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 a successful partnership 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 Kent 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 Kent County residents.
4-H & Youth Development

4-H'ers in Kent County are leading a Revolution of Responsibility - a movement for positive change in every community in America including right here in Kent 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. This takes uncommon commitment and that is exactly what our youth have!

Service is an Integral component to Kent 4-H. Service develops youth leadership and citizenship skills and builds our community. Service projects include: 4-H Adopt-a-Highway Project, 15th Annual 4-H Toy Drive, Kent Ag Center Clean-ups/Maintenance Days, 8th Annual 4-H Food Drive.

Science, engineering and technology is a national focus of 4-H. In Kent County, youth are exposed to educational programming in Entomology, Environmental, Ag and Animal Science as well as Science, Engineering, Technology and Math (STEM). This programming is offered through both traditional club programming and outreach programming which extends our reach to more youth in the county.

Grants, donations, solicited funds and in-kind gifts help support programming at the local level through leadership training for volunteers, as well as the purchase of educational materials and supplies. Additionally, 51 scholarships were given to youth for attendance at events such as: National 4-H Congress & Conference, National Shooting Sports Invitational, MD 4-H Engineering Camp, and National & International Dairy Judging Events. In total $22,855 was brought in through Kent County 4-H; of particular note—a $9,000 grant from MDA which came through the Kent Ag Center.

1,455 youth served through County 4-H Programs
142 youth enrolled in 10 traditional and special interest clubs
1,313 youth (and adults) served via outreach programs in school/community sites
Agriculture

Emily provided support to producers throughout the year through educational programming and 1:1 consultations. Specific contributions included:

• Provided monthly article and source information for the Tri-County Agline Newsletter—880 recipients
• Women Landowners Group collaborating with American Farmland Trust Kent and Queen Anne’s county women producers.
• Provided Private Pesticide Applicator Training
• Provided Nutrient Management Voucher Training
• Served as Corn Yield Supervisor for National Corn Growers Association. (One field in Kent County was classified with over 300 bu/A which was the highest yield in the area)
• Taught Outdoor Education (Agriculture Programming) for 3rd grade students

UMD Sea Grant Extension

• Amy Scaroni assisted the Town of Betterton in getting the Green Streets Green Jobs Green Towns grant this past spring. Funds were for $91,045 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to design and implement changes to Wheeler Avenue.
• Amy Scaroni assisted with a tree planting at a public park in Chestertown.
• Eric Buehl assisted in completing the native plantings in a rain garden at the Betterton Town Hall.
• Eric Buehl provided technical assistance to the Town of Betterton on a Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust fund grant application to Maryland DNR.
• Eric Buehl plans to build on current relationships and seek new partnerships to assist the community.

2014 4-H Family of the Year

The Baldwin family were recognized for dedication to the Kent 4-H program, community service, leadership, 4-H membership, and involvement in the 4-H program at county and state levels and the Kent County Fair.
VOLUNTEERS
GIVE BACK!

4H VOLUNTEERS
- 90 Adults
- 3,469 volunteer hours
- Service valued at $78,226
- Youth gave 425 volunteer hours
- Value at $3,081
- 4-H hours valued at $81,307

MASTER GARDENERS
- 427 Hours of Education and Service

Master Gardener hours valued at $9,388

Total Value of all volunteer hours = $90,695

Horticulture—Youth Programs

Victory Garden at Kent County Middle School

All 7th graders spent 5 hours in the garden as part of their curriculum. Students installed professional drip irrigation in the garden. Funds received: $200 donation from the Unitarian Universalists of the Chester River.

During the summer, a group of dedicated Master Gardeners helped with maintenance and harvest. In late July, the Outdoor Classroom was struck by lightning. Four of the eight posts were damaged. The classroom was not accessible to students for all of September. Fortunately, “Rebuilding Together, Kent County” came back and fixed the poles.

Once again, we harvested slightly more than 1000 lbs. of fruits and vegetables. We donated 661 lbs. to the Community Food Pantry. Students and teachers used the remainder of the harvest.

