In 1914, Cooperative Extension was established by the United States Congress through the Smith-Lever Act. The intent was to extend university research and knowledge to the local populace. Cooperative Extension is a national educational network delivered through the nation’s seventy-two land grant universities.

In Maryland, Cooperative Extension is known as the University of Maryland Extension (UME). UME operates through the University of Maryland at College Park, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Extension has field offices in all twenty-three Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

UME faculty and staff are professionals engaged in the delivery of educational programs that address issues of concern at the local and state level. They work to provide “Solutions in your Community” through key program areas including agriculture, environment and natural resources, 4-H youth development, food and nutrition, health and wellness, financial planning, home gardening and the Chesapeake Bay.

Programming is made possible through successful partnerships with the local, state and federal governments. UME programming is also supported by grants and donations. These partnerships allow UME to be accessible, reliable and relevant to all residents of Kent County and the mid-shore region.

In this report, UME Kent County is proud to share its outreach, programming, and educational efforts of 2017.
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

January - December 2017

4-H – By the Numbers:

126  4-H’ers were enrolled in 6 4-H Community Clubs. (3 Shooting Sports clubs consolidated to 1)
90   UME Trained and Appointed Volunteers: 9 new UME volunteers in 2017.

$42,003.60  Value of 4-H volunteer service to Kent was 1,740 hours x $24.14/hr. = $42,003.60
Youth volunteers served 307 hours x $7.25/hr. (minimum wage) = $2,225.75

$29,509.66  Grants, donations and solicited funds to Kent County 4-H including $9,000 from MDA through the Kent Ag Center, $1,400 MD Grain Producers, $3,434 Fair Cake Auction, $725 Fishing Charter Donated by Capt. Chuck Clark, $5,250 in donations to the Kent 4-H Endowment and $400 from WCTR Radio.

Donated funds were used to sponsor leader training, purchase educational materials and to provide 56 scholarships for Kent 4-H’ers to attend state and national activities and trips including National 4-H Congress, MD 4-H Engineering Camp, MD Horse Jamboree, National Dairy Judging trips and more. In 2017, 4-H purchased 4-H Incredible Wearables science kits, workshop supplies, 4-H program support materials, prizes, awards and more.

Service: Integral to Kent 4-H, service develops youth leadership & citizenship skills & builds our community.

18th Annual 4-H Toy Drive for the Lions Club Christmas Baskets – raised $1,632.02 in funds + car loads of toys for over 600 Kent County children. 4-H youth planned and organized the Toy Drive including 3 planning meetings, 2 booths in Fountain Park, a float in the Chestertown Christmas Parade, visiting businesses, collecting toys and funds, sorting and shopping for gifts and sending thank you’s. 4-H’ers could earn over 23 service learning hours. In 18 years, 4-H’ers have raised over $24,600 to support children in Kent County!

Kent Ag Center Clean-ups/Maintenance Days – Over 152 4-H’ers, families, and volunteers (many multiple times) participated in 4 designated clean-up and maintenance days, set up new educational and fun exhibits and prepared for events. The Ag Center hosted many activities including the 35th annual Kent County Fair, annual Ag Center auction, backdrop painting night, 4-H club meetings and 2 livestock weighing & tagging days. A new Archery Range was designed and installed by the Triple Shots Shooting Sports 4-H Club.

11th Annual 4-H Food Drive – 4-H’ers collected over 260 pounds of food for the Community Food Pantry (CFP) bringing the 11 year total to over 3,800 pounds of food donated. The 4-H potato project 4-H’ers also donated an additional 100 pounds of potatoes to CFP and Community Dinner at First United Methodist Church.

4-H Recognition: 2017 4-H Family of the Year – The Simmons family were recognized for membership and dedication to the Kent 4-H program, teaching, volunteering and leadership and involvement in 4-H especially in the 4-H Archery Program.

