To serve

37,512 residents of Talbot County with our

13 University of Maryland Extension Faculty & Staff

along with

95 volunteers and over

35 partnerships.

How are we doing this?

With trusted research delivered by local experts
The University of Maryland Extension, Talbot 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 2017 Annual Impacts Report for the University of Maryland Extension in Talbot County. Inside you will read of the local impact being made by Extension Educators in the areas of Agriculture, Youth Development, Family and Consumer Sciences and Watershed Restoration. The University of Maryland Extension is proud to provide research based programming that can make a significant difference in the lives of Talbot County residents.

Sincerely,
Aly J. Valentine
Aly J. Valentine, Area Extension Director

The Talbot County Extension Advisory Council

The Talbot County Extension Advisory Council is a registered non-profit, volunteer board of local residents who advise and support the work of the Talbot County University of Maryland Extension office. They represent leaders who value the impact Extension makes in Talbot County and Maryland. We would like to recognize and thank the members who served during 2017.

Officers:

Raymond Harrison, Jr., President
Agriculture Producer

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Executive, Shore United Bank

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Ag./Natural Resources

Tom Hutson
Senior Agent
4-H

Mikaela Boley
Senior Agent Associate
Master Gardener

Nathan Bratko
Agent Associate
Food Supplement Nutrition Education

Pam Chollet
Program Management Specialist

Brian Kalmbach
Coordinator/Advisor
Nutrient Management

Taylor Robinson
Assistant

Sharon Morrison
Coordinator
Community Garden and Nutrition Project
Program Description
Agriculture and Natural Resources continue to be the foundation of Talbot County’s economy, rural character and rich history. Talbot UME provides outreach and research based information and education for agriculture production and farming. 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. Of particular note are the Women in Agriculture programs offered: Annie’s Project, Wednesday Webinars and the Annual Women in Agriculture Conference.
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.

Crop Production Programs
Number recertified for pesticide private applicator 48
Number recertified for nutrient voucher 42
Number attended grain marketing workshops 49

Talbot County Corn Club
Acknowledged as the oldest continuous corn club in the country, the Talbot County Corn Club’s 66th year hosted 22 adult participants and 8 youth participants. The goals of the club include increased production, yield and profitability. The average yields for entries were 212 bu/ac while the US average was 176 bu/ac.

Nutrient Management
The 1998 Water Quality Act created a number of regulatory requirements for farms applying nutrients. Nutrient Management plans are one of those requirements. Farmers following nutrient management plans save money and protect the environment by efficient use of manure and fertilizer. The Talbot Extension Office plans over 30% of farmland in Talbot County.

Number of acres planned 24,831
Number of farm tracts planned 335
Numbers of producers served 62
Value of planning service provided $68,258
MidAtlantic Women in Agriculture
In 2017 the program reached 4,129 participants delivering farm and risk management training to women in the region through a variety of learning environments.

192 Attendees at Women in Ag. Conference
97 Annie’s Project graduates
1,563 Webinar Participants
1,105 Newsletter Recipients
1,172 Social Media Followers

Beginning Farmers
The Maryland Collaborative for Beginning Farmer Success will increase the number of successful beginning farmers and acreage farmed in Maryland, with an emphasis on practical training for beginning farmers. Activities for this project include education, mentoring and apprenticeships for beginning farmers to explore, develop, refine and implement knowledge and skills. In 2017 this program reached over 790 beginning farmers through face-to-face meetings, workshops and conferences.
4-H Youth Development

Program Educator(s)
Thomas Hutson, Educator
Melissa Tucker, Program Assistant

Program Description
The Talbot 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 Talbot 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:
- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Healthy Living
- Citizenship and Leadership
- Volunteer Development

Number of programs (club, school, afterschool, camp):
24

4-H Club Members:
87

Total 4-H Outreach (Club, Afterschool, Camp, School, Special Interest Programs, etc):
1,152

Volunteers:
44

Volunteer estimated hours:
2,880

Value of volunteer hours:
$64,523
4-H Youth Development

Leadership Development and Public Speaking

STEM Career Education for Teens

Community Service and Hands on Learning

Agricultural Literacy Education

After School and Summer Environmental Science

Volunteer Training
Program Description

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.”

