

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TRUSTED RESEARCH DELIVERED BY LOCAL EXPERTS



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

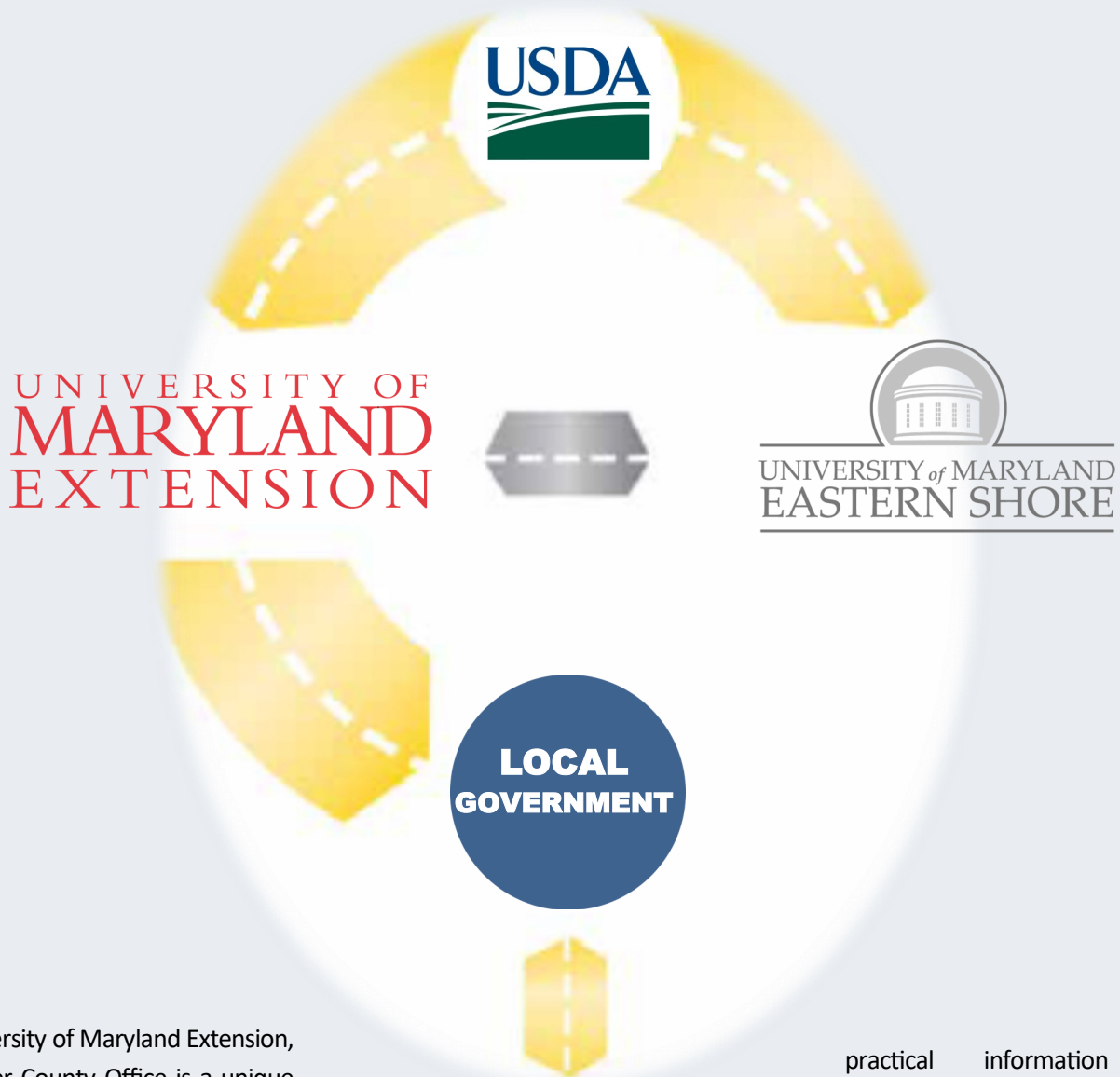
University of Maryland Extension
Dorchester County engages over:

