

**Title:** Collaborative Efforts Raise Awareness of Impact of Georgia Agriculture and UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at 4-H Summer Camp

**Summary:** Georgia 4-H continues to look for ways to communicate the important role agriculture contributes to the daily lives of Georgians. While Georgia 4-H offers diverse programming opportunities not directly related to agriculture, we remain true to our agricultural roots and our position within the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) in promoting agriculture – Georgia's number one industry – and our association with UGA, CAES, and other colleges at UGA, particularly those within the UGA Extension “family”.

**Situation:** As stated in UGA Extension 2018 Agricultural Awareness Week promotional materials, goods and services related to Georgia's agriculture and natural resources affect each of the state's communities every day. Agriculture has \$73.3 billion of direct and indirect economic impact annually, with more than 383,600 Georgia jobs are involved directly in commodity or food- and fiber-related industries. UGA CAES and Extension faculty and staff play a key role in the success of this industry by sharing university-based research for Georgians to use on the farm and at home. As was the case when the first corn and tomato clubs for youth were established in Georgia, it is our job to educate next generation of citizens and leaders about the diversity and importance of agriculture through Georgia 4-H programs.

**Response:** In order to fulfill our educational mission, the Georgia 4-H summer camping program has established collaborative partnerships to educate campers on Georgia agriculture and UGA's and CAES' role in supporting Georgia agriculture. Over the past several years, the Georgia Mobile Dairy Classroom, a fun and interactive educational program operated by the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Milk, has visited summer camp at Rock Eagle 4-H Center weekly to educate campers on the importance of Georgia's dairy industry and nutritional value of dairy products. Instructor Nicole Karstedt brings the 30-foot Mobile Dairy Classroom, featuring a fully operational milking parlor and live cow used for milking and feeding demonstrations, to Rock Eagle 4-H Center to provide children with a better understanding of where milk comes from, how it is processed, the healthy benefits of consuming dairy products and dairy farmers' management of natural resources. About 40-50 campers eagerly await the arrival of the dairy exhibit, many having never seen a dairy cow or the milking process before. Over the course of the six-week camping season 250-300 campers enjoy this experience.

In the summer of 2018, Dr. Marianne Shockley, a former 4-H'er and Rock Eagle and Wahsega 4-H camp counselor, and the Director of the UGA Insect Zoo, reached out to the camping program in search of creative ways to incorporate education about insects into statewide 4-H programs. Their traveling outreach program arranged to visit camp weekly – during Campers' Choice time, like the Mobile Dairy Classroom – and the UGA “Bug Dawgs” shared live insects and arthropods with campers. Campers were particularly enthralled by the incorporation of edible insects into

their presentation, which was a big hit with the campers. This collaboration exposed hundreds of Georgia youth to a new and exciting insect-based industry and established the connection between an academic unit and Georgia 4-H, both under the umbrella of UGA CAES. Finally, collaborative efforts are not only aimed at just the elementary school-aged camper audience, but also to Georgia's high school-aged 4-H campers through on-campus experiential learning experiences at UGA during 4-H Senior Camp. For the past three years, Senior Camp instructors have included UGA CAES faculty members and supporting researchers and staff in the Crop and Soil Sciences, Poultry Science, Food Science, and Entomology departments; the Agricultural and Environmental Services Lab; and, UGA Extension Family and Consumer Sciences departments, Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics, and Human Development and Family Science. These faculty and staff have delivered content highlighting the importance of agriculture and family and consumer science education in Georgia, UGA's public service role and mission in providing that education to the public, and educational opportunities within CAES and FACS at the University of Georgia for aspiring students.

**Results/impact:** While impact is largely anecdotal and observational, the campers appear to have greatly enjoyed and have provided positive feedback on all the above-mentioned collaborative experiences. A greater effort can and should be made to measure specific impacts, especially as it relates to the influence on choices of colleges or college majors by Senior 4-H campers. Nevertheless, existing feedback is sufficient to demonstrate the need to continue to provide these and other 4-H camping experiences that educate and promote greater awareness of the importance of Georgia's top industry to this state, UGA's role in supporting that industry, and opportunities for youth to make a career in the agricultural industry.



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The University of Georgia 4-H program is the largest youth leadership organization in the state.  
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