Extension and County Partnerships – A Recipe for Success for over 100 Years

Jeff Ripley
Associate Director – County Operations
Our Vision

To help Texans better their lives

Our Mission

Through the application of science-based knowledge, we create high-quality, relevant continuing education that encourages lasting and effective change
Legal Foundation for Land-Grant University System

- 1862 Morrill Act – Original Land Grant Legislation
- 1876 Hatch Act – Experiment Stations
- 1890 Morrill Act – Second Morrill Act, Historically African American Serving Institutions
- 1914 Smith-Lever Act – Cooperative Extension Service
“The land grant university system is being built on behalf of the people, who have invested in these public universities their hopes, their support, and their confidence.”

Abraham Lincoln, upon signing the Morrill Act, July 2, 1862

SERVING YOU TODAY

TRUSTED RESEARCH
LOCAL EDUCATORS...
EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
PROVIDING SOLUTIONS
Member of The Texas A&M System

- Statewide Educational Agency
- Part of Nationwide Cooperative Extension System
- Partnership – Federal, State, and County Government
- Address Needs of Local Residents
- Specialist Support
Texas Agriculture Code

Section 43.031

- The commissioners court of any county may establish and conduct cooperative demonstration work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with Texas A&M University.
Section 43.032

The demonstration work shall be conducted on terms and conditions agreed to by the commissioners court and the agents of Texas A&M University

Section 43.033

The commissioners court may employ any means and may appropriate and expend money as necessary to establish and conduct demonstration work under this subchapter.
Role of County Extension Agent

- Local Resident Educator Serving Youth and Adult Audiences
- Work with planning groups to ensure relevance
- All County Agents have 4-H responsibility
Extension’s Role in the County

- We are **YOUR** Education Department
  - Resource for your employees
  - Resource for your constituents
  - Resource for **YOU**

- We have direct and immediate access to the best educational resources available
Qualifications

- Bachelors Degree Required
- Preferred Degree in Agriculture, Health, Family and Consumer Science or Youth Development field
- Masters Degree preferred
- Individual Job Description for Each Position
- Performance Evaluations annually with input from Court.
State-wide Staffing

- Support Staff (31)
- Administration and Administrative Services (37)
- Paraprofessionals (91)
- Specialists (134)
- Other Professionals (136)
- Wildlife Services (139)
- County and Other Support Staff (456) includes 373 staff funded directly by county courts
- County Extension Agents (562)

18% On-Campus (333 FTEs)
- Specialists (107)
- Other Professionals (158)

82% Off-Campus (1,518 FTEs)

Extension Workforce – 1,851 FTEs total, based on all funding sources
Funding Source Partnerships

State of Texas/TAMUS → USDA/NIFA

County Commissioners Court
FY 2017 Funding

- Total 154 million
  - State General Revenue: $66 million
  - Federal Smith-Lever: $13 million
  - County Funds: $34 million
  - Contracts, Grants & User Fees: $41 million
# Historic Partner Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extension</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General human resources oversight</td>
<td>Office space, utilities, and supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and professional development</td>
<td>Office support staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational resources</td>
<td>Travel and mileage funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support of departments and specialists</td>
<td>Salary support for Agents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary support of Agents</td>
<td>Other operational needs</td>
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Future of Extension

- Base funding has been level or decreased for several years
- Any additional funds have been very targeted
- Rebuild Texas Commission
- Extension 20/20 Visioning Committee Meeting Currently
  - County Staffing
  - Salaries
  - Program Priorities
Future Program Priorities

- Emergency Management and Preparedness
- Path to the Plate
- Healthy Texas
- 4-H Growth and Expansion
Questions?

- Thanks for your partnership and continued support of Extension.
Peter J. McGuill, Ph.D.
Director,
V.G. Young Institute of County Government
• Extension programs began for County Judges and Commissioners in 1956
• Institute formally established in 1969
• Continuing education required of all Texas county officials, but differs by office
• Educational Programming
• Leadership Development
• Recommendations
• Resources
Educational Programming

• Continuing education conferences
• District trainings
• Online courses
• Curriculum development
Resources

- Subject matter experts
- Continuing education approval
- County Judges
- County Commissioners
- County Tax AC/Deputies
- County Appraisers
- County HR Directors
- Emergency Service District
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