- 31,867** Residents with our
- 9** Faculty & Staff along with
- 31** 4-H & Master Gardener
Volunteers, and over
- 32** Partnerships

University of Maryland Extension-Dorchester
2020 Annual Impact Report

extension.umd.edu/dorchester-county

The University of Maryland Extension, Dorchester County County, State and Federal Partnerships



The University of Maryland Extension, Dorchester County Office is a unique organization that provides research-based, informal education to residents of the county and local area. Our educational programs cover a wide range of topics, including agricultural production, natural resources, food safety, nutrition and healthy lifestyles, youth development, volunteer development, urban agriculture and agricultural nutrient management. These educational and training programs provide current,

**For 32,261
Dorchester County
Residents**



practical information through workshops, seminars, clinics, camps, displays and newsletters.

The University of Maryland Extension Office represents a partnership of County government, the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We are glad to share with you this summary of our activities and accomplishments that provided noticeable impacts for the benefit of our communities.

Welcome to the University of Maryland Extension (UME) of Dorchester County. We are pleased to present our 2020 Annual Report for your review. The Annual Report is a snapshot of the educational programs and problem-solving assistance we deliver to the residents of Dorchester County every day. Our efforts are based on the research and experience of land grant universities on agricultural production, natural resources, financial literacy, food safety, nutrition and healthy lifestyles, youth development, volunteer development and agricultural nutrient management. We hope you enjoy reading and learning more about what we do to make a difference in the lives of Dorchester County residents.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Baldwin, Mid-Shore Area Extension Director



Robert Baldwin
Area Extension Director



Lisa Trice
Administrative Assistant



Angela Poole
Administrative Assistant

Extension Advisory Council

The Dorchester County Extension Advisory Council is a registered non-profit, volunteer board of local residents who advise and support the work at the Dorchester UMD Extension office. They represent leaders who value the impact Extension makes in Dorchester County and Maryland.



Officers:

Gage Thomas, *Chairman*
Bill Thomas, *Vice-Chairman*
Christine English, *Secretary*
Rob Feezer, *Treasurer*

Board Members:

George Windsor
Gloria Warner
Fred Pomeroy
Doug Cooper
Lynette Wongus

4-H Youth Development

Program Educators

Missy Tucker, Educator, 4-H

Lisa McKenna, Program Assistant

4-H has a 100 year tradition of voluntary action through strong public-private partnerships at federal, state and community levels.

The Dorchester County 4-H Youth Development Program provides a supportive setting for youth to reach their fullest potential. Children learn beneficial cognitive and life skills through community-focused, research-based, experiential educational programs. Participation is open to all youth ages 5-18.

4-H youth develop relationships that inspire people to voluntarily help themselves and others as they interact with caring adults and peers.

4-H Program areas include:

- ♦STEM and Agriculture
- ♦Healthy Living
- ♦Civic Engagement
- ♦Volunteer Development



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Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

4-H Club Members:

34

**Total 4-H Outreach
(Club, School, Afterschool):**

76

Virtual Indirect Programing:

6

**Average Number of Viewers
Per Virtual Program:**

688

Certified 4-H Volunteers:

20

Volunteer Hours:

