



**PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

Operational Guidelines

for

Joint County Extension

Programs in Texas

Prairie View A&M University
Cooperative Extension Program

and

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
The Texas A&M University System

Revised July 2016

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**Memorandum of Understanding:
Operational Guidelines for Joint County Extension Programs in Texas**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program (referred to as Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension in remainder of document) have in place both formal and informal structures for administrative and programmatic coordination that maximize the efficient use of human and fiscal resources, and strengthen the services provided by both organizations. This document, *Operational Guidelines for Joint County Extension Programs in Texas*, reflects the management and operating protocol for a continued partnership that recognizes and values the diverse expertise and contributions of both Extension organizations.

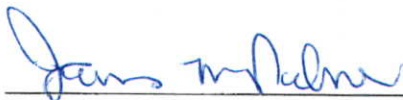
In the *Operational Guidelines*, the administrative coordination between Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is set forth in the areas of recruitment and selection of Extension agents, including applicant qualifications, position announcements, application and selection of procedures, and orientation. Supervisory roles are also coordinated.

Operational Guidelines also establishes a protocol for joint county collaboration in order to ensure program efficiency in the delivery of services while recognizing the contributions of both programs in implementing countywide activities.

The ability of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension to play pivotal roles in meeting individual, family and community needs is strengthened by their ability to work together with a common goal: improving the quality of life for Texas citizens.

We are committed to the "one-program" Extension concept, and we view this revised Memorandum of Understanding as a way to sustain the positive working relationship between Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. We are committed to goal of the two organizations working cooperatively to conduct quality educational programs for clientele, while avoiding duplication of effort. The targeted focus of Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension toward limited resources audiences provides a tremendous opportunity of better meeting the educational needs of a broad clientele base. The broad programmatic reach of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service reaches Texans across the entire spectrum of leadership education, agriculture and natural resources, health and well-being and community development.

A strong relationship between Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in fulfilling the Extension mission enables the resident of Texas to receive the assistance they need without regard to which organization holds the expertise. We are committed to enhancing and building on this partnership throughout all levels of our organizations.



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Overview of Cooperative Extension in Texas

Cooperative Extension arose from the concept that the knowledge and results of research developed within the land-grant universities should be made available to all individuals in the state. Thus Cooperative Extension brought the fruits of public investment in land-grant universities to the people and gave renewed on lifelong learning. In Texas, as well as in seventeen other southern states, the United States Congress established two entities to provide Extension services: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (1862) and Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension (1890).

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is a separate state agency and component of The Texas A&M University System. It is headquartered in College Station and serves all counties from its offices in 251 of Texas' 254 counties. The mission statement of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is "improve the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high quality, relevant education."

Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension is part of the triad in Prairie View A&M University's College of Agriculture and Human Sciences and currently provides educational outreach activities in thirty-seven counties. Its mission is "to respond to the needs of underserved Texans through life changing learning opportunities that empower families, promote agriculture, strengthen communities, and foster leadership development in youth."

While the programs of both agencies focus on the same four broad areas – Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Youth Development, and Community and Economic Development, the primary audiences for these programs differ. The programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension are statewide and are aimed at all segments of the Texas population. The programs of Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension are targeted to limited resource families and individuals. The clientele and the expertise needed to identify and deliver services effectively to those individuals and families distinguish the work of the two entities.

History of Cooperative Extension

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 established the formal Extension System in the United States; however, outreach activities in some Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) predated this establishment by nearly forty years.

In 1875, Alabama A&M University began publishing a newsletter as a means of facilitating technology transfer to farmers. As early as 1881, Tuskegee University started outreach activities, organized an Extension department in 1889, and conducted its first conference for farmers in 1892. This annual activity continues today. In 1890, Dr. George Washington Carver implemented the legendary "result and method demonstrations" using a covered wagon to take information on new agriculture techniques to local farmers. This "moveable school," the first in the nation, spread rapidly within the United States and continued abroad.