Master Gardeners 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, stormwater management, composting, Grow It Eat It (vegetable gardening), wildlife habitat and management, integrated pest management (IPM), herbs, horticultural therapy, youth gardening, pollinators, native and invasive plant species, and environmental horticulture.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Established a new Seed Library in collaboration with the Talbot County Free Library

Total Master Gardener Volunteers/Interns

55/7

Therapeutic Horticulture Workshops

20

Demonstration Rain Gardens and Vegetable Gardens

6

New Bay-wise Certified Landscapes

11

Estimated Volunteer Hours

1070

Volunteer Dollar Value

$28,633
In 2017, Master Gardeners collaborated with the Talbot County Free Library to establish a seed library open to the public. Donations from seed companies and home gardeners fill the drawers!

Master Gardeners are dedicated volunteers working to promote environmental sustainability and to protect habitat for local wildlife.

Master Gardener Coordinator Mikaela Boley celebrating Pollinator Week at Easton’s Clean Water Concert Series

Senior Agent Associate- Mikaela Boley examines a black swallowtail caterpillar

Master Gardener Intern Class of 2017- residents of Talbot, Queen Anne’s, and Kent County finished 50 hours of classroom time to become volunteers.
The Community Nutrition and Gardening Project

Program Educator
Sharon Morrison
Educator

Program Description
This program addresses the problem of food insecurity within Talbot County. Food insecurity is cause by lack of adequate food quantity and lack of nutritious food choices/availability. Youth and adults are reached directly through nutrition and gardening teaching events and hands on activities with Talbot County Hunger Coalition partners. The ultimate program goal is to empower Talbot youth and adults to grow or obtain, prepare, and consume adequate quantities of food that makes up balanced, nutritious meals.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Number of Full Partners
5

Number of Garden Beds Installed
10

Number of Limited Partners
6

Number of Community Events/Participants
7/588

Number of Partner Events/Participants
31/858

Summer harvest at Easton Elementary
The Community Nutrition and Gardening Project

Spring vegetable planting at Chapel Elementary  Making healthy snacks with shredded carrots

Eagle Scout recognition for completion of project to build 6 raised garden beds in the county
Family and Consumer Sciences

Program Educator
Nate Bratko,
Educator and Project Leader

Food Supplement Nutrition Education

Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE) also known as Maryland’s SNAP=Ed supports healthy eating and physical activity education for low income children and families. FSNE educators work with the schools and community partners to provide education resources including food demonstrations. Additionally, FSNE educators train other community educators and teachers to independently incorporate nutrition into their daily programming. Strong partnerships with county schools, agencies and organizations allow FSNE to impact healthy food preferences for participants and to bring healthy eating and physical activity to the forefront of conversation across the county. In addition, FSNE trains community educators and teachers to independently incorporate nutrition education in their daily programming.

Program Highlights

In FY17, FSNE’s Healthy School Community Environment and Healthy Changes for Out of School Youth Initiatives reached over 692 Talbot County Public School Youth through Direct and Trained Trainer Nutrition Education lessons and youth gardening experiences. FSNE partnered with faculty and staff at Easton and Tilghman Elementary School, to support and construct school raised bed gardens. Over 47 volunteers and educators were trained on the use of school gardens as an educational tool. Harvested produce from school gardens was used for fresh produce tasting activities and given to families to take home.

Youth received over 134 Hours of FSNE Nutrition and Gardening Education

FSNE’s Securing Food Resources for Families reached over 6,300 Families
Family and Consumer Sciences

"My daughter is the pickiest eater. She very rarely likes to try new foods and when she does, it is a challenge. I've noticed she has been complaining less about trying new foods and has coined the phrase- Don't Yuck, My Yum during dinner time"

A program volunteer and parent of a youth who participates in the Tilghman Area Youth Association Afterschool Garden Club

Food Preparation and Tasting at St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry

Tilghman Area Youth Association Afterschool Garden Club
Watershed Restoration Specialist

Program Educator
Eric Buehl

Program Description
Improving water quality through storm water management and watershed restoration techniques, the Sea Grant Watershed Protection and Restoration Program works with local and state governments, watershed organizations and community groups to build partnerships, identify funding sources and advise/assist in the planning and implementation and monitoring of restoration projects.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes
Educator provided grant assistance to two watershed-based organizations, the grants resulted in $207,744

Agencies and Groups Receiving Grant & Technical Assistance for

12

Reached program attendees on topics of water quality and stormwater management

113

Provided technical assistance to organizations & local governments

Image courtesy: Sarah Hilderbrand, MD DNR