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New Extension Agent

Self-Study Guide

Guidebook can be retrieved online at: http://extensionlearning.tamu.edu/NewEmployees.htm

Texas AgriLife Extension Service • Dr. Edward G. Smith, Director The Texas A&M University System College Station, Texas

New Extension Agent Self Study Guide

Updated by Organizational Development, August 2009

Welcome to the Extension Family. You have joined a group of dedicated professionals who enjoy helping people through educational programs in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, family consumer sciences, 4-H and youth development and community resource and economic development. This self study guide is designed to help the county Extension agent as a newly employed faculty member of Texas AgriLife Extension Service. It is an organized plan of observation and participation under the guidance of District Extension Administrator, County Extension Director, Regional Program Director, Mentor and/or Co-worker.

You will be expected to complete this assignment within six months of the time you are employed. As you complete an activity, fill in the guide. It is not necessary for you to follow the guide according to page order.

Experience has proven the value of this training activity. Other agents will work with you concerning reference material as well as other assistance you may need as you complete this assignment. When you have completed this self study guide, please submit it to your District Extension Administrator/County Extension Director for review and evaluation. Best wishes to you as you complete this self study guide and begin your career as a county Extension agent.

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Title	County
Address	
Date received	_ Date completed

County Background InformationIt is necessary for you as a county Extension agent to have knowledge of the population, geography and economic situation is the county(ies) in which you serve. This is commonly referred to a background information. Information on available communication media is also needed. Complete this section by filling in the information for your county.

Suggested references

- Current U.S. agricultural and population census reports http://www.census.gov/ http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2002/County_Profiles/index.asp
- Office file on background information
- County TCFF Results and Regional Data Summit Planning Documents (2004-2008) at *http://futuresforum.tamu.edu*
- Agency Strategic Plan (2007-2012) at http://agrilifeemployees-ext.tamu.edu
- Texas Almanac
- County Agent Annual Program Plan at http://texas.tamu.edu
- Other Extension personnel
 - Farm Services office manager
 - School superintendents
 - Manager of local Chamber of Commerce
 - Officers and members of the Leadership Advisory Board, its program area committees and youth board
 - Key leaders

A. Population information

People who can help you

Number of towns	
Number < 99,999 population	
Number > 100,000 population	
Number of farms and ranches	
Number of farm or ranch owners	
Number of farm or ranch tenants	
Number of farmers working away from home	
Average size of farm or ranch	
Total population	
Farm population	
Number of farm or ranch families	
Rural non-farm population	
Percent of population over 65 years of age	
Percent of population under 18 years of age	
Number of school age boys and girls in grades 3 - 12	

B.	Geographic information (To be completed by agents with primary responsibility for Agriculture and Natural Resources)				
	Land area of county (square miles) Acres in:				
	Forests				
	Pasture or improved range, native grassland				
	Cultivation				
	Topography				
	Types of soil				
	Elevation				
	Average annual rainfall				
	Last frost date (spring)				
	First frost date (fall)				

C. Economic information

Length of growing season

Annual total gross income in county from all sources		\$	
Amount and percent of county annual income from:	Amount	Percent	
Oil and gas	\$		
Business			
Industry			
Recreation/tourism			
Government (except military)			
Military			

Agriculture (List major enterprises in the county)

Name of enterprise	Amount	Percent
	\$	

Total agricultural enterprises in county

Others (List)

D. General information

Number of households		
Trend (increase or decrease)		
Persons per household		
Trend (increase or decrease)		
Educational level (median school years completed)		
Median family income level		
Number of women employed outside the home		
Number of married women		
Infant mortality rate		
Number of families with children under 6 years of age		
Number of families with children under 18 years of age		
School dropout rate		
Unemployment rate		
4-H clubs		
1. Community		
2. Project		
3. School		
4. Community Partnerships		
Special interest projects		
Curriculum enrichment		
Total number of 4-H clubs		
Total number of 4-H members		
Number of 4-H adult leaders		
Number of Texas Extension Education Association (TEEA) members		
Number of Extension study groups		
Number of master volunteers		

E. Write a paragraph about the history and development of the county.

F. Press, radio and television facilities

Name of paper	Name of reporter	Location	Have you met editor and reporters?

