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
County, State and Federal Partnerships

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 2018 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,
Robert Baldwin
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 2018.

Officers:
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Laura Heikes, Vice President
Executive, Shore United Bank
Deborah Urry, Secretary
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4-H

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Master Gardener

Nathan Bratko
Agent Associate
Food Supplement Nutrition Education

Pam Chollet
Program Management Specialist

Craig Yohn
Coordinator/Advisor
Nutrient Management

Taylor Robinson
Assistant

Sharon Morrison
Coordinator
Community Garden and Nutrition Project

Bonnie Turley
Program Assistant
4-H
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 42
Number recertified for nutrient voucher 48
Number attended grain marketing workshops 38

Talbot County Corn Club
Acknowledged as the oldest continuous corn club in the country, the Talbot County Corn Club’s 67th year hosted 21 adult participants and 5 youth participants. The goals of the club include increased production, yield and profitability. The average yields for entries were 183 bu/ac while the US average was 178 bu/ac. The record soybean yield was achieved for the 48th Annual Soybean Improvement program exceeding 80 bushels to the acre.

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 24,395
Number of farm tracts planned 383
Numbers of producers served 64
Value of planning service provided $67,086
Agriculture and Natural Resources

MidAtlantic Women in Agriculture
In 2018 the program reached 4,129 participants delivering farm and risk management training to women in the region through a variety of learning environments.

189 Attendees at Women in Ag. Conference
68 Annie’s Project graduates
2,277 Webinar Participants
1,269 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 2018 this program reached over 850 beginning farmers through face-to-face meetings, workshops and conferences.
4-H Youth Development

Program Educator (s)
Thomas Hutson, Educator
Bonnie Turley, Program Assistant

Program Description
The Talbot County 4-H Youth Development Program provides a supportive setting for youth of ages 5 through 18 to learn information and skills for success in life. Talbot 4-H members learn content information and skills related to the projects they select and study. In addition, they develop life skills such as leadership, communication, and citizenship as a result of educator- and volunteer-developed learning experiences based on the experiential learning model.

4-H has a 100+ year history of federal, state, and county educational partnerships. Local volunteer leaders partner with Talbot County Extension faculty and staff to provide leadership and create educational opportunities for youth in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

4-H members pledge their Heads, Hearts, Hands, and Health to learning knowledge and skills as well as helping others through community service.

4-H Program areas include:
- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Healthy Living
- Citizenship and Leadership
- Volunteer Development

Number of programs (club, school, afterschool, camp):
32

4-H Club Members:
90

Total 4-H Outreach (Club, Afterschool, Camp, School, Special Interest Programs, etc):
1,353

Volunteers:
40

Volunteer estimated hours:
2,300

Value of volunteer hours:
$56,787
4-H Youth Development

Developing Leadership and Public Speaking Skills

Demonstrating Mastery of Project Skills

Exploring STEM through Hands-On Experiences

Improving Agricultural Literacy

Gaining Agricultural and Environmental Knowledge

Mentoring and Teaching Younger Children
Program Description

In 2018, Master Gardeners partnered with U.S. Fish & Wildlife to obtain a Chesapeake Bay Foundation Grant for $996 in order to highlight wildlife habitat work on Poplar Island. Master Gardeners also partnered with the YMCA of the Chesapeake to establish native plantings in an urban parking lot to combat runoff, create pollinator habitat, and highlight best environmental practices. The Talbot County Free Seed Library expanded a location to the St. Michael’s Branch in addition to the existing site in Easton. Donations from seed companies solicited over $1,500 worth of seed inventory.

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 40 hours of classroom training from UME, commits to donating at least 20 hours of volunteer service each year back to their community.

Master Gardeners assist county residents through demonstration, workshops, public lectures, plant clinics, and public events located at libraries, schools, parks, community gardens, demonstration gardens, fairs, and more. Program areas include, but are not limited to, Bay-wise landscaping, storm water management, composting, Grow It, Eat It vegetable gardening, wildlife habitat and management, integrated pest management (IPM), herbs, horticulture therapy, youth gardening, pollinators, native and invasive plant species, and environmental horticulture.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Free Seed Packets Distributed at Talbot County Library

781

Soil Test Sample Evaluations

171
Horticulture/Master Gardener

Master Gardeners at our Poplar Island Demonstration Garden. Six volunteers visit once a month from April until October to monitor the native garden welcoming visitors to the island.

Master Gardener collaborated with the YMCA of the Chesapeake in Easton to plan and establish native plants to highlight Bay-wise Gardening.

Master Gardeners Mary Ellen Olcese (left) and Janet Mackey (right) evaluate a living shoreline as part of Bay-wise property consultation.

Master Gardeners Missy Corley (right) and Cathy Schmidt (middle) speak to Talbot County resident Alexis Kramer about the Talbot County Free Seed Library at an Ask a Master Gardener Clinic.

Master Gardener Coordinator and Senior Agent Associate Mikaela Boley
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 Lessons/Programs Taught
42

Number of Community Participants Receiving Nutrition and Gardening Education
780

Number of Full Partners
13

Number of Community Partner Staff/Volunteers Assisting with Nutrition and Gardening Education
26

Total Number of School and Community Garden Beds Installed
8

Summer Nutrition and Gardening Pre-School Participants
The Community Nutrition and Gardening Project

Scouting Potential Garden Sites and Learning about Water Access

Selecting, Mixing, and Measuring Recipe Ingredients

Learning to Prepare, Plant, Care for, and Harvest Produce from Raised Garden Beds
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 FY18, FSNE reached over 1,147 low income children and adults and trained 184 community partners, teachers and volunteers on the use of FSNE tools and resources.

FSNE youth programs at Easton and Tilghman Elementary provided 224 new tasting opportunities for students. Encouraged 40 parents and teachers to be healthy role models at home through healthy family night education lessons and grocery store tours.

Trained 4 school wellness champions to promote physical activity, nutrition education, and school wellness policy.

Program Outcomes:

8 out of 10

Teachers noted that picky students within their classrooms were now more likely to try at least two bites of their tasting.

90%

FSNE classrooms incorporate physical activity into classroom based instruction.

91%

Of parents report talking with their child about fruits and vegetables they tried at school.

(7% increase from before)
Family and Consumer Sciences

Students engaged in a “Read for Health” lesson.

Easton Elementary Students and Families participating in a “Cooking Matters at the Grocery Store Tour”

After participating in Read for Health, a third-grade student from Easton Elementary expressed her gratitude for fresh produce tastings.

"Mr. Nate, thank you for coming to our class and bringing us fresh fruits and vegetables to try. I like to eat healthy and tell my parents to buy vegetables."

Tilghman Afterschool Youth Garden Club. Field Trip to Cottingham Farm.
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 $15,241

Agencies and Groups Receiving Grant & Technical Assistance for 10

Reached program attendees on topics of water quality and stormwater management 114

Provided technical assistance to organizations & local governments

Sea Grant Extension Watershed Specialist Eric Buehl providing technical assistance to Envision the Choptank by evaluating the drainage on a property in Easton to determine the best location for a rain garden.

Image courtesy: Whitley Gray, Envision the Choptank

28577 Mary’s Court, Suite 1
Easton, MD 21601
Phone: 410-822-1244
www.extension.umd.edu/talbot-county

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