

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

2023 REPORTING AT A GLANCE

Trusted Research-Local Experts

Watershed Protection & Restoration Program (WPRP)

- Watershed Restoration Educator began role in May 2023
- Support for county MS4 Permit in two of six minimum control measures: public education & outreach and public participation & involvement
- Rain Barrel Workshops: 80 participants, 51 rain barrels distributed
- Table and distribute information on stormwater best management practices at St. Mary's County Fair and other community events
- Collaborations to conduct outreach and education events in the community
- Re-engaging and increasing the presence of the Watershed Stewards Academy in the community



SNAP-Ed

SNAP-Ed creates healthier environments and improves the health and wellbeing of limited income families in St. Mary's County.

In federal FY23, SNAP-Ed offered & supported:

- Nutrition and Physical Education programming for Title I, Head Start, and Judy Center school site and Farm-To-School annual events
- Nutrition themed book distribution to over 2,500 families
- Family Engagement programs and support for food distribution events

Reached:

- 763 youth and 2,500 families through 203 education sessions, book distribution, and food distributions, events in federal FY23



Agricultural Nutrient Management Program (ANMP)

- Written plans covering a total of 12,177 acres
- Served 76 Individual Cooperators covering 401 tracts of land
- 3 plans prepared for the Maryland Manure Transport Program.
- 29 requested plans to qualify for participation in the Maryland Cover Crop Program.



Master Gardener (MG)

Offered and supported:

- 30 Plant Clinics
- 98 active volunteers
- Hosted statewide "Grow It Eat It" meeting
- Maintained 24 Demo Gardens throughout the county
- In-person events: Cherry Blossom Festival, County Fair, Farm to School Days, Juneteenth celebration, and others
- Reached over 2,250 residents of St. Mary's County in 2023
- Certified 5 multiple properties as Bay-wise and hosted 2 educational events for Bay-wise
- Exceeded 3,500 hours of volunteer service in St. Mary's County
- Composting workshop, native plant, and other workshops and presentations throughout the year



4-H Youth Development (4-H)

- 196 4-H youth members
- 79 UME certified adult volunteers
- 36 youth attended 4-H Overnight Camp in Western, MD
- 60 youth attended 4-H Day Camp at the St. Mary's County Fair-grounds
- 45 workshops/contests focusing on the following: Animal Science, Lego Robotics, Fossils, Food & Nutrition, Food Preservation, Woodworking, Crafts, Gardening, Leadership, Public Speaking, Record Keeping and Livestock Reproduction
- 166 4-H youth prepared 1,275 exhibits at the St. Mary's County Fair
- 57 youth sold 176 animals (51 goats, 80 pigs, 31 lambs & 14 steers) at the livestock auction during the 2023 St. Mary's County Fair
- 1 State 4-H event hosted by one of our county 4-H clubs (Holiday Building Block Challenge)
- Youth represented our county at state events such as Livestock Skillathon, Dairy Skillathon, Public Speaking Contest, Engineering Camp, Dog Skillathon, Dog Bowl, Archery Competition, State Fair, Horse Bowl, Horse Hippology & Horse Judging.
- Reached 1,037 youth through school enrichment programs
- Reached 142 military youth through various programs
- 19 youth raised 70 Turkey for Thanksgiving
- New Teen Leadership Group with 16 members participating.
- 6,205 volunteer hours for the 4-H program
- 88 youth turned in Record Books and completed a total of 220 projects
- 4-H clubs completed 24 community service projects

4-H engages youth as leaders using their Head, Heart, Hands & Health and gives them the power to take action. The 4-H mission is to teach youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.



Agriculture & Food Systems (AgFs)

Programs Conducted:

- Over 400 farm consultations focused on solving a variety of farm production issues
- Offered 66 workshops and conferences including the Southern Maryland Vegetable Conference, Southern Maryland Crops Conference, Hay and Pasture Conference, Vegetable Production Twilight Tour and Grape Growers Workshop reaching 2458 participants.
- Farmers reported average yearly economic activity from field teaching events of \$1,439,000.
- 500 fact sheets, bulletins, or written recommendations are distributed to agricultural producers
- Driving economic growth through knowledge gains regarding cropping practices and advances in technology, which are key components to increased profitability
- Partnered on grant funded projects totaling \$2,985,138 with \$82,428 directed to local programming
- Assists farmers transitioning to other enterprises including vegetable, cut flower, cigar wrapper tobacco, greenhouse, forage and grape production

Collaborative On-Farm Research Projects:

- Using soil steaming and grafting to manage diseases in high tunnel vegetable production.
- Watermelon grafting research to manage new soil borne diseases
- Hot-set tomato trial to identify cultivars best adapted to So MD climate
- Evaluation of Faba Bean as an alternative crop in the Mid-Atlantic
- Farmer's Feeding St. Mary's events reaching 1,500 families with 45,938 pounds of fresh local produce



UME ST. MARY'S STAFF 2023

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