

# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TRUSTED RESEARCH DELIVERED BY LOCAL EXPERTS



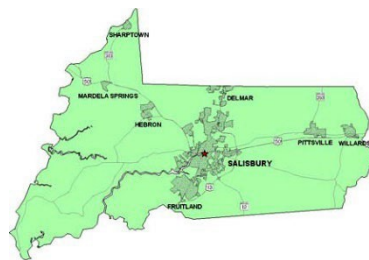
**Wicomico County**  
**University of Maryland Extension**  
**Annual Report 2023**

## The University of Maryland Extension, Wicomico County County, State and Federal Partnerships



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
College Park

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION



The University of Maryland Extension, Wicomico County Office provides research-based, informal education to citizens of **Wicomico** County and the local area. 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, practical information through workshops, seminars, clinics, camps, displays, online courses and events, 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 improve quality of life for the **104,800** residents of **Wicomico** County.

### The University of Maryland Wicomico County Extension office serves:

**104,800** Residents of  
Wicomico County

**14** Faculty and Staff

**50** Volunteers

**65** Partnerships

ON THE COVER: Dr. Haley Sater, AG Agent  
Miscanthus field site

We are pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report for University of Maryland Extension – Wicomico County. Throughout the year, we continued to have a meaningful local impact, both virtually and in-person. Our Extension educators in the areas of 4-H, Family and Consumer Science, SNAP-ED, Agriculture and Food Systems, Horticulture, Water Quality, and Nutrient Management continued to meet the needs of our community. This outreach was further expanded through our 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers, who are instrumental to the success of our programs. We are thankful for their continued dedication to our educational outreach.



It is our privilege to provide research-based programming that can make such a significant difference in the lives of Wicomico County residents. As always, I welcome your input, so please feel free to contact me at [kredders@umd.edu](mailto:kredders@umd.edu).

Sincerely,  
Karen Reddersen  
Area Extension Director

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## The Wicomico Extension Advisory Council

The Wicomico County Extension Advisory Council (EAC) is a registered non-profit, volunteer board of local residents who advise and support the work of the Wicomico County University of Maryland Extension Office. The purpose of the EAC is to serve as an advisory council to extension faculty and staff, to oversee and help maintain effective fiscal internal control procedures, to assist with public relations procedures, and to assist with identification and the building of partnerships for the Extension program.

**Michelle Wright, *President***

Cornerstone Farms

**Gretchen Boggs**

Asst. STEM Coordinator  
Wicomico County Schools

**Wayne Shaff, *Treasurer***

Retired Wicomico County Extension  
Director

**Charlotte Lilly**

Master Gardener

**John Cannon**

President, Wicomico County Council

**Geno Lowe**

Rosewood Farms

**Alexis Dashfield**

President, Fruitland Community Center

**Lindsay Tayman**

Drug Court Coordinator  
Wicomico County Circuit Court



## 4-H Youth Development

### 4H Community Outreach



Wicomico 4-H Faculty/Staff teamed up with Wicomico Parks & Rec hosting nature walk tours & activity lessons at Pemberton Park Environmental and Nature Center for various local schools.



Pemberton Park works with our Wicomico 4-H Clubs, as a meeting/activity learning space and for community service projects.



School Youth learned about New World vs. Old World Foods and what continent they originated from.  
*Do you know where your lunch items are from? New World? Old World?*

Youth did make and taste activities:

Pumpkin Pie in a Bag, homemade whipped cream and a chocolate tasting

### 4H Youth and Volunteers



Wicomico 4-H along with other Tri-County 4-H youth were invited to participate in the **Operation We Care "Wreaths Across America"** ceremony by leading the ceremonial Pledges then respectfully laying wreaths to our Veterans.



Wicomico 4-H Youth & Volunteers participate in National, State, Regional & Local/Tri-County 4-H Events, Contests and Activities; Club meetings/activities, Individual 4-H Projects, Community Service, County & State Fair(s).

## **4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

The Wicomico 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 and private partnerships at federal, state and community levels. Local volunteer leaders partner with Wicomico 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.



Wicomico County Fair



Youth Cookie Decorating Class Workshop



WBOC TV 16 Field Trip

Melissa Esley-Collins, Program Assistant  
4-H Youth Development Program  
[mesleyco@umd.edu](mailto:mesleyco@umd.edu), 301.226.7719

### **IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES**

4-H Club Youth & Cloverbud  
Members:

**183**

4-H Clubs:

**11**

Youth Participating in School  
Enrichment & Outreach

Programs:

**235**

Volunteers/Leaders:

**31**

Youth Participating in Individual  
Learning Programs:

**11**

The University of Maryland Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) strives to ensure that all Maryland residents are healthy and economically successful at every stage of life through education, research, and outreach programs. We accomplish this by working with youth and families to prevent and manage chronic diseases through healthy food and physical activity choices, handling food safely, having financial literacy, health insurance literacy, and safe and healthy places to live, work, play, and learn. We help people acquire knowledge, skills, and confidence necessary to make informed decisions that affect their health and economic well-being. We help people make choices that reduce debt, increase savings for emergencies and long-term goals, and make spending plans based on how much they earn and what their expenses are. We work with adults, young people, schools, organizations, businesses, and communities. We develop partnerships to maximize our expertise and outreach.

