

# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

## GARRETT COUNTY

### 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR WESTERN MD DIRECTOR



We are pleased to present our 2022 Annual Snapshot of UME Programs designed to address critical issues in Garrett County and beyond. Our wide range of educational efforts help individuals improve agriculture practices and food systems, build leadership among our youth, nurture 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers, enhance health and wellness, manage money wisely, and much more. Our programs are designed to solve problems through trusted, research-based education for all residents. This is further expanded through the efforts of our strong core of volunteers who continue to be the backbone of our programs. All of our programs are made possible through the solid partnerships of the UMD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, USDA, and Garrett County Government, who have been long-standing generous supporters.

Our faculty and staff look forward to providing another year of innovative educational programs aimed at making life better in Garrett County! As always, I welcome your input, so please feel free to contact me.

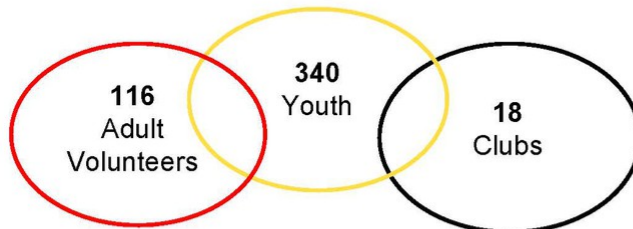
Dr. Jennifer Bentlejewski  
[jthorn@umd.edu](mailto:jthorn@umd.edu)

# 4-H Youth Development

Ann Sherrard  
Extension Educator



## 4-H At A Glance

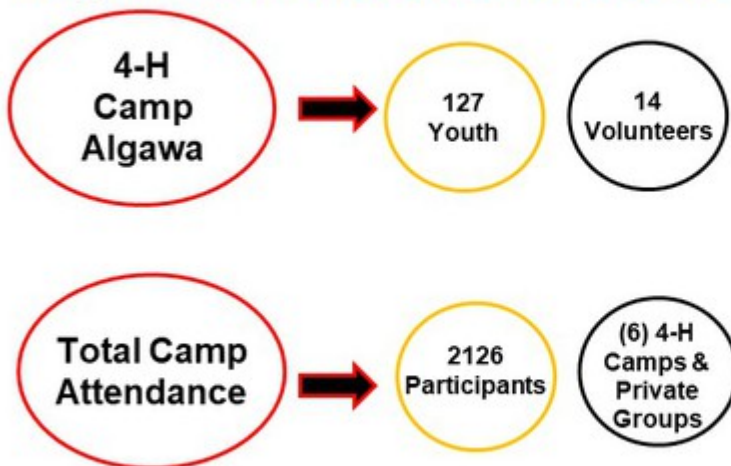


UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

FEARLESSLY  
FORWARD



## Maryland 4-H Environmental Education Center



## 4-H STEM Outreach

Karen Wood  
Extension Educator





### Objective

-Youth will gain knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

### 2022 Reach

- 61 Programs
- 188 Youth

### In-School Programming

- Swan Meadow School
- Calvary Christian Academy

### After-School Programming

- Partners After School @ Friendsville (Tech Wizards – NMP11)
- Partners After School @ Grantsville (Tech Wizards – NMP12)
- Partners After School @ Oakland

### Ruth Enlow Library Programs

- Kitzmiller STEAM Kids
- Friendsville STEAM Kids

### Project Club

- GEARUp 4-H



### 2022 4-H STEM Program Activities

- 3D Design Invent an Insect: Educating Youth on Spotted Lanternfly
- Caine's Arcade: Host of School Family Night
- Art of Quilling and Pottery
- Lego Masters Earthquake Challenge
- SuGo Robotics
- 4th Little Pig Roof Builder Engineers
- CSI Investigation Case of the Missing Money
- Lego Prime Essential Amusement Park Robotics
- 4-H STEM Challenge: Explorers of the Deep Robot Test Tank
- Paper and Squishy Circuits
- Environmental Science Forestry
- Edison Robots and Programming
- Augmented Reality
- Digital Rhythm and Drumming



### Enrichment Funding 1/1/22 – 6/1/23

\$37,925.75

- NMP11 Tech Wizards \$17,399.00
- NMP12 Tech Wizards \$15,425.00
- After-School Enrichment 2022 \$1101.75
- After-School Enrichment 2023 \$4000.00



# SNAP-Ed

**Kristin Spiker**  
Project Leader & Nutrition Educator

**Hannah Frazee**  
Program Assistant



## **Maryland SNAP-Ed in Garrett County!**

We focus on good nutrition, stretching food dollars, living physically active lifestyles and engaging partners to build a healthier community. SNAP-Ed stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education

“I asked my mom to buy asparagus while we were at the grocery store. She couldn't believe it! I love it!”



