

National Awards Dinner



**April 29, 2024
7:00 PM
Rock Eagle 4-H Center**



The background of the image is an abstract composition of thick, expressive brushstrokes. The primary colors are various shades of green, ranging from light lime to deep forest green. Interspersed among the green strokes are horizontal bands of soft pink and pale lavender. The overall effect is a textured, painterly quality that frames the central text.

Communicator Awards

Educational Package - Team

Kelle Ashley

Team: Brittany Teets, Erin Hendricks, Susannah Lanier, Pam Bloch, Dorothea Graham, and Lori Bledsoe

Georgia 4-H's has recently restructured Certified Teen Leader Training scaffolding the information into two levels. Level one's resources ensure intentional time and focus is spent in developing fundamental leadership skills such as conflict resolution, communication, and best practices working with younger youth.

Educational Piece - Team

Kasey Bozeman

Team: Taylor Neither, Maria Bowie, Tim Welsh, and Virginia Brown

The Understanding Vaccines Journeys publication focuses on educating middle school students about vaccine development, pioneers in immunology, tracking personal vaccines using the G.R.I.T.S. system, career connections, and the importance of community engagements, such as 4-H rabies clinics.



Exhibit

Ashley Carroll
Team: Lauren Dubberly

To goal of the “Be a Jr. Zoonotic Disease Detective” educational exhibit was to educate the general public about Zoonotic diseases in an interactive way.

This included helping both youth and adult audiences understand the differences in Influenza, Salmonella, & E. Coli.



Feature Story

Kelle Ashley

“Persistence Paying Off” was included as a feature story in the Georgia 4-H Cloverleaf Magazine: Annual Report. The Cloverleaf Magazine not only chronicles the program year through facts and figures, but also lifts up the stories of extraordinary 4-H members like Braylen Howell.

Media Presentation

Brittani Lee

Team: Pam Bloch, Brittany Teets, Cheryl Poppell, Lori Bledsoe, Megan Veal, Susannah Lanier, Kristen Ford, and Kate Whiting

The One Georgia 4-H Urban-Rural Agricultural Experience program is an educational initiative designed to agricultural awareness by bringing together a cohort of 4-H members in ninth through eleventh grade from different counties across Georgia to learn about the importance of agriculture, the state's largest economic sector.



News Story

Jenna Daniel

Team: Josie Smith, Courtney Brown, Shanda Ashley, Luke Crosson, Valerie Bennett, Suzanne Williams, Cindy Shearam, and Georgeanne Cook

UGA Extension has been active in a large national effort to support community coalition led health change through the Well Connected Communities (WCC) initiative. This grant funded programs works to leverage community coalitions to drive policy, systems, and environmental change for sustainable health and wellness. An integral part of these coalitions is youth involvement and leadership - youth as change agents in their community.



Periodical Publication - Individual

Heather Haines

Heather Haines has served as the Forsyth County 4-H Agent since 2020. She has a passion for using marketing strategies to help the local 4-H program reach new youth.

Periodical Publication - Team

Sonya Jones

Team: Jay Porter, and Abby Vickers

The Quarterly Pulaski County Extension Stakeholder Newsletter was created as a periodical publication to educate stakeholders on all of the great programs and events happening in the local Extension program and to help increase funding for Extension. It has successfully secured over \$16,000 in revenue for Pulaski County Extension.



Personal Column

Josie Davis

Paulding County 4-H is quickly building a reputation for offering positive environmental education experiences to students within the county. To expand this reach, the 4-H Agent has partnered with a local magazine, Paulding News and Views, to offer the community a monthly article about local wildlife.

Promotional Package - Individual

Adrienne Cox

In preparation for 4-H Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging, Cox created a promotional game board flyer and a video showcasing the competition. The objective was to spread awareness about the judging team process and contest. This video was shown in 4-H club meetings and online media sites.



Promotional Piece - Individual

Josie Davis

The 4-H Outdoor Challenge encourages 4-H families to dedicate a weekend to exploring nature. Low event participation in 2022 encouraged a redesign of promotional material for the 2023 event in the hopes of attracting attention and more participation.

Promotional Piece - Team

Kelle Ashley

Team: Josie Smith

The Step Up and Lead infographic effectively communicates the knowledge students gained through the conference experience, as well as the value teachers see in the program. SUAL is an innovative student leadership conference hosted at a variety of locations around the Georgia in partnership with the Georgia Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals.



