To serve
101,108 residents of Cecil County with our
10 University of Maryland Extension Faculty along with
354 volunteers and our over
40 partnerships

How are we doing this?

Solutions in your community

University of Maryland Extension, Cecil County
Annual Report 2018
Address • 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Suite 1500, Elkton, MD 21921 • Phone: 410.996.5280 • extension.umd.edu/cecil-county
The University of Maryland Extension, Cecil County
County, State and Federal Partnerships

The University of Maryland Extension, Cecil 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 2018 Annual Report for University of Maryland Extension in Cecil County. You will see the results of our efforts this past year in the areas of 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Sciences (Nutrition & Healthy Living), Master Gardeners & Home Horticulture, and Agriculture & Natural Resources. This past year, our coordination of volunteers and direct services to the community are valued at over $300,000. We appreciate the support that Cecil County has provided Extension over the decades and consider it a great privilege to continue to provide research based programming that makes such a difference in the lives of Cecil County residents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Rickert  
Area Extension Director  
Upper Shore Cluster

Michele Preston  
Admin Assistant II  
Cecil County

Donna Witkowski  
Admin Assistant II  
Cecil County

The Cecil County Extension Advisory Council

The Cecil County Extension Advisory Council serves an essential function in better understanding our local community and searching for new opportunities. They help to promote and market University of Maryland Extension through their personal and professional networks. We are privileged to have engaged community leaders offer their time, on behalf of helping us to better serve Cecil County.

Officers:
Kordell Wilen, President:  
County Public Works  
Master Gardener

Christy Michaud, Vice-President  
Master Gardener

Tracy Reynolds, Treasurer:  
Banking/Business

Rita Bowers, Secretary:  
Community Relations

Board Members:
Bill Malesh  
Cecil County School Board

Susan Knight  
4-H Leader/Volunteer/Camp Director
4-H Youth Development
Program Educators
April Barczewski, BS, MEd
Senior Agent
Victoria Stone, BS
Program Assistant

Program Description
The Cecil 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 Cecil 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:
- STEM and Agriculture
- Healthy Living
- Civic Engagement
- Volunteer Development

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Number of clubs:
23

4-H Club Members:
510

Number of 4-H Outreach Programs (Summer-Day, In-School, Afterschool, Library Programming):
43

4-H Outreach Enrollment:
3,500

Volunteers:
335

Volunteer estimated hours:
10,050

Volunteer dollar value:
$248,134.50
Family Consumer Science

Beverly Jackey
Family & Consumer Science

Emily Vooris
Food Supplement Nutrition Education

Tammy Pryor
Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program
Family Consumer Science

Program Educator (s)
Beverly Jackey, BS, MS, RDN
Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences
Emily Vooris, BS
Agent Associate, Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE)
Tammy Pryor, Program Assistant, Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

Program Description:
Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)
The University of Maryland’s Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) program provides healthy living education programs in six areas for youth, adult and older adult residents in the county regardless of income. Program focus areas include nutrition and disease prevention, healthy living environments, food safety, wellness, improving health literacy and financial education.

Program Highlights
In 2018, through partnerships with the Department of Health and Social Services, the Elkton Housing Authority and senior centers, libraries, and community centers throughout the county, the FCS Educator presented 15 Healthy Living Education programs in the county to 161 youth and adults of all ages. Various topics included Eating for Good Health, The Mediterranean Diet, Eating Well with Diabetes, Herbalicious, Teen Cuisine, Green Cleaning, Taking Control of Stress and How to Talk to Your Doctor.

The FCS Educator also reached 300 county residents at events such as the Terumo Wellness Fair, educating employees about diabetes prevention, the Cecil County Public Schools Resource Fair, providing information to parents about Poison Look A-likes substances in their home and the Cecil County Fair’s Senior Day, demonstrating to seniors how to make “Zoodles” or zucchini noodles, a creative way to eat vegetables.

Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE)
Maryland’s Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE) program implements nutrition education programs to help low income households and those eligible for Supplement Nutrition Education Program (SNAP). To reach these households, FSNE works with a variety of community agencies including schools, out-of-school sites, farmers’ markets, and food assistance. FSNE uses diverse curricula to empower individuals and families to make healthier food choices, buy healthy food on a budget, develop food preparation skills, and increase physical activity. FSNE program outcomes show positive results. Adult learners are developing better food shopping skills and eating more fruits and vegetables. FSNE youth programming helps participants become more willing to try new fruits and vegetables and increase their consumption of healthy foods.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes
Cecil County FSNE Participants In-School Youth and Out-of-School Youth:
In-School: 443 Out-of-School: 16
Adults and Seniors: 622
Teachers Trained: 19

Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
EFNEP is funded by the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the University of Maryland’s Department of Nutrition and Food Science, and the University of Maryland Extension (UME). The major goals of EFNEP are to help limited-income families and youth acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behavior changes necessary for health/wellness and prevention of chronic disease. EFNEP for Families reaches families with incomes at or below the poverty threshold or families that qualify for federal food assistance programs when these families have school-aged or younger children living in the home; pregnant and/or breastfeeding mothers and pregnant teens who qualify for WIC also qualify for EFNEP. EFNEP for Youth provides education to youth 5 to 18 years old at schools, community centers, and gardening/cooking workshops.

