To serve

19,384 residents of Kent County with our

4 University of Maryland Extension Faculty along with

96 volunteers and over

70 partnerships

How are we doing this?

Solutions in your community
The University of Maryland Extension, Kent 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 this report to the citizens of Kent County to help demonstrate the impact and importance of the work that Extension does in their communities. Our work in 4-H Youth Development, Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture, Watershed Restoration, and Healthy Living touches thousands of our fellow citizens with research-based, practically oriented information to help Marylanders improve their lives, their businesses, their health, and their opportunities. We look forward to continuing our work to help Kent County residents thrive!

Sincerely,
Dr. Paul R. Rickert, Area Extension Director

Administrative Assistants:
Theresa A. Rich, Admin I
Caroline Aleice Welch, Admin II

The Kent County Extension Advisory Council

The Kent Extension Advisory Council’s duties are to serve in an advisory capacity to the county extension faculty in:

- Identifying problem areas which Extension could address
- Assisting with establishment of local program priorities
- Assisting in the coordination of a total and unified county program development process
- Maintaining adequate fiscal oversight of the internal control procedures that handle any direct county funds and/or local non-government funds given by local groups/organizations or individual donors for the support of UME programming
- To assist with advocacy of UME - providing verbal and written support, when needed, to the local government, stakeholders and other constituents

Officers:
Russell Parson, President:
Agriculture and 4-H
Andrew Simmons, Vice-President
Agriculture and 4-H
Leona Dalton, Secretary:
Physical Therapist Assistant, Master Gardener
Brian Quinn, Treasurer:
Self-employed farmer

Board Members:
Faye Everett
Operator, Millington food pantry
Kathy Thornton
Land Steward at Adkins Arboretum; Master Gardener and Master Naturalist
Liza Goetz
Agriculture Education
Shane Brill
Assistant Director of the Eastern Shore Food Lab at Washington College, Master Gardener
Natalie Lane
Children’s and Youth Services Librarian, Kent County Public Library
4-H Youth Development

Elizabeth M. Hill, 4-H Educator, demonstrates “Bubble Mania” to children in the Kent Clover Kids Program.

19th Annual 4-H Toy Drive for the Kent Christmas Basket Program.

Ethan Miller and Kent 4-H Volunteer, Parker Welch, as part of the Maryland Dairy Judging team at the Royal Highland Livestock Show, Ingliston, Edinburgh, Scotland.

2018 Kent County Fair.

4-H members—Promotion.
Program Description

The Kent 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 Kent 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):

7

4-H Club Members:

128

Total 4-H Enrollment (Club, After-School, Camp, School):

171

Volunteers:

80

In-school and Outreach Education:

654 youth

Volunteer estimated hours:

3,079

Volunteer dollar value:

$76,020.60
Family and Consumer Science

Emily Vooris, Project Leader and Nutrition Educator, sharing fruit kabobs with students at Galena Elementary School

Market to Mealtime Display at the Kent County Food Pantry

Tomato watermelon salad tasting at the Chestertown Farmers’ Market

Students create parts of the plant diagrams at Garnet Elementary
Program Educators:

Emily Vooris, Project Leader and Nutrition Educator, Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE)

Rebecca Meekins, Family and Consumer Science Educator

Program Description

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Extension educators provide programs in topics such as food safely and preventing food-borne illness, food preservation, and nutrition education for youth and adults.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

In 2018 classes were offered with:

- Kent Center
- Kent Family Center
- Kent County Public Library
- Kent County Middle School
- UM Shore Medical Center
- Shrewsbury Parish Church

Program Description—Food Supplement Nutrition Education

Maryland’s Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE) offers nutrition education programs to help SNAP households and those eligible for SNAP.

FSNE programs are provided at no cost to support the work of community agencies serving SNAP-eligible individuals and families, such as local food banks, schools, out-of-school sites, farmers markets, community centers, WIC offices, homeless shelters, and food assistance sites.

