UGA Cooperative Extension Restructuring Q&A

After suffering severe budget cuts over the past two years, UGA Cooperative Extension restructured the way it will deliver county programs and services to fit within the new funding limitations. Here are some frequently asked questions. If you have more questions, call your county Extension office at 1-800-ASK-UGA1.

Q: Will my county still have an Extension office?

A: A limited number of counties will no longer have a physical office, but we will have at least one Extension employee in every county. Counties with no Extension office will have 4-H programs delivered in the county, and residents can seek programs and services through neighboring county offices.

Q: How did you decide which offices will have agents?

A: With only 113 agriculture agents, 36 family and consumer science agents and 90 4-H agents, it was impossible to maintain the same level of service to each of Georgia’s 159 counties. We developed a tier system to organize levels of service we can provide to a county based on available funding. Counties were assigned a tier. From there, we determine which counties have an agent, an Extension professional employee or a combination of different types of staff members.

To decide where our remaining agents would be most effective, we developed a range of criteria for each program area, but relied on the expertise of our district management teams who are most familiar with the needs and resources in local areas to make final decisions.

Q: How can I find out what is now available in my county?

A: Your local Extension employee(s) can answer questions. Plus, there is a map available online at http://www.ugaextension.com that outlines the service levels by county.

Q: If my county is in a limited-service tier, does that mean we will never get our programs restored?

A: Counties can move up in the tier system by generating additional funding to support a county office. We certainly hope when the economy improves we will be able to restore funding to raise more counties to higher levels of daily service. Let your local elected officials know how important Extension is to you.

Q: So how can I get assistance / help from Cooperative Extension?

A: We have a range of online services available. All Extension publications are available on our UGA Extension website. You can also ask questions, find fact sheets and more on eXtension, the national Extension website, at extension.org. Or, you can call 1-800-ASK-UGA1 to be connected to the nearest Extension office with an agent.