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# COUNTY EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS PROGRAM

## Organizational Relationships

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Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
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# COUNTY EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS PROGRAM

## *Organizational Relationships*

June Cline\*

The county Extension home economics program answers the needs of the local people. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service has accepted the responsibility of helping county residents determine their needs and develop programs to answer those needs.

County Extension agents work with a variety of people to implement the programs. A planned, logical, organized relationship achieves the best results with the most people.

The Extension home economics program seeks to strengthen and improve the quality of home and family life. To do this, county Extension agents (home economics) work with the family living committee, Extension homemakers clubs, study groups, the Extension homemakers council, the Texas Extension Homemakers Association (TEHA) and other organizations.

### ***The Family Living Committee***

A family living committee is a group of people who provide direction for the Extension home economics program in a county. The family living committee is one of the program area subcommittees of the county program building committee. It is composed of volunteer lay people representatives with varied interests from all parts of the county.

Family living committee members study family living needs and concerns of county residents. Each year they select one of the following areas of home economics for program emphasis: family stability, family health, family resource management, family clothing, housing environment or foods and nutrition.

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\*Extension organization specialist, The Texas A&M University System, Texas Agricultural Extension Service.



After an area of program emphasis has been selected, the family living committee assists the county Extension agent in developing and implementing an action plan. Committee members also assist in determining the effectiveness of the in-depth educational programs.

The program chairmen (vice presidents) of the county Extension homemakers council and the Texas Extension Homemakers Association represent the Extension homemakers club members on the family living committee. They check with clubs to determine club members' interests and communicate them to the family living committee. They also communicate family living committee program emphasis and plans to the Extension homemakers council.

### ***Extension Homemakers Clubs***

Extension homemakers clubs are community groups of homemakers who work with the county Extension agent to plan and carry out educational programs in home economics.

Extension homemakers clubs participate in community services that improve family and community as well as personal leadership development of club members. Extension homemakers clubs provide a means for members to acquire information and develop skills for making their homes, community and county better places to live.

Extension homemakers clubs have these responsibilities:

- Members of Extension homemakers clubs carry out educational programs based on the needs of families in their community and county. Their programs include method demonstrations, illustrated talks, lectures and group discussions. They may develop result demonstrations related to the county program.

- A balanced Extension homemakers club program is based on the in-depth study area selected by the family living committee, outside resource persons, two Texas Extension Homemakers Association recommendations, home economics leader training by the county Extension agent and other sources.

- The activities of the clubs should include planned community services.

- Leadership is developed in the county Extension homemakers council and exercised in the Extension homemakers clubs.

- Membership is open to all homemakers of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

- Extension homemakers club members make a special effort to reach all homemakers (members and non-members alike) with home economics information.

- Extension homemakers club officers include a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and reporter. Standing committees include program, education, finance and recreation.

- The county Extension agent acts as an advisor in organizing community activities and for work relating to the Texas Extension Homemakers Association, as well as being a teacher of home economics subject matter.



## ***Extension Homemakers Council***

The Extension homemakers council is a committee composed of Extension homemakers club presidents and one elected delegate from each club. The council is responsible to the Extension homemakers clubs and to the Texas Agricultural Extension Service through the county Extension agent. The county Extension homemakers council has three main functions:

1. The council serves as an advisory committee to the county Extension agent. The members plan with the agent for educational programs that meet the needs and interests of club members. The council makes special efforts to reach homemakers with home economics information. The members recognize a responsibility toward youth, and assist the agent and 4-H clubs in developing a program that will reach the largest possible number of youth. They inform the county Extension agent of areas where assistance is especially needed.

2. A county Extension homemakers council serves as an organization model for Extension homemakers clubs. The same basic structure and procedure exists in the council and the Extension homemakers clubs.

The council plans and coordinates countywide programs and activities. As a demonstration in organization, the council practices parliamentary procedures and sponsors officers and committee training annually.

Council subcommittees plan and coordinate countywide programs and activities with the approval and support of the council.

As a trainer and a teacher, the county Extension agent (home economics) instructs the council members on effective ways to select educational programs which will meet the needs and interests of club members.

3. The council is a means of communication between the community and the county Extension agent, between the individual Extension homemakers clubs, between the clubs and the Texas Extension Homemakers Association, between the clubs and the family living committee, and between the clubs and the various organizations with which they cooperate.

The clubs, through the council, have representation on the county program building committee and the family living committee. Club members study the needs of the people in their community, and have input into the county planned home economics program. They, in turn, use the recommendations from the family living committee for at least two educational programs.

## ***Texas Extension Homemakers Association***

The Texas Extension Homemakers Association is composed of Extension homemakers club members. It coordinates the statewide activities of the Extension homemakers clubs, expresses the desires and interests of club members, and cooperates with other similar organizations.