Published Photo

Megan Veal

Team: Pam Bloch, Brittani Lee, Brittany Teets, Cheryl Poppell, Dr. Lori Bledsoe, Megan Veal, Susannah Lanier, Kristen Ford, and Kate Whiting

Crop scouting is important to monitor pests and disease to allow for corrective measures for increased plant health and yield. This published photo was printed in the Georgia 4-H Cloverleaf Magazine to promote the One Georgia 4-H Urban-Rural Agricultural Experience to 4-H stakeholders, supporters, and county 4-H faculty and staff.

Social Media Package/Campaign - Individual

Adrienne Cox

Cox created this social media package to promote the Harris County 4-H Pumpkin Decorating Contest and showcase the entries. This contest is open to students in Kindergarten to 12th grade. There are five age groups and three pumpkin categories. Students get creative and enter photos of their pumpkin online.

Social Media Package/Campaign - Team

Heather Haines

Team: Shannon Henderson

Heather Haines and Shannon Henderson have been working together to market the Forsyth County 4-H programs since 2020. The duo has a passion for getting kids outdoors and igniting their spark through environmental education.



Social Media Piece - Individual

Sonya Jones

Pulaski 4-H created a social media piece to help educate the public on the how well the Pulaski 4-H'ers did at the 2023 Georgia National Fair in the 4-H contests and exhibits and to showcase the specialty award won for overall participation and placings.



Video Program

Samantha Price

Team: Brendon Brown, Michelle Modesitt, and Jarius Sanford

Samantha Price has been the Houston 4-H Agent since 2018. While being in Houston she has worked consistently to develop outstanding relationships with the Ag Ed Teachers and Robins Air Force Base. These partnerships have brought opportunities for new and unique programs.

The background of the slide features abstract, painterly brushstrokes in various shades of green and pink. These strokes are layered and textured, creating a vibrant, artistic backdrop. A central black horizontal band provides a high-contrast area for the title text.

