The University of Maryland Extension (UME) was established in 1914 through the Smith-Lever Act. UME is a part of a larger national educational network known as Cooperative Extension delivered through the nation’s seventy-two land grant universities. In Maryland, UME operates through the University of Maryland at College Park, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. UME has field offices in all twenty-three Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

UME faculty and staff are professionals engaged in the delivery of non-formal educational programs that address issues of concern at the local and state level: Local Food Agriculture Systems, Environment and Natural Resources, Healthy Living, Youth Development and Building Resilient Communities.

Programming is made possible through successful partnerships between local, state and federal government. Programming is also supported by grants, donations and a strong cadre of UME trained volunteers.

We are proud to have celebrated our 100th anniversary on a national and local level. The Cecil County office has been providing services to farming families since 1914. You will see in this report, how UME’s outreach efforts seek to provide educational support and solutions to improve the lives of Cecil County residents.
Master Gardener Program

Doris is responsible for the Master Gardener (MG) Program and its volunteers. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who work within the community to teach safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Doris provides on-going training for the Master Gardener volunteers and together they play an important role in organizing and administering the Master Gardener program through educational opportunities to youth and adults throughout the county.

With the inception of the Cecil County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA), the Cecil County Master Gardener group has become even more versatile by partnering with the WSA to install some storm water management/WSA Capstone Projects like the bio-retention area outside of the North East Town Hall to help prevent future flooding of the town hall.

The MG volunteers also helped to install a rain garden in the North East Town Park which is located on a peninsula along the North East River to prevent surface water runoff into the river.

Horticultural guidance to the general public for plant and insect identification, and weed and pest management are provided by Doris through email, phone conversations and 1:1 consultations.

Stakeholders/Partners
Cecil County Public Schools
Cecil County Farm Bureau
Cecil County Senior Services Program
Cecil County Department of Public Works
Cecil College Horticulture Club
Cecil County Economic Development Office
North Bay Environmental Center
University of Delaware Extension
Cecil County School of Technology

Cross Collaborations
4-H, MG in Schools- Green School (CCPS)
MG, Cecil College
MG, Forestry Board

Windsor Village’s Girl Scout Troop doing maintenance work on the rain garden they planted at a local Fire Department Substation in North East, Maryland to earn their Forever Green Badge.
4-H & Youth Development

4-H'ers are leading a Revolution of Responsibility - a movement for positive change in every community in America including right here in Cecil County, MD! 4-H youth are a living breathing, culture-changing revolution for doing the right thing, breaking through obstacles, and pushing our country forward by making a measurable difference here in Cecil County.

3,684 youth served through Cecil County 4-H Programs in 2016

- 453 youth enrolled in 22 traditional and special interest clubs
- 120 youth participated in 4-H sponsored overnight camping
- 3,111 youth served via outreach programs at 32 school/community sites

Grants Secured for Youth Program Funding - $58,240

AGsploration - The Science of Agriculture Education—$9,500
OJJDP - S.T.E.M. Education & Leadership Development—$48,740
Total Value of Grants Sought in 2016 —$78,240

“I’ve done a lot of different things in my life- I was once mentored and now I’m the mentor- they teach me and I teach the children and they will teach their children- it’s been an experience in my life that I’m honored, pleased and proud for the people such as you all that help me help others”
- OJJDP Community Mentor

“4-H enables members to reach their fullest potential and make a difference in others’ lives. To me, 4-H helps young people succeed because it is impactful, synergetic, and educational”
- Cecil County 4-H’er
Agriculture

Doris provides support to producers throughout the year through educational programming and 1:1 consultations. In January of each year, Doris hosts an Agronomy Day that is critical to our agricultural community since this is where the farmers/producers receive their recertification credits to meet their certification regulatory requirements. This day of recertification brings together University of Maryland Extension, Maryland Department of Agriculture, NRCS, FSA, and Soil Conservation experts with our farming community to educate them about updates, changes, and research findings that might impact their businesses.

