

## TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE LAND GRANT MISSION

Dr. Donald Kelm  
2025



### OUR VISION

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### OUR MISSION

• **Our vision** is to be the leader in providing science-based information and solutions in agriculture and health to Texans when and where they need us.

• **Our mission**, to work daily to make Texas better by providing innovative solutions at the intersection of agriculture, natural resources, youth and health, thereby improving the well-being of individuals, families, businesses and communities through education and 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

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

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EXTENSION

## NEED FOR A NEW TYPE OF COLLEGE

- First American colleges based on English university model
- Courses founded on the classics, preparing students for ministry, medicine and the law
- In the 1800's, agriculture was the nation's central pursuit
- Strengthening agriculture meant strengthening the nation

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

## LEGAL FOUNDATION FOR **LAND-GRANT** UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- **1862 Morrill Act** – Original Land Grant Legislation
- **1887 Hatch Act** – Experiment Stations
- **1890 Morrill Act** – Second Morrill Act, Historically African American Serving Institutions
- **1914 Smith-Lever Act** – Cooperative Extension Service



## MORRILL ACT OF 1862

- Provided a college for every State
- Main focus: Agriculture & Mechanic Arts
- Federal support was provided through income from public lands (thus the term "Land-Grant College")
- **In Texas, this is Texas A&M**



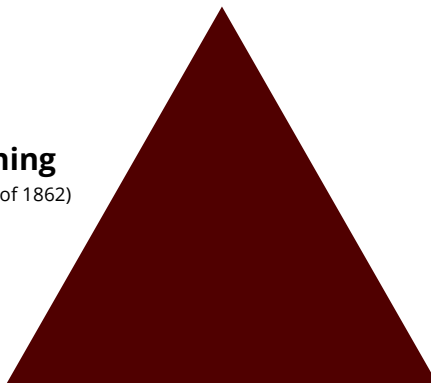
## LAND-GRANT COLLEGE SYSTEM

- **Two basic principles:**
  - The right for all people to have equal access to education
  - The idea of social service – the college must serve the needs of the people (common man)



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

**Teaching**  
(Morrill Act of 1862)



## HATCH ACT OF 1887

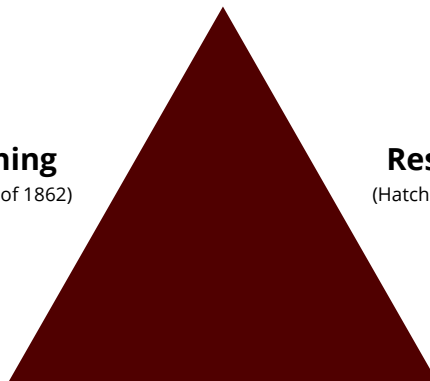
- Established the Agricultural Experiment Stations at Land-Grant Colleges
- Agricultural research became a function of the Land-Grant University
- Demonstrations were used as a teaching methodology
- W.C. Stallings was the nations first County Demonstration Agent, hired in Texas in 1906



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

**Teaching**  
(Morrill Act of 1862)

**Research**  
(Hatch Act of 1887)



## SECOND MORRILL ACT (1890)

- More funding for Land-Grant Colleges
- Designated 18 traditionally black institutions in the Southern states as a Land-Grant institution
- The 1890 Land-Grant university established in Texas was Prairie View A&M University



## SMITH-LEVEL ACT OF 1914

- Provided cooperation of USDA & Land-Grant Colleges in conduction of agricultural Extension work
- It specified that the work "...shall consist of instruction and practical demonstration in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending or resident in said colleges"



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

**Teaching**  
(Morrill Act of 1862)

**Research**  
(Hatch Act of 1887)

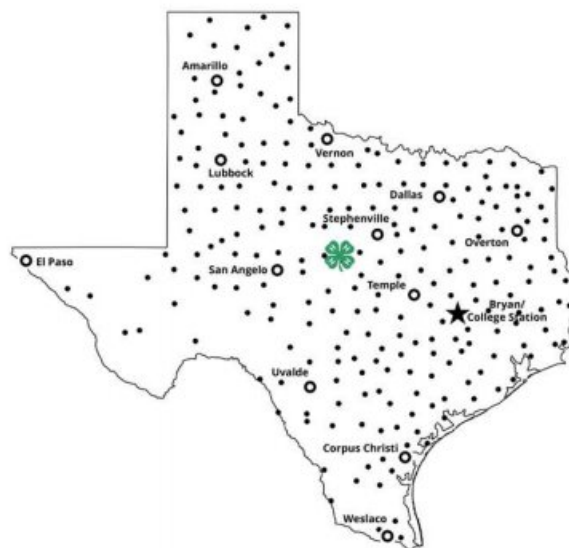
**Extension**  
(Smith-Lever Act of 1914)



## STATEWIDE PRESENCE

**250** County Extension Offices  
serving **254** counties.  
County Partnership since 1917

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
headquarters at Texas A&M  
University, College Station