Lynn Matava  
Agent, FCS  
301.226.7713, [lmatava@umd.edu](mailto:lmatava@umd.edu)

Family and Consumer Sciences Programs implemented nutrition and wellness programs focusing on diabetes, hypertension, addiction, stress, mental wellbeing, and a mindfulness program for professionals.



Photo: Canning Workshop

## Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Nutrition Education Programs,  
Participants Reached:

**205**

Food Demos,  
WMDT broadcasts:

**30**

Educational Sessions,  
Participants Reached:

**58**

Link to WMDT segments:  
<https://go.umd.edu/UMDyum>  
over 200,000+ viewers

## DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Marylanders Online is a new program under FCS working to bridge the digital divide and promote digital literacy, equity, and inclusion throughout the state of Maryland. In order to achieve this, our residents need to have access to devices, an affordable internet and enough skills to utilize these things effectively. This year a statewide needs assessment was conducted in order to better understand the needs of our community. We determined that people of all ages are in need of digital skills and access. We also determined that the digital divide disproportionately affects minority, rural and older adult communities. In order to bridge the digital divide we are supporting organizations hosting device distributions, signing residents up for the Affordable Connectivity program, and offering digital education.

**Our new Technology Educator, Keri Grant, was hired in September. She hopes to launch three programs:**

### **Find Your Footing in Technology**

This program includes basic tech skills and online safety courses and is designed to help older adults primarily, but can also have some applications for youth and younger adults. Success in this program will give participants confidence in their skills, and eliminate the fear and apprehension of technology.

### **Lifelong Learning in Technology**

This program will include courses on more specific programs like Canva and Excel, as well as skills in activities like job searching and information verification. Success in this program will give participants useful and marketable skills, as well as the confidence to discover new programs, skills and hobbies.

## **IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES**

Individuals Reached Through  
Outreach:

**200**

Tech Education Participants  
Reached:

**34**



Device Distribution in St. Mary's county. Here, Keri Grant (left) is helping set up a chromebook.

### **Workforce Development in the Haitian Creole Community**

This program is designed to give the Haitian Creole population computer, job search skills and access to education or certification resources. Success in this program will uplift the Creole community and help them find comfortable and joyful lives.

Keri Grant  
Tech Literacy Educator  
301.226.7714, [kgrant16@umd.edu](mailto:kgrant16@umd.edu)

Maryland 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.

Wicomico County SNAP-Ed program provided community nutrition education and outreach through three initiatives: Healthy School communities, Farm to Family and Securing Food Resources.

In 2023, the SNAP-Ed Program reached 1,200 participants through educational resources with Adopt A Block. Lauren Holfeld became the SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator and Project Leader for Wicomico County in August of 2023. Partnerships with 5 elementary schools were restarted by October of 2023 for the delivery of classroom nutrition education and resources into the 2023-2024 school year.

Lauren Holfeld, SNAP-Ed  
 Agent Associate  
[lholfeld@umd.edu](mailto:lholfeld@umd.edu), 301.226.7716



4<sup>th</sup> Graders at Pemberton Making Guacamole.

## SNAP-ED Educational Reach

### *Farm to Family*

One on One Farmer-Producer  
 Consultations:

**4**

Print Materials Distributed to Market  
 Consumers:

**800**

### *Food Access –Food Resources*

Individuals Reached Through County  
 Communication Channels:

**201,782**

Individuals Reached Through County  
 Food Distribution Efforts:

**3,113**

### *Healthy School Communities*

Unique Individuals Served:

**1,794**

Classroom Lessons Taught:

**459**

School-wide or Family Events Attended:

**14**



## **AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

In 2023, the agriculture team out of the Wicomico office authored a refereed extension publication, "Start Growing Thornless Blackberries," providing essential guidance for cultivar selection in the Mid-Atlantic region. The team secured research grants in the amount of \$227,890 in new funds, where \$117,640 went directly to the University of Maryland Extension (UME). These funds supported projects like establishing thornless blackberry trials and developing integrated pest management solutions.