1. **Primary daily paper(s) circulated in the county**

2. Primary weekly paper(s) circulated in the county

Name of paper	Name of reporter	Location	Have you met editor and reporters?

3. Primary radio station(s) in the county

Station	Program director	Location	Have you met director?

4. <u>Primary television station(s) serving the county</u>

Station	Program director	Location	Have you met director?

Organization and Personnel	An Extension agent needs to understand how Texas AgriLife Extension Service is organized at the state, county, and district levels and the responsibilities of his or her particular job. It is important to be acquainted with organizations in the county that assist with carrying out the county programs.	
Suggested references	• Organizational chart http://agrilifeemployees-ext.tamu.edu/pdfs/organizationalchart.pdf	
	 Local Extension agents (See your county web page) Job description Records on file 	
	 Learn About Extension http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/about Extension Personnel Directory http://agrilifeemployees-ext.tamu.edu 	
	Extension Personnel Directory	

A. General information about Texas AgriLife Extension Service

1. Name the individuals who hold the following Texas AgriLife Extension Service administrative positions:

Position	Name
Director	
Executive Associate Director	
Associate Director-Agriculture, Natural Resources and Community Resource Economic Development	
Associate Director - County Programs	
Associate Director for 4-H and Youth Development and Human Sciences	
4-H and Youth Development Program Director	
Urban Program Director	
Information Technology Director	
AgriLife Communications and Marketing Director	

2. Complete the following:

	a.	The state headquarters for the Texas AgriLife Extension S	ervice is located in	
	b. For organizational management purposes Texas is divided		into	Extension Regions.
	c.	The headquarters for your district is located in		-
	d.	The name of your District Extension Administrator		or County Extension
		Director		
	e.	The names of your RPDs (FCS, AG & 4-H) are:		
	f.	The names and titles of Extension specialists located at yo	ur district headquarter	s are:
		Name		Title
B. (al information about your job come acquainted with the following:		
1.		ry, development, objectives and acteristics of Texas AgriLife Extension Service	Date completed	Questions/remarks
	La	eferences and-Grant Universities and Extension into the 21 st Century, Theck with your District Office or local library)	George R. McDowell	
		<i>uking the University to the People,</i> Wayne D. Rasmussen, C. Check with your District Office or local library)	hapters 1 - 3	
	<u>ht</u>	tp://texasvolunteer.tamu.edu/TX History-for-volunteers.pdf	2	
2.	Prog	ry, development, objectives and characteristics of the 18 cam of Prairie View A&M University rence: <u>http://pvcep.pvamu.edu/</u>	90 programs and the	Cooperative Extension

		Date completed	Questions/remarks
3.	Job description. Study your job description to learn your responsibilities		
	References		
	County Extension Agents Current Job Description		
	County Job Responsibilities		
	Career ladder. Study the promotion system for county Extension agents		
	Reference		
	Guidelines on Professional Career Ladder System for County Extension Agents http://extensionlearning.tamu.edu/Recognition.htm		
5.	Organizational Development Unit		
	a. Read and become familiar with the following materials		
	References http://extensionlearning.tamu.edu/Agents.htm		
	Texas AgriLife Extension Service Opportunities to Pu Graduate Study fact sheet http://extensionlearning.tamu.edu/PDFs/ GuidelinesforTakingCourses2008.pdf	ursue	
	Study and Training Request Form http://yespds.tamu.edu/forms/strequest.cfm		
	Extension Professional Improvement Leave Application Form at LeaveTraq https://sso.tamu.edu/		
	Professional journals such as the Journal of Extension http://www.joe.org/index.html		
	b. Become familiar with various professional associations relevant to your work. http://extensionlearning.tamu.edu/ Associations&Publications.htm		
	c. Work with your supervisor to complete an Individual Development Plan <i>texas.tamu.edu</i>		

		Date completed	Questions/remarks
6.	Civil rights. Gain knowledge of civil rights (Equal employment opportunity/affirmative action) policies, and regulations		
	References		
	Definitions of Civil Rights Laws and Terms Relative to Program Activities http://agrilifeemployees-ext.tamu.edu/pdfs/cr_definitions.pdf		
	Recruiting and Selection Guide for Hiring Managers and Supervisors http://aghr.tamu.edu/recruitment/recruiting-guide.pdf		
	Affirmative Action Plan for Texas AgriLife Extension Servic http://aghr.tamu.edu/AAP/TCE-AAP.pdf – See "State		

C. Information on county organizations and key leaders

Use the following outline to obtain information about organizations and individuals in the county. Write "does not apply" in blanks where condition does not exist.

