

**Texas Agricultural Extension Service
FY 2000 Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results**

A. PLANNED PROGRAMS

Goal 1: An agricultural system that is highly competitive in the global economy

Overview

Texas Agricultural Extension Service programs under Goal 1 focus on increasing the competitiveness and profitability of the agricultural industry in the state, nation, and world. Three programs representing a broad range sector of the agricultural community are represented by this goal. These programs include risk management, field and forage crop production, and, livestock quality and production.

Risk Management

Risk management programs have been targeted to focus on financial and risk management strategies. Specific programs include Master Marketers and FARM Assistance. The Master Marketer program is designed to train marketing club leaders in their respective counties thereby teaching others about risk management tools. Producers estimated on average that their annual incomes had improved over \$25,000 as a result of improved marketing and risk management practices. For the almost 100 producers that participated in 1999, the aggregate annual impact would approach \$2.5 million in added income!

Financial and Risk Management Assistance (FARM Assistance) is a unique combination of risk management specialists working one-to-one with producers—backed up by a powerful decision support system that allows risk assessment under differing strategic alternatives for the farm or ranch. Over 100 different risk management scenarios were analyzed for individual producers in 1999, including crop insurance alternatives. The projected economic benefits of these evaluations, if adopted, would exceed \$2 million per year.

Field and Forage Production

Field and forage crop production programs have been aimed at numerous segments of the industry. Programs include the use of IPM strategies, the reduction of atrazine in surface waters, and soil testing to improve yield and quality of crops. Outcomes from these programs range from new ways of thinking about IPM strategies to increased crop yields and profitability for the producers. Soil testing efforts have led to the development of several new educational strategies, all of which have been positively received by our clientele.

Livestock Quality and Production

Programs such as Ranch to Rail and Beef 706 have led to a greater understanding of the beef cattle industry by Texas producers. The Ranch to Rail program has been widely successful with representation by Texas and 10 other states. Program efforts and results from this program have focused on how the cow-calf operation fits in the Texas livestock industry. Participants in the Beef 706 program focused on how to increase the quality of the beef carcass. Almost 90% of the participants

indicated that they would change practices as a result of what they learned in the program. Finally, the Texas Pork Quality Assurance Youth Program was created and a curriculum was developed to educate the 26,000 youth swine project exhibitors at livestock shows on food and pork quality wholesomeness. Over 500 County Extension Agents and Vo-Ag instructors have been trained to deliver the curriculum. The National Pork Producers Association has adopted the curriculum and created a handbook to be distributed nationally.

Programs in the areas under Goal 1 continue to provide Texas producers with research-based information in order for them to make sound decision on the implementation of best management practices and adoption of technologies. Educational programming has been and will continue to be driven by the needs of our clientele. Results from the Texas Community Futures Forum, and guidance from Executive Program Councils and program committees serve as the basis for this strategy.

The data presented in this summary and the following section represents the efforts of Year 01 of this Plan of Work. Educational programming efforts have been ongoing for many of the areas represented and continue to provide Texas producers with opportunities for increased profitability and competitiveness. Future plans will build on past experiences and emerging issues that may affect our state and clientele.

Source of Funding and FTEs

Source of Funding: Smith Lever and State Matching

<u>Program</u>	\$ X 1000
	Actual
	<u>FY 2000</u>
Program 1 – Risk Management	1,602
	FTEs 26.44
 Program 2 – Field Crops & Forage Production	 2,462
	FTEs 138.42
 Program 3 – Livestock Quality & Profitability	 3,137
	FTEs 176.18
 Allocated Resources Goal 1	 7,398
	FTEs 345.50

State POW Programs

State Plan of Work Program 1: Risk Management

Key Theme: Risk Management, Agricultural Competitiveness, and Agricultural Profitability

A. Description of Activity

An increasingly global market place and a Farm Bill, which allows more flexibility in production

decisions while lowering the safety net exposes production agriculture and agribusiness to increased price and income risk. Managing this increased risk will be key to the future economic competitiveness and success of production agriculture and agribusiness firms in Texas. Recent weather problems, including the 1996 and 1998 droughts, have raised questions as to the economic viability of many Texas farming and ranching operations. As economic stress intensifies, risk management becomes even more important to the long-term goal of a profitable and competitive agriculture.

Education programs were focused on intensive education in group settings and with one-to-one assistance in financial and risk management. 1) One-to-one producer assistance was facilitated through the FARM Assistance decision support system that was completed in 1999. A risk management specialist worked individually with producers to develop strategic plans incorporating risk for the operation. Producers completing a FARM Assistance analysis agree to have their information put into a confidential database for the development of educational programs to serve additional producers, some from underserved populations. 2) Intensive training of Master volunteers occurred in the Master Marketer program. These Master Marketer graduates become marketing club leaders in their respective counties thereby teaching others about risk management tools. A curriculum guide was expanded in 1999, in cooperation with Kansas State University to provide written lesson plans and publications for use in marketing clubs and by individual producers. These materials are available from our web site and the National Library on Risk Management in Minnesota.

Our program in risk management is targeted towards owners and operators of commercial size farms and ranches in Texas. Some of these commercial operations are geographically disadvantaged in that they are in isolated areas of the state. Marketing clubs and the delivery of education based on the database of risk management participants will reach underserved populations in later years of the program plan.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is collaborating with other CSREES partners, including Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University, Louisiana State, University of Arkansas, Mississippi State University, and the University of Tennessee. External collaborators include the Texas Farm Bureau, the Texas Corn Producers Board, the Texas Wheat Producers Board, Texas Rural Communities, and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Foundation. Representatives from these groups form the nucleus of the Master Marketer Industry Review Committee. Focus group meetings on program development also were held with producers and lenders in Texas and Kansas.

B. Impact of Programs

Master Marketer: Master Marketer graduates agree to share what they have learned with others in their respective counties through small marketing club study groups. This volunteer aspect greatly multiplies the educational impact of the program. Over seventy marketing clubs have been started – helping to extend risk management education to producers across the state.

In surveys conducted two years after their completing the in-depth Master Marketer workshops, producers estimated on average that their annual incomes had improved over \$25,000 as a result of

improved marketing and risk management practices. For the almost 100 producers that participated in 1999, the aggregate annual impact would approach \$2.5 million in added income!

A Risk Management Curriculum Guide has been initiated to provide information to those that cannot attend the in-depth sessions or marketing clubs. These also provide valuable support to marketing club leaders. These publications are available on the risk management web site or can be obtained in printed form. Underserved audiences could access these excellent materials either way.

FARM Assistance: Financial and Risk Management Assistance is a unique combination of risk management specialists working one-to-one with producers—backed up by a powerful decision support system that allows risk assessment under differing strategic alternatives for the farm or ranch. As farming operations are becoming more diverse, individual analysis of risk and financial factors are needed. Over 100 different risk management scenarios were analyzed for individual producers in 1999, including crop insurance alternatives. The projected economic benefits of these evaluations, if adopted, would exceed \$2 million per year.

An important secondary impact of the program is the development of a database of agricultural and finance information which could be used to further target educational programs. Underserved audiences should be able to glean risk management ideas from database summaries.

One case example of the program impact is provided here to show the potential. “After a Coastal Bend producer was denied financing by a lender for the 1999 crop, a FARM Assistance analysis revealed that the farm operation had a relatively high probability of being economically viable over the long term. The producer went back to the lender with the FARM Assistance report and was approved for a new operating loan. The outcome of this decision during the 1999 crop year was a return to profitability and a renewed sense of hope for the future.”

Output Indicators:

Number of people completing non-formal risk management education programs—930

Outcome Indicators:

The total number of people completing non-formal risk management education programs who plan to adopt one or more risk management tools or strategies after completing these programs— 930

The total number of people completing non-formal risk management education programs who actually adopt one or more risk management tools or strategies after completing these programs – 550

C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – KS, OK, AK, LA, MS, and TN.

State Plan of Work Program 2: Field and Forage Crop Production

Key Theme: Agricultural Competitiveness, Agricultural Profitability

A. Description of Activity

Environmental stresses, crop pests and global market forces make profitable and sustainable production of crops and forages a continuing challenge. It is through understanding and adoption of technologies that improve productivity, profitability and global competitiveness of crop and forage production systems that Texas farmers and ranchers will enhance their competitive position to other producers around the world. The target audience includes farmers and ranchers who produce field crops and forage in Texas

B. Impact of Programs

This program is designed to encourage adoption of research-based IPM practices to manage pests in row crops. IPM programs that encourage field scouting and pest management based upon scientifically established thresholds of insect, weed and disease pests are widely adopted in Texas. In four survey areas in Texas in 1999 (El Paso-Hudspeth, Runnels-Tom Green and Gaines counties), IPM programs are heavily relied upon by large agricultural producers to reduce cost of production, reduce pesticide applications and increase profits in the production of field and tree crops. A brief description of these programs is provided.

El Paso-Hudspeth: In this case study, 83% felt that IPM improved pest control decisions; 48% reduced pesticide applications while only 7% increased them; 52% increased crop yields, with none reporting decreased yields and 48% reported increased profit while none reported decreased profit. Farmers surveyed produced 17,246 acres of cotton and 1905 acres of pecans.

Runnels-Tom Green: Participants in this case study reported that 100% improved pest control decisions by using IPM methods; 58.3% felt that IPM greatly reduced risks of crop production; 41.7% felt that risks were slightly reduced; 100% frequently checked with the IPM agent for pest management decisions; 66.7% frequently used the IPM newsletters while the remaining 33.3% only checked the newsletters sometimes.

Gaines: While 100% of the participants in this study employed crop consultants, 44% also used IPM agent scouting reports to make pest control decisions; 53% using IPM reported reduced pesticide usage, while only 12% reported increased use; 60% reported increased yields while none reported decreased yields; 62% reported increased profit while 9% reported decreased profit; 90% reported either frequent or occasional visits with the IPM agent; 100% reported consulting the IPM newsletter either frequently or occasionally and 84% considered the newsletter highly useful.

The adoption of biological (transgenic cultivars), cultural, mechanical and chemical methods to manage

weeds and off site movement of herbicides is also addressed in this program. While somewhat dependent upon crop species and location, herbicides are the most widely used class of pesticides. The judicious use of herbicides reduces the expense of crop production by reducing tillage and labor demands; enhances crop yield by minimizing competition with weed species, improves crop quality by reducing foreign matter and moisture in the crop at harvest and reduces spoilage in post harvest storage.

One very effective educational effort involving many state and Federal agencies has been the reduction of MDLs (Maximum Daily Load) of atrazine in surface waters. Atrazine is an inexpensive, highly effective and widely used corn herbicide. In two locations, atrazine detections exceeded MDLs, causing concern on the part of water system managers and farmers alike. Persistent pollution of surface waters would have caused the label cancellation of this valuable tool, costing Texas farmers over \$45 million annually due to yield decline and additional cost of alternative herbicides according to the National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Assessment Program. When the Marlin City Lake and the Aquilla Reservoir were discovered to have excess levels of this herbicide, TAEX formed a task force along with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the US EPA. This group met with farmers, representatives of the companies selling the herbicide, city officials and others to develop a program to allow farmers to continue to use the herbicide but to reduce off site movement. After intensive educational efforts on BMPs (Best Management Practices) for the use of atrazine, water quality with respect to atrazine has significantly improved in both reservoirs, special treatment measures for water have been prevented, and a valuable herbicide has for the time being been retained by Texas corn farmers, saving approximately \$45 million per year in production costs and lost yield revenue.

