



## Brief History of Extension in Texas & Master Wellness Volunteer Program Overview

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Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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## Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

- Vision
  - Help Texans better their lives.
- Mission
  - Through the application of science-based knowledge, we create high-quality, relevant continuing education that encourages lasting and effective change.
- Capabilities
  - We provide programs, tools, and resources —local and statewide — that teach people how to improve agriculture and food production, advance health practices, protect the environment, strengthen our communities, and enrich youth.




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## Land-Grants & Extension



Academic Building, Texas A&M



W.C. Stallings

- The first and second Morrill Acts (1862 & 1890) established institutions in each state so members of the working classes could obtain a practical education
- The Hatch Act (1887) allowed for the establishment of agricultural experiment stations
- The Smith-Lever Act (1914) created Extension as an organizational entity of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Land-Grant University System



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### A Different Approach

■ "What a man hears, he may doubt.

What he sees, he may possibly doubt.

What he does himself, he cannot doubt."



Dr. Seaman A. Knapp



T. F. Eaton, CEA - Erath County (holding level), with farmer constructing terraces in his field, 1924



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### Beginnings of Home Demonstration



Edna Trigg, c. 1920



- Progress on the farm needed progress in the home
- First woman Agent appointed in Aiken, South Carolina (1910)
- Edna Trigg appointed first woman Agent in Texas (1912)



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### Growth of Home Demonstration



- 18 "lady agents" on staff and a State Home Demonstration Agent (1913)
- Work expanded to many other home demonstration-related endeavors



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### Family & Community Health

Girls Canning Club, c. 1916

Jim Hogg County Walk Across Texas Kick-off, 2016

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### Helping Texans Better Their Lives

- Program Areas
  - Agriculture & Natural Resources
  - Family & Community Health
  - 4-H Youth Development
  - Community Economic Development

251 County Offices, 12 Research & Extension Centers and the Campus of Texas A&M University Service All 254 Counties

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### Volunteers Are Key in Extension Education

- Extend services to clientele
- Effective spokespersons to community
- Effective spokespersons to stakeholders
- Bring organizational perspective to program
- Concentrate time and effort on specific subject matter/program/job

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### Program Overview & Responsibilities

- 40 hours of training
  - Face-to-face
  - Online
  - Self-study
- Return 40 hours of volunteer service in the first year
- Participate in 20-hours of service and 10-hours of training annually
  - Expectations may vary by county
- Representative of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Use lesson plans and materials available from AgriLife Extension
- Work with and through Agent on program preparation to ensure material is reliable




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### There's an App for That...

...I will represent Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and will be called upon to provide educational programs and disseminate educational materials. **I also understand that in this capacity I cannot use my status as a volunteer to promote any personal opinions, business, or services or the opinions or services of other companies or agencies. I must present the research-based information on which Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's educational programs and services are based.** My signature below indicates that I do not have a conflict of interest and that all of the information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.




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## Email Discussion, Study Guides and Certification Exam

- Training is organized into "suites"
- Each lesson in the suite will have an additional learning activity to reinforce the content
- Following each suite are some email discussion prompts
- Study guides help highlight core concepts of each suite
- Certification exam will assess basic mastery of core concepts
- Pass with 80% or better to continue in the Master Wellness Volunteer Program




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## Home, Home on the Web



<http://agrilife.org/mwv>




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## Online Learning





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## Volunteer Opportunities

- Opportunities may vary, depending on your location, time & interests
  - Direct education
  - Community resource
  - Program support
- Examples
  - Walk Across Texas coordination
  - Food demonstration
  - Health fair
  - Group education for a congregate meal site
- Implement evidenced-based programming through partners
- Work with Agent to design your own volunteer service plan
  - Suggestions by volunteers are welcomed and encouraged but must be approved by Agent before implementing




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## What Questions Would You Like to Ask?

<http://agrilife.org/mwv>  
[mwv@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mwv@ag.tamu.edu)

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