1. Extension Agents

Name	Title	Major job responsibility

2. Extension Secretaries

Name	Major job responsibility

3. County Leadership Advisory Board (LAB)

Number of members on LAB____

Name of LAB Member	Address	Position Held

4. Program committees/task forces /youth board

Committee/task force/youth board	Chair	Number of members

5. Commissioners Court

Support Staff	
	Support Staff

Commisioners Name & email address	Support Staff & Contact information

6. State Legislators

Name	Title	Address

7. U.S. Congressional Representatives and Senators

Name	Title	Address

8. County 4-H Leaders' Association

Name	Position Held	Address

9. County 4-H Council

Name	Position Held	Address

10. County Texas Extension Education Association (TEEA)

Name	Position Held	Address

11. Farm Services Agency/County Executive Director

Name	Location of office

12. Farm Services Agency/Rural Development

Name	Address

13. <u>Capital Farm Ag Credit manager (serving the county)</u>

Location of office

14. <u>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees</u>

Name	Title	Location of Office

15. <u>Public/Private schools</u>

School	Superintendent	Principal

18. School superintendents

Name	Location of office

19. Agricultural Science Teachers

Location	Teacher

20. Young Farmers Association

President _____

21. Family, Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Teachers

Location	Teacher

23. Major farmer cooperatives in the county

Name of cooperative	Manager

24. Farm Services Agency Manager

Name	Location

25. Key leaders of organized livestock or crop associations in the county

Organization	Name	Address

26. Key leaders of major farm organizations in the county

Organization	Name	Address

27. Executives or key leaders of major organizations and agencies in the county working with families

Organization	Name	Address

28. Executives of major organizations in the county working with youth

Organization	Name	Address

29. Executives of Chambers of Commerce in the county

Organization	Name	Address

30. Mayors, city managers and members of city councils

Name	Title	City

31. Of	ficers or other	key leaders in	major civic	organizations in the county	,
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Organization	Name	Address

32. Officers or key leaders in other professional organizations or special interest groups in the county.

Organization	Name	Address

Reports
and
RecordsSchedule definite times to examine all types of reports and records for
which Extension agents are responsible. You will participate in making
reports, keeping records, and how to order materials and forms.

A.	Reports	Date observed	Questions/remarks
	Meet with supervisor to discuss the computerized monthly reporting system <i>http://texas.tamu.edu</i>		
	Monthly Certificate of Service (Online in LeaveTraq) http://sso.tamu.edu/		
	Extension Activity Report to County Commissioners Court (D-843)		
	Report of County Office Conferences (D-738)		
	Weekly Crop and Weather Report (Online) Texas Ag Statistics Service http://cpcsweb.nass.usda.gov		
В.	Forms http://texasextension.tamu.edu/ http://agrilifeemployees-ext.tamu.edu/		
	Leave Request Online LeaveTraq http://sso.tamu.edu/		
	Travel Request Form (Out of County/State) (AG-802) http://agservices.tamu.edu/forms/fiscal_forms.htm#trave	1	
	Online Study and Training Request Form (D-1023) http://yespds.tamu.edu/forms/strequest.cfm		
	Professional Improvement Leave Application Form (D-833) http://extensionlearning.tamu.edu/PDFs/RequestforProfe	essionalImprovement.j	
	Request for Extension Service Publications - Online AgriLife Bookstore http://agrilifebookstore.org/		
C.	Current records of membership	Date Completed	Questions/remarks
	4-H members, officers and leaders		
	4-H Council members and officers		
	4-H Adult Leader Association members and officers		
	Texas Extension Education Association (TEEA)		
	List of individuals conducting result demonstrations/applied research project		

Using Texas AgriLife Extension Service	This section deals with the program development process - the involvement of local citizens in planning, implementing and evaluating the Extension program. Texas AgriLife Extension Service program development model should be used by all agents in carrying out their job responsibilities.
Program Development Process	

You will be expected to observe and participate in certain program development activities. Following these experiences, you will write a brief report on what you observed and learned and what you think could be done to improve the program development process in your county.

