The Extension Spirit...

Helping Put Knowledge to Work for Texans
The Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the off-campus educational partner of The Texas A&M University System, provides an educational delivery system that reaches into every county of the state. For more than seven decades, Extension has been helping put knowledge to work for Texans.

What is the Extension Spirit?

The Extension spirit reflects a commitment by The Texas A&M University System (the state’s land grant university) to be responsive to the needs and concerns of Texans through a unique system of education. For the citizens of Texas, the Extension spirit is...

• A sense of concern not only for your own family’s well-being, but also for other people.

• Accepting responsibility and the challenge to "do for yourself" instead of waiting for someone else to do it.

• Freedom to take charge and help direct those activities that influence your life.

• Caring about your community and county and what happens or needs to happen.

• A sense of self-direction and pride of accomplishment.

• Using opportunities available for personal growth and development.

• People working together to solve their own problems and to achieve what they want and need to improve their lives.

• A special feeling that comes when you have done something that helped someone else, too.

The Extension spirit culminates in putting knowledge to work for Texans!
How the Extension System of Education Works. . .

County Extension agents, who are professional educators, live and work with people in a designated county. Extension agents work with you to conduct educational programs that help people use scientific information to solve practical problems and access available resources.

Extension's mission is to develop research-based educational programs that help Texans take advantage of current and emerging knowledge and technologies. Educational programs are so varied that they have the potential to make a difference in the lives of all Texans, regardless of their age, where they live or their methods of making a living.

County Extension agents are supported by a staff of specialists trained in subjects for which Extension has educational responsibility. Specialists are located at Texas A&M University and at the 14 district headquarters throughout the state where they can respond quickly to people's needs. Specialists form an effective link between the county staffs and the research and teaching staffs of The Texas A&M University System.

You Can Be a Part of the Extension Spirit . . .

You can help keep the Extension spirit strong in your community and county. Here's how:

A county Extension Program Council, com-
posed of volunteer citizens, works closely with Extension agents to provide leadership to the educational program. The Council identifies critical issues and concerns that are important to citizens of the county and helps direct educational activity to address these concerns. The Council is composed of an executive board and several committees and task forces. The various committees are in charge of developing programs for their assigned issues or areas of concern.

Through the cooperative efforts of Extension Program Councils and county Extension agents, educational programs have been developed to address such issues and concerns of citizens as:

- Agricultural Profitability and Competitiveness
- Improving Nutrition, Diet and Health
- Water Quality and Conservation
- Youth at Risk
- Economic Development

*Extension begins with people — your problems and concerns. More than 18,000 Texas citizens currently serve as leaders on county Extension Program Councils.*

The county Extension Program Council rotates membership. Some new members are selected each year. If you are selected to serve on the Council, you will:

- Become part of an organization and educational system that puts people first.
- Be recognized as one who holds a responsible position of leadership in the county.
- Have opportunities to work with professional Extension educators of The Texas
A&M University System and key resource people who are experts in their fields.

- Experience personal growth and development.
- Get to know and work with numerous other leading citizens from various communities and areas of the county.
- Represent the views and interests of people where you live as well as your own.
- Communicate problems and concerns of people to the Council.
- Attend planning meetings with other members to help develop educational programs directed toward problem solving.
- Assist in conducting educational events and activities which the group sponsors.
- See many improvements in people's lives and know that you had a part in them.

Be a Part of the Extension Spirit!

If you are asked to serve on your county's Extension Program Council, we think you'll be glad you joined forces with one of the most successful systems of education ever devised. The county office of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service can provide additional information. Contact your county Extension agents.
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Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.


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