All members of the Extension homemakers clubs are members of the Texas Extension Homemakers Association and help make and carry out its programs. The Extension homemakers club president and delegate from each club represent their club members in the county Texas Extension Homemakers Association.

The Texas Extension Homemakers Association recommends study and community action in six areas of public interest, including health and safety, citizenship and legislative, family life and family resources, membership and leadership, cultural arts and international understanding and the young homemakers.

A member of the board of directors of the Texas Extension Homemakers Association must have been chairman of a county Extension homemakers association.

## ***County Extension Homemakers Association***

County Extension Homemakers Association membership is the same as the county Extension council membership with one exception. The county Texas Extension Homemakers Association elects its chairman from nominees presented by the Extension homemakers clubs. A club member must have been a member of an Extension club and the Extension homemaker council for 1 year to be eligible for the office of county Texas Extension Homemakers Association chairman.

The county Texas Extension Homemakers Association chairman presides over meetings of the county Texas Extension Homemakers Association when it elects delegates or transacts business related to the Texas Extension Homemakers Association. The chairman acts as a connecting link between local Extension homemakers clubs and the Texas Extension Homemakers Association. The county chairman receives instructions from the district Texas Extension Homemakers Association director. The club president reports activities of the clubs in relation to the association's recommendations for study and community programs. The county chairman encourages the collection of the Texas Extension Homemakers Association funds. Member contributions are transmitted from club treasurers directly to the county Texas Extension Homemakers Association chairman.

The county Texas Extension Homemakers Association chairman attends county Extension homemakers council meetings regularly. The county chairman should be able to discuss any subject related to Texas Extension Homemakers Association work. The county chairman does not have a vote in the council unless she also is a club representative, an



officer of the council or a chairman of a standing committee.

Delegates to the annual meeting of the Texas Extension Homemakers Association report the association's program of work to the clubs. They are responsible for teaching two leader training meetings from state workshops and for coordinating a countywide project.

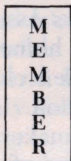
**Extension Homemakers Club**

Agent advises and teaches:

*Home Economics Subject Matter*

- Foods and nutrition
- Housing and home furnishings
- Family stability
- Clothing — textiles
- Family resource management
- Health

Homemakers Council is a committee that  
Coordinates programs and countywide projects



**Texas Extension Homemakers Association**

Agent advises:  
Three delegates from each county are sponsored to attend state Texas Extension Homemakers Association meeting.

*Committees*

- Citizenship and legislative
- Family life and family resources
- Health and safety
- Membership and leadership
- Cultural arts and international understanding
- Young homemakers

Texas Extension Homemakers Association delegates

- teach two workshops
- one countywide project

The organizational chart shows that club members have dual membership in clubs and council and in the Texas Extension Homemakers Association.

When a person joins an Extension homemakers club, he or she is an automatic member of the club and of Texas Extension Homemakers Association.

***Suggested Guidelines for County Programs in Extension Homemakers Clubs***

- Agent teaches two programs at club level in home economics subject selected as area of emphasis by family living committee.
- Agent teaches four leader training programs; leaders attend and re-teach programs at club level.
- Delegates teach two Texas Extension Homemakers Association leader training programs; leaders attend and re-teach programs at club level.

- Resource person teaches two leader training programs; leaders attend and re-teach programs at club level.

Each county sponsors a Texas Extension Homemakers Association study or action project that benefits all county residents. This project is chaired by Texas Extension Homemakers Association delegates who attend state Texas Extension Homemakers Association meeting.

### ***Study Groups***

A *study group* consists of several homemakers who participate in informal educational meetings, but who do not wish to participate in a continuing organized group. They usually meet an unspecified (four to six) number of times each year. They normally elect or appoint only a chairman. Their programs are based on home economics and family living concerns. Study groups may consider a series of lessons in one home economics study area, or they may choose a variety of subjects.

Representatives of study groups may attend county Extension homemakers council meetings, but they have no vote. Study groups are open to all people regardless of age, socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

### ***County Extension Agent***

A county Extension agent is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating the county Extension home economics program. The agent is a teacher, an advisor and a trainer. As an advisor, she works with the family living committee, the county Extension homemakers council and Texas Extension Homemakers Association to help develop educational programs and to promote committee work.

As a trainer, the agent is responsible for home economics training for all people within the county. The agent may train through demonstrations, leader training programs, newsletters, exhibits and mass media.

As a teacher, the agent presents home economics related information, based on research, to the people of the county to strengthen and improve the quality of life of the county residents.



*Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion or national origin.*

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