

2021 Annual Report

Virginia Cooperative Extension – Prince George Unit

The Prince George Unit enjoyed another successful year of programming in Prince George County. The unit consists of three full time staff: Scott Reiter, Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources & Unit Coordinator, Hermon Maclin, Extension Agent-4-H Youth Development, and Hollie Aboussourhra, Unit Administrative Assistant. Part-time staff include Altamarie Woods, PROSPER Strengthening Families grant program assistant.

Prince George Agriculture and Natural Resources Highlights – Scott Reiter

Pesticide Safety Training and Recertification: Held two virtual live webinars and one in-person event for commercial and private pesticide applicators. 289 applicators from across Virginia received credit and renewed their licenses for two more years. Also worked with our Pesticide Safety Education Program on-line modules as a teaching assistant to help 10 local applicators receive safety training.

Prince George Master Gardener Program: The Master Gardener program includes 30 volunteers who contributed over 1,000 hours of volunteer time to programs in the County. The absence of in-person programming during the winter prompted the hosting of a webinar titled “The Art of Growing Herbs” with 133 attendees. Master Gardeners also participated in the Prince George Farmers Market with displays. The Greater Tomato Contest was promoted during the summer with the weigh in date in August at the Farmers Market that included 15 entries. A youth garden bucket planting program was also held in conjunction with the Farmers Market. Twenty youth planted tomatoes and took home projects to encourage future gardeners! The Fall Plant Sale and Clinic was a success in October with all proceeds benefiting the Horticulture scholarship and programming funds.



Agriculture and Horticulture Programs: Corn and soybean research was conducted on 4 farms in the county. A soybean field day was held where 30 area farmers viewed the research plots. The results are published annually in two Extension publications. Assisted homeowners and farmers with weed, insect, and disease control recommendations in field crops, vegetables, lawns, trees, and gardens.

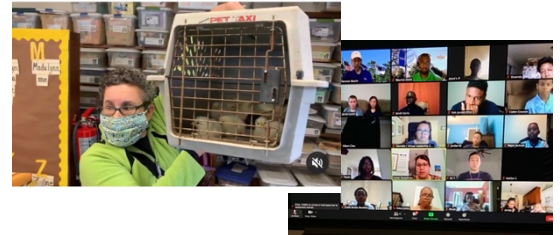
Prince George County 4-H Highlights 2021 – Hermon Maclin, Extension Agent 4-H



Summer camps: Held two weeks of residential camp to comply with Covid 19 restrictions that cut our participant numbers to only 110 slots per camp. We normally have over 300 participants. With three Prince George 4-H alums working on Airfield's staff, I mentored staff members and the interim program director at Airfield in 2021.

Total PG 4-H Enrollment: 1990 members in 2020 but due to Covid restrictions, dropped slightly to 1398 members in 2021.

PROSPER Strengthening Families Program: Activities on virtual platforms and "Botfin Lifeskills" program in all PE classes at JEJ Moore Middle School. Other **school enrichment programs** included hatching baby chicks in the five elementary schools, and gardening/environmental education at Moore Middle.



Citizenship Club at Prince George High School: 57 members take educational field trips, provide community service, conduct talent shows/competitions, and serve as mentors to students in middle and elementary schools.

State 4-H Congress STF Show and competitions: Prince George 4-H'er, Taylor Hart was among the 10 Blue-Ribbon winners out of 37 acts in the competition.

Virginia Youth Voices: Award winning youth digital media program videos received 89,016 views on YouTube, 10,313 on Facebook, 7989 on Instagram and 893 on Twitter with messages that address issues and offer solutions to solve problems faced by youth today.

CBS 6 News: Antoinette Essa of CBS 6 News featured Hermon Maclin and ran a story about "PG4H Camp" on the news. The story aired in April 2021 reaching approximately 50k viewers.

Volunteers: I manage 94 4-H adult volunteers and 21 youth volunteers who worked approximately 8354 hours in the 2021 with virtual and in-person programs.

Farm Day: We were not able to host Farm Day for all the PGCPs second-grade students again in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. Robin Germanos, PGCPs director of elementary education suggested we offer a virtual version of the program for 2022.

