To serve

32,451 Residents of Dorchester County with our

9 University of Maryland Extension Faculty & Staff

along with

27 4-H and Master Gardener Volunteers and over

32 Partnerships

How are we doing this?

With trusted research delivered by local experts
The University of Maryland Extension, Dorchester County

County, State and Federal Partnerships

The University of Maryland Extension, Dorchester 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.
Welcome to the University of Maryland Extension (UME) of Dorchester County. We are pleased to present our 2018 Annual Report for your review. The Annual Report is a snapshot of the educational programs and problem-solving assistance we deliver to the residents of Dorchester County every day. Our efforts are based on the research and experience of land grant universities on agricultural production, natural resources, financial literacy, food safety, nutrition and healthy lifestyles, youth development, volunteer development and agricultural nutrient management. We hope you enjoy reading and learning more about what we do to make a difference in the lives of Dorchester County residents.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Baldwin, Mid-Shore Area Extension Director

The Dorchester County Extension Advisory Council is a registered non-profit, volunteer board of local residents who advise and support the work at the Dorchester County University of Maryland office. They represent leaders who value the impact Extension makes in Dorchester County and Maryland. We would like to recognize and thank the members who served during 2018.

The following individuals from the community served as members of the 2018 Extension Advisory Council

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Resilient Communities and 4-H Youth Development

Chloe Turner, Competing at Dorchester Caroline Fair

Maryland 4-H Archery State Match

Hippology State Competition

4th Grade Environmental Education at Blackwater Refuge

Leprechauns 4-H Stem Program
The Dorchester 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 Dorchester 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

**Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes**

Number of programs (Club, School, Afterschool, Camp):

12

4-H Club Members:

74

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

1,283

Certified UME Volunteers:

16

Volunteer estimated hours:

2,800

Value of volunteer hours:

$67,592
Food Supplement Nutrition Education

Program Educators:
Nate Bratko, Educator
Rena Brooks, Educator

Food Supplement Nutrition Education—FSNE
FSNE, also known as Maryland’s SNAP-Ed, supports healthy eating and physical activity in low-income areas throughout the Dorchester/Talbot area teaching in schools, afterschool programs, community sites, and social service organizations.

Program Highlights:
Dorchester County FSNE ‘s Healthy School Community Environment Initiatives educating youth reached over: 616

Current Dorchester Food Pantries and Collaborators:

More than 7 out of 10 teachers (71%) report that students in FSNE Nutrition Education Programs select healthy foods when they are offered school meals/snacks.
Master Gardeners/Horticulture

Community Garden planted at Waugh Chapel

120 Hours of volunteer service was donated at the Waugh Chapel Community Garden; helping local residents learn how to grow their own food.
Program Educator
Emily Zobel, Educator, Agriculture & 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 Active Master Gardener Volunteers: | 10 |
| Residents who received education materials about Vegetable Gardening in the community: | 1,100 |
| Answered over 40 local resident’s plant insect and lawn related questions | |
| Estimated Volunteer Hours: | 380 |
| Value of volunteer hours: | $3,500+ |

Master Gardener volunteers provided education to 40+ Residents
Local Food and Agriculture Systems

Jose' Prieto-Figueroa

Emily Zobel

Emily and Jose helping a farmer calibrate a manure spreader
Program Educators
Emily Zobel, Educator, Agriculture
Jose Prieto, Nutrient Management Advisor

Program Description
UM Extension Dorchester 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.

Highlights for the Nutrient Management Program in Dorchester County for 2018 Include:

Poultry Farmers:
11

Training Sessions Conducted in Dorchester County:
4

Participants Reached:
104

Farmers recertified to apply pesticides and/or soil nutrients:
45

Prepared Nutrient Management Plans:
157

Saved Eastern Shore Farmer’s by offering these services for free:
$212,091

Number of Farm and Home visits to assist with plant disease and insect questions and issues:
15

Total Acres Covered Through Dorchester County Extension:
11,472
Program Educator
Jennifer Dindinger, Watershed Restoration Specialist

Program Description
Jennifer is the Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist and works with local and state governments, non-governmental organizations, regional partners, University researchers, and communities in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties to improve water quality in local rivers and streams and Chesapeake Bay. This work is accomplished by implementing restoration projects and science-based educational programs that lead to behavior change, civic engagement, and community development.

Examples of programming:
- Classes and workshops teach homeowners how to improve water quality in their own backyard with practices like rain barrels, rain gardens, and tree planting.
- Technical Assistance Programs help communities address Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) regulations and requirements.
- Watershed Restoration Projects emerge from collaborative partnerships and effective funding techniques to reduce nutrient and sediment loads.
- The Watershed Restoration Specialist also connects watershed science to policy makers and community leaders to make the most effective water quality decisions.

In 2018, the Specialist reached 150 youth and adult residents of the Lower Eastern Shore through programming about water quality, strategic planning, climate resilience and community capacity building.

Contact us at:
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Phone: 410-228-8800
extension.umd.edu/dorchester-county

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.