Suggested references

• Program development & annual planning references

E-345, AgriLife Program Development Model: Keys to Education that Works http://extensioneducation.tamu.edu/PDmodel-E-345.pdf

D-1446, Outcome-Directed Programs

Additional resources for these areas can be found at http://extensioneducation.tamu.edu

Volunteer management references

- D-1451, Volunteer Administration in the 21st Century: Roles Volunteers Plan in Extension
- D-1452, Volunteer Administration in the 21st Century: Leadership Advisory Boards
- D-1453, Volunteer Administration in the 21st Century: Program Area Committees and Youth Boards
- D-1454, Volunteer Administration in the 21st Century: Volunteer Associations and Groups
- D-1455, Volunteer Administration in the 21st Century:
- Understanding and Managing Direct and Episodic Volunteers
- D-1456, Volunteer Administration in the 21st Century: Managing the Risk Associated with Volunteer Services

http://texasvolunteer.tamu.edu/vol-curriculum.htm

Additional resources for Volunteer Management are found at http://texasvolunteer.tamu.edu http://extensioneducation.tamu.edu

• Program evaluation

E-227, Questionnaire Design: Asking Questions with a Purpose *http://extensioneducation.tamu.edu/eval-publications.htm*

Additional resources on evaluation can be found at http://extensioneducation.tamu.edu/evaluation.htm

A. P	rogram development documents	Date completed	Questions/remarks
R	udy County Texas County Futures Forum (TCFF) esults & Regional Data Summit Planning Documents 004-2008) at http://futuresforum.tamu.edu		
	eview Extension Agent Annual Program Plan tp://texas.tamu.edu		
B	riefly describe the relationship of these documents.		

B. Extension Leadership Boards and Committees

Use the space below to diagram a Leadership Advisory Board, Program Area Committees and Youth Board. Include tasks forces and coalitions, if any.

		Date completed	Questions/remarks
	e a meeting of the Leadership ry Board		
Attend/ activition	participate in one or more area program comr es:	nittee or youth board meet	ings to accomplish the following
1.	Implement a scheduled educational activity.		
2.	Develop annual plans for the year.		
3.	Evaluate an educational program.		
As you	take part in meetings, observe the following j	procedures:	
1.	Steps in setting up and preparing for the meeting		
2.	How the meeting agenda is developed		

- 3. How members are contacted/involved in meetings
- How resource people (Extension and non-Extension) are identified and involved in committee meetings/ educational activities

C. Annual planning

Work with county staff in writing a program plan based on priorities met by one or more program committees or task forces

Observe how the plan and Extension program are used in planning, implementing, evaluating and interpreting educational programs.

D. Brief Report on Program Development Process

Based on your study of the program development process (outlined in E-345) and your observations and experiences of this process in the county, use the space below to describe how all five phases of the process are being carried out in this county. Point out both strengths and weaknesses. Also, tell what you would change to improve the way the process is being carried out in this county (use extra paper if necessary).



E. Procedure for requesting assistance from Extension specialist

Explain how to request assistance from an Extension specialist. If the request requires scheduling the specialist for a trip to the county, explain the procedure to use.



F. Ways to evaluate program progress and outcomes

Explain how evaluation can be useful to the agent and a program committee as they are deciding on next year's educational program or marketing a program's benefits.

References at http://extensioneducation.tamu.edu/eval-publications.htm

How can this information be collected, analyzed and used by committee members?

Getting the Job Done

This section deals with things an employee must know and understand to accomplish the day-to-day job of being a county Extension agent. Observe, record date when completed and indicate questions/remarks if any.