### **Focus on Fruits and Vegetables!**

- 190 fruit and veggie food tastings across Garrett County
- 430 Garrett County students reached with multiple nutrition lessons
- 1078 parents reached with recipes and food related information
- 880+ books distributed - Sylvia's Spinach, by Katherine Pryor to help picky eaters maybe be a little less picky!
- 880+ Grow Kits provided to grow sugar snap peas in classrooms - then to take home to plant and eat!

“I wanted to tell you that my daughter got a copy of Sylvia's Spinach at a local Judy Center Event and she is now in LOVE with spinach. It's currently her favorite book and her new favorite activity is to go pick spinach from our garden to snack on! She's been telling everyone that spinach is her favorite vegetable.”





## Fitness = Fun!

- Indoor and outdoor recess supplies provided to Broad Ford, Crellin, Friendsville and Grantsville elementary schools
- 82 teachers provided with training to increase physical activity during the school day especially during inclement weather
- 400 Water bottles distributed to quench that thirst for students and teachers
- Gardening programs and/or summer school sessions supported with SNAP-Ed funding, nutrition education and tastings at Crellin, Friendsville and Grantsville elementary schools



The garden in a glove activity was fantastic for helping me and my daughter learn to garden. We are trying! We planted each of the five sprouts in a garden tub and watched them grow...or not grow. Some were successful and some weren't. The green beans and the squash are doing amazing! It has been so much fun for both of us to watch and learn. We might be ready to start planting a bigger garden next year!

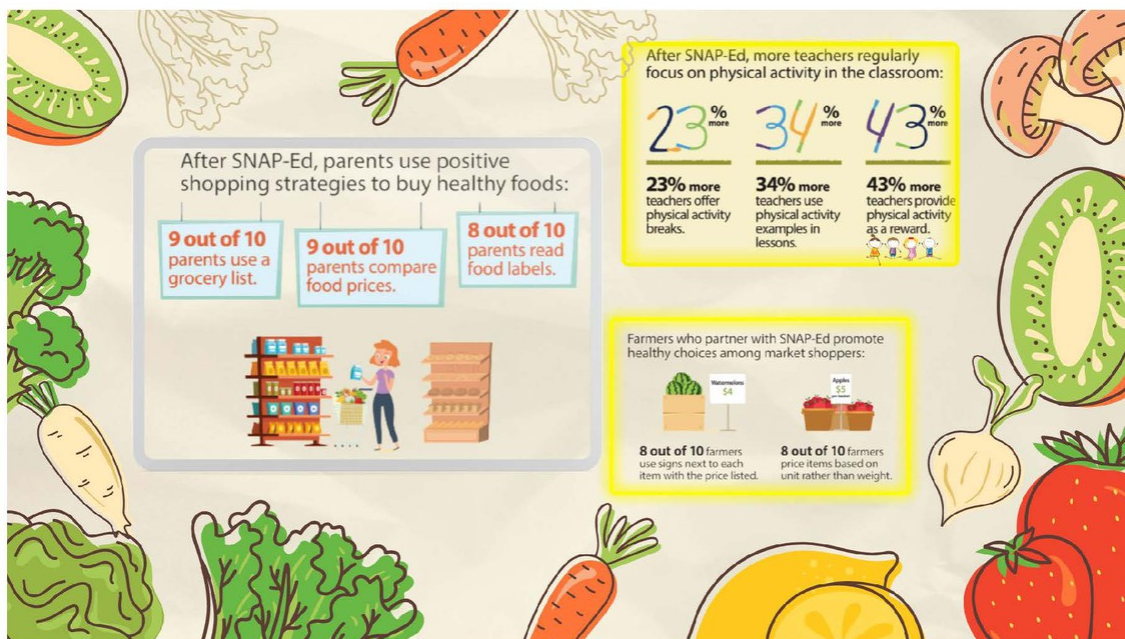


## Fantastic Partners!

- Elementary Schools - Broad Ford, Crellin, Friendsville and Grantsville
- Head Start centers - Accident, Dennett Road, Grantsville and Kitzmiller
- Farmers' Markets - Deep Creek and Mountain Fresh
- Food Pantry - SING at Garrett College



These (nutrition education) lessons are great! I can't believe I waited so long to start teaching them!



