

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Garrett County

2025 Year In Review



Dr. Jennifer Bentlejewski
Area Extension Director
Western Maryland

We are excited to present our 2025 University of Maryland Extension-Garrett County Year in Review, showcasing a diverse range of educational initiatives designed to transform agricultural practices, empower youth leadership, and support the growth of 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers. Our commitment to enhancing health, wellness, and financial literacy addresses today's pressing challenges through accessible, research-based education.

This mission thrives thanks to our dedicated volunteers and robust partnerships with the UMD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, USDA, and Garrett County Government. As we look towards 2026, we are eager to continue delivering innovative programs that enrich lives in Garrett County and beyond.



- 354 Youth enrolled in 19 community clubs
- 123 Volunteers who gave 7,995 volunteer hours
- 131 Youth attended Camp Algawa, including 57 trained teen leaders
- 170 Youth participants in schools & our outreach settings
- 273 5th graders reached through College & Me



Lacie Ashby
4-H Educator



Karen Wood
4-H Educator

Garrett County 4-H helps young people explore interests through hands-on projects in agriculture, science, technology, and the arts. This builds essential life skills like leadership and teamwork. Members gain valuable experiences that prepare them for academic and personal success.



ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL
RESOURCES AND SEA
GRANT



- 2,133 Contacts reached
- 80 Horticulture education programs and workshops at 35 locations
- 17 Master Gardeners who volunteered 812 hours valued at \$28,250
- 70 Consultations provided to solve home horticulture issues



Ashley Bodkins
ENR Educator
Master Gardener Coordinator

Garrett County ENRSG provides leadership and coordination for the Maryland Master Gardener program, education for residential horticulture with a focus on promoting native plants, vegetable gardening, and preserving natural resources and ecosystems.



250+ Clients reached through workshops, educational programs & client visits

156 Received pesticide recertification

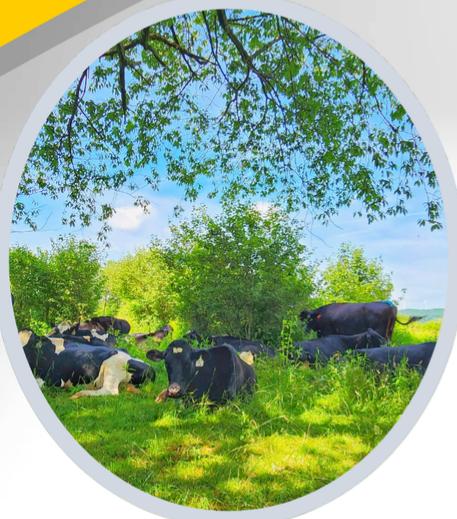
82 Received nutrition management credits

139,935 Pounds of food provided to families in need with 7,889 individuals served



William Lantz
AgFS Educator

Garrett County AgFS plays a crucial role in enhancing the agricultural sector by focusing on increasing profitability and resource conservation. Educational programs equip farmers with the necessary skills to adopt sustainable practices.



111 Nutrient management plans written

2,397 Fields totaling 18,609 acres

63 Manure plans

37 Multi-year plans



Andrea Uphold
Nutrient Management
Program Coordinator

The Garrett County Agricultural Nutrient Management Program provides farmers with annual plans to balance nutrient inputs with crop requirements while optimizing crop production, increasing profitability, and minimizing nutrient losses to the environment.



SNAP-ED



- 306 Participants reached through direct education**
- 38 Educators trained on nutrition education**
- 939 Participants reached through educational resource distribution**



Kenzi Mousch
SNAP-Ed Project Leader

Federal funding for this program was eliminated as of Sept 30, 2025

Garrett County SNAP-Ed empowered low-income families to adopt healthier lifestyles. It offered programs that improved food access, nutrition quality, and physical activity through workshops, cooking demonstrations, and community events. By collaborating with local organizations and schools, SNAP-Ed effectively reached those in need, promoting wellness and health equity.



2,145 Clients reached

104 Health, food safety, health insurance, mental health, and finance workshops

1,100 Contacts reached through community events and wellness fairs

23 Community partners



Dr. Jesse Ketterman
FCS Educator



Dr. Lisa McCoy
FCS Educator

Western Maryland Financial Wellness programs strive to ensure that all residents are economically successful at every stage of life through education, research, and outreach programs. The Nutrition, Health, and Wellness Programs focus on reducing health risk factors and promoting wellness, which results in a long-term impact on the community.

EXTENSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Our Extension Advisory Committee 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 UME faculty with overall advisory services to support program determination and issues. 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. Our current Garrett County EAC comprises individuals from these organizations, partnerships, and backgrounds:

- Garrett County Public Schools
- Garrett County Community Action
- 4-H Representatives
- Small Business Owners
- Garrett County Master Gardener Volunteers
- Community Members/Stakeholders with agricultural background and experience
- Community Members/Stakeholders with social services background and experience

Our Staff

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Roberta Cvetnick

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