A.	Of	fice management	Date completed	Questions/remarks
	1.	Observe office equipment and arrangement.		
	2.	Study organization of files and uniform filing guide.		
	3.	Observe techniques used in answering and relaying telephone calls.		
	4.	Observe co-worker's (Mentor's) techniques in talking to an office visitor. Participate in an office visit.		
	5.	Develop a personal calendar for a year in advance.		
B.	Of 1.	fice conference Participate in regular office conferences of county personnel.		
	2.	Observe the use of a county calendar in office conference.		
C.	Fa 1.	rm and home visits or other personal co Make several farm and home visits or other personal contacts with the co-worker (mentor) and observe procedures and techniques used. Be sure to visit result demonstrations.	ontacts	
	2.	Make some visits or contacts on your own.		
	3.	Write a paragraph or outline the procedure for maki contacts.	ng effective farm and h	nome visits or other personal

D. Letters

	Date completed	Questions/remarks
 m.1. Indigidualve agent's incoming mail/e-mail for a. Observe agent's incoming mail/e-mail for one day, assist agent in answering. 		
b. Study correct business letter form.		
2. Circular letter		
a. Read and analyze some recent circular letters written by agents in your county.		
b. Write a circular letter for the co-worker (Mentor) critique.		

3. Attach one copy of an individual and one copy of a circular letter written by you.

E.	Pu	blications and visual aids		
			Date completed	Questions/remarks
	1. 1.	Find out how state, USDA and commercial Find out how state, USDA, and commercial publications are obtained.		
	2.	Determine how publications are distributed in the county.		
	3.	Observe how current publications are displayed, kept current and how supply is maintained.		
	4.	Become familiar with audio visual resources that are available to support the county program. obtained.		

5. Outline the procedure for obtaining state, USDA and commercial publications. Include "for sale" bulletins.

F. Newspaper articles	Date completed	Questions/remarks
 Read current news articles concerning Extension work in county paper(s). 		
2. Get acquainted with newspaper editor, farm editor, and women's editor. Find out what makes a good news article.		
 Read agricultural resources, community development and/or Family Consumer Science articles in professional journals or magazines. 		
 Attach three different news articles which you wrote or helped write. 		
5. List resources available from AgriLife Communication	ations on news writing a	and visual aids.
rences		
erences Handouts provided by AgriLife Communications duri	ng New Employee Orie	ntation.
Handouts provided by AgriLife Communications duri Additional information can be found at:	ng New Employee Orie	ntation.
Handouts provided by AgriLife Communications duri	ng New Employee Orie	ntation.
Handouts provided by AgriLife Communications duri Additional information can be found at: http://agcomm.tamu.edu/ http://texasextension.tamu.edu/agnews/latest.php	ng New Employee Orie	ntation.
Handouts provided by AgriLife Communications duri Additional information can be found at: http://agcomm.tamu.edu/ http://texasextension.tamu.edu/agnews/latest.php	ng New Employee Orie Date completed	ntation. Questions/remarks
Handouts provided by AgriLife Communications duri Additional information can be found at: http://agcomm.tamu.edu/		
 Handouts provided by AgriLife Communications duri Additional information can be found at: http://agcomm.tamu.edu/ http://texasextension.tamu.edu/agnews/latest.php Radio and television Observe one or more radio and television programs presented by agents. Participate in a radio or television program 		
 Handouts provided by AgriLife Communications duri Additional information can be found at: http://agcomm.tamu.edu/ http://texasextension.tamu.edu/agnews/latest.php Radio and television 1. Observe one or more radio and television programs presented by agents. 		

- 4. Get acquainted with the radio farm and home editors for the county and/or talk show hosts if available. Ask them what makes a good radio program.
- 5. Find out how agents obtain radio and television tapes which are prepared by the Department of Agricultural Communications.

H. Meetings

- 1. Observe the different kinds of meetings the agents in the county took part in during your training period. Participate if possible.
- 2. Observe the parliamentary procedure used in conducting meetings.
- 3. Write a brief statement setting forth the factors which made one of the meetings you attended successful or unsuccessful.

I.	Educational Presentations	Date completed	Questions/remarks
	 Review the "4-H Presentation Guide." 4-H 3-5.012 Texas 4-H Public Presentation Guide Method Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks 	≻	
	2. Learn the definition for public presentation.		
	3. Observe educational presentation. Include 4-H family consumer sciences and agriculture.		
	4. Prepare and present an educational presentation before a group.		
J.	Result demonstrations		
	1. Learn the definition for result demonstration.		
	2. Visit result demonstrations. Include 4-H, agriculture, family and consumer sciences areas.		
	3. Study Suggested Plans for Developing Result Demonstrations. Applied Research & Result Demonstrations http://goldmine.tamu.edu/		
	4. Prepare a proposal to develop and conduct a result demonstration.		
	5. Observe how result demonstrations become a part of program area committee educational programs.		