Through partnerships with the Department of Social Services, Elkton Housing Authority, youth camps, Boys and Girls Clubs, local food pantries, Youth Empowerment Source, Meeting Ground Inc., Judy Center, halfway houses and shelters, Head Start, WISH Program, Kinship Care, and YMCA, the EFNEP educator in Cecil County:
- Delivered workshops to 50 limited income individuals or a total of 172 family members, with an average of 11.8 hours spent with each client (or a total of 590 hours of direct instruction).
- Served approximately 124 youth at different summer camps during summer 2018.
Master Gardeners/Horticulture

Cecil Cares 2018—A Countywide Day of Service

Pruning 101 Clinic

Plant for Pollinators, Cecil County Fair

St. Mary Anne's Annual Garden Market

Houseplants—Troubleshooting 101 Workshop

Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm Community Garden

Pollinators—Cecil County Fair Youth Day

Spring Floral Arranging Workshop
Program Educator(s)

Doris Behnke, BS, MS
Senior Agent Associate
Master Gardener Coordinator

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: 19
Educated about Vegetable Gardening at Library Classes: 15
Estimated Volunteer Hours: 700
Volunteer Dollar Value: $17,283

Educated Residents: 317
Trained New Master Gardeners: 8
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Jenna Talbot
Nutrient Management

Doris Behnke, Agriculture/Horticulture

See What We Eat Book Reading

Ag Showcase, Cecil County Fair

Cecil County Annual Winter Agronomy Meeting

Cabbage Growing
Program Educator(s)
Doris Behnke, BS, MS
Senior Agent Associate
Jenna Talbot, BS, MS
Coordinator, Nutrient Management Advisor

Program Description
UM Extension Cecil 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.

Training Sessions Conducted:

10

Participants Reached:

346

Highlights for the Nutrient Management Program in Cecil County for 2018 include:

Prepared Nutrient Management Plans for New Acres:

New Plans: 7 New Acres: 452.7

Updated Plans for Acres Previously Operating Under a Nutrient Management Plan:

Updated Plans: 84
Updated Acres: 5,368.1

Worked with Traditional Farm Enterprises in Dairy, Beef, Horse, Sheep, Swine, Corn, Soybeans, Small Grain Production:

Clients: 47 Plans: 90
Acres: 5,813.3

Assisted in Nutrient Management Planning for Specialty Producers of Llama/Alpaca, Direct Market and Processing Vegetables, Fruit, Cut Flowers and Herbs:

Clients: 1 Plans: 1
Acres: 7.5

Assisted in Nutrient Management Planning for Specialty Producers of Orchard/Fruit:

Clients: 1 Acres: 7.5

Assisted in Nutrient Management Planning for Specialty Producers of Organic Vegetables:

Clients: 1 Acres: 7.5

Assisted in Nutrient Management Planning for Specialty Producers of Christmas Trees:

Clients: 1 Acres: 236.4
Program Educator
Eric Buehl, BS
Senior Agent Associate
Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist

Program Description
To provide educational programs focused on helping local and county governments and watershed groups to plan, develop, implement, and monitor projects and programs that lead to quantifiable reductions in nonpoint sources of pollution.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes
- Participated in seven events reaching 191 individuals which included educational presentations and activities and event displays related to water quality, homeowner-scale best management practices, and storm water runoff.
- Provided storm water and water quality technical assistance to eight different groups including local agencies and municipalities, watershed groups, a community association, and a library.
- Provided grant assistance to a community association totaling $14,650 for a water quality improvement project. The proposal was not selected for funding.

Cecil County Watershed Stewards Academy
- Mr. Buehl assists Cecil County Department of Public Works-Stormwater Management Division as the program co-coordinator and in 2018, eleven individuals graduated from the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) with the title of Master Watershed Steward, bringing the total number of program graduates to 27.
- In 2018, Master Watershed Stewards volunteered their time and/or engaged local volunteers to complete projects totaling 519 hours, which has a value of $12,814.11.