The University of Maryland Extension is pleased to share how our network of local educators brought leading-edge, practical solutions to our Garrett County community. This 2023 Year in Review will demonstrate how our program participants enhanced their agriculture and horticulture practices, developed leadership capabilities through 4-H, improved their physical, mental, and financial health, boosted their digital literacy, and so much more! Our programs were designed to solve trending issues through trusted, research-based education. This was further expanded by the efforts of our strong base of 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers. All of this was made possible through the continued support of Garrett County government in addition to state, federal, and grant funds.

We hope that you find our 2023 Year in Review to be informative and enlightening. As always, I welcome your input on how we might make 2024 an even more successful year, so please feel free to contact me at jhorn@umd.edu.

Dr. Jennifer Bentlejewski, Area Extension Director
Growing up on a farm and being in 4-H was the foundation for me becoming a nurse. Seeing the circle of life, helping during births, comforting animals during death, giving medications, learning about nutrition, etc— all got me here today. Not to mention the public speaking, leadership, and dedication that also helped me become an educator! Plus meeting all kinds of people and becoming friends with 4-H families—that will continue for generations!

Past 4-H Alumnus

Growing up participating in the 4-H program without a doubt had a substantial impact on my life. To just name a few, the life lessons learned from animal husbandry, the development of excellent communication skills and an understanding of what it means to give back to the community have led me to where I am today. In both my professional and personal life as not only a veterinarian but a Clinical Assistant Professor and the Small Ruminant Extension Specialist at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

Past 4-H Alumnus

The Garrett County 4-H STEM taught by Karen Wood provides hands-on activities that enrich the science curriculum we are learning in class. The students love the programs and look forward to having her come in. The 4-H enrichment she provides gives our students a solid understanding of concepts through the application of hands-on skills.

Karen Wood
4-H Educator

The STEAM Kids programming at the Friendsville Library has benefited greatly through a collaboration with Karen Wood, University of MD Extension-Garrett County. This collaboration has allowed us to really broaden and strengthen our program options. One such example is the inclusion of programs that provide a focus on robotics, which have been especially popular. This variety has certainly helped our STEAM Kids programs become an eagerly awaited highlight for participants.

Lacie Ashby
4-H Educator

4-H At A Glance
- 19 4-H Clubs
- 316 Youth
- 40 Clovers
- 124 Adult Volunteers

4-H Camp Algawa
- 129 Youth
- 14 Volunteers

MD 4-H Environmental Education Center
- 1,921 Participants
- (12) 4-H Camps and Private Groups

4-H Outreach Programs
- 111 classes serving 383 youth

10 Partners
Swan Meadow School
Calvary Christian Academy
Southern High School Special Education Partners
After School-Friendsville, Grantsville & Oakland
1/2 Day Fun with 4-H@Extension Office
Ruth Enlow Libraries-Kitzmiller, Friendsville & Oakland
Kristin Spiker
SNAP-Ed Educator

The school counselor sits with children during lunch (his lunch bunch). He stated, "It was pizza day with canned pineapple. I encouraged my lunch bunch to put the pineapple on top of their cheese pizza. They liked it and now they eat pineapple all the time on their pizza. They really didn’t eat the pineapple before that. It’s fun!"

When the PE teacher brought the 4th grade students back to the classroom for their SNAP-Ed lesson, the PE teacher proudly stated to all that "Ms. Kristin is the one who got me to eat healthy. I’m still not perfect but now I eat my fruits and vegetables.

Ashley Bachtel-Bodkins
Home Horticulture Educator
Master Gardener Coordinator

- 719 participants reached in nutrition education
- 285 food tasting opportunities
- 699 parents reached with educational materials

7 Partners
Broad Ford Elementary School
Creltin Elementary School
Friendsville Elementary School
Grantsville Elementary School
Dennett Road Head Start
Grantsville Head Start
Kitzmiller Head Start
Thank you so much for coming on Monday to present for our clients! The feedback we received was very positive, just as it was the last time. I am grateful that you were willing to come out to our facility. I believe it is a real boost to our clients to learn more about local botany.

Thank you! The teachers have asked that we partner with you all more often!

William Lantz
AgFS Educator

3 grants awarded for $169,900 to support local farmers and organizations
27 hours of direct education—8 programs—319 participants
10 programs for recertification for pesticide applicators and nutrient management

Andrea Uphold
Nutrient Management Program Coordinator

15 Master Gardeners Volunteered 641 hours ($29, 383 value at $31.80 per hour Independent Sector Stats) to conduct in-person education activities reaching 790 clients
89 consultations were conducted to solve horticulture-related problems for local residents
584 GC Master Gardener Facebook followers with a reach of 21,394
5 new blog posts on MD Grows with 9,886 views
50+ educator conducted classes, workshops, hands-on activities resulted in reaching 461 adults and 463 youth with more than 15 community partners

Total Acreage Planned—10,059
Total Producer Plans—56
Total Management Units (Fields)—1314
Manure Application Plans—31
Updated Plans—51 producer plans were written with 9935.6 acres and 1285 management units
New Plans—5 producer plans were written with 50.4 acres and 29 management units
Dr. Jesse Ketterman
FCS Educator

“I like what I learned. I’ve been in the process of bettering my credit score and was wondering what affects it. I definitely will be using what I learned in the future.”

“Thanks for your presentation today. Having lived overseas for most of my adulthood, I knew nothing of the credit system. I now understand it a bit better.”

1460 clients reached through 86 virtual and in-person health and finance workshops

Partners
Garrett County Lighthouse
Garrett County Community Action
Garrett County Health Department
Garrett College
St. Paul’s United Methodist Church

Dr. Lisa McCoy
FCS Educator

I have increased my daily amount of fruits and vegetables. This program has taught me the importance of sodium intake. Thanks for this class.

Lisa is a very good teacher. Always ready to answer questions and explain every topic until we understand.

199 clients reached through 33 virtual and in-person health and Finance workshops and seminars

Partners
Garrett County Health Planning Committee
Western Maryland Food Council Board
Shelita Jackson
Tech Extension Educator

“My eyes welled up when the patron shared just how much this new device would mean to her and all the things she would be able to do.

“I am so happy you told me about ACP, I will have more money for food for my family.”

• 1300 clients reached through in-person digital literacy workshops and seminars in Garrett, Allegany & Washington Counties
• 600 Chromebooks distributed while providing ACP teaching and enrollment

Partners
Garrett County Community Action
Garrett County Government
Ruth Enlow Library

Jessica McClurg
Business Services Specialist

Robert Cvetnick
Program Management Specialist

Keeping Connected
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