The ag team also played a pivotal role in ongoing projects, including those addressing sustainable agriculture, work on miscanthus in marginal lands, and cover crop planning for specific goals. Demonstrating their commitment to education, they conducted numerous teaching presentations, reaching over 300 in-person participants across various topics such as fruit and vegetable production, sustainable agriculture, and pesticide management. Their outreach efforts, including extension publications and media contributions, engaged a wide audience, with over 386 subscribers to the "Fruit Pulse" electronic newsletters. The ag team also co-organized events including Lower Shore Agronomy Day with 122 participants and a Lower Shore Vegetable meeting with 26 participants which facilitated meaningful interactions within the agricultural community.

Additionally, Haley Sater continued service as the Secretary for the Maryland State Horticultural Society which underscored her dedication to the industry.



Photo: Cover Crop Field Day, Hebron, MD

## **IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES**

Agricultural Consultations:

**77**

Focused Fruits and Vegetable  
Production:

**51**

Farm Management/Pesticide  
Education/Nutrient Management  
Programs:

**19**

Private Pesticide Certification  
Training for Core Pesticide Exam  
Participants Reached:

**23**

Sustainable Agriculture Alternatives  
for the Eastern Shore:

**7**

Dr. Haley Sater  
Agricultural Agent  
[hsater@umd.edu](mailto:hsater@umd.edu), 301.226.7718

## **HORTICULTURE & MASTER GARDENER**

University of Maryland Extension  
Annual Report 2023

Ginny Rosenkranz is the Horticulture Educator for the Green Industry and the Master Gardener Coordinator for the Lower Eastern Shore counties. She works with arborists, landscape managers, nursery and greenhouse growers, golf course managers and garden center managers to help them with Total Plant Management/Integrated Pest Management (TPM/IPM) of their plants and landscapes. Ginny provides programs for pesticide certification for farmers and pesticide recertification for both private and commercial pesticide re-certification. Commercial pesticide programs offer recertifications in forestry, turf & ornamentals, aquatics and right of way for Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania. These conferences provide participants with timely information about plant pests and their controls, including practices to improve the local landscape managers knowledge of TPM/IPM. Ginny writes a weekly article complete with a full color photo of a 'Plant of the Week' for the on-line University of Maryland Extension TPM/IPM Weekly Report for Arborists, Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers that reaches 424 on the Eastern Shore and over 5000 in Maryland and many of the surrounding states. She also shares the report with over 100 Master Gardeners.

Ginny provides Advanced Master Gardener Programs on interesting and timely topics for the Lower Shore Counties each month to help them received their continuing education credits. Certified Maser Gardeners are county residents trained to deliver research-based horticultural information to the public. Each Master Gardener receives 40+ hours of intern training and commits to donating 20 hours of community volunteer service each year. In 2023, the Master Gardener program taught residents from Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties.



### **Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties Master Gardener Program**

Master Gardener Interns:

**17**

### **Monthly Articles for Delmarva Shore Home and Garden Magazine**

Readers Reached:

**1,000**

### **Delmarva Life Monthly Segment Sharing Gardening Tips Year Round**

Viewers Reached:

**80,000**

### **Master Gardener Plant Clinics Reaching Over:**

**1,700 People**

Ginny shares her horticulture knowledge by presenting in person on the local CBS station, Delmarva Life, where she brings in samples of plants from herbs to flowers to trees, to provide timely information for the residents of the Eastern Shore. She also writes a monthly article for Shore Home and Garden Magazine which reaches up to 1,000 readers. Free State Magazine is put together by the Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association and reaches about 900 of the Green Industry in Maryland. Ginny writes 3 articles a year for this publication with many photos that highlight various plants and their attributes including, "Plants that are not Dear to Deer".

Ginny Rosenkranz, Extension Educator  
Commercial Horticulture, Master Gardener  
[rosnkranz@umd.edu](mailto:rosnkranz@umd.edu), 301.226.7715

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES/SEA GRANT

**Program Educator:** Jennifer Dindinger, Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist

**Program Description:** Watershed Protection and Restoration Program

**Program Website:** [Extension.umd.edu/watershed](https://extension.umd.edu/watershed)

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 water quality in local rivers and 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 improve water quality locally 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 address water quality regulations and requirements.
- On-the-ground projects that reduce nutrient/sediment inputs and involve collaborative partnerships and effective funding techniques.