Implementing a variety of curricula, FSNE uses indirect and direct education to empower individuals to make healthier 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, increase their physical activity and increase their consumption of healthy foods.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Through collaborations with KCPS elementary schools, all Pre-K and Kindergarten students learned about healthy behaviors and tried samples of new fruits and vegetables through the Read for Health Curriculum.

FSNE partnered with the Chestertown Farmers Market to offer Market to Mealtime recipes and nutrition resources to customers.

County FCS and FSNE Participant Data:

In-School Youth: 702+
Out-of-School Youth: 74+
Adults and Seniors: 675+
Master Gardeners/Horticulture

Master Gardener Booth at the Chestertown Farmers Market

Annual Seed Swap at the Kent County Public Library

Sabine Harvey educating 3rd grade students as part of the Outdoor Education program
Horticulture Program Assistant
Sabine Harvey

Program Description
Sabine is responsible for the following events: the Seed Swap and the Horticulture Lecture Series, both held at the Kent County Public Library, as well as the annual Tomato Tasting event. The horticulture program educates and advises local residents about growing vegetables and ornamental plants. Sabine works extensively with Kent County Public Schools to teach local youth about nature in general, and in particular about where their food comes from. Since 2010, Sabine has been in charge of the Victory Garden located at Kent County Middle School. In the garden, students learn how to grow vegetables, and also prepare and sample the produce. In the summer months, the produce is donated to local food pantries. Sabine is available to give talks and lectures on a wide range of topics such as pollinators, Bay-friendly gardening practices, native plants, integrated pest management, and vegetable gardening. She also provides training opportunities for local Master Gardener volunteers.

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 to “educate residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.” During the growing season, local residents can ask Master Gardeners for advice at plant clinics which are held at the Chestertown Farmers Market on Saturday mornings. 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.

None of these programs would be feasible without the assistance of Master Gardener volunteers.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Educated Residents: **700+**

Total Master Gardener Volunteers: **16**

Hosted Ask Master Gardener Sessions: **10**

Donated Produce to Local Food Pantries: **542 lbs.**

Estimated Volunteer Hours: **150**

Volunteer Dollar Value:

Rebecca Meekins conducting a tomato tasting at the Chestertown Farmers Market
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Program Educator
Nate Richards

Nate Richards is Extension educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources for Kent County. Part of Nate’s job is to deliver unbiased research-based education to the community. In 2018, Nate taught throughout the county on a range of topics including soil health, Nutrient Management, Farm Business Planning, and Pesticide Safety. In doing so, farmers and other clientele have had the opportunity receive nutrient voucher training credits, pesticide applicator credits and certified crop advisor credits. These credits help farmers stay current with their knowledge to use pesticides and nutrients safely and effectively.

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes

Training Sessions Conducted:

24

Participants reached:

500+

Nate serves on the boards of the Kent County Soil and Water Conservation District, Kent County Farm Bureau, and the Kent County Noxious Weed Program. These groups, along with Extension, serve immediate needs of the community in Kent County.
Program Description

UM Extension Kent 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 (BMPs) that aim to balance nutrient applications with crop nutrient requirements, thereby enhancing farm profitability while protecting water quality.

Training Sessions Conducted:

24

Participants Reached:

500+

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

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

51 Updated Plans: 5,463.1 Acres

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

Clients: 29
Plans: 52
Program Educator
Eric Buehl, 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 Dollar Value
Provided grant assistance to the town of Betterton which resulted in an approved planning grant for $71,800

Program Highlights/Impacts/Outcomes
Reached program attendees on topics of water quality and storm water management: 12+

Provided technical assistance to organizations and local governments: 5

The specialist toured previously completed best management practices in Betterton with staff from the MD Department of Natural Resources as part of a visit to discuss funding for the Town’s “Greener Wheeler Avenue” project.

Image: Eric Buehl

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