

# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION



## 2023 Annual Report Harford County



## ***Hello, Harford County!***

We are pleased to present the **University of Maryland Extension Harford County 2023 Annual Report** to help demonstrate the impact and importance of the work that University of Maryland Extension does in our community.

Our work in:

- **4-H Youth Development,**
- **Agriculture and Food Systems,**
- **Environment, Natural Resources and Sea Grant, and**
- **Family and Consumer Sciences**

puts Harford County residents in touch with research-based, practically oriented information that can help improve their lives, businesses, and health! We will continue our work to help Harford County residents thrive in 2024.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kness

Interim County Extension Director | Senior Agriculture Agent

## Harford County Extension Faculty and Staff



### **Administrative Assistants**

Caroline Johnson  
Lynne DiBastiani



### **SNAP-Ed**

Charae Harris  
*Project Leader/  
Nutrition Educator*



### **Home Horticulture/ Master Gardeners**

Joyce Browning  
*Program Assistant*



### **Family and Consumer Sciences/Nutrition**

Jennifer Dixon Cravens  
*Senior Agent Associate*



### **4-H Youth Development**

Marylisa Schaedel  
*Agent Associate*



### **4-H Youth Development**

Karen Taylor  
*Program Assistant*



### **Agriculture and Food Systems**

Andrew Kness  
*Senior Agent*



### **Nutrient Management**

Patricia Hoopes  
*Coordinator*



# 4-H Youth Development

## Program Educators

Marylisa Schaedel, BS, *Agent Associate*

Karen Taylor, *4-H Program Assistant*

## Program Description

The Harford 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 has a 100+ year tradition of voluntary action through



strong public-private partnerships at federal, state and community levels. Local volunteer leaders partner with Harford County Extension staff to provide direct leadership and educational support to young people in urban, suburban, and rural communities. 4-H youth develop relationships that inspire people to voluntarily help themselves and others as they interact with caring adults and peers. Program areas include:

[STEM and Agriculture](#)

[Healthy Living](#)

[Citizenship and Leadership](#)

[Volunteer Development](#)

## Program Highlights/Impacts

**500+**

Youth Outreach Contacts/Camp

**400**

Youth enrolled

**18**

4-H Clubs

**102**

Volunteers

**5,860**

Volunteer Hours

With a Value of

**\$199,943**

### Accomplished By Partnering with:

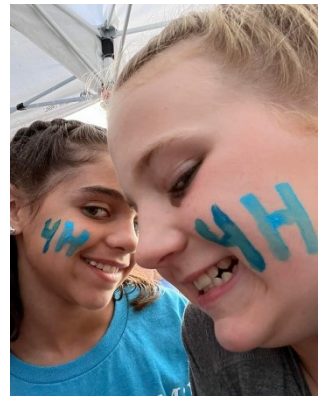
- Harford County Public Schools
- Harford Family House & Welcome One
- The Highlands School
- Harford County Master Gardeners
- ***Our Volunteers—Club Leaders, Camp Helpers, Workshop Instructors, Fair Committee Chairs, and more!***





## Events and Programs

- Farm Fair and Auction
- Summer Camp
- Livestock Information Series
- STEAM Opportunities
- Teen Leadership Council
- Robotics Program
- Embryology in the Classroom
- Winter Workshop
- Clover Craft Workshop
- Meal Appeal
- Public Speaking Contest
- Fun Educational Programs
- Club Meetings
- Club Events



[facebook.com/HarfordCounty4H](https://facebook.com/HarfordCounty4H)



[instagram.com/harfordcounty\\_4h\\_ume](https://instagram.com/harfordcounty_4h_ume)

# Family & Consumer Sciences



## Program Educator

Jennifer Dixon Cravens, MS  
*FCS/Nutrition Educator*

## Program Description

The Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) program provides healthy living, nutrition, health, and wellness, food safety, health literacy, chronic disease management, Community Nutrition, Environmental Education, and Financial Literacy programs. Our mission is to strengthen families, communities, individuals, community organizations, businesses and government agencies through Nutrition, Health & Wellness Education and programming efforts. Our goal is to empower the citizens of Harford County and Marylanders to make decisions that lead to healthy living, financial success, and long-term wellness.

