

## SRPLN FCS State Report 2012

Reporting Institution:  1862  1890 (check one)

Name of Institution: University of Georgia

### Program Initiatives 2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012):

Program accomplishments focused on three initiatives impacting families in the state of Georgia.

#### **1. Supporting Families Managing Through Difficult Economic Times**

- UGA Extension in Georgia works with the Small Business Development Centers to offer **Money Matters! Basic Personal Finance for Aspiring Entrepreneurs**. The program helps those who'd like to start a small business, improve personal financial management practices and improve their access to business capital. The comprehensive 4-hour workshop has been offered at multiple locations across Georgia. A total of 28 workshops are reaching more than 800 entrepreneurs.
- The UGA Family and Consumer Sciences Consumer Economics/Financial Management department started an online database, CASH (Consumer's Acquiring Saving Habits). As of July, 2011, 599 individuals enrolled had set a goal to either reduce debt or increase savings by \$92,523 each month.
- Conserving resources used at home reduces impact on the environment and saves money. UGA Extension agents conducted 465 programs on energy conservation last year. They taught over 7,800 Georgians ways to save energy at home. Most participants in an energy conservation workshop are connected to community action agencies throughout the state that provide weatherization for low-income households. During the past two years, these agencies have weatherized more than 15,000 Georgia homes. Residents save an average \$350 per year on utility bills.
- Home ownership remains out of reach for many Georgians because of price and/or poor credit. High unemployment and underemployment, and foreclosure have contributed to credit problems for many homeowners. UGA Extension is approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing education and counseling in Georgia. Eight FACS Extension agents regularly provide housing counseling and education in selected Georgia counties. Housing programs include buying a home, renting, maintaining one's home, and preventing foreclosure. In 2011, 398 people attended housing workshops and 38 received individual counseling.
- In 2011 estate planning was taught in six counties to 752 people who participated in the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRSGA) pre-retirement seminar. Based on self-reported data obtained from participants after the seminars, their estate planning knowledge increased, and many planned to create estate planning documents based on what they learned.

#### **2. Keeping Children and Families Safe**

##### **Food Borne Illness:**

- The on-line self-study, *Preserving Food at Home*, from the National Center for Home Food Preservation (NCHFP) remains popular. The number of enrolled participants increased by 2,664 in 2011. The total is now over now over 11,500. Average pre- and

post-test scores remain at about 70 and 90 percent; therefore, participants are improving their knowledge in some of the basic principles and content.

In 2011, the 1.1 million unique visitors to the National Center for Home Food Preservation website viewed 3,905,696 pages. 75.65% were new visitors, with 24.35% being returning visitors. Visits per month ranged from 54,758 (February) to 247,537 (August). Pages viewed per month ranged from 155,095 to 693,335. Visits per day range from 1,644 (Feb) to 11,049 (August). This remains one of most viewed UGA websites. Over 30,850 copies of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of *So Easy to Preserve* have been distributed since 2006. They are sold to users in every state plus some other countries and territories. By far the largest number of copies is sold to Georgia residents (almost 5,000 books).

- In 2011, 95 ServSafe<sup>®</sup> manager and employee level programs were reported reaching 781 managers and employees. Extension is reaching foodservice employees in full or quick-service restaurants (43%), but also in school foodservice, nursing home or assisted living centers, senior centers, day care, personal care homes, grocery stores, convenience stores, nonprofits and some other types of businesses. These programs reach a cross-section of the state's population with food safety education.
- 40 Extension Agents in Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia have been trained to deliver and evaluate *Enhancing the Safety of Locally Grown Produce* and have begun implementation in communities throughout the three states. 140 farmers and market managers were trained to use best practices to keep locally grown and marketed produce safe in Georgia to date. Evaluation data from *Enhancing the Safety of Locally Grown Produce* programs is currently being collected and data analysis is scheduled for fall 2012.
- *Wash Your Paws Georgia* hand-washing campaign taught more than 6,700 Georgians how to properly wash hands,

### **Keeping Children and Families Safe Away from Home:**

- The Georgia Traffic Injury and Prevention Institute, staff and certified volunteers taught more than 3,000 parents and teens in the PRIDE parent/teen driving education course, certified more than 300 new Child Passenger Safety Technicians, and taught driver safety to more than 100 Senior Citizens. Georgia safety seat laws were strengthened in 2011 with Georgia roadway fatalities per vehicle-mile-traveled have reached an all-time low. Child safety seat use and seat belt use reached all-time highs in 2011. All these results combine to provide safer travel for more people and to reduce the public and private costs of traffic crashes.
- **53** infant child care teachers in four counties received a total of **371** contact hours of training to meet state licensing requirements. Of the 53 infant teachers who participated, 97% report that they learned new information, 97% indicated that they were more confident in their ability to provide quality care for infants, and 97% rated their knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of an infant teacher as high at the conclusion of the program.