In addition, the program focuses to increase the use of soil testing to optimize yield and quality of crops and forages and minimize off site movement of nutrients. Educational programming and collaboration between and among several agencies have been used to increase soil testing and reduce the movement of nutrients off site in Texas between 1997 and 2000. These include:

- Soil test phosphorus (P) calibration testing to improve P recommendations in field crops and forages by TAEX and TAES. County and regional meetings and workshops educated 5000 producers in 70 counties between 1997 and 2000 on soil testing issues.
- Soil potassium calibration and correlation efforts in East Texas Bermuda grass hay production between TAEX and Stephen F. Austin University. Potassium deficiency in hay production is common in East Texas. Four research studies were initiated to evaluate potassium recommendations in 1999. Two producer meetings focused on use of soil testing to evaluate K deficiency.
- Soil Testing/Nutrient Management Campaigns in Gulf Coast counties by TAEX, LCRA, Sea Grant, NRCS, TNRCC and other agencies. Soil testing campaigns and questionnaires completed by producers during the 1997-1999 years potentially reduced application of nitrogen and phosphorus by 1,104,000 and 2,025,000 pounds, respectively, reducing potential fertilizer costs by \$950,000 and reducing potential offsite runoff on farms participating.
- Development of nutrient management planning certification program by TAEX and NRCS. A

Nutrient planner certification program including curriculum and testing was planned and developed in 1999 and 2000. This course and exam will certify individuals affiliated with the government and private consultants to plan nutrient applications to farms to reduce off site runoff of nutrients to keep streams, rivers and lakes cleaner.

- Development and implementation of Dairy Outreach Program Area training by TAEX, TNRCC. This training was developed to increase awareness of dairy farmers manure application technologies and the use of soil testing in managing animal wastes in the Erath county area.

C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – OK, KS, GA, MS, AR, TN, KT, NM
Integrated Research and Extension

State Plan of Work Program 3: Livestock Quality and Profitability

Key Theme: Agricultural Competitiveness, Agricultural Profitability

A. Description of Activity

Texas ranks first in the nation in total livestock value and also has the broadest spectrum producers and variation in production environments. High production costs and variable sale receipts for all livestock species necessitates adoption of best management practices to efficiently produce livestock and their resulting end-products that are cost-competitive with consumer alternatives while meeting the food quality and safety standards expected by our society. Educational programs are needed to increase producer awareness of consumer concerns, advancements in production practices and developments in technologies to meet those needs while increasing net returns from livestock operations.

Education programs will focus on livestock genetics, best management practices and how producers can increase production efficiency while still producing high quality end products. Management practices such as selection, nutrition, reproductive physiology, livestock health, and meat science will be emphasized. Other factors that influence product acceptability in the market such as marketing methods and food safety will be stressed.

The target audience is composed of beef cattle, dairy, sheep, goat and swine producers. Commodity group leadership, Extension educators and youth enrolled in 4-H and F.F.A. livestock projects.

Partnership have been established with CSREES, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Departments (Ag Economics, Ag Engineering, Entomology, Rangeland Ecology and Management, and Soil and Crop Sciences), Texas Tech University, West Texas A&M University, Oklahoma State University, Texas Beef Council, Texas Cattle Feeders Assn., Independent Cattlemen's Assn., Texas Association of

Dairymen, Texas Pork Producers Assn., Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Assn., and Texas Farm Bureau.

B. Impact of Programs

One thousand six hundred seventy producers from 10 states have participated in the Texas A&M Ranch to Rail program to learn more about how their calf crop fits the needs of the beef industry and what creates value in beef marketing. They learned that they could increase their net return per head by \$67 through retained ownership. They also learned that an effective health management vaccination program at the ranch of origin reduced bovine respiratory disease at the feedyard to reduce production costs by \$90 per head.

The database on the 15,000 entries in Ranch to Rail revealed that administration of specific viral vaccines, the timing of their administration and the days weaned prior to marketing greatly impact production efficiency and carcass quality. The outcome of this result led to development of the Value Added Calf Vaccination Management program (VAC). The four largest cattle marketing organizations in the state have adopted the VAC guidelines and have special feeder calf sales that have resulted in increased values for ranches in excess of \$70 per head due to industry demands for healthier cattle.

In 1999, 250 beef industry leaders participated in Beef 706 to learn more about what creates value in beef carcasses and ways they can change management practices and genetics to enhance carcass value. Eighty-eight percent (88%) indicated they would make different business decisions in their ranching operation as a result of participating in this educational program and 100% said they would recommend attending 706 to other beef industry members.

The Texas Pork Quality Assurance Youth Program was created and a curriculum was developed to educate the 26,000 youth swine project exhibitors at livestock shows on food and pork quality wholesomeness. Over 500 County Extension Agents and Vo-Ag instructors have been trained to deliver the curriculum. The National Pork Producers Association has adopted the curriculum and created a handbook to be distributed nationally.

Output Indicators:

The total number of people **completing** non-formal educational programs to improve the production efficiency and end product quality of livestock products was 2,760.

Total number of people completing these non-formal educational programs to improve the production efficiency and end-product quality of livestock products who plan to adopt one or more production practices or management strategies after completing strategies after completing these products was 2,400.

<u>2,760</u>	Number of Participants Served by Group Methods
<u>1,200</u>	Number of Participants Served by Individuals Methods
<u>10,000</u>	Number of Participants Served through Mass Media

107,961 Number of Participants Served through Website Access

Outcome Indicators:

The total number of people completing these non-formal educational programs who actually adopt one or more new practices or strategies taught at these programs within six months. **To be determined.**

C. Source of Federal Funds

SmithLever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – OK, AR, LA, TN, FL, and NM

Integrated Research and Extension

Goal 2: A safe and secure food and fiber system

Overview

Programs aimed at reducing the health risks associated with improper food handling and preparation has been part of the programs and services of the Texas Agricultural Service for many years. It is estimated that between 6.5 and 33 million illnesses and 9,000 deaths are directly linked to foodborne illness each year. The Partnership for Food Safety Education reports that the yearly medical costs and productivity losses due to just seven of the known foodborne illness pathogens have been estimated at 6.5 to 34.9 billion dollars. If the costs were calculated for all known foodborne illness pathogens, this amount would soar even higher.

Health officials currently estimate that 880,000 Texans become sick each year from eating contaminated food. More vulnerable populations for foodborne illness include the very young, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals. There are more than 80,000 food service establishments in Texas, with over 500,000 workers. In Texas alone, the medical costs and lost productivity from foodborne illnesses carries a price tag ranging from \$164 million to \$188 million annually. If food service managers and employees were reached with safe food handling education, avoiding the cost of a foodborne illness would seem to indicate the relative value of training, as is accomplished by the TAEX Food Protection Management Program.

Food Protection Management courses have been delivered in 23 counties, serving 477 food service employees. Almost half of these participants were from rural areas of the state. Results from the programs indicate that employees have gained valuable knowledge and skills, and have adopted practices aimed at reducing foodborne illnesses. Key results from these programs are highlighted in the following section of this report.

Programs in the areas under Goal 2 continue to provide research-based information to commercial food handlers, as well as lay citizens in the state. Educational programs are designed in order for participants to make sound decision on the implementation of best management practices and adoption of technologies. Educational programming has been and will continue to be driven by the needs of our clientele. Results from the Texas Community Futures Forum, and guidance from Executive Program Councils and program committees serve as the basis for this strategy.

The data presented in this summary and the following section represents the efforts of Year 01 of this Plan of Work. Educational programming efforts have been ongoing for many of the areas represented and continue to provide Texas food handlers with opportunities for increased food safety knowledge and skills. Future plans will build on past experiences and emerging issues that may affect our state and clientele.

Source of Funding and FTEs

Source of Funding: Smith Lever and State Matching

<u>Program</u>		\$ X 1000
		Actual
		FY 2000
Program 4 – Food Protection Management		824
	FTEs	39.20
Allocated Resources Goal 2		1,245
	FTEs	58.20

State POW Programs

State Plan of Work Program 4: Food Protection Management

Key Theme: Food Handling, Food Safety, and Foodborne Illness

A. Description of Activity

The Food Protection Management Program serves as the centerpiece for programs and services aimed at reducing foodborne illnesses and related problems. The target audiences for this program were managers and front-line employees in food service institutions, companies, and small mom and pop businesses who needed or desired training. These contacts included those in both urban and in the underserved rural areas of the state where public health oversight is limited. Care was given to meet the needs of the geographically disadvantaged.

Educational lessons and activities in the Food Protection Management program focused on the following areas:

- Enhanced use of temperature control measures in food service, such as thermometer use, time and temperature control, safe internal cooking and holding temperatures, thawing procedures, and general storage temperatures.
- Increased adoption of proper hygiene and hand washing practices of food service employees and managers.
- Increased adoption of practices to avoid cross-contamination such as proper storage, washing and sanitizing of utensils and equipment between use, and employee hygiene practices.
- Increased adoption of receipt and labeling of foods to prevent food waste and spoilage.

Internal partnerships and cooperative relationships for the Food Protection Management program included academic and research faculty members from Texas A&M University. External linkages included the following: private sector partnerships such as the National Restaurant Association, corporate industries such as fast food chains and bed and breakfasts, and food distributors. Interagency cooperators included the Texas Department of Health, local public health jurisdictions, and trade organizations such as restaurant and convenience store associations.

B. Impact of Programs

There were a total of 33 Food Protection Management certification - training programs that were conducted in 23 counties across the state. Of these programs, three were food service recertification programs. A total of 477 food service managers and food service employees completed manager training or participated in employee training. Of these food managers, 210 or 44% were from underserved rural areas of the state where public health oversight was limited. Specific targeted data was not available for the number of front-line and occasional quantity cook education programs conducted.

There were 113 County Extension Agents who achieved or maintained certified instructor status for Food Protection Management. As a result of taking the Texas Agricultural Extension Service Food Protection Management course, food managers were expected to train their food service employees in safe food handling practices. Therefore, a telephone survey was conducted by the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University to determine the practices of food service employees both before and after the managers had taken the course. This survey involved a sampling of food service managers (378) who had taken the Texas Agricultural Extension Service Food Protection Management course. The survey found that 95% of the participants had shared the information gained from the course with their food service employees, and the results are as follows:

Food Safety Practices	Before Course	After Course
<i>Outcome Indicator: Using thermometers and other control measures to monitor temperatures of foods</i>		
Employees use a thermometer to determine if foods have reached a safe internal temperature.	38%	72%
Employees always reheat leftover food to 165°F or until boiling.	56%	80%
Employees use a thermometer to check foods for proper holding temperatures.	34%	72%
Employees always cool large quantities of foods in shallow containers.	35%	71%
Employees never thaw foods at room temperature or on the counter.	49%	77%
<i>Outcome Indicator: Training and encouraging employees to use proper hand washing procedures</i>		
Employees wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.	41%	74%

Employees wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after handling raw meat or poultry.	37%	76%
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Outcome Indicator: Adopting practices to prevent cross contamination

Employees never use the same cutting board for preparing all types of food.	45%	78%
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Employees wash and sanitize cutting boards after using them for raw meat and poultry.	79%	94%
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Outcome Indicator: Using proper cleaning and sanitizing Procedures for equipment, utensils, and food preparation surfaces

Employees always follow recommended practices when washing and sanitizing food preparation equipment and surfaces.	65%	86%
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Outcome Indicator: Adequately labeling foods upon receipt and during storage

Employees follow recommended practices during labeling foods upon receipt and during leftover storage.	46%	80%
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C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – WS, OH, CO

Integrated Research and Extension

Goal 3: A Healthy, well-nourished population

Overview

Programs under Federal Goal Three cover the areas of General Health Education, Diabetes Education, and Better Living For Texans.