4-H Focus on Science: Science, engineering and technology is a national focus in 4-H. Here in Kent, the sciences play a large role in many activities including animal, environmental and human science.
Entomology – (4-H Educator area of expertise), taught 12 insect programs to 299 youth and adults including taxonomy classes at Galena Elementary and Chestertown Christian Academy, Worton summer camps, Kent School, Build a Bee House program for Kent Library summer reading program and more; Taught a 5 hour Insects of the Coastal Plain course at the UME Master Naturalist Program.

Environmental, Ag and Animal Science – Over 590 youth and adults participated in 4-H science including: Maryland Bats, AgSploration, Outdoor Education, Farm Tours, dairy judging, dairy and horse quiz bowls, 4-H at the Kent County Fair and more.

Human Science – Includes oral and written communication, character education, 4-H promotion, youth leadership training, civic engagement and classes in the arts. 531 youth and adults participated in 4-H programs. Workforce preparation continues as a focus for teens in areas of recordkeeping, resume and essay writing and interview skills.

Science, Engineering, Technology and Math – 3 Kent 4-H’ers attended the MD 4-H Engineering Camp focusing on many types of engineering. 4-H hosts a Job Shadowing Day annually for Kent High School 10th grade STEM students. 4-H partnered with the Kent Library for the MD STEM Festival for over 110 attendees. Kent 4-H had 5 4-H STEM related booths with many hands on activities.

New in 2017!

Kent Bays – Kent County Middle School – Collaboration with Sabine Harvey, UME Horticulture Educator; focusing on food and agriculture literacy; 6 sessions each semester for 27 youth.

Kent 4-H Clover Kids – 2 hour monthly program for youth 5 - 7 years; Offered 10 sessions for 26 youth plus a parent or guardian on topics ranging from snowflakes, dog care, bees & pollinators, gardening, grains, ponds, dairy and wreaths.

Other Kent 4-H Events – 2017 local, regional, & national events that Kent 4-H’ers participated in include:


State: MD 4-H Shotgun Match, Balt. Co. (17 youth) MD State Fair, Timonium (24) MD Engineering Camp, Harford Co. (3) MD 4-H Archery Match, Carroll Co. (5) MD State 4-H Portfolio Submission (5) MD 4-H Horse Jamboree, P. G. Co. (1) MD Dairy Bowl (5) & Dairy Judging, UMD* (3) MD State 4-H Awards Gala, Timonium (8) MD 4-H Out-of-State Trip Interviews, QA Co (5) MD Sheep and Goat Weekend, Caroline Co. (2) MD 4-H Horse Bowl, UMD (4) MD State Communications Contest, UMD (1) MD 4-H Congress, UMD (8)

Regional: Regional Public Speaking (3) Eastern Shore Tractor School (1) Eastern Shore Spring Show (19) 4-H Healthy Living Summit (2)

Nate Richards is The Extension Educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Kent County. Part of Nate’s job is to deliver unbiased, research-based education to the community. In 2017, Nate taught throughout the county on a range of topics including soil health, Nutrient Management, Farm Business Planning, and Pesticide Safety. In doing so, farmers and other clientele have had the opportunity to receive nutrient voucher training credits, pesticide applicator credits, and certified crop advisor credits. These credits help farmers stay current on best practices using pesticides and nutrients safely and effectively.

In 2017, Nate reviewed and approved 70 nutrient management plans totaling 7,033 acres in Kent County. He has also served farmers and other clientele on one-on-one consultations, upon request, throughout the year.

Nate serves as a board member for the Kent County Soil and Water Conservation District, Kent County Farm Bureau, and the Kent County Noxious Weed Program. These groups, along with Extension, serve immediate needs in Kent County communities.

Nate is the Maryland Communications Chair for the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA) and has attended state and national meetings showcasing service and outreach from Extension throughout the county and state.

In 2017, Nate coordinated a Harvest Breakfast for Kent County hosted at the Chestertown Fire Hall which celebrated the end of the harvest season and also offered an educational program on noxious weeds. This event was made possible with partnerships and support from the Kent County Soil and Water Conservation District, Kent County Farm Bureau, and Kent County Young Farmers and Ranchers.

