

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TRUSTED RESEARCH DELIVERED BY LOCAL EXPERTS



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

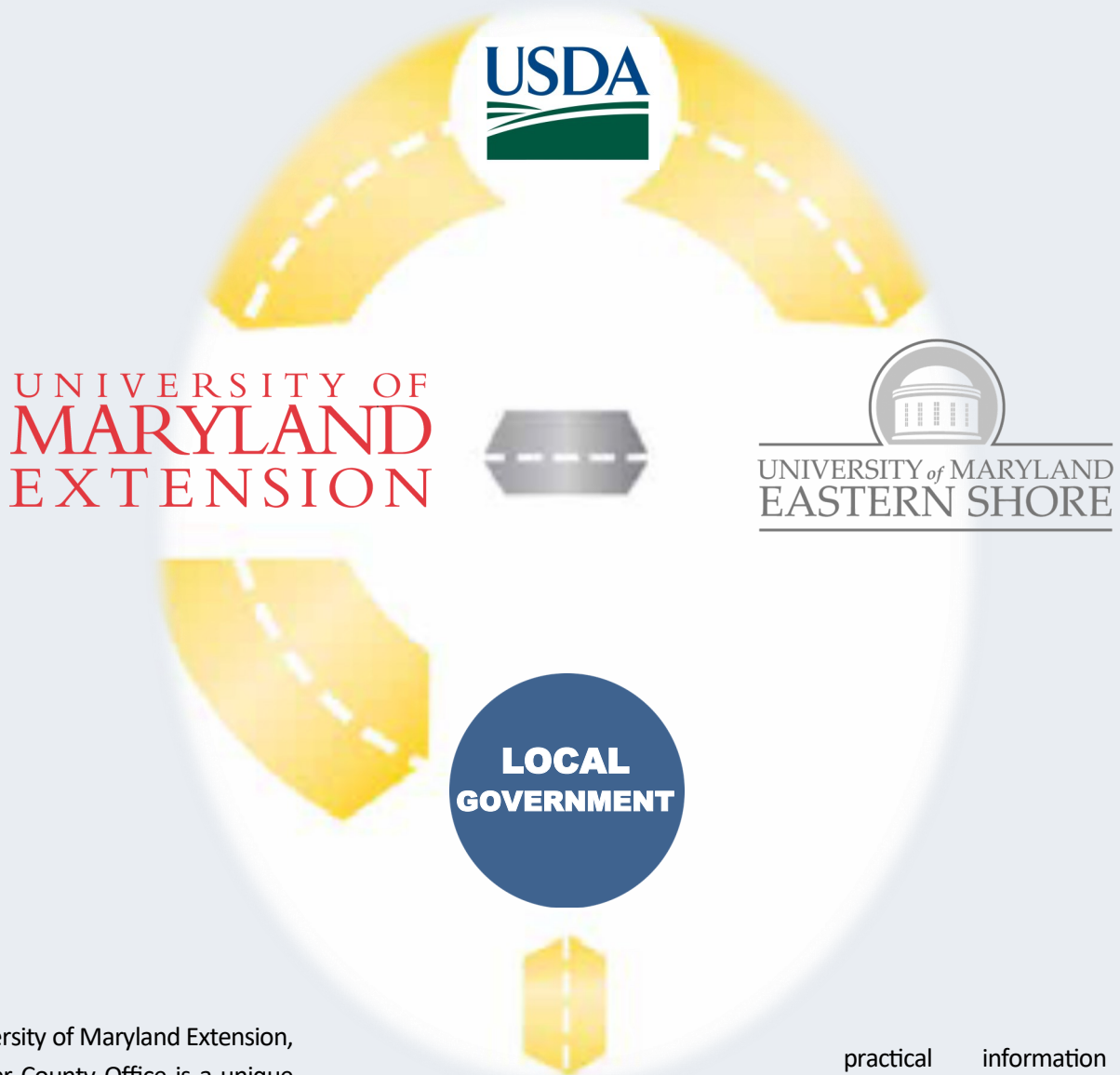
University of Maryland Extension
Dorchester County engages over:

- 32,879** Residents with our
- 9** Faculty & Staff along with
- 22** 4-H & Master Gardener
Volunteers, and over
- 32** Partnerships

University of Maryland Extension-Dorchester
2023 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 32,879
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.