Harford County Family & Consumer Sciences Nutrition Educator Jennifer Dixon Cravens' primary areas of expertise and teaching are nutrition, health, wellness, chronic disease management, food safety & preservation.



## Program Highlights and Impacts

**65**

Nutrition, Health and Wellness  
Direct/Online Classes Taught

Including

**10**

Food Safety & Preservation Classes

**1,005**

Program Participants

**70**

Youth Outreach

## Partnering with:

- Harford County Dept. of Social Services
- Havre de Grace Housing Authority
- Harford County Public Libraries
- Village at Lakeview Community Center
- Harford County 4-H
- Harford County Master Gardeners
- Susquehanna Workforce
- The EPICENTER
- Catholic Charities
- Humanim—Career Training



Health and nutrition educational programs are offered for individuals, communities, church groups, families, seniors, businesses and more.

FREE pressure canner dial gauge testing is conducted at the Harford County Extension office by the FCS/ Nutrition Educator by appointment.

## Health & Wellness



Online and In-person classes taught in 2023:

### Nutrition, Health and Wellness

- Dining with Diabetes
- Nutrition & Stress
- The MIND Diet for Brain Health
- DASH Plus
- Meal Planning & Food Prep
- The Mediterranean Diet
- The Power Plate Eating Plan
- Meal Planning and Food Prep
- Healthy Cooking for the Holidays
- Walking and Wellness

### Health Literacy

- How To Talk To Your Doctor
- Healthy Homes Green Cleaning

### Food Safety and Preservation

- Canning
- Capture the Flavor w/ Herbs & Spices
- Fruit Dehydration
- GMO's 101
- Indoor Herb Drying



*FCS Educator at Harford County Farm Fair*



*FCS Educator working with youth in Edgewood.*



*FCS Educator "train the trainer" class—teaching MGs how to teach Indoor Herb Drying.*

# Maryland SNAP-Ed

## Project Leader/Nutrition Educator

Charae Harris, MPH



## Program Description

Maryland Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) is a program within University of Maryland Extension that creates healthier environments and improves the health and wellbeing of limited income families across Maryland. SNAP-Ed programs encourage a nutritious and active lifestyle through increased food access, drinking more water, and promoting physical activity. SNAP-Ed provides nutrition education programs at youth sites across Maryland, reaching children and their families. Programs work to establish a healthier cafeteria environment, a greater connection to local food access including farms, on-site gardens and food pantries, as well as supporting teachers in providing access to water, healthy celebrations and physical activity resources for the school community.

## Program Highlights and Impacts

**690**

classes taught

**1,275/2,543**

Students/Parents reached

**526**

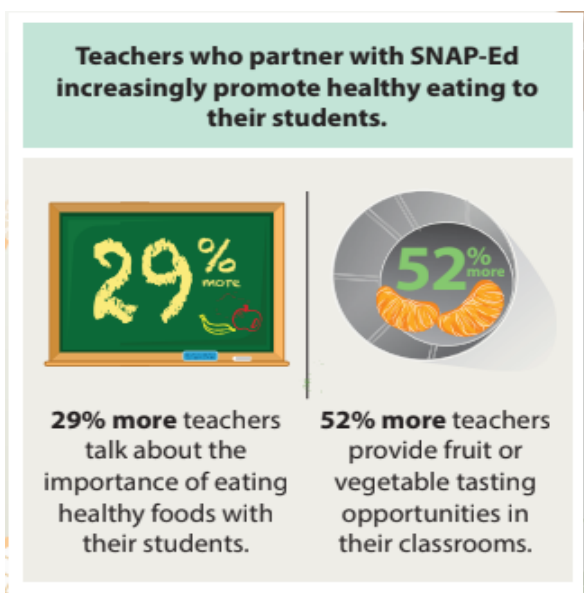
tasting opportunities in the classroom

**50**

Trainers trained (Harford Co. teachers)

**\$38,000 SNAP Ed Direct Education Budget**

**\$8,554 SNAP Ed In-Kind Contribution**



## SNAP Ed Partners:

- Riverside Elementary School
- Deerfield Elementary School & Judy Center
- Magnolia Elementary School & Judy Center
- Old Post Road Elementary School
- Halls Cross Roads Elementary School & Judy Center
- Bakerfield Elementary School
- MRDC Head Start (Aberdeen & Edgewood)



**70%** of sites that work with SNAP-Ed created a new or improved policy, practice, or environmental effort aimed at supporting healthy choices and behaviors among local individuals and families.

