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 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 Queen Anne’s County office has been providing services to farming families since 1914. We are pleased to have celebrated our 25th Harvest Breakfast this past November – a great example of how UME, the business community and local government are working together. You will see in this report, how UME’s outreach efforts seek to provide educational support and solutions to improve the lives of Queen Anne’s County residents.
Agriculture

The Agriculture Educator works with community groups, local agriculture organizations and the University of Maryland to offer the following educational programs for farmers, producers and landowners—

- **Agronomy Day**
- **Precision Ag Equipment Field Day**
- **Grain Marketing Club**
- **Poultry Production**
  - commercial & backyard flocks
- **Risk Management**
- **Nutrient Voucher Certification and Recertification**
- **Private Pesticide Certification and Recertification**
- **Integrated Pest Management**
- **Women In Agriculture/Annie’s Project**
- **Ag Series on QAC TV**
- **Harvest Breakfast**
- **Farm tours**

**Impacts:**

*Agronomy programs* – 94.3% indicated the information would be of benefit to them or their operation. Farmers indicated a saving of $28.16 per acre based on the knowledge and skills they gained from Extension programming throughout the year. Based on the 95,850 acres associated with the Agronomy Day program alone, the total estimated economic impact of this educator’s agronomy programs annually is $2,698,178.

*Private Pesticide Applicator training:* On average, participants attending the training increased their profit by $5.95 per acre. Based on the 95,850 acres associated with the applicators trained each year, the total estimated economic impact of this educators’ pesticide program annually is $570,308.
Nutrient Management

The State of Maryland requires a nutrient voucher for those producers applying nutrients to 10 acres or more. The nutrient management program in Queen Anne’s county includes over 90 farmers and 27,000 acres planned annually.

- 510 plans were written for 91 county farmers covering a total of 26,755 acres of farmland. This service saved operators approximately $94,000 ($3.50/Acre est.)

- The Phosphorus Site Index (PSI) and Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) were used side by side to evaluate 95 fields requiring evaluation for operators utilizing UME NM services. These tools provide management options for operators to reduce the risk of Phosphorus loss from specific sites/fields.

- Pre Side Dress Nitrate Test (PSNT) was run on 863 acres of corn ground resulting in the reduction of approximately 2 Tons of N that was not necessary to apply.

- Fall Soil Nitrate Test (FSNT) was run on 328 acres planted in wheat or barley resulting in a fall N application reduction of approximately 1,500 lbs. of N.

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<th>Acres</th>
<th>No-Land</th>
<th>Manure</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
<th>PSI’s</th>
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UMD Sea Grant Extension

Faculty and staff gave presentations to the Queen Anne’s County Commissioners and various committee members about the possibility of piloting a Watershed Stewards Academy in the county.

A new educator for this program was hired in the late fall of 2014; it is his intent to build on past relationships and seek new partnerships to further this work in 2015.
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 Queen Anne’s 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 in the community. This takes uncommon commitment and that is exactly what our youth have!

The UME 4H Program is responsible for identifying problems, opportunities and needs of adults and youth in Queen Anne’s county. The 4H educator and program assistant conduct non-formal experiential learning opportunities for diverse youth ages 5-18 and adult volunteers to meet these needs.

A major collaborative effort in 2014: a partnership between Maryland State Department of Education and the QAC BOE, along with the University of Maryland Extension to share resources, train and develop activities with the Partnering for Youth After School Program (PFY). The schools served by this funding were Centreville Middle, Kennard Elementary, Sudlersville Middle and Sudlersville Elementary Schools. The two 21st CCLC grants totaled $642K.

Total grant dollars and donations generated to support 2014 programming in Queen Anne’s county = $18,213

1,847 youth served through County 4-H Programs

327 youth enrolled in 15 traditional and special interest clubs

1,520 youth served via outreach programs school/community sites

“All in all, 4-H has taught me so many important life lessons that I can honestly say I wouldn’t have learned if I had not been in 4-H. I believe it to be the best organization around and am proud and honored to be a part of it. Teamwork, problem solving, perseverance, self-motivation and responsibility are just a few of the life skills I have gained through 4-H. It has taught me what leadership is and how important it is to have leaders. It has also taught me how important citizenship is and giving back and sharing what you have learned with others.”

Helen age 16

“Ever since I was young, I remember 4-H teaching me responsibility, caring for others as well as myself, and giving back to my community. As I have grown older, these morals have also grown inside of me, and show in my public life, and my private.”

Matthew age 16
VOLUNTEERS GIVE BACK!

MASTER GARDENERS
- 77 volunteers
- 3,400 hours of service to the community
- Service valued at $76,500

4H VOLUNTEERS
- 447 ADULTS
- 5,788 hours of service to the community
- Service valued at $147,189

TOTAL COST SAVINGS FOR THE COUNTY
$223,689

Clockwise from upper left—County Fair Booth: Wright's Chance Plant Sale; Ask a Master Gardener at Adkins Arboretum; Rain Garden, Centreville Library

Masters Gardeners in the Community

Horticulture/Master Gardener Programs

Under the supervision and direction of the Horticulture/Master Gardener coordinator, Queen Anne’s Master Gardeners work to further the mission of educating Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities. There are 65 active Queen Anne’s County Master Gardener volunteers and 12 new interns who work on a variety of projects in cooperation with government agencies, the green industry and civic and environmental organizations.

In addition to the many classes taught by Master Gardeners, Extension offers the following programs to the residents of the county:

- Spring Native Plant Sale
- Bay-Wise Consultations and Education
- Grow It, Eat It
- Plant Clinics (Chestertown & Kent Island Farmers Market)
- Information booths and panel speakers at community events:
  - County based garden tours, Kent Island Day, Corsica River Awareness Day, various HOA meetings, community garden clubs, the county 4H Fair & more.
- Youth Gardening Programs (in the classroom as well as after school)
- Demonstration Gardens
- Talisman Therapeutic Riding Center Horticulture Therapy
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 Queen Anne’s county, the work of the FSNE educator is somewhat limited as not all schools meet the income guidelines. In 2014, the FSNE educator did partner with the Judy Center and the Sudlersville Elementary School to delivery program services.

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 middle and high school students in partnership with the QA Health Department; Let’s Move Childcare — a train the trainer program to teach providers good eating habits for toddler and pre-school children.

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

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