952

4-H Youth Development

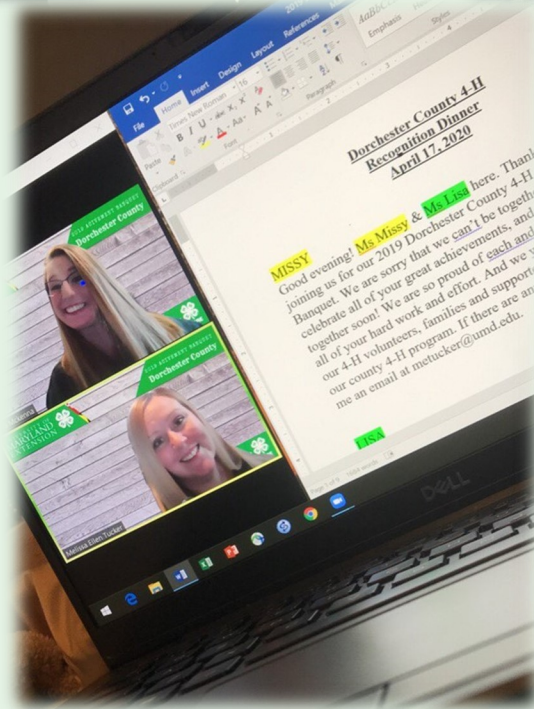
Program Educators

4-H is a **community** of **young people** **across America** who are learning **leadership, citizenship** and **life skills.**

Missy Tucker, 4-H Educator



Lisa McKenna, 4-H Program Assistant



Virtual Learning

In-person Programing



Socializing From A Distance



Agriculture

Program Educators

Emily Zobel, Educator, Agriculture

Jose Prieto, Nutrient Management Advisor

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Program Description

UMD Extension Dorchester County office offers a variety of educational services to the commercial farm community. Some programs train or recertify agricultural producers to meet State regulations. Other seminars provide technical and business information that introduce new technologies or practices that help farmers improve production, operate more profitability, and maintain the environment.

In addition, our office assists agricultural producers by writing and updating nutrient management plans that are required by Maryland regulations. Maryland's Nutrient Management Program provides clients with information on Best Management Practices (BMP's) that aim to balance nutrient applications with crop nutrient requirements, thereby enhancing farm profitability while protecting water quality.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

In Person Training Sessions:

8

Participants Reached:

400

Virtual Training Sessions:

6

Participants Reached:

400+

Updated Nutrient Management Plans:

134

Total Acres Covered By Nutrient Management Plans:

8,602

Saved Eastern Shore Farmers By Offering These Services At No Charge:

\$61,800

Farmers Recertified To Apply Pesticides and Soil Nutrients:

270

Saved Eastern Shore Farmers Through Pesticide Recertification Training For Free:

\$32,200

Agriculture and Food Systems Program

Emily Zobel , Agent Associate



*Jose' Prieto-Figueroa
Nutrient Management*



Dorchester County Farm Visit



*Industrial Hemp Research located at
Wye Research and Education Center*



Bi-weekly harvest from 2020 cucumber variety trials. Five cucumber varieties were grown on a local University Research farm. Yield data was collected throughout the growing season to help farmers decide which variety to grow on their farms. Cucumbers were donated to a local food bank.

Master Gardener Program Program Educators

Emily Zobel, Educator

Program Description

Certified Master Gardeners are county residents who have been selected and trained by University of Maryland Extension (UME) to deliver research-based horticultural information to the public. The mission of the Master Gardeners is “educate residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.”

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Total Master Gardener Volunteers:

11

Master Gardener Volunteer Hours:

130

**Master Gardeners Trained Through
In-Person and Virtual Training:**

100

Master Gardeners assist county residents through several approaches including:

- ✓ Demonstrations
- ✓ Workshops, Lectures
- ✓ Plant clinics

At

- ✓ County libraries, Schools
- ✓ Community gardens
- ✓ Demonstration gardens



Home Horticulture



A monthly podcast where three enthusiastic Extension agents with a passion for talking about all things garden. Emily Zobel, Dorchester Extension Agriculture Agent, along with Mikaela Boley, and Rachel Rhodes, help you get down and dirty in your garden, with timely gardening tips, information about native plants and more! Listen to their monthly podcast for scientifically-based information and entertainment by following this link.

