

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TRUSTED RESEARCH DELIVERED BY LOCAL EXPERTS

University of Maryland Extension-Dorchester
2024 Annual Impact Report

extension.umd.edu/dorchester-county

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

University of Maryland Extension
Dorchester County engages over:

- 33,175** Residents with our
- 7** Faculty & Staff along with
- 22** 4-H & Master Gardener
Volunteers, and over
- 32** Partnerships

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 33,175
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 2024 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 Youth Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, 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 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers, who are instrumental to the success of our programs. We are thankful for their continued dedication to 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 sdill@umd.edu.

Sincerely,



Shannon Dill, County Extension Director



Shannon Dill
County Extension Director



Lisa Dwyer
Administrative Assistant



Beth Foxwell
Administrative Assistant

Extension Advisory Council

The Extension Advisory Council (EAC) is a diverse group of professionals, community leaders, and stakeholders dedicated to informing program development, assisting with outreach efforts, and identifying community needs by helping the University of Maryland Extension (UME) faculty with overall advisory services to support programs. These members represent various partnerships and institutions, bringing their expertise, resources, and perspectives to support UME's mission. Their contributions ensure that programs and strategies are inclusive, relevant, and impactful.



Board Members:
Jermain Anderson
Jodi Coleman
Doug Cooper
Mike Detmer
Angela Grove

Ryan Jackson
Lenny Pheffer
Nancy Shockley
Tiffany Sheppard
Gage Thomas
Chris Weedleton
Mike Bryan

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.

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Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

4-H Club Members:

41

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

1852

Certified 4-H Volunteers:

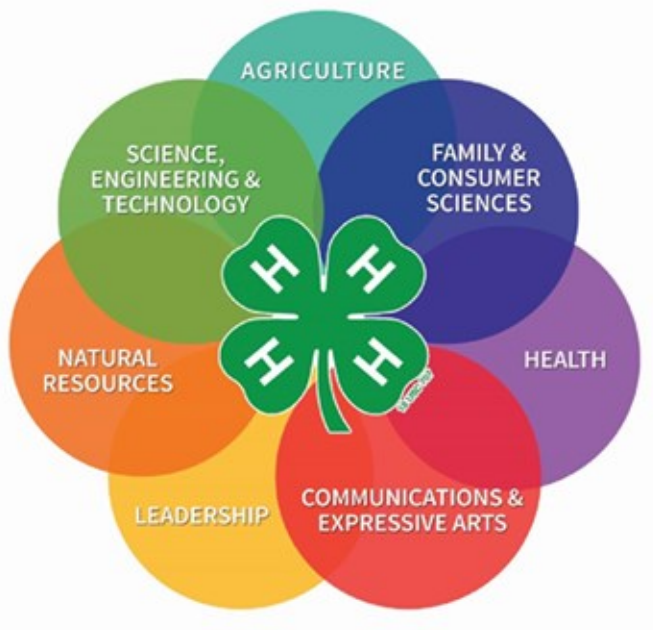
18

Volunteer Hours:

600

Volunteer Dollar Value:

\$20,094



4-H Youth Development

Program Educators



Erica Willing, 4-H Educator



Karli Abbott, 4-H Program Assistant



4-H In Motion



Agriculture and Food Systems

Program Educators

Emily Zobel, Educator, Agriculture

Craig Yohn, Nutrient Management Advisor

Program Description

UMD Extension Dorchester County offers a variety of educational services to the 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:

18

Participants Reached:

580

UME Fruit & Vegetable Newsletters:

8

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Nutrient Management Plans

Written:

27

Total Acres Covered By Nutrient Management Plans:

11,488

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

\$57,441

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

803

Number of Cooperators Served:

26

Number of Cooperators with Animals:

7

Agriculture and Food Systems

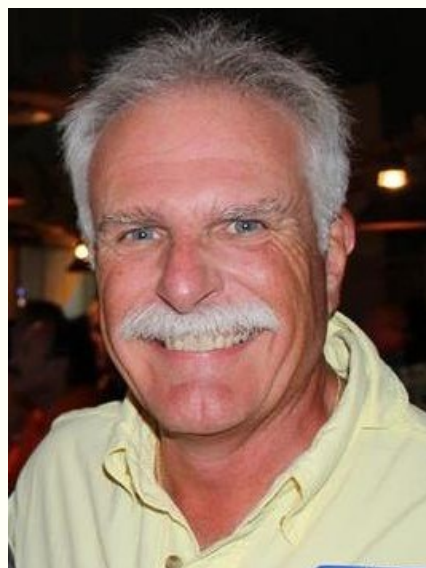
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AgFS
Agriculture & Food Systems

Emily Zobel, Agent Associate



Craig Yohn, Nutrient Management



AgFS agent, Emily Zobel, scouting a collard plant as part of an IPM Research experiment.