K. Other teaching methods

- 1. Read definitions and descriptions of educational programs, methods, techniques and devices in E-345. Teaching Effectiveness *See L-2424, "Preparing a Presentation for Educational Programs."*
- L. Write a paragraph or an outline giving an account of a educational presentation in which you participated or observed.

M. Write a paragraph or an outline giving an account of a result demonstration in which you participated or one that the agent is conducting.

Reference

D-639, *Extension Agent's Guide for Result Demonstrations* found at http://countyprograms.tamu.edu/CPOADMIN/Docs/ResDemRptFmt.pdf

http://goldmine.tamu.edu/

N. 4-H organization (All agents are to complete this section)

Review the Texas 4-H Management Website "The 4-H Road to Success" found at http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/mgtguide/

Tourie as helps, torias i manufectus, ingeguides	Date completed	Questions/remarks
1. Study the Management Section "Equipping for the Journey".		
2. Study the Membership Units Section "Putting it in Drive"		
3. Study the Volunteer Development Section "Driver's Education for Volunteers"		
4. Study the section on Risk Management "Dips, Speed Bumps, and Detours"		
5. Study the section on Resource Development. "Taking the Toll Road"		
6. Review the section on Diversity " <i>The Scenic Route</i> "		
7. Review the section on Collaboration <i>"Taking the H.O.V. Lane"</i>		
8. Review the section on Program Development <i>"Plotting the Course"</i>		
9. Participate in a 4-H council meeting.		
10. Attend a 4-H meeting		

O. Volunteer 4-H leader recruitment and training (All agents are to complete this section)

Reference

http://texasvolunteer.tamu.edu/ INVEST - Invest In Volunteers - Extension's Superior Team

		Date completed	Questions/remarks
1.	Learn the responsibilities of County Extension Agents in volunteer 4-H leader recruitment and training.		
2.	Assist in a club managers leadership training meeting conducted by a County Extension Agent.		
3.	Assist in a project leaders training meeting.		
4.	Observe material the agent presents and his or her methods of presentation.		

5.	Learn the responsibilities of volunteer leaders in carrying out a specific program, such as agriculture or home economics.	
6.	Observe how adult, junior and teen leaders work with 4-H members.	
7.	Study 4-H volunteer leader teaching guides	
8.	Learn how recognition should be given to volunteer leaders.	
9.	Study and observe the adult 4-H leader association.	

10. State in your own words why you think it is important for Extension agents to recruit and train volunteer 4-H leaders.

P. 4-H projects (All agents are to complete this section)

Reference

	I Publications Catalog (State 4-H office) p://texas4-h.tamu.edu/publications/index.html	Date completed	Questions/remarks
1.	Learn the various projects available for 4-H members.		
2.	Study and observe how volunteer leaders help select projects.		
3.	Learn how to deliver programs to short-term groups through curriculum enrichment and special interest projects.		
4.	Review the National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System - Member Project Books linked on the publication page of the Texas 4-H website at http://texas4-h.tamu.edu		

Q. 4-H award programs (All agents are to complete this section)

- 1. Become acquainted with the different 4-H award programs that are available and the requirements for participating in them.
- 2. Assist with county and district 4-H award programs.
- 3. Review the 4-H Management Section: Recognition: "Using the High Beams" http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/mgtguide/Recog/REC%20All.pdf

References

4-H 3-3, Texas 4-H Clover (Opportunities Handbook) http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/publications/membership/4H_Clover.pdf

4-H 3-5.012, 4-H Presentation Guide http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/publications/presentation/4H35012.pdf

R. 4-H Youth Development (All agents are to complete this section)

What 4-H Youth Development opportunities currently exist in the county?

Write or attach any other information which you think would reflect the extent of training received. Include what further training you feel you need.

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

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Edward G. Smith, Director, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.