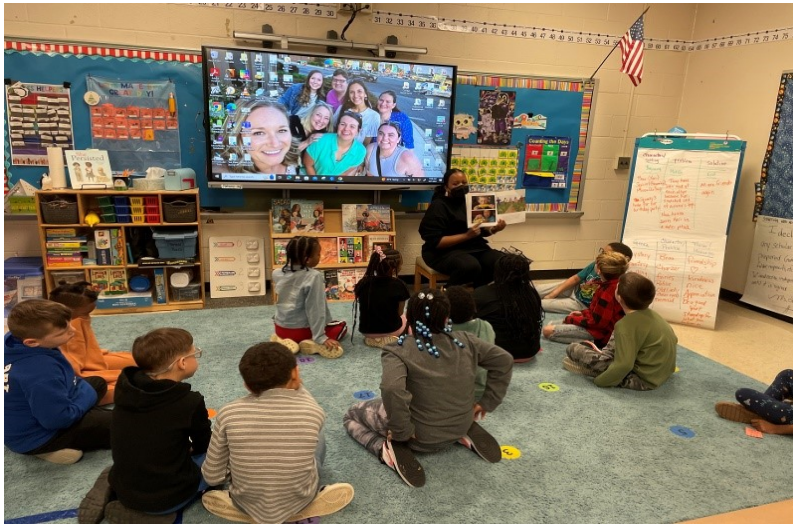




Read for Health Lesson at Old Post Road ES.



Garden in a Glove activity with Riverside ES students.



Edible ABC, K is for Kiwi tasting with Riverside ES Pre K.



Seed Salad tasting at Old Post Roads ES.



# Horticulture and Master Gardeners

## Program Educator

Joyce S. Browning, BS  
*Extension Program Assistant,  
Master Gardener Coordinator*



## Program Description

Horticulturist and Master Gardener Coordinator, Joyce Browning, answers consumer horticulture questions regarding plants, plant diseases, and insects and coordinates the Harford County Master Gardener program.



The mission of the Master Gardeners is to educate residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

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. Each Master Gardener receives over 40 hours of training from UME and commits to 20 hours of volunteer service each year.

## Master Gardener projects and partners include:

- ◆ Anita Leight Estuary Center Pollinator Gardens
- ◆ Bel Air and Havre de Grace Farmers Markets
- ◆ Brightview Senior Living Community
- ◆ Eden Mill Nature Center—Demonstration Garden and Pollinator Garden
- ◆ Harford County Agricultural Center—Plant and Literature (PAL) Garden
- ◆ Harford County Farm Fair
- ◆ Harford County Public Libraries

## Program Highlights and Impacts

**800+**

Residents assisted with plant and pest questions

**123**

Harford County Master Gardener Volunteers

**10,484**

Harford County Master Gardener Volunteer Hours

With a Value of

**\$357,714**



*MG's in costume at the Bel Air Farmer's Market*

- ◆ Harford Glen Environmental Education Center
- ◆ Havre de Grace Heirloom Victory Garden
- ◆ Ladew Gardens
- ◆ Liriodendron Mansion
- ◆ Maryland State Police Barrack D
- ◆ Rockfield Manor Gazebo Garden
- ◆ Steppingstone Farm Museum



# Master Gardeners in the Community

MG's partnered with many organizations in 2023, including community gardens, farmer's markets and various branches of the Harford County Public Library where MG's conducted more than a dozen gardening classes!



*MG's tending the Eden Mill demonstration garden, installing a Pollinator Garden Trail sign at Harford Glen Environmental Center, working at the Havre de Grace Farmer's Market, teaching a class at the Bel Air library, working with volunteers at Harford Family House garden, and teaching children at the Eden Mill Nature Center fall event.*










## Two New Master Gardener Pollinator Projects

Two new pollinator garden initiatives were spearheaded by the Harford County Master Gardeners in 2023: the public **Pollinator Garden Trail** and the private **Home Garden Pollinator Certification**. Both efforts are in collaboration with [Harford Land Trust's Grow Wild program](#).