Doris is the Vice President of the Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents (MACAA) State Executive Committee. Doris received a National Finalist Communication Award: Team Newsletter from the National Association of County Agricultural Agent’s Annual Conference this year for the monthly AGLINE newsletter.

Doris is active with the Cecil County Farm Bureau program and the Cecil County Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Doris is an active member of the AG Showcase Committee. The AG Showcase Day at the Cecil County Fair is designed to provide networking for our farmers, local businesses, local agencies and legislators.

For the last two years, the AG Showcase has incorporated Grain Engulfment Training that is open to all farming families and all Emergency Response Personnel (local and state). This training has proven to be lifesaving right here in our own county.

This training provided by the Perdue Agribusiness group has educated and influenced several emergency responders in our area to purchase the rescue equipment that is needed to successfully save victims of grain engulfment, potentially saving lives in the future.

Nutrient Management

Nearly all Maryland farmers are required to follow a certified Nutrient Management Plan. Cecil County Extension’s Nutrient Management Advisor assists our county’s farmers in complying with this requirement by providing them with certified plans. The University of Maryland Extension's Agricultural Nutrient Management Program, which is a component of the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, focuses on reducing the pollution of the Chesapeake Bay by plant nutrients from cropland.

Jenna Talbot wrote 91 nutrient management plans covering 5,644 acres of land for 44 farmers in the county. These plans are written for the farmer at no cost, resulting in a $28,218 savings for farmers who utilized UME’s nutrient management program.
There is a great need to educate our community on how to live healthfully!

Cecil County EFNEP for Families Program

EFNEP educators engage adult participants in food resource management, healthy nutrition and physical activity practices, through fun and interactive lessons.

Program Impact 2016

In partnership with the Social Services, Community Centers, Shelters and Housing Authority

86 Families were reached.

- 87% of participants showed improvement in one or more food resource management practice
- 50% of participants increased their vegetable consumption
- 43% of participants increased their fruit consumption
- 75% of participants more often used food labels to make food choices
- 32% increased their physical activity

37.6% of Cecil County residents are overweight and 26.7% are obese.¹

18.8% of Cecil County children are overweight and 21% are obese.¹

¹Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene
Cecil County (2018)

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Cecil County EFNEP Youth Education Program

EFNEP educators teach youth to select nutritious foods, participate in physical activity, and make healthy snack and drink choices through fun and interactive lessons.

Program Impact 2016

144 Youth Program Participants

Males: 75
Females: 69

Total Youth by Race/Ethnicity

- AI or AN: 0%
- Asian: 1%
- Black: 0%
- NH or OPI: 28%
- White: 49%
- Not given: 14%
- Individuals Reporting Multiple Races: 0%
Watershed Stewards Academy

Mr. Eric Buehl

Now in its second year, the goal of the Cecil County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) is to develop and support a well-trained diverse group of volunteers or Stewards who are conversant in stormwater issues to educate communities and recommend, implement, maintain, and promote restoration projects focused on stormwater management and improving local water quality.

On December 7, the second class of the Cecil County WSA graduated seven residents who completed 60 hours of class training and field sessions during the year. As part of their class project, the Stewards, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Park Service, completed a 230 square foot rain garden and permeable pavers at the Fair Hill NRMA to treat roof runoff from the Edward Walls Activity Center. Capstone projects include a demonstration “green roof” at the Fair Hill Nature Center, rain gardens at the Elkton wastewater treatment facility and Charlestown Elementary School, and a planting day and maintenance plan for rain gardens at Perryville Elementary School.

During the course of their training, the Stewards learn about the impacts of urban stormwater runoff on local water quality, how to perform site assessments, selecting best management practices, and community engagement. The program is run through a partnership between the University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension and the Cecil County Development Services Division.

Participants in the Cecil County Watershed Stewards Academy putting the finishing touches on a rain garden at the Fair Hill NRMA. Photo credit: Eric Buehl

Don’t just get answers. Get solutions from someone you trust