# Master Gardeners

Ashley Bodkins  
Master Gardener Coordinator



## Home Horticulture Education

- 110+ Client Questions answered in 2022
  - Additional 17 Ask Extension Questions Answered for Home and Garden Information Center

## Virtual Learning Opportunities

- 2022 Mountain Maryland Spring Gardening Series- 7 classes on different vegetable families with 212 participants during live broadcast and the archived sessions have been viewed 295 times.
- End of class polling showed an average of 97% of participants agreed or strongly agreed to the statement: I feel more confident in my ability to grow food for myself and/or my family because of this webinar.

## Eight Maryland Grows Blog posts- MD HGIC - 4300 views in 2022

- Soil temperature and why it matters to seeds.
- Are you judging my soil? Is it good?
- Why does the pH of my soil matter?
- Do plants get food from soil?
- How can you improve your soil?
- What is so special about legumes?
- A Smelly Situation- Skunks!



## Official Roll Out of Water-Wise in Garrett County

- 7 landscapes certified





### Received \$5K Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant Community Partners

- Focused on Composting education— Gave away 100 Free Compost Bins in exchange for attending Beginner Composting Program

### Therapeutic Horticulture provides gardening and plant based social, physical, and mental activities for senior or handicapped populations.

- Garrett Neighbors program was created by Community Action to help foster a stronger sense of community in senior HUD-Low Income Housing Centers.
  - 3 activities with a total of 125 participants
- Appalachian Crossroads is an organization that empowers individuals with disabilities to contribute to our community's tapestry. Through the community living, employment support, and day services we offer, they may choose lives rich with meaning, friendship, and inclusivity.
  - Prepared and conducted with Master Gardener support- 7 gardening activity sessions for 15 people each session. March-June 2022

“ Engaging, highly effective communicator. Used verbal, visual, hands-on, and group teaching methods in a well-planned, prepared, and coordinated manner. (Teaching Effectiveness)

The educator was able to engage our class for a double session day. The classes are long and she did a great job! The participants were active in the conversation, loved all the handouts, and were thrilled with the information provided by Educator. (Peer Review)



### New Community Partners

- Garrett County Community Action
- Garrett County Solid Waste Authority

### Community Partners for 2022

- Crellin Elementary School
  - Vegetable Garden Planning and Planting
- Friendsville Elementary School
  - Seed Saving Activity - entire school participated!
- Grantsville Elementary School
  - Provided 11 hands on educational activities during the 2 week summer camp
- Accident Elementary School
  - Art in the Schoolyard - Painting Toad Houses
- Ruth Enlow Library System- All Branches
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
  - Deep Creek Lake State Park
- Deep Creek Watershed Foundation
  - Facilitated Two Virtual Brunch and Learn Sessions
- Mountain Laurel Garden Club
- Mountain Maryland Chapter of Native Plant Society
- Town of Kitzmiller
- Maryland Forest Service
- Civic Club of Garrett County





### Master Gardener Impacts

- More than 500 contacts made in Garrett County by Master Gardeners at booths, festivals, and school allowing more people to learn about home horticulture; thus, increasing the possibility of residents growing their own fruits and vegetables and decreasing food insecurity.
- Master Gardeners recorded 115 hours of continuing education hours to ensure that the latest and greatest information is being shared at public events.
- Garrett County Master Gardeners logged 266 hours of volunteer service worth \$7,966. (\$29.95 per hour Independent Sector stats).

“The Master Gardeners always have a terrific educational display which is well-received by visitors!”