Jennifer Dindinger, UMD Sea Grant  
Watershed Restoration Specialist  
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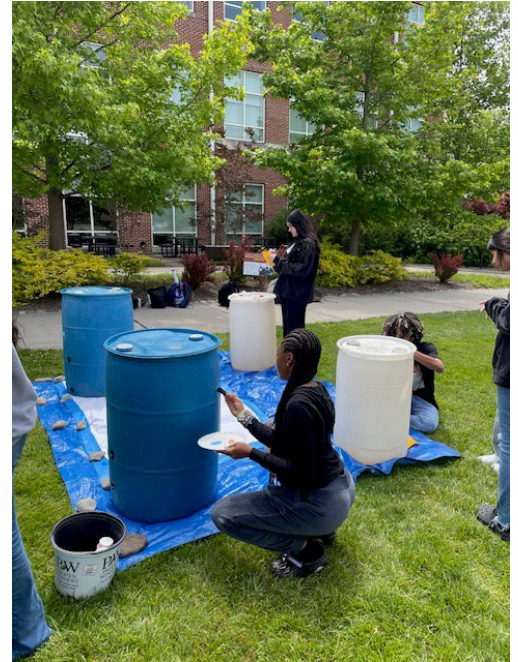


Photo: 2023 Youth Enviro Action Summit – Salisbury University

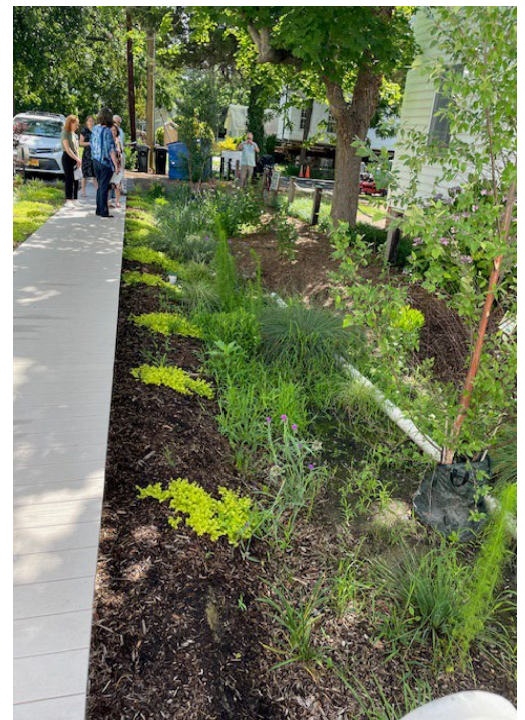


Photo: ESCAP Oxford Field Trip



## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

UMD Extension Wicomico 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 profitably, 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 that aim to balance nutrient applications with crop nutrient requirements, thereby enhancing farm profitability while protecting water quality.

Nick Nuwer is the Wicomico County Extension Nutrient Management Advisor. He provides plans to the county's farming community by meeting with the farmer to discuss all aspects of the soil conditions and crops grown.

Nick Nuwer  
Nutrient Management Advisor  
301.226.7721, [nnuwer@umd.edu](mailto:nnuwer@umd.edu)



Photo credit: Edwin Remsburg

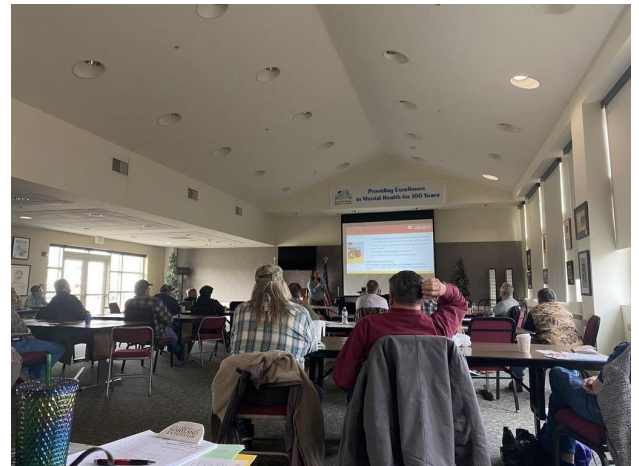


Photo: Lower Shore AG Day, Pocomoke Elks Lodge

### IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES

Total Acres Covered by Nutrient Management Plan:  
**8,379**

Saved Eastern Shore Farmers By Offering These Services At No Charge:  
**\$47,969**

Number of Plans Written:  
**242**

Number of Fields Planned (Average Field Size 18.50 acres):  
**453**

Number of Cooperators Served:  
**59**

Number of Cooperators with Animals:  
**39**

# 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. UME educational programs and problem-solving assistance are available to all community members and are based on the research and experience of land grant universities such as the University of Maryland, College Park.



Master Gardeners at the Wicomico Home and Garden Expo

In Maryland, UME employs approximately 200 faculty and approximately 200 support staff and contractual employees located at the University of Maryland, College Park; all 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, academic specialties, and the local community through workshops and events, trainings and publications, and outreach through schools and community organizations that are available free or at a minimal cost to the public.

## Wicomico County Extension Office:

<http://extension.umd.edu/Wicomico-county>

*University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.*



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