### **3. Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in Children and Families**

- In FY 2011, the **Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program** reached 4,370 participants directly and 15,008 family members indirectly. Of the participants, 74% are minorities and 69% received public assistance. A total of 3,047 adults completed the EFNEP curriculum series with 96% improving their diets, consuming 0.7 additional cups of

fruits and vegetables and 0.3 cups of calcium-rich foods per day. Families saved an average of \$9.45 per month on food. 57% improved food safety practices. 78% practiced better food resource management skills; and 86% improved nutrition practices.

- **EFNEP Childhood Overweight Prevention Projects (COPP)** utilized County Extension Agents and 4-H Program Assistants to teach a series of lessons to children using the Georgia 4-H Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles Curriculum. The lessons focused on 5 topics: eating a balanced diet, including a variety of foods, eating the right-sized portions; increasing fruit and vegetable intake; increasing physical activity; and decreasing consumption of high-sugar beverages. Nutrition classes were also taught during summer programs and focused on healthy lifestyles and making good decision regarding food choices. A total of 20,300 Georgia 4-H youth were reached with the following evaluation results:
- During the 2011 spring session of Walk Georgia, 3,688 Georgians enrolled and 2,488 were still participating at the end of eight weeks. Participants logged the equivalent of 394,584 miles. The self-reported average weekly mileage for an individual participant was 18 miles and for a team member 20 miles. Youth participation was 9.4% of the total and female participation was 83.2%. 76% of the participants were white, nearly 20% African American, and nearly 2% of Hispanic, Latino or Asian heritage. At the end of the program, 96% of the participants reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the program and 92% stated that the program encouraged them to exercise.

### **Reducing Risky Health Behaviors**

- UGA Extension FCS and 4-H agents have helped more than 1,300 youths across Georgia develop relationship smarts; 262 youth completed the program in 2011. The Relationship Smarts program, an interactive program, helps youths learn about healthy relationships. The majority (75%) of participants report greater awareness and understanding of healthy relationships and feel more confident in their ability to maintain healthy relationships.
- The Strong African American Families’(SAAF) Program has been delivered to more than 500 African American 7th graders and their caregivers living in eight counties. Parents who participated in SAAF reported increased adaptive universal and racially specific parenting. Furthermore, intervention-induced changes in these parenting behaviors were associated indirectly with sexual risk behavior through adolescent self-pride, peer orientation, and sexual intent.

### **Personnel:**

State Specialists: Total = 12  
 Child & Family Development = 3 (2.25 EFT)  
 Foods & Nutrition = 4 (3.88 EFT, including EFNEP Coordinator)  
 Housing & Consumer Economics = 3 (3.0 EFT)  
 Program Development = 2 (2.0 EFT)

FACS County Agents: Full-time, state funded (or state/county combination) = 35.25  
 Full-time funded by county only = 2; part-time county funded = 2  
 Full or part-time funded by EFNEP = 9

Other FACS Educators: Professional staff = 36 full or part-time  
Paraprofessional staff (program assistants) = 16 grant funded + 40 EFNEP

- Cooperative Extension is in the process of converting a 4-H position to a 4-H/FACS position.
- FACS Extension has entered into a memorandum of agreement with a District Health Department to fund an EFNEP/WIC County Agent Position. That position has been posted.
- The newly formed Department of Public Health in Georgia is partnering with FACS Extension and the University Obesity Initiative led by the College of Family and Consumer Sciences to address childhood and adult obesity. The Provost has funded this initiative at the level of \$500,000.
- 3 other FACS County Positions have been posted or are in the process of being posted.
- FACS Extension is in the process of signing a memorandum of agreement with the Area Agency on Aging in which they will deliver an Extension curriculum based cooking school focused on diabetic patients in partnership with Extension in those counties in Central Georgia without a FACS Agent.

**Budget Update:** Cuts to CES in FY09, 9%; FY10, 10.3%; FY 11, 17.3%; and FY 12, 4.4%. We have been asked to hold back 3% for FY 13.

Almost 84% of the budget for FACS Extension continues to be derived from extramural funding, 1% Smith Lever funds, and 15% state funds..

\*This does not include county-based FACS agent budgeting and county-generated FACS dollars except for positions budgeted extramural projects. Regular county FACS positions are funded through the CAES.

**If you have additional inquiries please contact:**

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