General Health Education - General health education programs are represented by the Walk Across Texas, the Worksite Wellness Healthwise Project, the Rural Passenger Safety Project, and the Cancer Risk reduction for Rural Texans program. These programs, with the exception of the Rural Passenger Safety Project, are designed as to promote the prevention chronic disease. The Rural Passenger Safety Project is designed to provide a safe environment for children and adults using our roadways.

Results from these projects indicate success. In the Walk Across Texas Program, 11,594 participants established a habit of walking during this eight - week program. Their mileage increased from 10.7 miles in week one to 12.1 miles in week eight, a statistically significant increase. The Worksite Wellness Healthwise Project allowed County employees to reduce inappropriate use of the health care system by learning how to make better self - care decisions using the Healthwise Handbook. This resulted in savings for the counties and their insurance provider. Data from the Rural Passenger Safety Education program indicates that over 700 child safety seats were inspected with only 4 installed correctly. It is estimated that nearly 300 children, ages four and under, were saved as a result of child restraint use in 1998. Finally, the Cancer Risk Reduction for Rural Texans also had an impact on its participants. The Extension agent in Oldham County reported that 45% of her health fair participants now regularly complete breast self-exams and 22 percent have had a mammogram done since the program. A cancer exhibit in Lamb county helped save the life of a county employee who noticed a mole she had looked like a picture of a malignant melanoma she had seen on a skin cancer exhibit in the county agent's office; she went to her doctor who confirmed it was; because of this early stage discovery and treatment, the melanoma had not spread to other parts of the body.

Diabetes Education - A comprehensive Diabetes Education Program is being used to address this issue. Sixteen diabetes educational lessons, along with handouts, visuals/transparencies/PowerPoint presentations, videos (purchased and in film library), and activities are included with each lesson. The target audiences for these programs include persons with Type 2 diabetes, family members, limited income adults, ethnic groups with high incidence of diabetes (Hispanics, African - Americans) and Youth with Type 2 diabetes mellitus; and secondary, health professionals working in counties throughout the State.

Participants completing educational programs on Diabetes education report positive changes in behavior, including self - care of diabetes. Other changes include awareness of better nutritional habits, monitoring of glucose levels, and the proper use of prescribed medications and insulin.

Better Living for Texans - The Better Living for Texans program is targeted towards food stamp recipients or individuals who are eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program. During FY2000, the program was conducted in 165 counties across Texas with a total of 199,206 participants.

The core of the BLT program was a series of 5 to 6 lessons that focused on basic nutrition, food preparation, food resource management, and food safety. The curricula used in this program were research-based, targeted towards limited resource audiences, and available for county Extension agents. Educational exhibits, displayed in appropriate areas (i.e. food stamp offices, health departments, and grocery stores) also allowed limited resource consumers, who might not be able to participate in the lesson series, the ability to increase their knowledge of food and nutrition. Educational fact sheets and various media were also used to distribute information to limited resource audiences to extend/augment lessons.

Outcome data suggest an increase in the number of servings of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. Participants also reported improvements in a number of behaviors that are in agreement with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Programs in the areas under Goal 3 continue to provide citizens of Texas with research-based information in order for them to make sound decision on the implementation of best management practices, adoption of technologies, and behavior changes to improve the quality of life. Educational programming has been and will continue to be driven by the needs of our clientele. Results from the Texas Community Futures Forum, and guidance from Executive Program Councils and program committees serve as the basis for this strategy.

The data presented in this summary and the following section represents the efforts of Year 01 of this Plan of Work. Educational programming efforts have been ongoing for many of the areas represented and continue to provide Texans with opportunities for increased health and well-being. Future plans will build on past experiences and emerging issues that may affect our state and clientele.

Source of Funding and FTEs

Source of Funding: Smith Lever and State Matching

<u>Program</u>	\$ X 1000
	Actual
	FY 2000
Program 5 – General Health Education	368
FTEs	17.50
 Program 6 – Extension Diabetes Education	 487
FTEs	23.20
 Program 7 – Better Living for Texans`	 487
FTEs	23.20
 Allocated Resources Goal 3	 1,463
FTEs	68.30

State POW Programs

State Plan of Work Program 5: General Health Education

Key Theme: Human Health

A. Description of Activity

Walk Across Texas

According to the 1996 Surgeon General's Report, 60% of adults are not physically active, and 25% do no physical activity. In addition, nearly half of American youth are not physically active on a regular basis. Adequate physical activity lowers risk and improves management and outcomes for leading causes of death including heart disease, hypertension, stroke, and diabetes.

County Extension agents across Texas organized teams of eight people to keep a record of miles they walked during eight weeks. Teams competed with one another to walk across the state first and/or accumulate the most mileage during the eight weeks. Team members could also attend classes and receive information on nutrition, exercise, weight loss, and other health topics like arthritis and diabetes.

Internal linkages have been formed with Agricultural Communications, Foods and Nutrition, and Extension Information Technology. External linkages include families, schools, worksites, families, neighborhoods, churches, and civic clubs participated. Almost one-half of the teams came from worksites. County agents reported collaborating with local health departments and a number of civic groups like parks and recreation. Selected counties in four regions were supported by the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Health Education and Rural Outreach program specialists. Other states including Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama, and Illinois have requested the manual to adapt this program for their state.

Worksite Wellness Healthwise Project

Health care costs continue to rise. To avoid cutting employee health benefits, thereby further reducing access into the health care system, employees must learn to make better decisions regarding their self-care, when to access the system, and how to access the system appropriately.

Implementing a self-care program can help employees and their families reduce inappropriate use of health benefits, thereby reducing costs.

County employees in target counties were provided a workshop that taught them how to use the Healthwise Handbook, a medical self-care resource, before seeking care from the health care system, especially emergency rooms. Extension agents provided the employee training in partnership with county wellness coordinators.

Internal collaborations have been formed with Extension Information Technology, while external collaborations include the Texas Association of Counties and county wellness coordinators.

Rural Passenger Safety Education

Based on a study conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, at least 80% of all

child safety seats are used incorrectly. The long-term goal is to reduce child passenger fatalities 25% by the year 2005. Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for children.

Certified child safety seat technicians provided child safety seat checkup events where parents learned how to correctly select and install safety restraint systems for their children. Technicians demonstrated the correct installation in parents' vehicles in rural counties across Texas.

External Collaborations included the Texas Department of Public Safety troopers and Texas Department of Transportation.

Cancer Risk Reduction for Rural Texans

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in adults over 40 years of age. Survival is improved when early detection is sought. The risk for cancer can be reduced with lifestyle improvements. Rural populations in Texas are more at risk for death from cancer because 30% are over 65 years old and accessing both knowledge regarding early detection and medical care are difficult.

Extension agents were provided training and educational resources focused on early detection and risk reduction for cancer. Agents used these materials at a variety of events including fairs, livestock shows, Family Community Education meetings, civic club meetings, 4-H meetings and events, camps, and many other events in their counties. The Texas Cancer Council funded this project.

Internal Collaborations include the 4-H program. External linkages have been formed with the Texas Cancer Council, and a variety of others including local hospitals and clinics, civic clubs, fair and livestock show boards, other Texas Cancer Council funded projects like the Stop Spit Tobacco Network, worksites, churches, and many others.

B. Impact of Programs

In the Walk Across Texas Program, 11,594 participants established a habit of walking during this eight-week program. Their mileage increased from 10.7 miles in week one to 12.1 miles in week eight, a statistically significant increase. Forty-nine percent reported feeling less stressed. A number of participants reported that their doctors reduced their diabetes and blood pressure medicine because of their increased physical activity. One participant who tried unsuccessfully for years to lose weight went on to lose 60 pounds. He attributes his success to Walk Across Texas helping him increase his activity long enough to make it a habit.

The Worksite Wellness Healthwise Project allowed County employees to reduce inappropriate use of the health care system by learning how to make better self-care decisions using the Healthwise Handbook. This resulted in savings for the counties and their insurance provider.

Data from the Rural Passenger Safety Education program indicates that over 700 child safety seats were inspected. Of the child safety seats checked, only four were installed correctly. Every dollar spent on a child safety seat saves this country \$32 in health care costs. It is estimated that nearly 300

children, ages four and under, were saved as a result of child restraint use in 1998. If all child passengers, ages four and under, were restrained, it is estimated that an additional 173 lives could be saved, and 20,000 injuries could be prevented annually.

Finally, the Cancer Risk Reduction for Rural Texans also had an impact on its participants. The Extension agent in Oldham County reported that 45% of her health fair participants now regularly complete breast self-exams and 22 percent have had a mammogram done since the program. A cancer exhibit in Lamb county helped save the life of a county employee who noticed a mole she had looked like a picture of a malignant melanoma she had seen on a skin cancer exhibit in the county agent's office; she went to her doctor who confirmed it was; because of this early stage discovery and treatment, the melanoma had not spread to other parts of the body.

Output Indicators:

Walk Across Texas

Number of people completing non-formal education programs on health promotion.
11,594 participants

Total number of people completing non-formal education programs on health promotion who plan to adopt one or more recommended practices after completing one or more of these programs.
No data available to determine this.

Worksite Wellness Healthwise Project

Number of people completing non-formal education programs on health promotion.
21,304 participants

Total number of people completing non-formal education programs on health promotion who plan to adopt one or more recommended practices after completing one or more of these programs.
No data available to determine this.

Rural Passenger Safety Education

Number of people completing non-formal education programs on health promotion.
700 participants

Total number of people completing non-formal education programs on health promotion who plan to adopt one or more recommended practices after completing one or more of these programs.
No data available to determine this.

Cancer Risk Reduction for Rural Texans

Number of people completing non-formal education programs on health promotion.

71,926

Total number of people completing non - formal education programs on health promotion who plan to adopt one or more recommended practices after completing one or more of these programs.

No data available to determine this

Outcome Indicators:

Walk Across Texas

The total number of people completing non - formal education programs on health promotion who actually adopt one or more recommended practices within six months after completing one or more of these programs. 11,594 participants reported completing 8 weeks of walking. Their mileage increased from 10.7 miles in week one to 12.1 miles in week eight. This was a statistically significant increase.

Worksite Wellness Healthwise Project

The total number of people completing non - formal education programs on health promotion who actually adopt one or more recommended practices within six months after completing one or more of these programs. One year after this program was completed, Blue Cross, the insurance provider for Texas county employees, reported that emergency room costs had decreased by 5.2%, saving \$121,829; Inpatient hospital admissions decreased by 8%, saving \$13,154.94 per admission; inpatient hospital days decreased by 9%, saving \$2,802.13 per day; hospital outpatient services decreased by 12%, saving \$88.28 per visit; and an estimated 2,053 hours of lost work time were saved by decreasing health care system visits.

Rural Passenger Safety Education

The total number of people completing non - formal education programs on health promotion who actually adopt one or more recommended practices within six months after completing one or more of these programs.

No outcome data was collected.

Cancer Risk Reduction for Rural Texans

The total number of people completing non - formal education programs on health promotion who actually adopt one or more recommended practices within six months after completing one or more of these programs.

No outcome data was collected.

C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – AL, ID, IL, KY, LA, TN

State Plan of Work Program 6: Diabetes Education

Key Theme: Human Health, Human Nutrition

A. Description of Activity

Diabetes, a significant problem affecting 930,000 Texans, costs the State an estimated \$1,275,000,000/year as a result of long-term illness and complications. Failure to control blood glucose levels to prevent long term complications results in increased health care costs, increased loss of time from work due to illness, poor health status leading to decreased quality of life. Education is the single most important thing people with diabetes can do to improve their health status and prevent the onset of complications. Additional benefits possible might be that health care insurance costs could decrease by controlled blood glucose levels through proper nutritional management and increase d exercise resulting in fewer chronic complications, less time lost from work due to better nutrition practices and self-care health management, and reduction in long term illness and health care costs.