<https://gardenthymepodcast.buzzsprout.com/687509>

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Total Episodes Produced:

15

**Listens From Across The State,
Country, and Globe:**

4,000

Master Gardener Program

Monarch Butterfly



Silver Spotted Skipper



Studying Plants and Leaves

*Cambridge Farmers Market
Yard & Garden Questions*



Program areas include:

- Bay-wise Landscaping
- Composting
- Native and invasive plants
- Grow It Eat It (Veg Gardening)
- Pollinators

Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE)

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Program Educator Nate Bratko, Educator

Program Description

Food Supplement Nutrition Education also known as Maryland's SNAP-Ed Program improves healthy eating and physical activity behaviors to food insecure youth and adults throughout the Dorchester County area. FSNE partners with K-12 schools, early childcare centers, food assistance sites, farmers markets, and local organizations.

FSNE programs conducted by Nate Bratko. Participants learn healthy behaviors by trying new foods; utilize skills to shop, store, prepare, and cook healthy recipes; grow fresh fruits and vegetables; and be more physically active.

What FSNE offers:

- ✓ In-person lessons with children, adults and families
- ✓ Educational resources
- ✓ Education at farmers' markets, food banks and grocery stores
- ✓ Cafeteria interventions
- ✓ Gardening programs



HEALTHY STUDENT REWARDS

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Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Youth Program Participants Reached:

672

Conducted **37** Tastings at Local Schools and Farmers Markets, Reaching:

5,092

Recruited FSNE Trained Teachers To Deliver Snap-Ed Lessons and Curriculum:

16

Through funding provided by USDA, FSNE offered Federal Contributions of:

\$27,950

Food Supplement Nutrition Education



Snap-Ed Food Access Program reached a total of **4,280** participants and **5,180** indirect contacts with SNAP-Ed recipes, handouts and indirect materials .



FSNE helped school partners
Implement 4 NEW Indoor
Classroom Gardens.

Environment and Natural Resources/Sea Grant

Program Educator

Jennifer Dindinger,
Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist

Program Description

Jennifer works with local and state governments, non-governmental organizations, regional partners, University researchers, and communities in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties to improve local water quality in local rivers, streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

This work is accomplished by implementing restoration projects and science-based educational programs that lead to behavior change, civic engagement, and community development.

We work with local governments, community groups and residents to help improve water quality on the local level and in the Bay.

Examples of Programming

- Classes and workshops on practices like rain barrels, rain gardens, and tree planting
- Technical Assistance Programs that help local government staff to address water quality regulations and requirements
- On-the-ground projects that reduce nutrient/sediment inputs and involve partnerships and effective funding techniques

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Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Youth and adults reached through programming about water quality, strategic planning, climate resilience, and community capacity building:

253



Environment and Natural Resources/Sea Grant



Traditional Rain Barrel



Capstone project at Old Trinity Episcopal Church



Typical Backyard Rain Garden



*Teaching About Stormwater Runoff Basics
in Dorchester County*

Are you interested in learning more about what you can do at home to help improve the quality of local rivers and streams? Contact Jennifer for a site visit, and check out the booklet,

["From My Backyard to the Bay"](#)

About the University of Maryland Extension



University of Maryland Extension (UME) is a statewide, non-formal education system within the college of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. UME educational programs and problem solving assistance are available to residents and are based on the research and experience of land grant universities such as the University of Maryland, College Park.

In Maryland, UME employs approximately 200 faculty and approximately 200 support staff and contractual employees located at the University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland Eastern Shore; 23 counties; Baltimore City; and four research and education centers. Many UME faculty members located on the College Park and Eastern Shore campuses have joint appointments with research and academic programs. These joint appointments promote the exchange of knowledge between the universities and among academic specialties.

Dorchester County Extension Office

Faculty and Staff

Robert Baldwin

- ♦ Area Extension Director
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- ♦ Agriculture, Master Gardener
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Nate Bratko

- ♦ FSNE, Educator
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