Improving wellbeing in PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

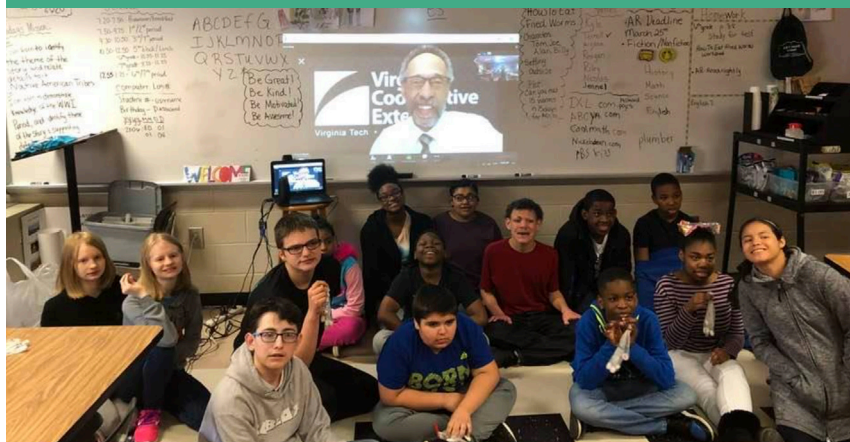
COMMUNITY VOICES

“On March 12, 2020, the Prince George Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension prepared us for what virtual learning was going to look like without knowing if school was going to reopen. They never skipped a beat on how learning can be accomplished through Virginia 4-H.”

Veronica T. Harper

Teacher, J.E.J. Moore Middle School

SHARING KNOWLEDGE



J.E.J. Moore Middle School students participate in a virtual 4-H program.

PARTNERS FOR SOLUTIONS

“The past year has been challenging for pesticide applicators to receive mandatory trainings for private, commercial, dicamba, and paraquat certifications. I used a combination of in-person, web-based, and virtual formats to assist over 300 applicators complete their required trainings. Applicators appreciated the flexibility to meet their technological needs.”



Scott Reiter
Extension Agent

The Prince George Extension Office pioneered virtual programs as soon as the COVID-19 lockdown began. Springboarding off an ongoing partnership with Moore Middle School, the Extension office and 4-H produced the county's first virtual workshop with the special education classes.

The teachers and students have a longstanding history with Prince George Extension, having participated in projects centered around aquaculture, hydroponics, and greenhouse gardening. At the time of the first virtual workshop, students were still in school but were aware that schools would be closed the following weeks. The 4-H Extension agent connected with the classroom via Zoom. Students could ask questions and talk with the agent while the teachers assisted with the project.

GET IN TOUCH

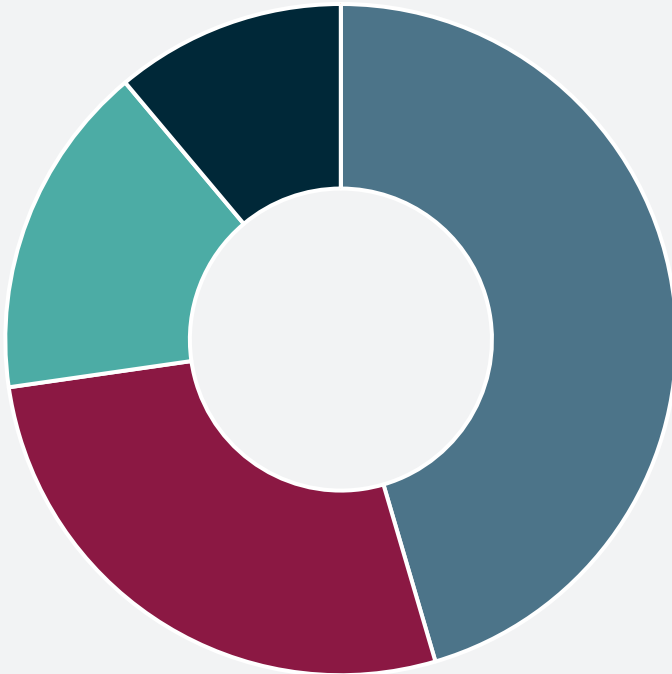
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Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

FUNDING BY SOURCE



45% State

27% Local

16% Federal

11% Grants

0% Other

TOTAL FUNDING: \$303,830



\$2.64

return on investment
for every dollar invested
by the county in **Prince
George County**



\$84,652

Value of extension
volunteer hours in
Prince George County

To find out how you can support your local Extension office,
visit www.cals.vt.edu/make-a-gift.