A comprehensive Diabetes Education Program is being used to address this issue. Sixteen diabetes educational lessons, along with handouts, visuals/transparencies/PowerPoint presentations, videos (purchased and in film library), and activities are included with each lesson. Diabetes curriculum *Diabetes--Keep It In Check* is focusing on the following components: Overview Lesson is Living with Diabetes Mellitus, 6 Nutrition Lessons include the following: Nutrition First Step to Diabetes Management; Dietary Treatment of Diabetes; Diabetes Diet - No Longer the Sole Option!; What Nutritional Labels Can Tell Persons with Diabetes; Bird's Eye View: Food Measures, Ingredient Labels, Sugars and Artificial Sweeteners, and More; and Flexible, Healthful Meals While Away From Home. Self Care Lessons include: Managing Your Blood Sugar; Avoiding Acute Complications; Exercise; Doctor's Visits; Avoiding Long Term Complications; Insulin and Medications; Protecting Your Skin, Feet, Teeth, and Eyes; Coping with Diabetes; and Diabetes at Special Times.

The target audiences for these programs include persons with Type 2 diabetes, family members, limited income adults, ethnic groups with high incidence of diabetes (Hispanics, African - Americans) and Youth with Type 2 diabetes mellitus; and secondary, health professionals working in counties throughout the State. Programs reached the following:

Partnerships and cooperative relationships have been established and/or maintained with :

External: Texas Diabetes Institute and University of Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio, Texas Diabetes Council (Dr. Maria Allen -Chairman), and Texas Department of Health and regional offices, American Diabetes Association, American Association of Diabetes Educators, American and Texas Dietetic Associations, Migrant Workers National Center for Farm Health, Denton, Dallas and Tarrant Counties Diabetes and Cardiovascular Coalitions, county hospital associations, local hospitals, local health professionals, health organizations, pharmaceutical and diabetes suppliers.

Internal: Extension Food/Nutrition Specialist - Special Food/Nutrition Needs, Family

Development/Resource Management Health, Evaluation and Program Development Specialists, School of Rural Public Health, TAMU Medical School faculty, and TAMUS Health Sciences Center faculties health professionals, County Extension Agents in Family and Consumer Sciences, other Extension such as programs targeting limited incomes or specific ethnic groups.

B. Impact of Programs

Summary of Outcome Measures

Extension diabetes programming efforts educated clientele in some 50+ counties for FY2000 reaching 23,220, with 70 percent representative of the underserved populations. In the previous two years, the county programs attracted less than half as many consumers with diabetes and health professionals in an average of 75 Texas counties. With more collaborations, coalitions, and partnerships within the medical communities in local counties, Extension has gained respect as a reliable resource for nutrition and self care. Today, more than ever, nutrition education and self-care education using strategies for effecting behavior changes are recognized as essential in the management of diabetes and in reducing the risk of developing long-term complications. Following the initial education by the diabetes team members (physician, dietitian, nurse, diabetes educator, psychologist, etc.) County Extension agents, trained in service diabetes education and in additional professional diabetes education meetings, are well equipped with knowledge and skills needed to can help persons with diabetes achieve the ultimate goal of glucose control. Extension educators are trusted for providing sound advice.

Outcome Measures (Indicators) Examples

Preliminary data supports that Extension diabetes education has enabled persons with diabetes to make positive changes in behavior and practice self-care as shown from the Extension Diabetes Proxy Study (*Diabetes Educator Journal*, Sept./Oct., 1995). The study was conducted to show the impact of diabetes programming, significant behavioral changes ($p < 0.05$) made by clientele, and additional information from focus groups for insight into the barriers preventing diabetic compliance. Evaluation of baseline knowledge and current behavior provided invaluable information about what personal characteristics and knowledge of practices lead clients with diabetes to change certain habits thus improving diabetes control, and leading ultimately to better health and well-being.

Awareness of Managing Food Choices Through Healthful Eating To Control Blood Glucose

27,668 persons (twice the number than the previous year) in either individual or group methods became aware of importance of controlling blood glucose through healthful eating (decreasing fat, sugar, increasing complex carbohydrates) and self-care (self-glucose monitoring, exercise, visiting with health care provider, and taking medications and/or insulin diabetes) through the Extension diabetes programming in Texas counties.

Awareness of importance Self- Blood Glucose Monitoring

27,668 persons awareness of importance of adequately monitoring blood glucose levels 4 times a day

Awareness of Exercising to Control Blood Glucose

27,668 persons awareness of importance of engaging in daily exercise

Visiting with Health Care Provider

Number of individuals visiting with physician, dietitian, nurse, diabetes educators - Data not available

Taking Prescribed Medication and/or Insulin

Number of individuals taking prescribed medication and/or insulin - Data not available

Summary of Output Measures

362 Number of programs

10,801 Number of people completing programs (Group Methods)

12,619 Number of Participants Served by (Individual Methods) (Trend is that clientele with diabetes seeking information via individual assistance 8,025 more frequently than in 1998)

4,248 Number of written diabetes educational materials distributed (increase of 3,468 materials over the 780 distributed in 1998). Diabetes resources will be included in a new diabetes curriculum *Diabetes--Keep It In Check*, 16-week Nutrition and Self-Care TAEX Curriculum with accompanying PowerPoint visuals with each lesson, handouts, and some web-based educational resources

Unknown Many health professionals, clientele with diabetes, Internet users, seek diabetes information via the web via Extension. To accommodate this continual access to knowledge, web based Extension diabetes nutrition/self-care information can be found at: Food/Nutrition http://fcs.tamu.edu/food_and_nutrition.htm and FCS <http://fcs.tamu.edu/> and Health websites http://fcs.tamu.edu/food_and_nutrition.htm, food/nutrition electronic newsletters <http://calcium.tamu.edu/mickey/newsletters/>, HERO newsletters on diabetes <http://fcs.tamu.edu/health/>, diabetes nutrition and health related bookmarks organized <http://calcium.tamu.edu/mickey.html> .

C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

State Specific

State Plan of Work Program 7: Better Living for Texans

Key Theme: Human Health, Human Nutrition

A. Description of Activity

Nearly 17% of Texans live in poverty. Research suggests that individuals who live in poverty consume diets that are not in agreement with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid. In addition, the diets of individuals in low-income households are often deficient in fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. This is due, in part, to a lack of knowledge and an inability to purchase and prepare healthy foods on limited budgets.

Individuals who live in poverty are also at risk for being food insecure. This means that the ability to acquire safe and nutritious foods is limited or uncertain. In 1999, the USDA identified Texas as having the 3rd highest number of households (almost 13%) that were food insecure.

#of people completing educational sessions/programs: 177,424
 #of mass media outlets: 1,054 news articles, which reached 6,069,331 people
 663 radio spots, which reached 5,204,935 people
 156 television interviews which reached 4,272,157 people
 #of educational handouts distributed: 79,684
 #of people who received written information: 314,225

Outcome Indicators

The extent to which outcome indicators were met was based on a statewide telephone survey of a sample of individuals who participated in a six lesson series as a part of the BLT program during the 2000 year. Trained interviewers administered the survey to the 511 individuals who agreed to participate. Surveys were conducted in both English and Spanish.

Outcome Indicator #1: Number of limited resource individuals who are able to provide themselves and family members a variety of food for a healthy diet using the Food Guide Pyramid and the Dietary Guidelines as guides. **Results:** The consumption of the number of servings of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products was significantly higher after subjects completed the BLT program in comparison to before entering the program.

Food	<u># servings consumed</u>		
	Before	After	p-value
bread, cereals, rice & pasta	3.2 ± 2.2	2.9 ± 1.8 ^a	.05
fruits	1.9 ± 1.4	2.5 ± 1.4	.001
vegetables	2.4 ± 2.2	2.8 ± 1.4	.001
milk/dairy products	2.1 ± 1.5	2.4 ± 1.4	.001

^a mean number of servings ± standard deviation, rounded to the nearest tenth

Participants also reported improvements in a number of behaviors that are in agreement with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The percentage of respondents who reported that they never used lard for cooking rose from 26% before the BLT program to 40% after the program. Nearly 26% of the subjects reported that before the BLT program they seldom or never added salt to foods; afterwards, the percentage rose to 47%. Nearly 30% of respondents also reported that before the program, they read food labels to learn about the amount of fat and sodium in their foods always or most of the time. After completing the BLT program, the percentage of respondents reading food labels always or most of the time rose to 75%. Finally, the percentage of former participants who rated their ability to feed their households nutritious meals as “good” rose from 42% before BLT to more than 90% afterwards.

Outcome Indicator #2: Number of limited resource individuals who are able to select, prepare, and handle foods for themselves and family members to reduce nutrition -related health risk factors.

Results: More than 88% of the respondents identified behaviors that can help reduce the risk of nutrition-related diseases. These behaviors include eating less fat (identified by 17% of respondents),

eating more fruits (7%) and vegetables (12%), reducing portion sizes (9%), and reducing salt intake (8%).

Outcome Indicator #3: Number of limited resource individuals who are better able to manage food purchasing resources to have food available through the end of the month without seeking emergency assistance such as food banks. **Results:** The percentage of respondents planning meals always or most of the time increased from 28% before BLT to 61% after BLT. More than 60% of the subjects shopped with a list always or most of the time, up from 37% before completing the BLT program. Forty-five percent of the subjects reported that they always compared prices when shopping before participating in the program, while 72% reported doing so after the program. In addition, the percentage of subjects who reported running out of money, food stamps, or food before the end of the month always or most of the time decreased from 7% to 4%.

Note: Beginning in 2000, a modified version of the USDA Household Food Security Survey was incorporated in the statewide survey. This will allow TAEX to assess the extent to which BLT is reducing the prevalence of food insecurity among its participants. Improving food security among limited resource audiences will be an outcome indicator beginning in 2001.

Subjects who participated in the BLT program reported significant improvements in their diets as well as in their ability to manage their food resources. This indicates that BLT is effective in teaching limited resource individuals and families food and nutrition skills that improve one's ability to follow national dietary recommendations while reducing the need for emergency food assistance.

C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – WS, OH, CO

Integrated Research and Extension

Goal 4: Greater harmony between agriculture and the environment

Overview

Texas Agricultural Extension Service programs under Goal 4 focus on the relationship of agriculture and the environment, and on stewardship of the environment for all citizens. Based on the Texas Plan of Work, these programs focus on the issue of water quality and quantity. Water was a major issue raised by stakeholders during the recent Texas Community Futures Forum. A significant number of the 254 counties in Texas identified water as an issue.

Educational programming covers many areas when addressing water quality and quantity management. This program has a broad target audience including agricultural producers rural residents, suburban and urban residents. Water is a vital issue reaching across the various groups. Efforts have focused on wise use of the resource with attention on water quality protection and efficient use of the resource.

This program regarding water quantity and quality has an increasing importance in the State. The greatest impact at this stage of the POW is regarding public policy issues. The State of Texas is using a “Grass-roots” effort to develop our State water plan. At the same time, groundwater management is gaining concern because we will need to fully utilize our groundwater resources to meet our future water demands. The educational programs to increase the public’s awareness concerning their water resources will have an effect on the creation of groundwater districts in many of the counties and increase the people’s participation in the water planning process. As people become more aware of the critical condition of our water resources, they will be more willing to implement water management practices to protect and preserve the resource.

Programs in the areas under Goal 4 continue to provide Texas producers and citizens with research-based information in order for them to make sound decision on the implementation of best management practices and adoption of technologies. Educational programming has been and will continue to be driven by the needs of our clientele. Results from the Texas Community Futures Forum, and guidance from Executive Program Councils and program committees serve as the basis for this strategy .

