To serve

32,660 residents of Dorchester County with our

10 University of Maryland Extension Faculty & Staff
along with

63 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers and over

32 partnerships

How are we doing this?

Solutions in your community
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 citizens 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, 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 2016 Annual Impacts Report for the University of Maryland Extension in Dorchester County. Inside you will read of the local impact being made by Extension Educators in the areas of Agriculture, Youth Development, Family and Consumer Sciences and Watershed Restoration. The University of Maryland Extension is proud to provide research based programming that can make a significant difference in the lives of Dorchester County residents.

Aly Valentine, Area Extension Director
Lisa Trice, Administrative Assistant

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 County University of Maryland office. They represent leaders who value the impact Extension makes in Dorchester County and Maryland. We would like to recognize and thank the members who served during 2016.

The following individuals from the community served as members of the 2016 Extension Advisory Council

Officers: Gage Thomas, President
Bill Thomas, Vice-President
Mary Handley, Secretary
Diana Willey, Treasurer

Board Members: George Windsor
Gloria Warner

The Dorchester County Extension Advisory
4-H Youth Development

Navonne Owen

Youth / Adult Partnership

Club Meeting Experiences

STEM Afterschool Programs

4-H Public Speaking
Program Educator
Navonne Owen, Educator, 4-H

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 has a 100 year tradition of voluntary action through strong public-private partnerships at federal, state and community levels. Local volunteer leaders partner with Dorchester 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.

4-H Program areas include:

- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Healthy Living
- Citizenship and Leadership
- Volunteer Development

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR LIFE

Public Speaking  Camp Counselor  Officer’s Training

Number of programs (club, school, afterschool, camp):
10

4-H Club Members:
53

Total 4-H Outreach (Club, Afterschool, Camp, School):
728

Volunteers:
40

Volunteer estimated hours:
2,000

Volunteer dollar value:
$47,120
Food Supplement Nutrition Education

Program Highlights:

Current Dorchester Food Pantries and Collaborators:

13

Estimated number of food insecure families reached:

4,346
Food Supplement Nutrition Education

Program Educators:
Nate Bratko, Educator
Rena Brooks, Educator

Food Supplement Nutrition Education—FSNE
FSNE, also known as Maryland’s SNAP-Ed, supports healthy eating and physical activity in low-income areas throughout the Dorchester/Talbot area teaching in schools, afterschool programs, community sites, and social service organizations.

Program Highlights:

Through Collaboration with the Dorchester County Public Schools, In and Out of school youth learned where their food comes from through Gardening for Nutrition Education curriculum, Growing Healthy Habits.

164

FSNE Partnered with Dorchester County Health Department and childcare providers to learn healthy tips that encourage children ages 3-5 to consume more fruits and vegetables through gardening and cooking.

20

Dorchester County FSNE Participants

In-school Youth and Out-of-school Youth:

290

Residents through indirect methods:

1,057

Teachers Trained:

20
Master Gardeners/Horticulture

Master Gardener volunteer salvaging a neglected Crepe Myrtle at the Dorchester YMCA.

Rain garden planted at the community garden by Master Gardeners and community volunteers.
Program Educator
Emily Zobel, Educator,
Agriculture & Master Gardeners

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. Each Master Gardener, who receives over 50 hours of training from UME, commits to donate 20 hours of volunteer service each year back to their community. The mission of the Master Gardeners is “educate residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.”

They assist county residents through several approaches including demonstrations, workshops, lectures, and plant clinics at county libraries, schools, parks, community gardens, demonstration gardens, fairs, and more. Program areas include, but are not limited to Bay-wise landscaping, water management, composting, Grow It Eat It (vegetable gardening), deer resistant gardening, integrated pest management (IPM), herbs, horticultural therapy, children’s gardening, pollinators, native and invasive plants, and environmental horticulture.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Total Master Gardener Volunteers: 15
Educated about Vegetable Gardening in the community: 20
Donated Produce to Local Food Pantries: 500 lbs.
Estimated Volunteer Hours: 518
Volunteer Dollar Value: $12,204

Educated Residents: 60+
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Jose’ Prieto-Figueroa

Emily Zobel

Emily and Jose helping a farmer calibrate a manure spreader
Program Educators
Emily Zobel, Educator, Agriculture
Jose Prieto, Nutrient Management Advisor

Program Description
UM 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 profitability, 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.

Highlights for the Nutrient Management Program in Dorchester County for 2016 Include:

- Training Sessions Conducted: 6
- Participants Reached: 106
- Farmers recertified to apply pesticides and soil nutrients: 51
- Prepared Nutrient Management Plans for New Acres: 15
- Updated Plans for Acres Previously Operating Under a Nutrient Management Plan: 198
- Total Acres covered Through Dorchester County Extension: 11,600
- Poultry Farmers: 20
Program Educator
Jennifer Dindinger, 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 water quality in local rivers and streams and Chesapeake Bay by implementing restoration projects and science-based educational programs that lead to behavior change, civic engagement and community development.

Educator assisted in leveraging money for local watershed restoration projects and research:

$85,000

Reached program attendees on topics of water quality and stormwater management:

306

Taught residents about living shorelines, rain gardens, and Maryland’s lawn fertilizer law at Nanticoke Watershed Alliance homeowners workshops. Member, Cambridge Clean Water Action Committee, assisting with implementing the Cambridge Residential Stewardship Initiative. Provided facilitation services to Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership, working together to improve the Shore’s resilience to climate change impacts.

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The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.