control data show that poor diet and improper nutrition have caused one-third of U.S. youth to be overweight or obese; preventable accidents also cause unnecessary injuries. To address these needs, 4-H programs empower youth to make healthy food choices and engage in safe behaviors.

Talbot 4-H worked with the Talbot Family Network and the Hunger Coalition to increase awareness of food insecurity, develop a directory of food pantries, and teach pantry visitors to prepare the foods they receive. The program made more than 1,800 healthy living teaching contacts by delivering 4-H curriculum at after-school programs, summer programs, and community events. Youth and adult volunteers provided teaching support and allowed 4-H to expand its reach and offer programs in under-served areas.

SEA GRANT EXTENSION WATERSHED PROTECTION & RESTORATION PROGRAM

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 4 government agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations.

They gave 2 presentations and participated in 1 event reaching 141 individuals. Additionally, Specialists are working closely with the Town of St. Michaels and the Environmental Finance Center in addressing stormwater issues which resulted in assisting with 3 public meetings and with the assistance of the County Master Gardener Coordinator held a rain barrel workshop for Town residents.
URBAN HORTICULTURE

As population and development grows, Talbot UME continues to provide valuable environmental education, community outreach, volunteer participation, and demonstrations for the county. With approximately 600 miles of shoreline, Talbot County has an abundant amount of waterfront property. Talbot UME continues to educate for more environmentally sustainable lawns and landscapes, as well as promote native habitat.

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Talbot County Master Gardeners are both residents and volunteers of the community, educated in horticulture to share with their fellow citizens. Talbot, Queen Anne’s, and Dorchester County train new volunteers annually using University faculty and staff. As part of their volunteer agreement, they serve a minimum of 20 hours per year, and 10 hours of continuing education.

In 2015:

778.35 hours of volunteer service were logged

At $25.43 per hour (according to the Independent Sector of valued volunteer time in MD), this is approximately $19,793.44 of in-kind service

Approximately 300 hours were logged as part of their service for continuing education, which is redistributed to the community

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Master Gardeners offer educational opportunities at several community events for both adults and children, such as Pickering Creek Harvest Hoedown, Bay Day at Phillips Wharf Environmental Center, and the Waterfowl Festival in downtown Easton. With over 650 visitors to these events, Extension shares our programs, information, and other outreach opportunities. Master Gardeners also head the Bay-Wise program, which provides an unbiased landscape assessment for property owners. In 2015, we provided 5 home consultations and 9 certifications. The Bay-Wise program focuses on practices in urban and rural landscapes to promote healthy waterways.

We also have a number of demonstration locations, where we showcase examples of rain gardens, native plantings, and proper practices for dealing with storm water. Sites are located within the county, and include the Talbot County Extension Office, Talbot County Agriculture Center, Oxford Community Center, and Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

What's New?

Master Gardener Pam Keeton showcased her vermicomposting skills at the Waterfowl Festival in Easton. These red worms attracted over 300 individuals who wanted to learn more about this unique composting technique.
UME advises local residents with plant clinics, “Ask a Master Gardener” program, phone calls, personal meetings, and emails on a case-by-case basis. There were 143 cases brought to the Extension office dealing with home and garden issues, insect, and plant disease identification. Annual lecture series are established that are free and open to the public, for education regarding soil nutrition, winter gardening, healthy practices, landscape design principles, proper scientific resources, herbs and kitchen gardens, plus more. These are available through partnering with Brooklett’s Senior Center for Cabin Fever Reliever series, and through Institute for Adult Learning at Chesapeake College. In 2015, Master Gardeners added additional lectures in the fall, due to popular demand. Starting in spring of 2014, the Master Gardener have been heading efforts at The Pines rehabilitation center in Easton to provide participants with therapeutic horticulture. Twice a month, Master Gardeners visit residents with activities that are both educational and stimulatory to the senses.
### FACULTY & STAFF

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<td>Talbot County Farm Bureau, President</td>
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<td>Raymond Harrison, Jr.</td>
<td>EAC President</td>
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<td>Deborah Urry</td>
<td>4-H Allstar</td>
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<td>George Yurek</td>
<td>Master Gardener</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Leonard, CPA</td>
<td>EAC Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Heikes</td>
<td>Talbot County Farmer</td>
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**Don’t just get answers.** Get solutions from someone you trust

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www.extension.umd.edu/talbot-county