The data presented in this summary and the following section represents the efforts of Year 01 of this Plan of Work. Educational programming efforts have been ongoing for many of the areas represented and continue to provide Texans with opportunities to conserve our most precious natural resource for generations to come. Future plans will build on past experiences and emerging issues that may affect our state and clientele.

Source of Funding and FTEs

Source of Funding: Smith Lever and State Matching

<u>Program</u>	\$ X 1000
	Actual
	FY 2000
Program 8 – Water Quality & Quantity Management	4,658
FTEs	221.66
Allocated Resources Goal 4	4,658
FTEs	221.66

State POW Programs

State Plan of Work Program 8: Water Quality and Quantity

Key Theme: Water Quality, Natural Resource Management, Drought Prevention and Mitigation

A. Description of Activity

Water resources are an important component of our life, and economic development and sustainability. Texas' water resources are limited and will be fully utilized to meet future water demands. Protection and efficient use of the water resources will ensure an ability to meet the greatest extent of the water demand. Educational programs covering best management practices will increase awareness of water protection and increase efficiency of water use.

Educational programming covers many areas when addressing water quality and quantity management. The programming efforts will address the following areas: Water Quality Protection

- Develop, transfer and implement effective best management practices related to nutrient management, pesticide management and animal waste management for agricultural producers.
- Develop, transfer and implement effective best management practices related to nutrient and pesticide management for urban audiences.
- Develop, transfer and implement of range and wildlife management strategies for protection of our water resources. Develop, transfer and implement best management practices for residential wastewater treatment systems.
- Implement educational programming on proper well-head protection.

Water Quality Management

- Develop, transfer and implement water management strategies for enhancing our water resources in agricultural areas.
- Develop, transfer and implement irrigation programs for agricultural production, commercial production, and home landscapes.
- Educate clientele on their water resources and the effective management of those resources.
- Educate clientele on indoor water conservation methods for extending our existing water resources.
- Develop, transfer and implement effective technologies for utilizing water resources, which

currently have limited use as a potable water supply.

This program has a broad target audience including agricultural producers rural residents, suburban and urban residents. Water is a vital issue reaching across the various groups. Efforts have focused on wise use of the resource with attention on water quality protection and efficient use of the resource.

Partnerships and cooperative relationships exist between professionals within the Texas A&M University System and the various agencies involved in protection of our water resources. We are establishing and maintaining our partnerships with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, and other agency and producer groups as well as industry professionals. These linkages will provide a valuable partnership for protecting our natural resources.

B. Impact of Programs

Output Indicators

B.4.1.2: The total number of other referred and peer reviewed materials (refereed and peer reviewed conference papers, books, book chapters, reports, studies, and other materials) on environmental sciences and related topics.

This output indicator is being removed from the plan of work because it is more descriptive of efforts reported through the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

A.4.1.3: The total number of people completing non-formal education programs on sustaining and protecting ecosystem integrity and biodiversity while improving the productivity of the U.S. agricultural production system.

A variety of educational methods were implemented to deliver information on sustainability and maintaining our production systems. The delivery methods included one-on-one educational programs, producer meetings conducted by county agents, specialists and volunteers. The total attendance at these meetings provided across the state was 245,000 contacts.

A.4.2.1: The total number of people completing non-formal education programs on sustaining and/or protecting the quantity and quality of surface water and ground water supplies.

A variety of educational methods were implemented to deliver information on sustainability and maintaining our production systems. The delivery methods included one-on-one educational programs, producer meetings conducted by county agents, specialists and volunteers. The total attendance at these meetings provided across the state was 165,000 contacts.

B.4.2.1: The total number of people completing non-formal education programs on water quantity and water quality who plan to adopt one or more water management practices after completing one or

more of these programs.

Data not collected at this time.

A.4.3.2: The total number of people completing non-formal educational programs on public policy issues affecting agricultural production and ecosystem integrity and biodiversity.

A variety of educational methods were implemented to deliver information on sustainability and maintaining our production systems. The delivery methods included one-on-one educational programs, producer meetings conducted by county agents, specialists and volunteers. The total attendance at these meetings provided across the state was 115,000 contacts.

B.4.3.2: The total number of people completing non-formal education programs on public policy issues affecting agricultural production and ecosystem integrity and biodiversity who plan to become actively involved in one or more public policy issues after completing one or more of these programs.

Outcome Indicators

C.4.1.3: The total number of people completing non-formal education programs on sustaining and/or protecting ecosystem biodiversity while improving the productivity of the U.S. agricultural production system who actually adopt one or more recommended practices within six months after completing one or more of these programs.

Data not collected at this time.

C.4.2.1: The total number of people completing non-formal education programs on water quantity and water quality who actually adopt one or more water management practices within six months after completing one or more of these programs.

Data not collected at this time.

D.4.2.1: The percentage of assessed waters rivers, lakes, and estuaries not supporting designated uses (on a biennial basis).

This outcome measure is being removed from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service Plan of Work because the assessment of our water supplies is conducted by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Therefore, this outcome is not reflective of our efforts.

E.4.2.1: The percentage of assessed waters (rivers, lakes, and estuaries) impaired by nutrients, organic enrichment, pathogens, and pesticides (on a biennial basis).

This outcome measure is being removed from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service Plan of

Work because the assessment of our water supplies is conducted by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Therefore, this outcome is not reflective of our efforts.

C.4.3.2: The total number of people completing non-formal education programs on public policy issues affecting agricultural production and ecosystem integrity and biodiversity who actually become actively involved in one or more public policy issues within six months after completing one or more of these programs.

Data not collected at this time.

This program regarding water quantity and quality has an increasing importance in the State. The greatest impact at this stage of the POW is regarding public policy issues. The State of Texas is using a “Grass-roots” effort to develop our State water plan. At the same time, groundwater management is gaining concern because we will need to fully utilize our groundwater resources to meet our future water demands. The educational programs to increase the public’s awareness concerning their water resources will have an effect on the creation of groundwater districts in many of the counties and increase the people’s participation in the water planning process. As people become more aware of the critical condition of our water resources, they will be more willing to implement water management practices to protect and preserve the resource.

C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – AR, NC, MN, WS, AR, WS, MI, RI, MS, NM, OK, LA
Integrated Research and Extension

Goal 5: Enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans.

Overview

Programs for Goal Five represent a variety of programmatic efforts within the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Represented programs include Financial Management Education, Parenting and Childcare, Life Skills Education, Volunteer Development, Partnerships and Collaborations, and Community Development.

Each of the programs presented in this section has produced output and outcome results that have led to direct benefits by the clientele involved in the programs. A brief summary of each program included in the report is highlighted below.

Financial Management – Debt repayment accounted for a larger share of income for households in 1998 than in 1995. During that same time frame, there was an increase in the proportion of debtors who were more than 60 days delinquent with their credit payments. The total consumer debt for 1999 was reported at \$1.4 trillion nationwide.

Two-thirds of all employees in the United States report that they have trouble paying their bills on time and worry about money. Seventy-five percent of employees say that they have recently faced at least one significant financial problem. Individuals and families of all income, ethnic and educational groups in Texas are facing many financial challenges.

To address these issues, individuals were enrolled in numerous programs ranging from Money 2000 to debt reduction programs for Ft. Hood and Ft. Bliss. Participants in the programs represented in this area reported the use of numerous financial management practices, including increased savings and debt reduction.

Parenting – Parenting is the most difficult task facing an adolescent or adult. Even in families that include two parents who are contributing to the parenting role, the stress of raising children in today's fast-paced society is high. In the case of young, adolescent parents, single parents, remarried parents, and the increasing number of grandparents now parenting their grandchildren, the task can be extremely difficult.

Individuals of varying ages and ethnicities participated in programs on parenting and childcare. Increased family communications, increased childhood immunizations, and increased skills in general parenting were all reported.

Life Skills Education – The problems of youth today, and through the eighties and early nineties with the youth at risk movement has continued to emerge as problems in every community.

Violence- from 1960 to 1991, the proportion of youngsters under the age of 19 killed by homicide more than quadrupled.

Cheating- 54% of middle school students and 70% of high school students cheated on a test at least once.

Stealing- 31% of middle school students and 47% of high school students stole something from a store at least once. 24% of middle school students and 31% of high school students and 25% of high school students stole something from a friend at least once.

Lying- 88% of middle school students and 92% of high school students have lied to their parents at least once. 70% of middle school students and 82% of high school students have lied to their teacher at least once.

Youth programs aimed at developing life skills continue to be popular choices for the youth involved in the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Youth involved in these programs report increased knowledge in factors affecting character, and skills in youth leadership and workforce preparation.

Volunteer Development – Volunteer development is crucial to the success of an organization like the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Almost 80% of all non-profit organizations rely on volunteers to aid their organizations. It is estimated that volunteers do one-third of the work for non-profit organizations and are worth an estimated \$225 billion per year.

Master volunteer programs continue to grow. These programs will continue to aid the agency in the development of a strong volunteer base. During the program year, volunteers conducted over 19,000 trainings. These trainings represent a substantial amount of savings to the organization in terms of financial savings and human resources.

Partnerships and Collaborations – It is imperative that partnerships and collaborations are formed to maximize efficiency of taxpayer and stakeholder dollars. In addition, partnership and collaborations could bring all of the expertise together to focus on individual issues in an organized manner.

Partnerships and collaborations are being formed across the state to enhance Extension educational programs. Over 200 educational events were held during the program year to aid in the development of these joint relationships.

Community Development – Local economies and populations are rapidly changing as driven largely by changes in the broader society and economy to include agricultural and other national policy developments, international trade and other global economic conditions as well as the dynamic situation in regions and the state. Local leaders, producers and other businesses need greater knowledge to address these changes positively ensuring the continued economic and social viability of their communities.

Educational programs have been delivered to enhance the economic diversity of communities and regions of the state. Programs have focused on agricultural business development, tourism, and the

development of home-based business.

Programs in the areas under Goal 5 continue to provide Texans with research-based information in order for them to make sound decision on the implementation of best management practices and adoption of technologies. Educational programming has been and will continue to be driven by the needs of our clientele. Results from the Texas Community Futures Forum, and guidance from Executive Program Councils and program committees serve as the basis for this strategy.

The data presented in this summary and the following section represents the efforts of Year 01 of this Plan of Work. Educational programming efforts have been ongoing for many of the areas represented and continue to provide Texans with opportunities for increased profitability and competitiveness. Future plans will build on past experiences and emerging issues that may affect our state and clientele.

Source of Funding and FTEs

Source of Funding: Smith Lever and State Matching

<u>Program</u>		\$ X 1000
		Actual
		FY 2000
Program 9 – Financial Management Education		740
	FTEs	35.21
Program 10 – Parenting		1,646
	FTEs	78.36
Program 11 – Life Skills Education		2,016
	FTEs	95.95
Program 12 – Volunteer Development		1,084
	FTEs	51.60
Program 13 – Partnerships & Collaborations		341
	FTEs	16.25
Program 14 – Community Development		842
	FTEs	8.00
Allocated Resources Goal 5		9,185
	FTEs	429.00

State POW Programs

State Plan of Work Program 9: Financial Management Education
Key Theme: Family Resource Management

A. Description of Activity

Debt repayment accounted for a larger share of income for households in 1998 than in 1995. During that same time frame, there was an increase in the proportion of debtors who were more than 60 days delinquent with their credit payments. The total consumer debt for 1999 was reported at \$1.4 trillion nationwide.

Approximately 65 million U.S. households will probably fail to realize one or more of their major life goals, primarily due to a lack of a comprehensive financial plan. In households with annual incomes of less than \$100,000, those with financial plans have twice as much in savings and investments as those without financial plans.