Specialty Awards



Citizenship in 4-H Youth Development

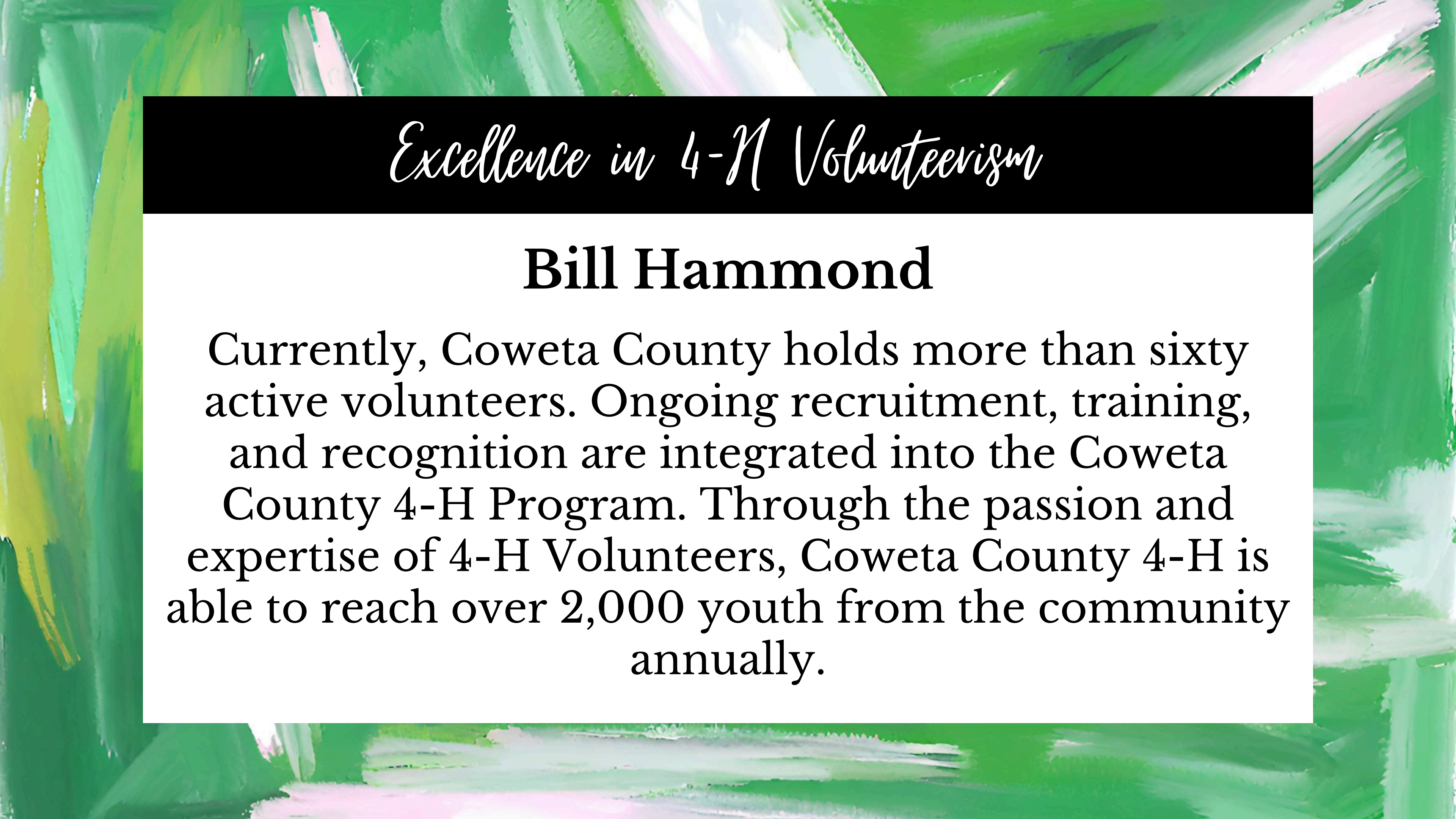
Laura Lee Hughes

Laura Lee's passion for agricultural education can be traced back to some of her first experiences with 4-H in 5th grade, where she spent time learning about agricultural commodities, raising livestock, and attending summer camp. As 4-H Agent in Ben Hill County, she specializes in agricultural literacy, leadership, and judging teams.

Diversity & Inclusion: Expanding the 4-H Audience

Katrina Searcy

Katrina Searcy serves as the Cook County 4-H Agent, brings a rich perspective from the Philippines to her role. As the 2023 GAE4-HYDP Diversity Committee Chair, she champions inclusivity. Holding a Master's in Plant Pathology from UGA, she pursues a PhD in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication. She prides herself in being a female, Asian immigrant in the field of agriculture where diversity is not only pivotal but essential.



Excellence in 4-H Volunteerism

Bill Hammond

Currently, Coweta County holds more than sixty active volunteers. Ongoing recruitment, training, and recognition are integrated into the Coweta County 4-H Program. Through the passion and expertise of 4-H Volunteers, Coweta County 4-H is able to reach over 2,000 youth from the community annually.



Excellence in After School Programming

Marcus Eason

Marcus Eason encourage his 4-H'ers to be active within their community and tries to provide numerous opportunities for them to do so. Marcus became aware of the need to support senior citizens in Oglethorpe County. Partnering with the Senior Center, the Oglethorpe County 4-H Club now helps elderly do small jobs around the house.

Excellence in Ag Literacy Programming

Megan Veal

Team: Pam Bloch, Brittani Lee, Brittany Teets, Cheryl Poppell, Dr. Lori Bledsoe, Megan Veal, Susannah Lanier, Kristen Ford, and Kate Whiting

Agriculture is a vital part of Georgia's economy and impacts daily life, yet most Americans do not understand the agricultural sector. The One Georgia 4-H Urban-Rural Experience is an educational initiative designed to address challenges by bringing a high school 4-H student cohort to learn about diversity and impact of agriculture.

Excellence in Animal Science Programming

Lindsey Hayes
Team: Teresa Adkins

The Animal Science AgVenture was an innovative walk-through mobile learning lab that highlighted Georgia's small livestock species. In order to bring awareness of Georgia's livestock commodities, include hands-on activities, and offer learning opportunities for both youth and adults – the Animal Science AgVenture visited school systems in Decatur County and community events like River Town Days and the Flint River Fair and reached over 9,789 youth and adults.



Excellence in Camping

Ashley Carroll

Team: Christina Garner, Grace Chauncey, Cindy Meadows, and Kris Peavy

Clover Jam is a youth development event in Southwest District for 5th-7th graders with a goal of retaining middle school youth and helping youth gain 4-H Essential Elements.



Excellence in Communication & Expressive Arts

Randie Gray

In honor of Read Across America Day/Dr. Seuss Day, four talented Hancock County 4-H members crafted captivating children's books centered around their most cherished 4-H experiences. Each book features pictures of the authors participating in various 4-H activities, as well as engaging graphics for young readers to color.

Excellence in Healthy living Programming

Meghan Corvin

Team: Stephanie Skojac

Whitfield and Murray 4-H, in partnership with Family Connection, Dalton Public, Whitfield, and Murray County Schools, planned and implemented the Teen Maze Event for over 2,300 10th graders. Whitfield and Murray County 4-H provided programming addressing healthy living and life skills for the Resource Arena, which is the culmination of the event.