We are pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report for University of Maryland Extension-Dorchester 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 Dorchester County residents. As always, I welcome your input, so please feel free to contact me at kredders@umd.edu.

Sincerely,

Karen Reddersen

Area Extension Director



Karen Reddersen
Area Extension Director



Lisa Trice
Administrative Assistant



Angela Poole
Administrative Assistant

Extension

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.

Extension Advisory Council



Officers:

Gage Thomas, *Chairman*
Bill Thomas, *Vice-Chairman*
Christine English, *Secretary*
Doug Cooper, *Treasurer*

Board Members:

George Windsor
Gloria Warner
Fred Pomeroy
Lynette Wongus

4-H Youth Development

Program Educators

Erica Willing, 4-H Educator

Karli Abbott, 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



Dorchester 4-H Library Program



Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

4-H Club Members:

49

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

1624

Certified 4-H Volunteers:

13

Volunteer Hours:

510

Volunteer Dollar Value:

\$16,218

4-H Youth Development

Program Educators



Erica Willing, 4-H Educator



Karli Abbott, 4-H Program Assistant



4-H In Motion



Agriculture

Program Educators

Emily Zobel, Educator, Agriculture

Craig Yohn, Nutrient Management Advisor

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 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 (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:

145

Participants Reached:

330

UME Fruit & Vegetable Newsletters:

8

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Nutrient Management Plans

Written:

225

Total Acres Covered By Nutrient Management Plans:

11,583

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

\$66,310

Number of Fields Planned (Average Field Size 29.9 acres):

794

Number of Cooperators Served:

39

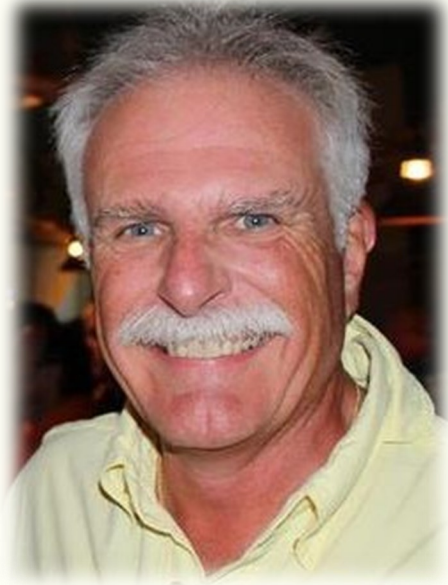
Number of Cooperators with Animals:

11

Agriculture and Food Systems Program

Emily Zobel , Agent Associate

Craig Yohn, Nutrient Management



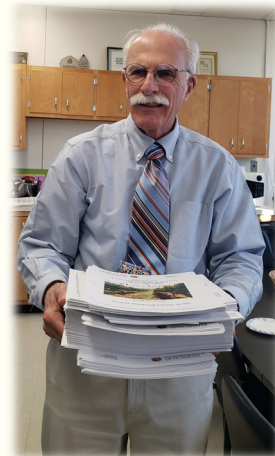
Harvesting squash from a research project. Donating 360 lbs to the Maryland Food Bank.



Mid-Shore Agronomy Day



**Craig working very hard on nutrient management plans!
This plan weighed 15lbs!**



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:

9

Hands-On Learning Events:

9

**Answered Local Resident’s Garden
and Lawn Questions:**

40

Master Gardeners assist county residents through several approaches including:

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

At

- ✓ County libraries, Schools
- ✓ Community 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 New Episodes Produced:

9

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

4,150

Master Gardener Program

Master Gardener Judy and ShuXian, teaching kids about the life cycle of a butterfly at the Dorchester Library “Summer Reading Kick Off”.



Master Gardener Robin, has been working with the Dorchester Historical Society to add more native plants to their landscape.

Program areas include:

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



Master Gardeners Vicki and Sue running an “Ask a Master Gardener Plant Clinic” booth at the Cambridge Farmers Market.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Program Educator Spencer Hacker

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 Spencer Hacker. 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.

Parents Reached Outside of School and Provided with Educational Resources:

1,087

Total Youth Reached:

464

Tasting Opportunities:

53

Classroom Lessons Taught:

41

Maryland SNAP-Ed:
Fostering Healthy Individuals and Environments in FY23

Maryland Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) helps local families lead healthy lives through increased food access, improved nutrition quality, and physical activity. Through partnerships with state and community organizations across Maryland, SNAP-Ed provides comprehensive programs, which consist of nutrition education and policy, system, and environmental-level changes. SNAP-Ed programs introduce children and adults to healthy options and provide them with the skills and knowledge to make healthy choices. SNAP-Ed also works with local partners to foster or strengthen policies, systems, and environments that support families' healthy choices.