Two-thirds of all employees in the United States report that they have trouble paying their bills on time and worry about money. Seventy-five percent of employees say that they have recently faced at least one significant financial problem. Individuals and families of all income, ethnic and educational groups in Texas are facing many financial challenges.

Numerous educational efforts have been established to address the issue of financial management. Ft. Hood and Ft. Bliss consumer affairs and financial education programs for new soldiers, the 1st Term Program, was a coordinated effort of Extension education, Consumer Credit Counseling and the Military's commitment to the program.

Teachers from 167 Texas high schools or school learning sessions (after school) link with county Extension agents to deliver the High School Financial Planning Program.

Extension agents link with local representatives of the Health and Human Services Department, Food Stamp Case Workers, Senior Centers, Community Action Centers and community organizations that reach limited resource families to deliver Better Living for Texans classes.

Specialists collaborate with CSREES partners and family economics specialists in other states to develop timely newsletters, news releases and educational programs, while agents collaborate with banks, savings and loans, credit unions, employers, consumer credit counseling services and shopping center managers to enroll individuals in the Money 2000 *plus*TM newsletter series and to provide computerized debt management and budget development experiences or small group classes for limited and moderate income families.

Community businesses and volunteer leaders are key partners for providing Consumer Life Skills and Consumer Decision Making 4-H project members opportunities to develop skill in applying principles of consumer and financial management when making day to day consumer decisions.

B. Impact of Programs

Three-thousand Texas limited to moderate income families of diverse ethnic background were enrolled in the multi-state program, Money 2000 *plus*TM, during 2000. Enrollees received four quarterly newsletters and in most communities, participants were provided basic financial management classes.

Many participants were among the 177,000 individuals participating in the Better Living for Texans nutrition and food economics program targeted to food stamp recipients in 165 Texas counties. They were taught food shopping, preparation and storage practices that save money, and money management principles that help families meet basic needs and save for emergencies.

Every entry soldier at Ft. Hood and Ft. Bliss, about 16,800 a year, received basic debt and financial management education through the 1st Term Program lesson series.

A new program designed to teach entry-level employees basic financial management, Starting Points, was tested with 20 entry-level non-professional employees of the Texas A&M University.

Over 500 youth ages 9-11 enrolled in consumer life skills, 6,062 teens participating in Consumer Decision Making 4-H projects and 20,182 youth participating in the multi-state, High School Financial Planning lesson series Extension agents coordinate with high school teachers are taught basic consumer and financial management life skills.

Money 2000*plus*TM FY2000 Outcomes: Sixteen of 169 enrollees selected at random from enrollment data in Jefferson, El Paso, Harris, Lee, Montgomery, and Tarrant counties, completed phone interviews. Non-responders either no longer had phone service, did not answer after three attempts to call during evening hours on three different days of the week, did not recall being enrolled, or were enrolled only a few weeks. Of the 16 responders:

- 6 had set goals to increase savings an average of \$1,000
- 5 had set goals to reduce their debts, ranging from \$1,000 to \$32,000, averaging \$10,150.
- 3 reported increasing their savings by an average of \$2,000
- 6 reduced their debts by a range of \$2,000 to \$28,000, with an average debt reduction of \$9,250.

While the sample is too small to project program impact beyond the sample, those who set goals made progress toward their savings and debt goals. One participant described the program as very informative. Another shared, "I learned that when you give you receive; saving is an opportunity to help others." One participant who said she had not increased her savings explained that because she had learned to save, she was able to get another car after an accident. That is why she no longer had savings, but she was starting over. Savings skills helped her manage a financial crisis. Another newsletter recipient shared that she didn't set or reach goals. She signed up for reliable information to share with families (minister).

Following the above data collection, newsletter recipients living in counties where the Extension agent is not conducting the program were invited by specialists to re-enroll for another year and were asked to

share their savings and debt management goals and accomplishments. Eleven of the 16 reported having savings goals ranging from \$10 to \$10,000, a total of \$32,460, an average of \$2,951 per participant. They reported reaching 94% of their goal, a total of \$30,535, and an average of \$2,776 per participant. Five individuals set goals for reducing their debts an average of \$2,940, a total debt reduction goal of \$14,700. They reached 90% of their goal (\$13,800), an average of \$2,760 per participant. Five people did not have specific dollar amounts for their debt management goals, but one reached their goal to reduce their debt by 25%. Two got out of debt, one made progress toward getting out of debt, and one reached their goal to not use credit for the year.

Program outcome data collected by County Extension Agents are summarized below.

Twenty-eight El Paso County promotoras working with the TAMU College of Architecture Colonias Project completed an 11-week course in financial management. Pre-post tests results indicate they increased:

- Use of financial management practices 34%
- Understanding of financial services 51%
- Understanding of insurance

All 500 Money 2000plus™ participants received the quarterly newsletter, and most took advantage of the opportunity for a computer spending analysis (FPLAN) and a Power Pay calendar for reducing debts and saving interest costs. Their total savings goals were \$56,960 and their debt reduction goals totaled \$32,150, for a combined financial improvement of \$89,110. Post-pre questionnaire comparisons showed 73% prepared for financial emergencies, and 20% put money in a savings account.

The Tarrant County Consumer Credit Fair provided 375 families free credit reports and 40 individuals completed the computerized budget analysis.

20 Parker County limited resource families and food stamp recipients were taught money management principles while also learning to use food dollars wisely. As a result of the six financial management lessons, 60% completing all six lessons reported the following changes. All increased family communication about finances and 41% increased record keeping to monitor spending. An estimated \$3,000 was obtained through completion of EIC claims.

Twenty-seven (3H, 6M) Wise County limited resource families (Migrant Farm Workers Association and Senior Adult Groups members) completed a series of financial management lessons coordinated with the 2000plus™ newsletters. 95% attending the classes reported adopting 2 or more of the practices taught. 50% wrote one or more short/mid and long-term financial goals, and they cut back on impulse buying.

The Better Living for Texans statewide evaluation involved 459 participants in phone interviews. Changes noted in consumer practices that increase family economic security included:

- reading labels for information to get more nutrition per purchase increased from 28.3% to 60.5%.
- planning menus for meals increased from 27% to 57.5%.
- always using list for shopping increased from 37.2% to 62.6%
- those who never ran out of food increased from 72.0% to 82.7%.
- comparing prices 42.0% to 72.4%.
- running out of food and money decreased from 7.0% to 3.6%.
- never running out of food and money by the end of the month increased from 39.9% to 56.0%.
- cutting the size of meals due to lack of money decreased from 25.2% to 15.9%.
- the percent of households unable to eat well balanced meals due to lack of money always or most of the time dropped from 7% before to 3.6%.
- the percent of households never unable to eat well - balanced meals due to lack of money increased from 56.9% to 70.6%.

16,800 Ft. Hood and Ft. Bliss new soldiers completing the 1st Term Program saw a direct savings of \$1.1 million using debt and financial management principles taught.

Twelve of 22 participants in the Starting Points workshop series for new employees completed both pre and post-tests. Results of the tests indicate that participants:

- Increased their satisfaction with their present financial situation
- Increased their sense of financial well-being
- Made progress toward saving
- Increased their feelings of financial security concerning their retirement personal finances.

The High School Financial Planning program is evaluated through a national impact evaluation, conducted most recently in 1998. 86% of the students surveyed demonstrated an increase in financial knowledge or behavior when dealing with money. A three - month follow-up of the same students showed that 58 percent had improved their spending habits, and 56 percent had improved their savings habits, with 39 percent reported starting a savings account. This is noteworthy because research indicates that those who are taught to save as teens will also save more money during adulthood.

Outcome evaluation of the 4-H Consumer Decision Making program will occur in 2001.

C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – HSFPP Program – All States
 BLT - WS, OH, CO
 Money 2000 - AK, AL, AZ, CN DE, FL, HI, IL, IW, MD, MI, ND,
 NJ, NB, NH, OK, OR, PA, SC, UT

State Plan of Work Program 10: Parenting and Child Care

Key Theme: Parenting, Child Care/Dependent Care

A. Description of Activity

Parenting is the most difficult task facing an adolescent or adult. Even in families that include two parents who are contributing to the parenting role, the stress of raising children in today's face paced society is high. In the case of young, adolescent parents, single parents, remarried parents, and the increasing number of grandparents now parenting their grandchildren, the task can be extremely difficult.

According to the national report from 20 federal agencies, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2000*, the family structures of children continue to become more varied. The percentage of children living with one parent increased from 20 percent in 1980 to 27 percent in 1999. Most children living with single parents live with a single mother. However, the proportion of children living with single fathers doubled over this time period, from 2 percent in 1980 to 4 percent in 1999. Some children live with a single parent who has a cohabiting partner: 16 percent of children living with single fathers and 9 percent of children living with single mother also lived with their parent's partners. In 1999, 77 percent of white, non-Hispanic children lived with two parents, compared with 35 percent of black children, and 63 percent of children of Hispanic origin (*America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-being, 2000*, www.childstats.gov/ac2000/highlight.asp).

Increasing proportions of children are spending substantial amounts of time in the care of a child-care provider other than their parents. Children receive a variety of types of care, including care in home by a relative, care in home by a nonrelative, and center-based care or early education. Between 1996 and 1999, the percentage of children ages 3 to 5 not yet in kindergarten that were enrolled in early childhood centers rose from 55 to 59 percent. The largest increases were among children living in poverty, children with mothers who were not in the labor force, and black, non-Hispanic children. In 1999, 54 percent of children from birth through 3rd grade received some form of childcare on a regular basis from persons other than their parents (up from 51 percent in 1995) (*America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-being, 2000*, www.childstats.gov/ac2000/highlight.asp).

Parenting and child development educational programs are available to parents and childcare providers in a majority of counties in Texas. External funding from such agencies as the Texas Department of Health have enabled Extension to extend its reach considerably. Trained volunteers in either the Master Parent Volunteer program or the Parent Education Workshop program provide information and skill building opportunities back in their respective communities.

External linkages were formed with several partners. The Partners for Parenting (PFP) program began as a partnership between TAEX and the Children's Trust Fund of Texas in 1989. In 1990, support for the PFP moved over to the Texas Department of Health (TDH) who has continued to provide both financial and program support for the Partners for Parenting program.

The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) has contracted with TAEX on two occasions to produce childcare manuals that provide self-study opportunities for the childcare providers in Texas. Both self-study manuals are in use in Texas at this time.

On the county level, partnerships involve local departments from TDH and TDPRS as well as many other county agencies who join efforts to provide both parenting and childcare training to the community. Such agencies would include schools, childcare centers, visiting nurses, social services caseworkers as well as churches and local groups.

Internal linkages were also formed. Every subject area within the Family and Consumer Sciences unit has provided training to parents and child care providers with the goal of improving the quality of life in Texas families. Subject areas include passenger safety, housing and air quality, consumer education; home based business, grand parenting, nutrition, food safety, child development, family issues, family violence and more.

B. Impact of Programs

Over 200,000 (215,694) individuals participated in parent education and child care programming which includes conferences, workshops, presentations, satellite conferences, exhibits, fairs, mentoring, web work and one on one gatherings.

(Note: While we do not have an exact percent of how many participants represent an underserved audience, we estimate that 80% fit into the categories of low-income and low skills.)

Implementation of the national objective and performance goals are described in Strategies A, B and C below:

Strategy A: Each of fifty county Extension agents - FCS will conduct ten parenting classes, child care classes, series of classes, one to one mentoring, fairs, exhibits or day-long workshops for parents of all ages, ethnicity and socio-economic levels.

