

Proclamation Honoring the Extension Service Centennial Celebration

Whereas Texas A&M University was the state's first public institution of higher education and was organized by the state legislature in 1871 under the provisions of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act of 1862 to provide education for the nations working-class citizens,

and whereas in 1876 the "Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youths" was established in Prairie View, Texas and was expanded as a land-grant college in 1890,

and whereas the land-grant mission was expanded beyond teaching to research with the approval of the Hatch Act in 1887, providing federal support for the establishment of agricultural experiment stations and resources to solve critical problems confronting agriculture,

and whereas in 1903, Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, a special agent with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, established community demonstration plots to implement new USDA recommendations for selecting, fertilizing, and cultivating crops,

and whereas this demonstration model was a great success and defined a path for cooperative extension work nationwide,

and whereas Congress approved the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, providing for the establishment of the state-based agricultural extension services and further expanding the land-grant mission,

and whereas in Hidalgo County, where a vibrant agricultural industry was developing, an Extension office was opened in January 1914, prior to the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1915 by the Texas legislature,

and whereas the Morrill, Hatch, and Smith-Lever Acts not only made our land-grant university system possible but also established the mission to promote education, research, extension, and service in local communities,

and whereas the mission of Extension is a simple one: improving the lives of people, businesses, and the Hidalgo County community and beyond through high-quality, relevant education,

and whereas Extension, for over 100 years, is known for its leadership, dedication, expertise, responsiveness, and trustworthiness. The people of Hidalgo County turn to Extension for solutions, and its agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but with a significant return on investment to support Hidalgo County economy, businesses, and families,

and whereas Extension is just as relevant today as in 1914, as it continues to evolve to the needs of the people of Hidalgo County with the support and patronage of Hidalgo County,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court wishes to join the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in recognizing the Extension Service 2014 Centennial Celebration.

Ramon Garcia
Hidalgo County Judge



January 7, 2014