Excellence in Natural Resources/Environmental Education

Stephanie Skojac

Team: Meghan Corvin and Brenda Jackson

Stephanie Skojac is the County Extension Agent for 4-H/Youth Development in Murray County. Stephanie began her 4-H career as a volunteer, then as a program assistant, and has been an agent for the past 10 years. She provides oversight to the county 4-H program of over 1,000 enrolled youth and nearly 40 volunteers in nearly 50 clubs, and a mother of 3 active 4-H'ers.



Excellence in Peer Professional Development

Cara Freeman

Team: Laura Lee Hughes and Kristen Ford

Cara Freeman is the 4-H Agent in Marion and Schley Counties in Southwest District. She began working in Extension as a 4-H Educator in November 2018 and was hired to her current position in April 2021.



Excellence in Teamwork

Allie Griner

Team: Maria Bowie, Virginia Brown, Paul Coote, Susan Moore, Greg Pittman, Venessa Sims, Amanda Tedrow, Jill Gambill, and Kimberly Post

The University of Georgia Extension Emergency Preparedness Team hosted the 2023 National EDEN conference and provided a pre-conference excursion tour to Tybee Island 4-H Center to grow the knowledge of Extension professionals nationwide about the need for coastal resilience.

Excellence in Urban 4-H Programming

Brittany Teets

Team: Pam Bloch, Brittani Lee, and Charlene Scott

The University of Georgia team hosted an Adulting 101 Grab & Go summer day session for youth to pilot the tri-state team's (Penn State, University of Nebraska, and UGA) curriculum with four metro Atlanta counties-Cobb, Gwinnett, Rockdale and Newton. Adulting 101: Grab & Go lessons were designed to be taught in person as an engaging, interactive lesson to give students the opportunity to practice the life skills hands on. The life skills that were the primary focus of the curriculum are cooking skills, automobile maintenance, housekeeping skills, relationship development, and other necessary life skills to aid youth in learning how to be responsible adults.



Excellence in Workforce Development Programming

Allison Perkins

The AG STEM two day event was created to show 4-H'ers how judging teams can become a future educational and career pathway.

Susan Barkman Award for Research & Evaluation

Katrina Searcy

Katrina Searcy brings a unique perspective from her native country, Philippines, to her role within Georgia 4-H. Leveraging her five years of experience as a 4-H youth and development agent, she navigates her position as a minority within an organization historically focused on agriculture but lacking in racial diversity. This experience drives her research interests, which aim to shed light on the complexities of recruiting, engaging, and retaining underserved populations in 4-H agricultural science programs.

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Service Awards



Achievement in Service Award

Billie Ann King

Billie Ann King is the Pierce County 4-H Youth Development Agent where she serves over 650 active 4-H members through in school, after school and volunteer led programs. With a background in Agriculture and a Master's Degree in Agricultural and Environmental Education from UGA she offers a variety of diverse programs to Pierce County Youth.



Achievement in Service Award

Susannah Lanier

Susannah Lanier has served UGA Extension as 4-H Agent for six years in both Bulloch and Candler counties. She enjoys helping 4-H'ers grow their leadership potential and experience new things. Lanier and her husband Luke live in Metter, Georgia with their three young boys: Charlie, Emmett and James.



Achievement in Service Award

Cara Freeman

Cara Freeman is the 4-H Agent in Marion and Schley Counties in Southwest District. She began working in Extension as a 4-H Educator in November 2018 and began in her current position in April 2022.



Distinguished Service Award

Randie Gray

Randie Gray has been with the Hancock County Extension Agency for 17 years. She has been passionate about 4-H since her time in the 4-H Horse Club in Newton County. She lives on an 80 acre farm in Sparta Georgia with her husband Pete Gray, their horses, and dogs.

Distinguished Service Award

Stephanie Skojac

Stephanie Skojac is the County Extension Agent for 4-H/Youth Development in Murray County. Stephanie began her 4-H career as a volunteer, then as a program assistant, and has been an agent for the past 10 years. She provides oversight to the county 4-H program of over 1,000 enrolled youth and nearly 40 volunteers in nearly 50 clubs, and a mother of 3 active 4-H'ers.



Meritorious Service Award

Octavia Jackson

Octavia began her career with the University of Georgia Extension in 2000. She currently serves as the 4-H Youth Development Agent in Lamar County. Serving as a 4-H Agent, Octavia has coupled her two passions – youth development and gardening. She strives to provide quality programming that is diverse and varied.



2024 GAE4-HYDP Annual Professional Development Conference

Rooted in Excellence



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