In FY23, SNAP-Ed reached more than 530,000 Marylanders:

- 178,036 youth and adults at partnering sites with comprehensive programming:
 - 39,045 youth and adults through in-person education
 - 31,001 youth through site-wide events and tastings
 - 107,990 participants through print or electronic educational materials
- 352,738 Marylanders through broader educational efforts across the state

SNAP-Ed works with partners across the state, many have partnered with SNAP-Ed for numerous years, to foster changes in policies, organizational practices, and physical environments that support healthy choices and behaviors. Site-wide health promotion efforts create a recipe for success by improving Marylanders' access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities.

In FY23, SNAP-Ed worked with partners across the state to support healthy eating and physical activity through improved policies, practices, and environmental efforts.

- 4,714 local and state partners were trained to deliver SNAP-Ed programs and/or to facilitate policies, practices, or environments that foster healthy eating and physical activity by participants.
- 83% of sites that work with SNAP-Ed have established health-promoting policies, practices, or environments.

In FY23, Maryland SNAP-Ed worked with 568 local partners to deliver nutrition education and foster healthier environments.

58% of sites that work with SNAP-Ed created a new or improved policy, system or environmental change to support healthy choices and behaviors among local individuals and families.

For more information on SNAP-Ed programs, visit <http://extension.umd.edu/snap-ed>



HEALTHY STUDENT REWARDS

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP in cooperation with Maryland's Department of Human Services and University of Maryland Extension. 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.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)



Spencer Hacker
SNAP-Ed Program Educator



Judy Center Playgroup at Maple Elementary.

It was a lesson to try new foods. The students and their parents attempted to identify the fruits and vegetables by touch after they were placed in a mystery bag.

Here you can see the pineapple "reveal"! ↘



Environment and Natural Resources/Sea Grant

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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.

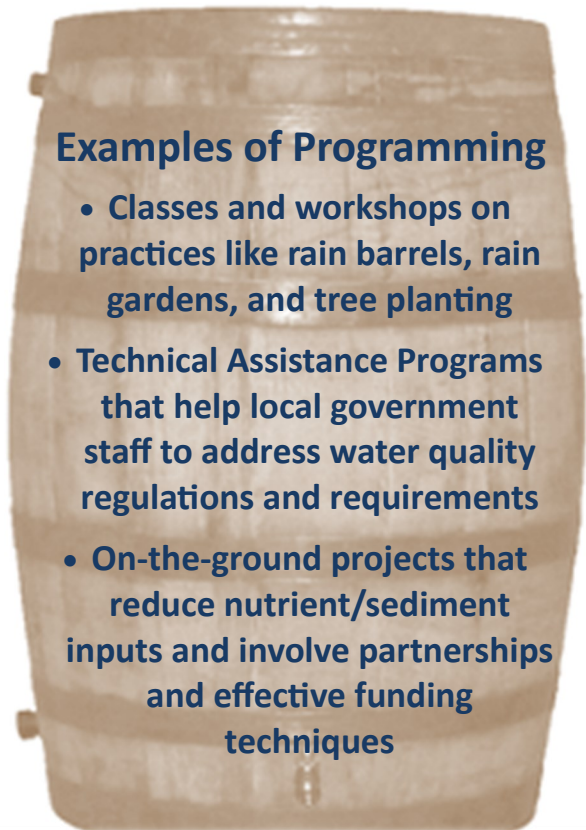
We work with local governments, community groups and residents to help improve water quality on the local level and in the Bay.



photo by Edwin Remsberg

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



Environment and Natural Resources/Sea Grant

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Youth and adults reached through programming about water quality, Strategic Doing™, climate resilience, and capacity building in 2023:

101



Traditional Rain Barrel



Painting Rain Barrels at the 2023 Youth Environmental Action Summit



Stormwater management field trip to Oxford, MD

Want to learn more about what you can do at home to improve the quality of your local rivers and streams? Contact Jennifer for a site visit, and check out the website.

extension.umd.edu/watershed

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

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