The **Pollinator Gardens Trail** features public-accessible pollinator gardens located throughout Harford County. The public is invited to visit a variety of gardens around Harford County to learn about the importance of pollinators and get inspiration for their own pollinator habitats at home.



 <b>Harford County Extension Office Native Border Garden</b> 3252 Conowingo Road Street, MD 21154	 <b>Susquehannock Wildlife Society</b> 1725 Trappe Church Road Darlington, MD 21084
 <b>Harford Glen Environmental Education Center</b> 502 W Wheel Road Bel Air, MD 21015	 <b>Unitarian Universalists Fellowship of Harford County</b> 2515 Churchville Road Churchville, MD 21084
 <b>Havre de Grace Pollinator Garden, Moore Family Homestead Property</b> 319 Lafayette Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078	 <b>Eden Mill Nature Center Pollinator Garden</b> 1617 Eden Mill Road Pylesville, MD 21132
 <b>Maryland State Police Bel Air Barracks</b> 1401 Belair Road Bel Air, MD 21014	<a href="http://GrowWildHarford.org/pollinator-gardens-trail">GrowWildHarford.org/pollinator-gardens-trail</a>



**August 26, 2023 - Pollinator Garden Trail ribbon cutting held at the Harford County Agricultural Center, a stop on the trail. Pictured (left-right) Harford Land Trust Executive Director *Kristin Kirkwood*, University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Coordinator *Joyce Browning*, Harford County Master Gardener/Pollinator Garden Trail Committee Chair *Lee Graul*, Harford County Deputy Director Economic Development *Raj Goel*, and County Councilman *Dion Guthrie*. (Not pictured: County Executive *Bob Cassilly*)**

The **Home Garden Pollinator Certification** awards home gardeners recognition for creating a space that supports the needs of pollinators including food, shelter and water. At the request of Harford County residents, Master Gardener “Pollen-Aiders” visit the property and provide education about creating healthy habitats. Once a resident’s garden meets all the criteria for a pollinator-friendly garden, the resident receives a certification sign to display!

# MASTER GARDENER

Certifying a garden as “Pollinator-Friendly” promotes the importance of healthy habitats. These gardens also help the Chesapeake Bay by reducing soil erosion, reducing water run-off, and reducing pesticide use that ultimately improves water quality.

<https://www.growwildharford.org/resources/certification/>



*MG’s Anne Bredlow and Gerry Ivy bestow the first private garden certifications.*





# Agriculture and Nutrient Management



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## Program Educators

Andrew A. Kness, BS, MSc  
*Senior Agent, Agriculture and Food Systems Educator*

Patricia Hoopes, BS  
*Coordinator, Nutrient Management Advisor*

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## Program Description

UM Extension Harford County office offers a variety of services to the commercial farm community. We provide programming to train or recertify agricultural producers to meet State regulations. We offer seminars that introduce new technologies or practices that help farmers improve production, operate more profitably, and maintain the environment. Yearly programming in Harford County includes:

- Private Applicator Pesticide certification,
- Nutrient Management Voucher training,
- Pasture walks, and a
- Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting.

In 2023, we published 12 issues of Harford Ag Notes, 8 issues of Agronomy News and 71 Agronomy News blog posts.

In Harford County, over \$1 million in grants helps support 8 current research projects aimed towards helping our coun-

ty farmers thrive. Research into drone technology in agriculture has been an ongoing project for four years, as farmers are interested in utilizing drones on their farms to pinpoint pesticide applications, scout crops, and seed cover crops that help clean the Chesapeake Bay. New research is also being conducted on management practices for a novel disease of corn tar spot.



The average farmer reports yield increases between 6.5% -10.9% due to Extension programming



**Program Highlights and Impacts**

**28**

Teaching events

**1,903**

Direct contacts in educational events

**92**

Hours of Direct Teaching & Programming

**\$1 Million**

in grant support for 8 projects

**113**

one-on-one farm consultations

**142,000**

indirect contacts made through educational articles

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**569**

Nutrient Management Plans Developed

**11,757**

Acres

**92**

Current Client Base



Maryland's Nutrient Management Program provides clients with information on Best Management Practices that aim to balance nutrient applications with crop nutrient requirements, thereby enhancing farm profitability while protecting the Bay watershed. Our office assists agricultural producers by writing and updating nutrient management plans that are required by Maryland regulations.



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION



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