Nate is engaged and involved in State Impact Teams through University of Maryland Extension including the Farm Business Planning Team, Risk Management and Marketing Team, Alternative and Specialty Crops Team, Agronomy and Forage Crop Production Team, Pesticide Education and IPM Team, and the Dairy and Beef Team. Nate has worked with State Specialists in these disciplines to better serve the communities in Kent County and around the State.
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Kent County has 133,201 acres that are harvested as cropland according to the USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture. Farmers in Maryland are required to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal waste. These plans specify how much fertilizer, manure, or other nutrient sources may be safely applied to crops to achieve yields and prevent excess nutrients from impacting waterways.

Nutrient Management Plans are required by law for Maryland farmers who have any of the following:

1. 8,000 pounds of live animals
2. Farms grossing $2,500 or more in a Calendar Year

**Any farmer wishing to apply nutrients to 10+ acres of agricultural land must attend a 2-hr nutrient applicator course every 3 years. UME is one resource to those farmers for the course.**

In 2017, **70 nutrient management plans, covering 7033.3 acres of land, for 35 farmers** in the County were prepared by Extension personnel. These plans are written for the farmer at no cost, resulting in a **$35,166.50 savings** for farmers who utilized UME’s nutrient management program.

Additional Nutrient Management Program Services include:

- Yield Checks
- Fertilizer and Manure Calibration
- Pre-sidedress Nitrate Testing
- Fall Soil Nitrate Testing
- Soil and Manure Sample Containers
- Soil Probes and Testing Instruction

SEA GRANT

Mr. Eric Buehl is the Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist from the University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension’s Watershed Protection and Restoration Program. In 2017, he and his team of Specialists provided grant and storm water technical assistance and information to 6 government agencies, non-profit organizations, and landowners in the county. Eric participated in the bi-county Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne’s summer learning program and continued to support the Maryland Rural Development Corporation’s (MRDC) Green Youth Summer Program which serves youth from Kent, Queen Anne’s, Caroline, and Talbot Counties. In the Mid and Upper Shore Clusters, Eric was involved in 16 educational or outreach events reaching over 392 individuals including presentations, workshops, county fairs, wade-in events, displays, and demonstrations.
HORTICULTURE & MASTER GARDENER PROGRAMS

Ms. Sabine Harvey is the Horticulture & Master Gardener Program Assistant for Kent County.

Kent Horticulture Lecture Series
Fridays in March; In collaboration with the Kent County Library
- “Plant Propagation: How to Multiply your Favorite Plants”, Vic Priapi, Owner of Priapi Gardens
- “ Beautify your Landscape and your Food with Aronia (Purple Chokeberry)”, Roy Mears, Owner of Chester River Aronia
- “Lawn Alternatives”, Wanda MacLachlan, UMD Extension, Bay-Wise and Master Naturalist Coordinator
- “Caterpillars in the Landscape”, Elizabeth Hill, UMD Extension, Entomologist

30-55 people attend each talk

Youth Programs
- 3rd grade KCPS Farm Field Trips
- 4th grade KCPS Outdoor Ed. In collaboration with Soil Conservation, Sassafras Environmental Education Center, Sassafras River Association
- KCPS Summer School: Garden Club, meets 3 times a week for 4 weeks

Victory Garden at Kent County Middle School
- In addition to the regular garden program with 7th grade, the garden has been integrated into the new Kent Community Program at KCMS. Every three weeks we work with 25 students who plan and maintain the garden. Food prep and cooking is also part of the program
- Thanks to a $2000 donation from Colchester Farm, the garden program now has indoor grow lights and season-extending low tunnels
- Master Gardeners maintain the garden during the summer. In 2017, we donated all summer produce to the Monday evening Community Dinner at the First United Methodist Church

Plant Clinics
- Every other Saturday during Farmer’s Market in Fountain Park from April until September; Master Gardeners from both Queen Anne’s and Kent Counties participate
- Plant clinic booths at Chestertown Earth Day/Mutt Strut Event, Tea Party Festival

General Horticultural Support
- Handle inquiries about gardening, pests, diseases, etc.
- Support for Master Gardener Program; number of Master Gardener’s in Kent County is growing

Other
- 3rd Annual Seed Swap, in collaboration with the KC Public Library
- 3rd Annual Tomato Tasting event, in collaboration with Lockbriar Farms
- Advanced Training, “Sustainable Landscaping on the Eastern Shore,” open to non-Master Gardeners as well
- Various talks for businesses, garden clubs, support groups, etc.
- Worked with inpatients at the Whitsitt Center
Ms. Ashley McLaughlin has been the Kent County FSNE educator for the past few years. She is training Ms. Emily Vooris to take over in Kent and expand into Cecil County in 2018.