29,976	Participants Served in Groups
6,993	Participants Served by Individual Methods
172,093	Participants Served through Mass Media, Exhibits, and Fairs

Strategy B: Six 6-hour train the trainer Parent Education Workshops: Supporting Families were provided for Extension and non-Extension personnel from January 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999.

1,048	Participants Served by Group Methods
1,098	Participants Served by Individual Methods
0	Number of Participants Served through Mass Media (see Strategy A)

Strategy C: Seven 24-hour Regional training (s) in the Master Parent Volunteer Program were

conducted for Extension and non-Extension county teams (upon request).

- 2,000 Contacts Made by Master Parent Volunteers
- 1,264 Participants Served in Group Presentations
- 1,222 Participants Served by Individual Methods
 - 0 Mass Media (see Strategy A)

Outcome Indicators: A FY2000 parenting survey determined that among 58 counties reporting, 200,720 individuals participated in parent education programming. Forty percent were Anglo, 30 percent Hispanic, 29 percent African American, and 1 percent American Indian and Asian.

Multiple positive parenting practice changes were adopted:

- 8,946 learned how to provide healthy foods in appropriate amounts/age of child
- 4,251 learned to recognize the difference between wants and needs
- 3,639 reported that they provide regular immunizations and a safer environment for their young child
- 2,672 have increased their use of effective communication skills (affirming, kinder speaking, listening).
- 861 volunteers were trained to work with parents
- 21,289 hours of service was provided back to the community.

Success stories: The agent in Nueces County reports that two months after the parenting classes ended in her county, 50% of participants share that they are still using the communication techniques they learned in their classes and that communications between parents and teens had improved.

The agent in Refugio County shares that parents of youthful offenders stated “We wished we could have had these classes when our children were younger. We’ve learned so much. We hope these classes will help us communicate better with our younger children .”

In Gaines County, the agent reports that 85% of the parents who participated in educational classes reported practicing improved communications skills and being more firm and consistent in their discipline practices. Of these same parents, 77% were using encouragement, setting limits, and using consequences to teach responsibilities. In another evaluation, 145 parents reported that they had gained skills in parenting and were working on practicing more family togetherness.

In Angelina County, programs offered to couples in the process of divorce has led to a number of parents decided to give their marriage another try and to a documented 50% decrease in litigation between divorcing couples.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas Department of Health have a partnership dating back to 1989 when the Partners for Parenting program moved from the Children’s Trust Fund of Texas over to the Texas Department of Health. As reported above, this long-term partnership has produced a minimum of 12 train the trainer programs a year, which, in turn, have reached at least 20,000 parents or

adults working with children every year since 1989.

Since 1914, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service has had a long-term commitment to the families of Texas across the wide spectrum of family issues. Numerous childcare programs and parenting programs are presented by agents and specialists throughout Texas every year that do not fall under the TAEX partnership with the Texas Department of Health. The TAEX program in parenting and childcare will continue as a base program.

C. Source of Federal Funds
Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact
State Specific

State POW Programs

State Plan of Work Program 11: Life Skills Education Development

Key Theme: Youth Development

A. Description of Activity

During the Texas Community Future Forum Process, 209 counties identified youth issues as high priority concerns. These issues ranged from ethics, morals, character, pregnancy, drugs, education, and job preparation. The citizens of Texas have youth and their future at the highest level of concern.

The target audience of programs in this area focused on 4-H youth in all eight membership units. Emphasis was given to volunteers who were trained to work with 4-H Youth. Special attention was devoted to traditionally under-served sectors. Care was given to meet the needs of the disadvantaged.

77,066 Number of Participants Reached
13.8 % of Participants Under-Served

Texans Building Character training, Strengthening Our Capacity to Care, Workforce Development training workshops, 4-H Leadership program, Leadership Life Skills in 4-H Curriculum was matched to meet TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) criteria.

49,735 Number of Participants Served by Group Methods.
9,757 Number of Participants Served by Individual Methods.
8,188 Number of Participants Served through Mass Media.

Internal and external linkages were formed with numerous agencies. These included service, Faith Based, Civic and Community Organization, Extension Program Councils, Family and Community Education Groups, Juvenile Probation System, Parks & Recreation Departments, Universities, Schools, Corporations, Corporate volunteers, Philanthropy Foundations, and other youth serving agencies as

appropriate to this performance goal.

B. Impact of Programs

SOCC (Strengthening Our Capacity to Care) was a grant program designed to provide life skills to youth at risk. The project was a joint effort between Extension and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission. Texans Building Character was introduced as a project to instill a sense of character and responsibility to the youth that participated. Workforce Development was introduced to youth to provide them with the necessary skills required to enter the workforce. Organized 4-H life skills were also introduced to both 4-H clubs and youth at risk to promote the growth and development of each and every youth that participated in those projects. Some examples of Life Skills Leadership having an Impact on the youth of Texas include the following:

Brazos-District 9: SOCC parenting/youth class was held on January 14 at the Neal Recreation Center with 47 parents, 29 youth, and 18 volunteers attending. SOCC Committee member, Mr. Ronnie Jackson, Youth Services Coordinator with the City of Bryan and College Station Independent School District teacher facilitated the activities. Special Programs Coordinator for the Brazos County Juvenile Services responded to parents' concerns regarding the policies and procedures of the Juvenile Services Department and a member of the Bryan Police Department Street Crimes Apprehension Team (SCAT) addressed concerns about street level drug trafficking.

Brazos-District 9: The 4-H Angler program started on January 19. Larry Hysmith, Extension Associate with TAEX, is teaching the program twice a week. The program goal is to develop life skills in young people and adults while educating them to exercise leadership and support for responsible recreational fishing and stewardship of aquatic resources.

Brazos-District 9: 4-H Entrepreneur Education Task Force met with TAEX Grant Specialist, a representative of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments and other TAEX faculty developed a grant to break the cycle of criminal activity and give at risk children and their family's skills to increase potential success in the work place and academic life.

Output Indicators:

- 49,996 Number of people completing leadership education programs.
- 8,067 Number of people completing Character Education Programs
- 3,297 Number of people completing Workforce Investment Programs

Outcome Indicators:

- 43,416 Number of youth enrolled in youth leadership
- 6,580 Number of youth increasing their leadership life skills
- 8,067 Number of youth enhancing their knowledge of factors affecting character development
- 3,297 Number of youth enhancing their workforce preparation

C. *Source of Federal Funds*
Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. *Scope of Impact*
Multi-State Extension – FL, VI, LA, and WS
Integrated Research and Extension

State POW Programs

State Plan of Work Program 12: Volunteer Development

Key Theme: Youth Development, Community Development

A. *Description of Activity*

The Extension Service has the largest volunteer program of any agency in Texas. There are more than 80,000 volunteers in the programs of TAEX. The Extension Service has a well-known reputation for involvement of volunteers. A reputation, which is the envy of many organizations. Volunteers help at all levels in the Extension program, ranging from working one on one with youth, coordinating membership enrollment in the club or unit, to working with stock shows, educational field trips, workshops and working with shows demonstrating the knowledge gained at the club, unit, county, district, and state level. The volunteers may function as either direct or indirect volunteers, depending upon the role they are filling at the time. The ability of the Extension Service to efficiently and effectively manage volunteers has become a major concern.

The focus of the program is on adult and youth volunteers. Emphasis is given to volunteers who will be trained to work with 4-H youth. Special attention is devoted to traditionally under-served sectors.

Key Program Components: Educational programming included workshops, field trips, contests, one-on-one leadership development, conferences and seminars.

529,056 Number of Participants Served by Group Methods
77,151 Number of Participants Served by Individual Methods
*17,463,016 Number of Participants Served through Mass Media

* This information was provided through Section C: Publications & Educational Support Materials Distributed from the Texas reporting system.

Internal and external linkages included the Volunteer Leader Organization of Texas, Service, Faith Based, Civic Organizations, Extension Program Councils, Family and Community Education Groups, Army volunteers and other youth serving agencies as appropriate to this performance goal.

B. *Impact of Programs*

Volunteers in the 4-H program have been revitalized through increased involvement in team building and volunteer development training. All new programs in the state are being developed with a master program component. Some significant programs, which have had an impact on clientele, are included in

the following:

- Bell-District 8: Forty-three volunteers have paid back more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service and have been certified as Master Gardeners. Forty others are involved in community service activities, beautification projects, and assisting gardeners with horticultural information. More than \$7,500 was donated for landscape/recycling activities. At St. Mary's a vegetable gardening project was established to benefit the homeless. More than 1,500 youth are benefitting from these varied projects.
- Statewide: The major 4-H Shooting Sports events were conducted in July. At least 137 people observed and learned about the program, while 150 volunteers supported these events and 632 young people participated in at least one event during the month. Ethnicity estimates undervalue all groups except whites, since any questionable individuals are assigned to it as a default. Female participation continues to build slowly and we are making a strong effort to enhance our participation of minority audiences with the program.

Output Indicators:

55,699 Number of 4-H Volunteers in specific roles
20,448 Number of Extension Volunteers in specific roles
8700 Number of Master volunteers in 4-H, agriculture and family and consumer science
The majority of Extension volunteers function in more than one volunteer leadership role, thus there may be duplications.

Outcome Indicators:

19,421 Number of trainings conducted by volunteers
* Number of Volunteers who learned new roles.
* We know there are many volunteers who have learned new roles, but there is currently no way to quantify them.

C. Source of Federal Funds

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – OK, AK, LA, MS, AL, TN, KY, VI, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL, Guam,
Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico
Integrated Research and Extension

State POW Programs

State Plan of Work Program 13: Partnerships and Collaborations

Key Theme: Community Development

A. Description of Activity

During the Texas Community Future Forum process, more than 200 counties identified community issues as high priority concerns. These issues ranged from education and youth concerns to parenting and community activities. The citizens of Texas expect groups and individuals to form partnerships and collaborations to solve the problems of youth, families and communities.

Emphasis is being given to groups, with interest in community, youth and family concerns. Special attention will be devoted to traditionally under served sectors. Care will be given to meet the needs of the disadvantaged.

15,038 Number of Participants Reached

*25% of Participants Under served

*This is an estimate based upon the lack of a specific date in this particular area.

Extension activities focused on Youth, Volunteers and Community Leaders worked to learn how to form successful partnerships. Extension, communities and schools developed opportunities for collaborations.

8,367 Number of Participants Served by Group Methods

1,552 Number of Participants Served by Individual Methods

651 Number of Participants Served through Mass Media

Linkages were made with numerous organization including Volunteer Leader Organization of Texas, African American and Hispanic Service Organizations, African American and Hispanic Business Organizations, African American and Hispanic Faith -based Organizations, Historically Black and Hispanic Colleges and Universities, Majority Minority Public Schools, Civic Organizations, Extension Program Councils, Family and Community Education Groups, Army volunteers and other youth serving agencies as appropriate to this performance goal.

B. Impact of Programs

As funding becomes scarcer it is more and more important to combine efforts in order to meet the needs of the citizens, and make the efficient use of the dollars given us by stakeholders, the legislature, and grantees or benefactors.

Examples include:

Lower Colorado River Authority Collaborations

Mike Mauldin, Runnels County, District 7

On October 6 this agent attended a Forum on Local Issues and Needs that was co-sponsored by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and TAEX. The forum was held at the LCRA Administration Building on Lake Buchanan. The agenda included presentations on demographics, the history and development of the LCRA and related water issues and networking and collaboration between agencies. CEAs from all counties served by LCRA gave oral presentations describing issues and action plans developed in their respective TCFE efforts. The top 4 or 5 issues identified throughout

the region are very similar and many county groups already have very similar action plans. However, new ideas and programming efforts were discussed and reviewed by those in attendance.

