

# ST. MARY'S COUNTY

2024 REPORTING AT A GLANCE

## ***Trusted Research-Local Experts***

### ***Agriculture & Food Systems (AgFs)***

#### ***Programs Conducted:***

- 400 + farm consultations focused on solving a variety of farm production needs
- Conducted 89 workshops and conferences including the Southern Maryland Vegetable Conference, Farm to School Days, Southern Maryland Crops Conference, Hay and Pasture Conference, Vegetable Production Twilight Tour reaching 2881 participants
- Reported \$1,439,000 in average yearly economic activity by farmers from field teaching events
- 500 + fact sheets, bulletins, and written recommendations distributed to agricultural producers
- Supported economic growth through knowledge gains regarding cropping practices and advances in technology, which are key components to increased profitability
- Grant funded projects totaling \$3,364,745 with \$31,076 directed to local program efforts
- Assistance to 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
- Evaluation of Faba Bean as an alternative crop in the Mid-Atlantic
- Integrated management of herbicide-resistant noxious weed palmer amaranth
- Farmers Feeding St. Mary's events reaching 1,600 families with 48,000 pounds of fresh local produce



### ***SNAP-Ed***

#### **Reached:**

##### **5 partnering elementary schools:**

- 18 elementary classrooms for Read for Health
- 5 existing and 15 new PreK classrooms for edible ABCs
- Supported gardening at 3 elementary schools
- Adult lessons through SMCPS Judy Centers hubs including adult lessons from Healthy Cents and Raising Food Explorers
- SMCPS summer meal distribution and Farmers Feeding St. Mary's produce distribution recipients
- SMCPS extended year summer program
- Farm to School events including Read For Health and Exploring Maryland Foods curricula
- Cooking demonstrations and resource distribution at local food pantries
- Newsletter and print resource distribution at community partner events



### ***Family & Consumer Sciences***

**Program topics included Nutrition, Health and Wellness.**

#### ***Programs offered:***

- Programing with elementary schools, Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maryland, and Farmers Feeding St Mary's County
- Reached 975 elementary youth and 26 parents through programs, including 4 live cooking demonstrations
- Adults and youths were reached through activities at school-wide and state-wide events
- Newsletter and print resource distribution at community partner events



## **Master Gardener (MG)**

### **Offered and supported:**

- Facilitated plant clinics at the Leonardtown Library, and the local farmers markets
- 118 active volunteers including interns
- Maintained 18 garden entrances at county parks
- In-person events: Earth Day Festival, Farmers Feeding St. Mary's, St. Mary's County Fair, and more
- Certified multiple properties as "Bay-wise"
- Exceeded 1645 hours of volunteer service in St. Mary's County
- Composting and native plant workshop, and other workshops and presentations throughout the year

## **Watershed Protection & Restoration Program (WPRP)**

- Partnered with the MD Department of Natural Resources to offer the backyard buffers program that provides free native tree & shrub seedlings to residents in St. Mary's County. The Spring 2024 program had 80 participants and distributed 2,000 seedlings
- Rain Barrel Workshops: 50 participants, 38 rain barrels distributed
- Table and distribute information on stormwater best management practices at St. Mary's County Fair, Cherry Blossom Festival and River Fest community events
- Watershed Stewards Academy Short course: 15 participants



## **4-H Youth Development (4-H)**

- 188 4-H youth members
- 89 UME certified adult volunteers
- 39 Youth attended 4-H Overnight Camp in Western, MD
- 45 Youth attended 4-H Day Camp at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
- 239 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
- 4-H Youth prepared 1,619 exhibits at the St. Mary's County Fair
- 62 Youth sold 196 animals (63 goats, 100 pigs, 26 lambs & 7 steers) at the livestock auction during the St. Mary's County Fair
- 2 State 4-H events hosted by one of our county 4-H clubs
- 1 Youth represented our County at the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon in Louisville, KY
- Youth represented our county at state events such as Livestock Skillathon, Dairy Skillathon, Public Speaking Contest, Archery Competition, Shotgun Competition, State Fair, Horse Bowl, Horse Hippology & Horse Judging
- Reached 1,627 youth through school enrichment programs
- Reached 128 military youth through various programs
- 11 Youth raised 65 Turkeys to feed their families for Thanksgiving
- Teen Leadership Group with 18 members participating
- 5675 volunteer hours for the 4-H program
- 99 youth turned in Record Books and completed a total of 261 projects
- 4-H clubs completed 32 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.*



## **Agricultural Nutrient Management Program (ANMP)**

- Written plans covering a total of 16,107.5 acres
- Served 80 Individual Cooperators covering 445 tracts of land
- 6 plans prepared for the Maryland Manure Transport Program
- 38 requested plans to qualify for participation in the Maryland Cover Crop Program



### **University of Maryland Extension - ST. MARY'S STAFF 2024** **Shelley King-Curry, Southern Area Extension Director**

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