FSNE is a federally funded program that provides direct and indirect nutrition education to help individuals and families eligible for SNAP establish healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors. FSNE programs cover adult and youth programming within 5 program initiatives:

Farmers’ Markets • Food Assistance Sites • Preschool and Childcare Centers
School Community Sites • Youth Out of School Sites

Budget
SNAP ED dollars spent in Kent County: $7,200

Collaborations & Curriculum
Garnett Elementary School:
- Edible ABC’s and Read for Health
- Summer Camp and School Garden work
- Family Health Night & National Nutrition Month Events
- Nutrition to Go displays and Indirect outreach to parents

Galena Elementary School:
- Edible ABC’s and Read for Health
- Students transferred from Millington Elementary & participated in Summer Camps
- Family Health Night & National Nutrition Month Events
- Nutrition to Go displays and Indirect outreach to parents

Millington Food Pantry:
- Market to Mealtime
- Quarterly direct FSNE tastings & materials delivered for display/tasting in between
- Food Assistance Site Training (FAST) rolled out in FY17 & will be used in FY18

Amy Lynn Ferris Center:
- Growing Healthy Habits for a Lifetime
- Cooking classes and tasting activities to increase fruit and vegetable consumption among this elderly population.

Chestertown Farmers Market:
- Market to Mealtime
- Display and food tastings presented by Farmers Market Assistant

Audience reached in Kent County
- 1,695 minutes of direct education with consistent audiences
- 1,170 Students reached with direct education
- 12,000 indirect materials distributed

Other Highlights
- WCTR Kent radio show discussing FSNE programming regularly
- Assisted in the Kent County Library applying for the Family & Community Partnerships of Kent County's Teen Food Insecurity RFP Grant
- Asked to present a conference education session at the 2017 Association of School Business Officials Conference for Maryland & DC by Food Service Director, Beth Brewster, on Integrating Food & Nutrition Services & Academics.
FACULTY AND STAFF

BRYNA GAREY, BS  
Administrative Assistant II  
bgarey@umd.edu

SABINE HARVEY  
Program Assistant  
Horticulture  
sharvey1@umd.edu

ELIZABETH M. S. HILL, BS  
Principal Agent Associate  
4-H Youth Development  
emshill@umd.edu

JENNA TALBOT, BS, MS  
Nutrient Management Advisor  
jtalbot@umd.edu

THERESA RICH  
Administrative Assistant I  
trich@umd.edu

NATHANAEL RICHARDS, BS  
Agent Associate  
Agriculture  
nrichard@umd.edu

EMILY VOORIS, BA  
Educator & Project Leader  
FSNE (Maryland’s SNAP-Ed)  
evooiris@umd.edu

ASHLEY MCLAUGHLIN, BS  
Educator and Project Leader  
FSNE (Maryland’s SNAP-Ed)  
amclaug4@umd.edu

MCKENZIE IVORY, BS  
Program Assistant  
Youth Outreach  
mivory@umd.edu

REBECCA MEEKINS, BS  
Agent Associate (Kent & Queen Anne’s)  
Family & Consumer Sciences  
rmeekins@umd.edu

PAUL R. RICKERT, MS, MCJ, EdS, EdD  
Area Extension Director - Cecil, Kent, & Queen Anne’s Counties  
prickert@umd.edu

EXTENSION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS—2017

Cheryl Plummer  
Brian Quinn  
Liza Goetz  
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University of Maryland Extension | Kent County  
709 Morgnec Road Suite 202 | Chestertown, MD 21620 | 410-778-1661  
www.extension.umd.edu/kent-county