Danny Phillips, Hamilton County, District 8

Participated in an interpretive event, with the Lower Colorado River Authority on October 6 by giving the results of the Texas Community Futures Forum and plans for addressing the issues identified. This allowed the LCRA to become aware of the possible partnering possibilities for them with Extension in those counties serviced by LCRA.

Brad Pierce, Travis County, District 10

On June 23, the Travis County Conservation Tillage Farm Tour was held at Richland Hall. The tour was scheduled to go to result demonstration sites in the County but due to heavy rainfall the event was held at the hall. The program focused on educating agricultural producers on adopting conservation tillage practices in their farming operations. Facts were brought up about the rising cost of farming expenses and the combination of low prices that producers must search for cost saving tools such as conservation tillage. The program was a networking effort with LCRA, TAEX, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services supported by the Texas Soil & Water Conservation Board and the Federal Clean Water Act funding. The event received media coverage by Fox 7 News and was viewed on four different newscast times on June 23-24. 75 attended.

Janice Gaskamp, Austin County, District 11

3 key leaders from Austin County participated in the Regional Futures Forum. County Judge Carolyn Bilski, Jim Hluchan, NRCC Director and Carol Courville, San Bernard Electric Coop. participated. Judge Bilski is also the president of the Houston/Galveston Area Council of Government (COG). The day provided an opportunity for LCRA, area COG's, and TAEX to share services and opportunity to network for improved utilization of efforts.

Britta Thompson, Grimes County, District 9

Agent traveled to Edna, TX to present the Grimes county 2000-2003 Action Plan to the members of the Lower Colorado River Authority, Workforce Center, Texas Department of Human Services, and other organizations in the surrounding counties.

Shannon Deforest, Lavaca County, District 11

The Extension Program Council in Lavaca County collaborated with the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission, and the Lower Colorado River Authority to hold a Texas Country Cleanup and unwanted pesticide collection.

Links, Incorporated

Sixth-graders at M.C. Williams Middle School are learning about leadership and nature in a program conducted by the Texas Spring-Cypress Chapter of Links Inc., a national organization that is committed to educational, cultural and civic programs.

Each Friday, at least two women from the 24-member chapter visit the school to present a program on some facet of leadership, such as parliamentary procedures or electing officers.

The Links' chapter members received training to establish the 4-H club and conduct meetings from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The establishment of this pilot 4-H Club at M.C. Williams Middle School, located in the Acres Homes Community, offers an excellent opportunity for the Texas Spring Cypress Chapter of The Links, Incorporated to partner with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. This partnership offers further service to the Acres Homes Community, as well as other communities throughout the City of Houston, the State of Texas, the Nation, and the World.

The Links, Incorporated is a national organization with 250+ chapters across the nation. Five (5) of these chapters are located in the Houston area, and many other chapters exist throughout the State of Texas.

The Links, Incorporated is a service organization of women, organized to offer service in the various communities where chapters exist. Service To Youth is one of the National Program components of The Links, Incorporated. Therefore, the establishment of the 4-H Club at M.C. Williams was instrumental in helping our organization meet one of its important program objectives. The members of The Links, Incorporated, look forward to the beginning of a long and lasting relationship with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Cameron-District 12

The Extension Horticulture Committee met to review the news releases to be distributed to the local media. The committee is currently working in the organization and implementation for an April and May Extension Educations Event. Homeowners and the Agent are working along side the committee in securing possible sponsors to cover materials and resources. The committee is doing a super job in working hand in hand with the city beautification groups, community garden groups and public entities for partnerships in program development. The committee exposure in the county has increased due to the weekly educational news releases.

Harris-District 9

Extension participated in the annual Clemente Martinez Elementary Health Fair. Twelve hundred faculty, staff, students and parents took part in the event. The FCS County Extension Agent presented information on (1) How to Budget your allowance, (2) What would you do with \$50.00 (Goal Setting), (3) Money 2000 Plus information and (4) Food Safety in the Classroom and Home. Thirty-two families enrolled in the Money 2000 Plus Program. The County Extension Agent also made numerous contacts with organizations for future collaborations.

Nueces-District 11

Collaborations for Youth: Nine members of the Coastal Bend Alliance for Youth (CBAY) met to

receive a report on the new Juvenile Truancy and Curfew Assessment Center (JTCAC), take action to officially end the Truancy Reduction Impact program as a CBAY project, and discuss future collaborations/advocacy efforts for CBAY. CBAY has been the sponsoring agency for the TRIP center since its inception seven years ago. TRIP has now become a project of the city of Corpus Christi through the Crime Prevention Control District and has been renamed. TRIP's success through CBAY's efforts proved that community collaborations can be successful and benefit the youth of the area

Output Indicators:

200 Number of educational activities conducted designed to enhance the formation of partnerships
*0 Number of educational activities conducted that focuses on training for successful collaboration.
*Current reporting system doesn't allow for this information to be identified.

Outcome Indicators:

*0 Number of partnerships formed
*0 Factors determining greater collaborations between partnerships
*Current reporting system doesn't allow for this information to be identified.

C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

State Specific

State POW Programs

State Plan of Work Program 14: Community Development

Key Theme: Community Development

A. Description of Activity

Stakeholder input provided by over 10,000 Texans in all 254 counties of the state through the Texas Community Futures Forum indicate that issues associated with development of their communities are pervasive and a very high priority. Specific issues include concerns about individual, community and regional economic viability and maintenance of a high quality of life.

Programs are basically designed to increase the capacity of targeted Texans to respond to rapidly changing socio-economic forces that affect their community economy and quality of life through increasing understanding of these forces and potential responses. Specific programs targeted at engendering and fostering home-based and micro-enterprises, support for identification and realization of entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture, forest and other natural resource industries; development of tourism and recreational opportunities for local economic benefit; and community leadership training. Target audiences for the program consist of residents, elected and appointed officials, leaders and potential leaders, existing and potential business owner/managers in and around the over 1200 communities in all 254 counties of the state.

Coordination and cooperation with the following greatly facilitates implementation of educational programs on a state and local basis: Texas Rural Development Council, Texas Department of Agriculture; Texas Department of Economic Development, Councils of Government, USDA -FS, RD, NRCS; Small Business Administration, Lower Colorado River Authority; Investor - owned utilities; regional universities within and without the Texas A&M University System and many more.

B. Impact of Programs

Significant progress has been made in providing education and information to the target audience primarily by leveraging scarce technical subject - matter resources through partnerships as those described in internal and external linkages above. For example, a partnership between a regional university's Small Business Development Center is associated with a 20% increase in educational contacts in this program area in one multi - county Extension District. In another region of the state, program planning workshops were conducted with a regional river authority and county Extension agents representing all 44 counties of its service area. Jointly developed specific action plans targeting business development educational programs in just one of these counties demonstrates the potential of this initiative. These and similar approaches result in positive and specific outcomes. Specific examples are provided below.

In just one county that received and provided home - based, micro - enterprise and business development educational programming 2 new home - based businesses were started. Broader business development initiatives resulted in creation of 11 new businesses creating 30 seasonal and 38 full - time positions. Foci on vitalizing retail trade and tourism economic activity resulted in 75% of downtown merchants having an increase in sales of 15% and 25% indicating tourism trade increased by 20%.

In another county, 50% of participants from underserved populations following agriculturally related entrepreneurial and business development training were able to develop contracts for landscape maintenance with local homeowner's association and a local university. Others were able to contract for individual residential landscape services.

Statewide, more than 60 individuals representing 16 federal, state and local agencies or organizations participated in a national pilot workshop to enhance competencies in supporting individual community agriculture and forest related entrepreneurial efforts. Program resources represented 10 different agencies and organizations while participants were from 9 agencies and 22 counties.

Community leadership capacities throughout a 44 county central Texas region has been enhanced by provision of specific information and training to over 800 present and potential leaders (elected, appointed and volunteer). Specific training modules include: grant writing, strategic planning, developing tourism, and many others.

C. Source of Federal Funds

Smith-Lever and State Matching

D. Scope of Impact

Multi-State Extension – CO, FL

B. STAKEHOLDER INPUT

The primary process for gaining stakeholder input within the Texas Agricultural Extension Service is the use of the Texas Community Futures Forum. This process was described in detail in the CSREES State Plan of Work submitted in July 1999. As of this date, information obtained in this process is being used to guide the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in the design and delivery of educational services and programs to address issues raised during this process.

Specifically, 19 response teams charged with supporting county, regional, and statewide educational efforts have been formed. These response teams cover all areas of issues identified during the Texas Community Futures Forum process and those reported on in this document. The purpose of these teams is to provide overall leadership with efforts to address the issues in question. They serve to understand the scope of the issue, design educational responses, facilitate innovative program delivery methods, develop evaluation and accountability strategies, and interpret results for clientele and stakeholders. These teams are also vital in professional and volunteer development efforts, as well as collaborations and partnerships. Membership of these teams is comprised of various Extension faculty including agents, specialists, and administrators. In addition, representatives from outside organizations, which represent the area of the issue, are members of these teams. These partnerships help ensure that the responses to the issues are community developed and comprehensive in nature. The following is a list of response teams:

Quality of Life

Water

Agricultural Competitiveness/

Profitability/Marketing

Agricultural Production

Agricultural Literacy

Natural Resources Management

Environmental Quality

Waste Management

Food Safety

Health

Parenting and Family Relations

Elder Care

Texas Building Character

Safe Youth/Safe Communities

Employment/Economy

Workforce Investment

Leadership

Volunteerism

Outreach/Distance Education

In addition, any individual in Texas may access county plans and reports included in the Texas Agricultural Extension Service's Planning and Reporting System. These plans and reports represent work being done by Extension faculty across the state. The plans and reports are directly linked to issues raised in the Texas Community Futures Forum process and are part of most action plans developed in the 254 counties across the state. This open system allows citizens to be fully aware on the programs and services being planned by Extension.

Finally, Extension Program Councils continue to serve as a conduit to local citizens and their needs. Currently, 11,700 individuals serve on Extension Program Councils. These volunteers represent all 254 counties in the state.

C. PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service Administrative Program Leaders serve as merit reviewers for the Federal Plan of Work, the Federal Report of Accomplishments and Results, and associated grants and contracts. The Administrative Program Leaders team is responsible for the oversight and management of all programs conducted by Extension faculty.

This process was described in the CSREES State Plan of Work submitted July 1999. There are no significant changes in the process since that submission.

D. EVALUATION OF THE SUCCESS OF MULTI AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

Programs in this report were identified and addressed in the Plan of Work submitted in July 1999. Issues of importance were identified in the Texas Agricultural Extension Service strategic plan for 2000 - 2003. The strategic plan for 2000-2003 is based upon issues identified by stakeholders and citizens during the Texas Community Futures Forum held in 1999. This process is described in the Federal Plan of Work and is again discussed in this document in the stakeholder input section.

An integral part of educational programming efforts to meet the needs of the citizens of Texas includes serving under-served and under-represented populations. Various programs including those under Goal 3 and Goal 5 address these populations as a major emphasis of the programming. Examples include the Better Living For Texans program, Money 2000, partnership and collaboration efforts, and community development efforts.

Outcome and impact accomplishments are described for many of the planned programs reported on in this report. Accomplishments range from clients gaining knowledge of specific subject matter areas to increased revenues and the saving of income. Outcomes for Year 01 are expected to be built on for many of the ongoing programs in this report. These efforts, in many cases, are part of ongoing efforts to resolve issues identified in the strategic planning strategy which resulted in the issues identified in the Texas Community Futures Forum

E. MULTISTATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

See Appendix A - CSREES-REPT (2/00) for Multi-State Extension Activities

F. INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

See Appendix B - CSREES-REPT (2/00) for Integrated Activities

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