## Agriculture & Food Systems

Willie Lantz  
Principal Agent



### Support of Traditional Agriculture

- 3-5 Private Applicator Trainings per year (MD, PA & WV)
- Provide 2-3 Opportunities for Nutrient Management Voucher Credits
- Agronomy Meetings-3 per year
  - Partner with industry meetings
- Many one on one consultations with farmers via farm visits, phone & email



### Support for Local Foods Production & Marketing

- Provide technical assistance to Garrett Growers Cooperative
  - 100% increase in sales in the past year
  - Assist with grants to support the work of GG – USDA Local Food Promotion Program grant with WV organization to increase food hub to food hub sales – 3yr
  - Applying with University of KY and other partners for a USDA Regional Food Business

#### Center Grant (due in late Nov)

- Provide Food Safety program for Country Side Produce Auction
- Provide on farm technical assistance for vegetable growers especially high tunnels
- Serving as the Chair of the Western Maryland Food Council
  - SPINE Grant – Integrate Garrett County Food Council with the Health Department
  - Food System Conference in 2021 (virtual) – led to a MAERDA Fund Grant



### Support for Specialty Crops and Activities

- **Hemp**
  - Helped establish the Mountain Maryland Hemp Alliance
  - ARC Grant to do feasibility study for processing hemp fiber
  - 2 MAERDA grants for hemp projects
  - Applied for USDA Climate Smart Commodities Partnership Grant for hemp processing (\$5 million)
- **Maple Syrup**
  - Partnered with Future Generations University in WV on two grants to promote Maple Syrup production and marketing
- **Corn Maize**
  - Have assisted two farmers with creating a corn maize for the past 20 years



### Youth STEM Activities

- **Robotics**
  - Have assisted with the Garrett County 4-H Robotics team
  - Lead the creation and conduct the Maryland State 4-H Robotics Challenge at the MD State Fair
  - Youth Lead Investigator on the Smart Sustainable Shellfish Aquaculture Management Grant – 5yr – Develop 4-H activities around underwater robotics
- **Engineering Events**
  - Conduct annual Tractor Driving, Electricity and Small Engines events
- **Livestock Skillathon**
  - Provided practice sessions for state Livestock Skillathon and County Contest in 2022





## Nutrient Management-Jill Hauser

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

- **Nutrient Management Highlights**

- 65 updated producers were written for 2229 plans for a total of 10,236.4 acres
- 67 new producers were written for 26 plans for a total of 985.7 acres
- 43 producers were manure plans

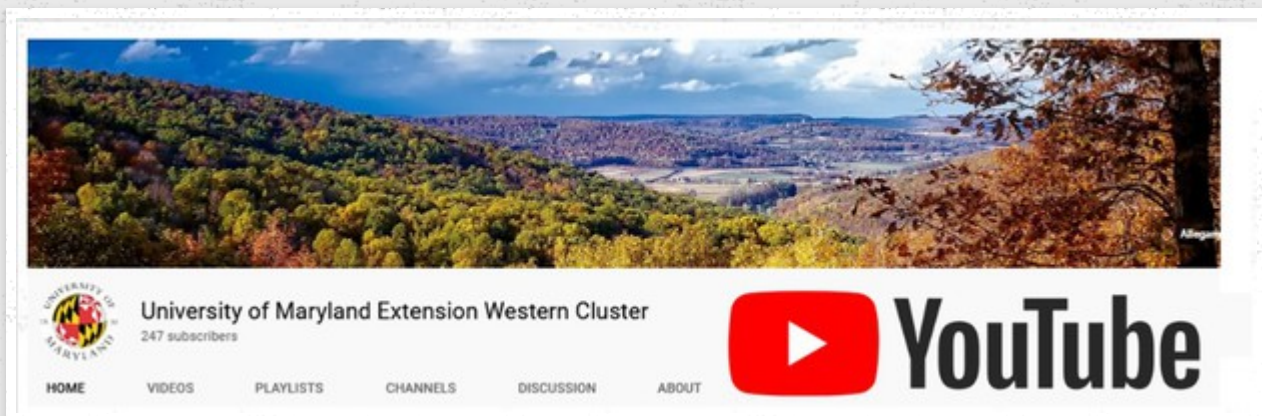
- **Soil & Manure Samples**

- 179 soil
- 45 manure
- 2 fertilizer
- 1 lime



## WESTERN CLUSTER YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Be sure to visit our YouTube Channel, University of Maryland Extension Western Cluster. It features over 200 videos on nutrition, healthy living, agriculture, home gardening, 4-H Youth Development, and more that have been viewed by over 65,000 visitors since we launched in April 2020. Find what you're looking for at [WMDYouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWMDYouTube).



## KEEPING CONNECTED

We are here to serve you in person, by phone, email, or by video conferencing. If you have questions, contact one of our experts to provide solutions. If you have questions, contact one of our experts below to provide solutions.



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