LESREC Twilight Tour



UME Summer Workforce interns, Mia and Mayu, scouting collard plants for insect pests.



Master Gardener Program Educator

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:

12

Hands-On Learning Events:

9

**Volunteer Hours Focusing On
Backyard Gardening and
Horticulture Therapy:**

278

Master Gardeners assist county residents through several approaches including:

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

At

- ✓ County libraries, Schools
- ✓ Community gardens
- ✓ Demonstration gardens



Home Horticulture



A monthly podcast where three enthusiastic Extension educators with a passion for talking about all things garden. Emily Zobel, Dorchester Extension along with other regional agents, 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:

11

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

4,150

Master Gardener



Master Gardener Joy and Robin hosting a plant clinic at the local farmers market.



Horticulture Therapy participants mixing potting media to plant kale seeds and then caring for the kale plants.



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



**Maryland SNAP-Ed
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. SNAP-Ed partners with K-12 schools, early childcare centers, food assistance sites, farmers markets, and local organizations.

Our programs are 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.

**Program Highlights/Impacts/
Outcomes**

**Trained Community Educators To
Provide SNAP Ed Lessons:**

6

Total Youth Reached:

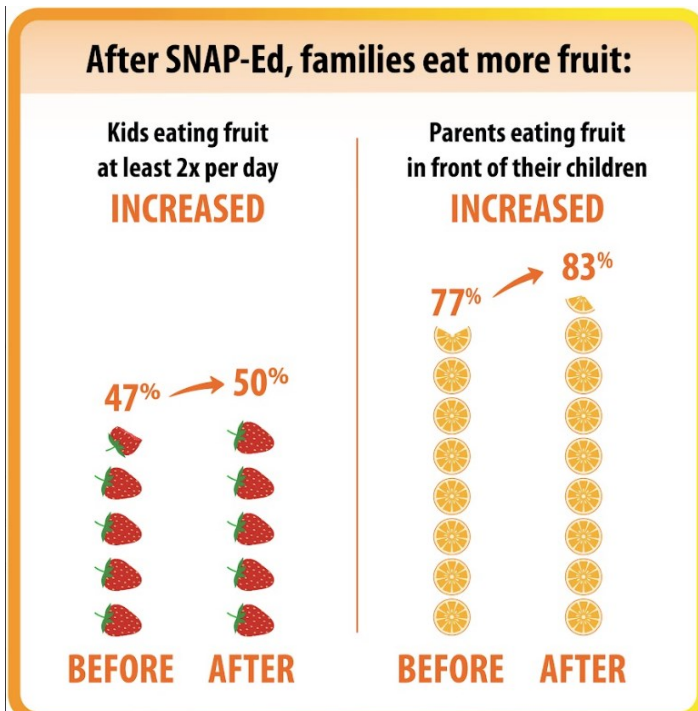
1,170

Tasting Opportunities:

111

**Unique Educational Programs
Taught:**

43



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)



Maryland SNAP-Ed programs encourage a nutritious and active lifestyle through increased food access, drinking more water, and promoting physical activity.

Spencer Hacker
SNAP-Ed Program Educator



SNAP Ed partners with Maple Elementary Judy Center!

Many parents noted picky eating habits, lack of cooking skills, and access/affordability of fresh produce as significant barriers towards eating healthier.

Snap Ed provided monthly lessons for parents to meet at the Judy Center and discuss skills and strategies to overcome these obstacles.



Environment and Natural Resources/Sea Grant

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Program Educator

Eric Buehl, Principal Agent Associate

Program Description

Eric works with local and state governments, non-governmental organizations, regional partners, University researchers, and communities on the Eastern Shore counties to improve 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.

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

Participated in **1** educational presentation and **1** workshop related to community resilience, stormwater and water quality

Reaching:

29

Provided stormwater and grant assistance to **1** residential community.



Traditional Rain Barrel



Painting Rain Barrels at the 2024 Youth Environmental Action Summit

Want to learn more about what you can do at home to improve the quality of your local rivers and streams? Contact Eric 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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