

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

2022 REPORTING AT A GLANCE

Trusted Research-Local Experts

Watershed Restoration & Protection Program

- Watershed Stewards Academy
- MS4 permitting support in the areas of public engagement, and outreach and education
- Rain Barrel and Rain Garden workshops
- Stormwater Management and Restoration Tracker (SMART) Program Volunteer Training
- Participate in county-wide events and 4-H events
- Collaborate with the 4-H, Master Gardener, Family Consumer Science and local watershed groups for outreach and education programs
- Well and Septic Health workshops
- Backyard Buffer program in St. Mary's

SNAP-Ed

SNAP-Ed creates healthier environments and improves the health and wellbeing of limited income families in St. Mary's County.

Offered and supported:

- Nutrition and Physical Education - 6 school sites (Title I, Head Start, and Judy Center programs)
- Nutrition - book distribution to over 2000 parents
- Family Engagement programs

Provided 85 education sessions, food and book distribution reaching :

- 602 Youth
- 900 Adults
- 2,482 families



Agricultural Nutrient Management

- Plans covering a total of 12,562.4 acres
- 90 Individual Cooperators covering 405 tracts of land
- 6 plans prepared for the Maryland Manure Transport Program.
- 42 requested plans to qualify for participation in the Maryland Cover Crop Program.



Master Gardener

Offered and supported:

- 16 Plant Clinics
- 75 active volunteers and 25 interns
- Maintained 24 Demo Gardens throughout the county
- In-person events: Cherry Blossom Festival, Easter Festival, STEM Day, and others
- Reached over 2,250 residents of St. Mary's County in 2022
- Provided garden maintenance to 18 garden entrance signs at county parks
- Exceeded 3,000 hours of volunteer service in St. Mary's County



4-H Youth Development

- 170 4-H members
- 115 UME certified volunteers
- 33 youth attended 4-H Overnight Camp in Western MD
- 60 youth attended 4-H Day Camp at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
- 21 workshops/contests focusing on the following: Animal Science, Lego Robotics, Fossils, Food & Nutrition, Food Preservation, Woodworking, Crafts, Gardening, Leadership, Public Speaking, Record Keeping and Livestock Reproduction
- 110 4-H youth prepared 1,250 exhibits at the St. Mary's County Fair
- 47 youth sold 144 animals (45 goats, 65 pigs, 21 lambs & 13 steers) at the livestock auction during the St. Mary's County Fair
- 2 State 4-H events hosted by our county 4-H clubs (Holiday Building Block Challenge & a Virtual Horse Show)
- Youth represented our county at state events such as Livestock Skillathon, Dairy Skillathon, Public Speaking Contest, Engineering Camp, Dog Skillathon, Dog Bowl, Archery Competition, State Fair
- Reached 811 youth through school enrichment programs
- Reached 142 military youth through various programs
- New project where youth raised their own Turkey for Thanksgiving
- New Teen Leadership Group with 16 members participating.
- 6,205 volunteer hours for the 4-H program
- 88 youth turned in Record Books and completed a total of 217 projects
- 4-H clubs completed 24 community service projects

4-H engages youth as leaders using their Head, Heart, Hands & Health and gives them the power to take action. The 4-H mission is to teach youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.



Agriculture & Food Systems (AgFs)

Programs Conducted:

- Over 400 farm consultations focused on solving a variety of production issues
- Workshops and conferences including the Southern Maryland Vegetable Conference, Southern Maryland Crops Conference, Hay and Pasture Conference, Vegetable Production Twilight Tour and Grape Growers Workshop
- Average yearly economic activity from individual field teaching events is \$1,439,000
- 500 fact sheets, bulletins, or written recommendations are distributed to agricultural producers
- Partnered on grant funded projects totaling \$962,395 with \$17,903 directed to local programming

Collaborative On-Farm Research Projects:

- Used soil steaming in high tunnel vegetable production field trials and workshops focused on invasive weeds
- Wine grape disease management trial
- Vegetable integrated pest management twilight tour
- Watermelon grafting research focused on new disease management
- Hot-set tomato cultivar trial at 16 local farms
- Specialty artisanal tomato cultivar trial
- Farmer's Feeding St. Mary's Events



UME ST. MARY'S STAFF 2022

Christine Allred, Agent Associate, SNAP-Ed
Nicole Basenback, Agent Associate, WS
Benjamin Beale, Senior Agent, AG
Shelley King-Curry, Southern Area Extension Director
Mariah Dean, Agent Associate, MG
Barbara Dobbins, Program Mgmt Specialist, 4-H
Jamie Fleming, Administrative Assistant II
Evan Larwood, Project Assistant
Melissa Russell, Administrative Assistant I
Greg Simpson, Coordinator, NMP
Jackie Takacs, Senior Agent, Watershed Restoration Specialist
Susan Vallandingham, 4-H Youth Development Educator
Liz Ward, Project Assistant, SNAP-Ed

Family & Consumer Science

Program topics included chronic disease prevention and management and innovative approaches to health and wellness.

Programs offered:

- Dining with Diabetes
- Fresh Conversations
- Farm to School
- Intuitive Eating
- Mindfulness