## 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



## LEGAL AUTHORITY IN TEXAS

- **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.*





## LEGAL AUTHORITY IN TEXAS

- **Texas Agriculture Code**

- **Section 43.032**

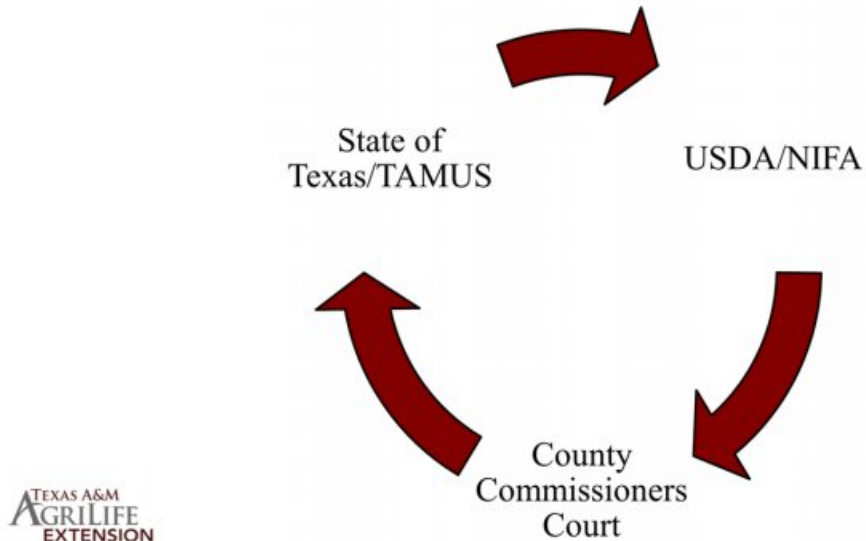
*The demonstration work shall be conducted on terms and conditions agreed to by the commissioner's court and the agents of Texas A&M University*

- **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.*



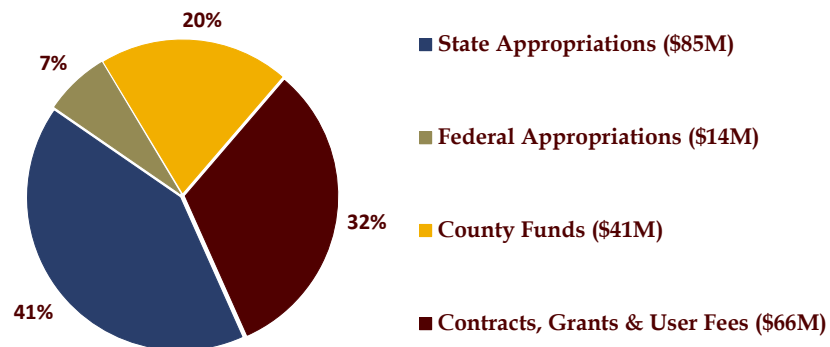
## FUNDING SOURCE PARTNERSHIPS



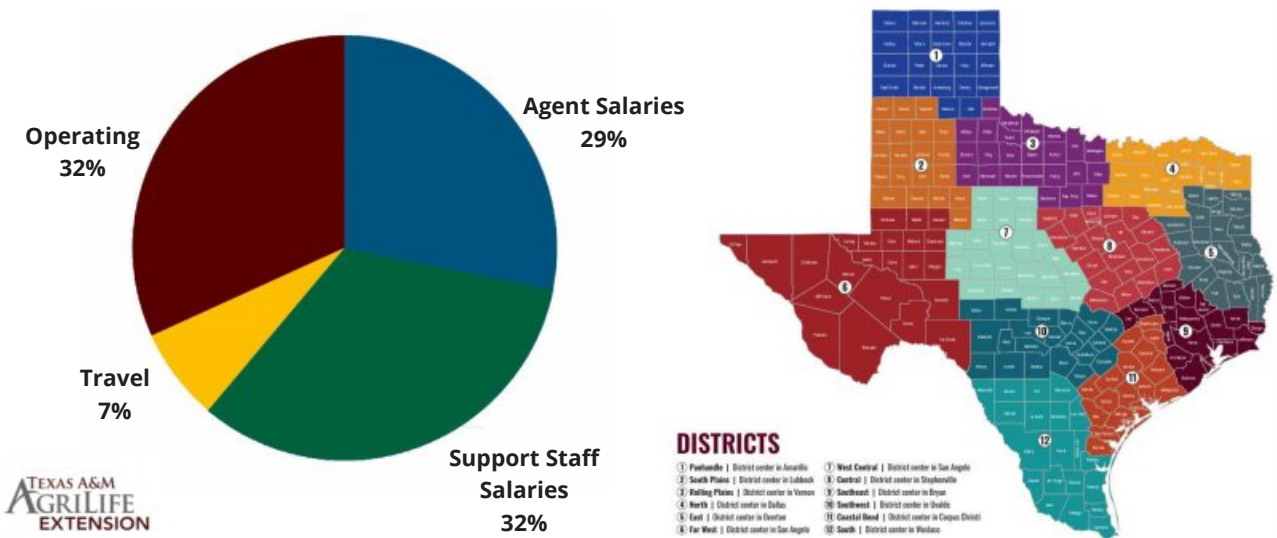
## TOTAL ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDS

Fiscal Year 2025

\$206Million



## COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS FY23 - \$41 MILLION



## FY25 STAFFING FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DELIVERY



## 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



## 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



## 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



## HISTORIC PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES

Extension	County
General human resources oversight	Office space, utilities, and supplies
Training and professional development	Office support staff
Educational resources	Travel and mileage funding
Support of departments and specialists	Salary support for Agents
Salary support of Agents	Other operational needs



## FUTURE OF EXTENSION

- Growth in local 4-H program efforts
- Expanded role of trained volunteers
- Enhanced partnerships to expand our reach



## QUESTIONS?

**Thank you** for your partnership and continued support of Extension.



## THANK YOU

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Extension.

