

## **TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE SALARY CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT**

This Salary Contribution Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between Williamson County, Texas ("County") and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of the Texas A&M University System (Agency).

### **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the Agency provides quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and services to the people of Williamson County, Texas and educates Williamson County residents in the areas of agriculture, environmental stewardship, youth and adult life skills, human capital and leadership, and community economic development;

WHEREAS, the Agency improves the lives of Texans through an educational process that uses research-based knowledge focused on issues and needs. Within the broad context of the Agency's mission, the Agency will foster the improvement of agriculture and agribusiness, improve the stewardship of the environment and Texas' natural resources, ensure a safe, nutritious food supply, strengthen Texas families, develop leadership skills and productive citizenship among youth and adults, enhance economic security and financial responsibility among the people, and improve the quality of life in Texas families;

WHEREAS, Chapter 43 of the Texas Agricultural Code authorizes and enables Texas counties, through their commissioners court, to employ any means and appropriate and expend money as necessary to establish and conduct cooperative demonstration work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with Texas A & M University;

WHEREAS, the Agency and County have established and conducted cooperative demonstration work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with one another over the years and the Agency and County wish to continue such cooperative;

WHEREAS, the County would like to contribute to the annual salaries of the extension agents serving at the Agency;

WHEREAS, the Agency would like to continue to conduct cooperative demonstration work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties wish to certify and acknowledge their agreements in relation to the aforesaid cooperative, as follows:

ARTICLE I  
PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the annual contribution of the County towards funding salaries of extension agents at the Agency, as well as outline obligations of the Agency.

ARTICLE II  
GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF AGENCY

During the term of this Agreement, the Agency agrees to continue to conduct cooperative demonstration work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with the County. As a part of such cooperative, the Agency shall be obligated to do the following:

- A. To provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and services to the people of Williamson County, Texas and educate Williamson County residents in the areas of agriculture, environmental stewardship, youth and adult life skills, human capital and leadership, and community economic development;
- B. To endeavor to improve the lives of Williamson County residents through an educational process that uses research-based knowledge focused on issues and needs; and
- C. Assist in fostering the improvement of agriculture and agribusiness in Williamson County, improve the stewardship of the environment and Texas' natural resources, ensure a safe, nutritious food supply, strengthen Texas families, develop leadership skills and productive citizenship among youth and adults, enhance economic security and financial responsibility among the people, and improve the quality of life in Texas families.

ARTICLE III  
TERM

The term of this Agreement is for twelve (12) months, commencing October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023. This Agreement may be renewed by addendum hereto in writing and executed by all parties.

ARTICLE IV  
ANNUAL SALARY CONTRIBUTION; CELL PHONE STIPEND

- A. Annual Salary Contribution. The County, the State of Texas and other entities co-fund five extension agent positions in Williamson County. The County's contribution towards funding these positions shall be \$143,304.50 (which consist of a \$132,505.33 contribution towards the Agency's extension agents' salaries plus \$10,799.19 of county merit/COLA increases approved by the Williamson County Commissioners Court for a total of \$143,304.50) plus employer FICA at the rate of 7.65%, unemployment compensation insurance (UCI), and worker's compensation insurance (WCI) for the term of this Agreement.

- B. Cell Phone Stipend. The County will contribute cell phone stipends for each of the five extension agent positions. The amount of the cell phone stipends shall be at the rate set forth by the County.

ARTICLE V  
PAYROLL PROCESSING

County shall process the payroll for the portion of salaries paid from County funds on the five agent positions, file and report payroll tax reports and returns and remit payroll taxes to the appropriate federal authorities for the portion of salaries paid from County funds.

ARTICLE VI  
AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Both parties agree and understand that all financial obligations provided for in this Agreement will be contingent on the availability of each party's funds to meet said obligations.

ARTICLE VII  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Agency agrees to respect and protect the civil and legal rights of all citizens. It will not unlawfully discriminate against any employee, or prospective employee, on the basis of age, race, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

ARTICLE VIII  
ASSIGNMENT & SUBCONTRACT

Neither party hereto may assign any of its rights, duties and/or obligations arising out of this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party.

ARTICLE IX  
OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT

No officer, employee or agent of either party hereto and no member of its organization and no other public officials of the governing body of the locality or localities in which the parties are situated or being carried who exercise any functions or responsibilities in the project, shall participate in any decision relating to this Agreement which affects or conflicts with his/her personal interest or have any personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement or the proceeds thereof.

ARTICLE X  
TERMINATION

This Agreement may be terminated:

- A. By either party upon Sixty (60) days written notice to the other party of the intention to terminate; or
- B. Upon expenditure of available funds.

ARTICLE XI  
GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY; NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES

This Agreement is expressly made subject to County's governmental immunity, and all applicable federal and state law. The parties expressly agree that no provision of this Agreement is in any way intended to constitute a waiver of any immunities from suit or from liability that the County has by operation of law. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to benefit any third-party beneficiary. County expressly acknowledges that Agency is an agency of the State of Texas and nothing in this Agreement will be construed as a waiver or relinquishment by Agency of its right to claim such exemptions, privileges and immunities as may be provided by law.

ARTICLE XII  
REPRESENTATIONS & WARRANTIES

Both parties hereby represent that they have all necessary right, title, license and authority to enter into this Agreement.

ARTICLE XIII  
TEXAS LAW TO APPLY

This Agreement shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE XIV  
COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Both parties shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations relating to this Agreement.

ARTICLE XV  
LEGAL CONSTRUCTION

In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceable provision shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained therein.

ARTICLE XVI  
PRIOR AGREEMENTS SUPERSEDED

This Agreement constitutes the sole and only Agreement of the parties hereto and supersedes any prior understandings or written or oral Agreement between the parties respecting the within subject matter.

ARTICLE XVII  
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR CLAUSE

Both parties hereto, in the performance of this Agreement, shall act in an individual capacity and not as agents, employees, partners, joint ventures or associates of one another. The employees or agents of one party shall not be deemed or construed to be the employees or agents of the other party for any purposes whatsoever. Furthermore, the parties acknowledge and agree that County's sole obligation hereunder is the making of a contribution towards the Agency's extension agents' salaries and that the Agency's extension agents are solely the Agency's employees. The parties hereto further agree and acknowledge that all personnel related matters in relation to the Agency's extension agents, including but not limited to the hiring, firing, salary, job descriptions and benefits shall be solely controlled and made by the Texas A&M University System.

ARTICLE XVIII  
ENTIRE AGREEMENT; AMENDMENTS

This Agreement represents the entire and integrated agreement between the parties hereto and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, either oral or written and may not be amended or superseded except by written agreement signed by an authorized representative of each party.

[Signatures follow on next page.]

EXECUTED IN DUPLICATE EACH OF WHICH SHALL HAVE THE FULL FORCE AND EFFECT OF AN ORIGINAL.

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Gravell, Jr.  
Williamson County Judge

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
SERVICE**

BY: 

Printed Name: Donna Alexander

Title: Assistant Director, Agency & CFO

Date: December 15, 2022

LF 10606/23