Other Youth Programs
- 3rd and 4th Grade Outdoor Ed (Eastern Neck Island, Turner’s Creek and Farm Tours).
- Worton Elementary School Garden: More students participated in the garden than previous years. In addition to the 5th grade garden club, an enthusiastic group of after-school students helped in the garden once a week during April and May. The garden was also a prominent part of the KCPS.
Nutrient Management

Caleb Snyder is the Nutrient Management Advisor for Kent County. In 2014 he wrote plans for 3 new clients with a total of 451.2 acres, he updated 225 plans for 51 farmers total of 13,264.6 acres. These plans are written for the farmer at no cost, resulting in a savings of $68,579 for farmers who utilized UME’s nutrient management program.

In addition to plan support, Caleb provided the following services to Kent County producers:

- Nutrient management plan writing
- Yield checks
- Fertilizer and manure calibration
- Presidedress Nitrate testing
- Fall Soil Nitrate testing
- Soil and manure sample containers
- Soil probes and testing instructions

Horticulture Program

Kent Horticulture Lecture Series, Fridays in March. Partner—Kent County Library

- “Edible and Medicinal Plants: In the Wild & Your Back Yard”, Dr. Susan Yost, Delaware State University
- “What Weed Is This?”, Sabine Harvey, University of Maryland Extension, Kent County
- “Soils for The Well-Informed Gardener”, Dr. Patricia Steinhilber, University of Maryland Extension

Plant Clinics

Every other Saturday during Farmer’s Market in Fountain Park. Master Gardeners from both Queen Anne’s and Kent County participate. Very successful!

Plant clinic booths at Chestertown Earth Day, Mutt Strut Event and the Tea Party Festival.

Lectures/Talks

- State-Wide Advanced MG Training. Twenty seven MGs from more than 10 counties came to Chestertown to attend a training about “Intensive Gardening Techniques”. Class took place at the Extension Office, the Victory Garden at KCMC, a private garden and the food pantry garden at Victory Farm.

- Hands on class in the Victory Garden for Diabetes Group

- “What weed is this?” Chesapeake Bay herb Society

Other—

Information booths at Social Services Health Fair and the Benefit Fair at Dixon Valve.
Food Supplement Nutrition Education

Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE) offers nutrition education programs to help Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and those eligible for SNAP. FSNE programs are provided at no cost to support the work of community agencies serving SNAP-eligible individuals and families, such as literacy centers, local food banks, soup kitchens, WIC offices, senior centers, community centers, neighborhood groups, and homeless shelters. Many materials are available in both English and Spanish.

Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE) programs reach students, teachers, and parents in low income communities including after-school sites, summer meal programs and public schools where 50% or more students qualify for free or reduced-price school lunch.

The goal of the FSNE school-based programs is to integrate key nutrition messages into the school curriculum, policies, the lunchroom, and family shopping and meals.

In Kent County, Xaviera Davis, taught 277 youth the following curriculums: Nutrition Nuggets (a garden themed curricula that focuses on the consumption of fruits and vegetables) and Grow It–Try It–Like It (designed to teach cooking skills and encourage youth to try new foods). Each youth, on average, participated in 4 class sessions. Here is what participants had to say:

*The child said “I never ate a peach before. I love it! It is so good!”*

*After trying Parts of the Plant salad, a fifth grade male stated, “I never liked spinach and I LOVE it in this salad! Can I have more?”.*

*“I can’t believe how much I like all these apples. I’m writing down all of the names so that my mom and I can go to the store and buy some tonight.”*

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Family & Consumer Science (Nutrition)

The family and consumer science educator is responsible for working with children, youth and adults in the areas of nutrition, fitness and wellness. Programs of particular note include the ReFresh Program—a partnership with MSDE created to teach 4th and 5th graders about nutrition and healthy food choices; Up for the Challenge; —a fitness/wellness program offered to through the community center and Let’s Move Childcare—a train the trainer program to teach providers good eating habits for toddler and pre-school children.

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

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