

Arizona Cooperative Extension's Centennial 1914-2014

A century of improving lives, communities and the economy

By Gabrielle Fimbres for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



4-H Youth Development kindergarteners harvest carrots in the garden at Tucson Village Farm, a UA Cooperative Extension program in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Tucson Village Farm was recently honored as a model program for the nation by the National 4-H Council. (Photo by Judy A. Davis)

When University of Arizona Cooperative Extension set about its mission a century ago, educators traveled the state by train, sharing exhibits of livestock, produce and the latest in farm machinery, plus advice for more efficiently managing one's household.

The Extension Train – packed with hogs, cattle, sheep, plows, fruits and vegetables – was a traveling classroom, bringing knowledge to the people of the brand new state of Arizona.

That mission remains strong today, as Cooperative Extension celebrates 100 years of improving the lives of Arizonans—through innovative research and vital educational programs. The delivery of information and science, however, looks a bit different.

While Extension agents, specialists, staff and volunteers continue to share knowledge in classrooms and homes, on fields and farms, technology allows Cooperative Extension to connect with people, through news you can use on YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and mobile apps.

As Extension enters its second century, there's a continuing opportunity to identify Arizona's greatest challenges and offer solutions, said Jeff Silvertooth, director of Arizona Cooperative Extension and Associate Dean for Economic Development in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences—or CALS.

"Improving lives, communities and the economy—it's what we have done for 100 years and what we will continue to do for the next 100 years," said Linda Houtkooper, Associate Director of Programs for UA Cooperative Extension.

The signing of the Smith-Lever Act on May 8, 1914 by the U.S. Congress



established the Cooperative Extension Service as a national priority, creating a unique educational partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the nation's land-grant universities that extend research-based knowledge through a state-by-state network of extension educators.

When what was then the Arizona Cooperative Extension Service was established formally at Arizona's land-grant institution – the UA – on July 1, 1914, it had one full-time employee and work was already under way in every county in the

state. But even before this Congressional action, many states were already using the Extension model of using research to improve people's lives. 4-H began in Arizona in 1913—a full year before Extension was created.

A century later, UA Cooperative Extension operates in all 15 Arizona counties, on five reservations and four military bases and has faculty based in every department in CALS. The organization employs nearly 500 people and approximately 70 percent are funded on external dollars.

“Cooperative Extension leverages all allocated funds at a rate of 2.9, which means for every dollar invested, Extension increases that funding through external sources,” Silvertooth said. “Therefore, Cooperative Extension provides a direct and positive economic impact that creates jobs and local cash flow.”

Arizona Cooperative Extension is part of a national educational network of scientists and educators who help people solve local problems and put knowledge to use. Cooperative Extension is continually addressing new challenges in all areas it serves: Family, Consumer and Health Sciences; Agriculture and Natural Resources; and 4-H Youth Development.

“The entire state is our campus,” said Kirk Astroth, assistant CALS Dean and Director of Arizona 4-H Youth Development. In 2013, more than 478,000 Arizonans took part in programs, with 190,405 young people participating in 4-H and other youth development programs.

“The work of Extension is never done,” Astroth said. “As soon as one problem is addressed, new challenges arise which require the application of science, research and practical education to find solutions.”

In addition to long-standing, traditional production agriculture programs, agents help farmers battle new varieties of agricultural pests, provide support for grandparents raising grandchildren, combat rising obesity rates in children and adults and develop leadership skills for the children of deployed members of the military.

The original intent of land-grant institutions was to further science and education in agriculture and engineering. While those goals hold true today, equally as important is providing information and support to nurture healthy individuals and families.

“Our problems have changed and our public has changed dramatically in the past 100 years, but we continue to bring education to the people and bring science to bear on practical problems and find solutions,” Silvertooth said. “That is what we are here to do and I think we do it better than anyone else at a land-grant institution.”

Examples of the benefits of Cooperative Extension programs in people’s lives are included at extension.arizona.edu

▶▶▶ Peter Ellsworth (right) specialist in entomology with UA Cooperative Extension at the Maricopa Agricultural Center, part of the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, examines whitefly damage on cotton late in the season with a scientist from Colombia and others. The cotton integrated pest management (IPM) plans developed in Arizona have been exported for use in California, Texas, northern Mexico, Australia and Latin America. The Arizona cotton industry has supported the state’s economy with as much as \$700 million in economic activity and sustained 9,000 jobs annually (Photo, Maricopa Agricultural Center).



▶▶▶ A University of Arizona cropping systems specialist and county agents share results of plant damage on cotton production with local farmers at the Maricopa Agricultural Center, part of the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. (Photo by Peter Ellsworth)



Cooperative Extension Centennial Honorees 2014

Campus

Beryl Burt
Bartley P. Cardon
Jim Christenson
Gerry Eberline-Schultz
Barry N. Freeman
Ellen Goldsberry
Sarah Harman
Howard Jones
Colin Kaltenbach
Al Lane
Shirley O'Brien
Kenneth S. Olson
Charles U. Pickrell
Roy Rauschkolb
Gene Sander
David M. Stewart
Larry Sullivan
Shirley Jo Harris Taylor
Ray Weick

Apache

Dan Heap
Dick Hext
Charles Leonard Isaacson
Ruth Patterson
Dick & Myna Udall

Cochise

G. T. "Gerry" Bohmfalk
Don & Laura Burnett
Betty Craig
Joe Lane
Louise Moser
Claire Owen
Carmy Page
Dora Teran
Bertha Virmond

Coconino

Bill Brechan
Ernest W. Chilson
H. Stuart Houston
Jim Mast
Herb Metzger
Bob & Judy Prosser
Beth Tucker

Gila

Robert G "Bob" Boice
Lori Brown
David Cook
Kenny J. Evans
James A. "Jimmy" Griffin
Senator A.V. Bill Hardt
Alvin L. Medina
Cayci Vuksanovich
Terry Wheeler

Graham

Lee J Clark
Ronald E. Cluff
Farrel Dennis "Denny" Layton
Carol Willis

Greenlee

Mabel (Flint) Bussard
Daisy Mae Cannon
Bill Cook
Richard Lunt

LaPaz

Janice Shelton
Woodie Winans

Maricopa

Bas Aja
Grant Boice
Leah Brilman
Bill Emerson
Lin Evans
Jeannette Fish
Ron Gass
Cheryl Goar
Marifloyd Hamil
Harper Family
W. Bruce Heiden
Sharon Hoelscher-Day
Jim Kirkpatrick
Dan Klingenberg
Charles "Chuck" Lakin
C.B. "Doc" Lane
George Peabody
Pamela Perry
Gary & Sharon Petterson
Ron Rayner
Gilbert "Shag" Rogers
Emil & Ruth Rovey
Mark & Carrie Schnepf
Carol Ward-Morris
Jim Webb
Carl Weiler

Mohave

Stuart Anderson Family
Lynne Durrant
Howard Grounds Family
Robin Grumbles
Frank Hunt
Del Wakimoto

Navajo

Senator Franklin "Jake" Flake
Ann Jeffers
Emma Malone
Esther Peterson

Pima

Evalyn Bentley
Linda Block
Jean Buzzard
Cynthia Flynn
Marian Hannon
Billie Mauntel
Barbara Stockwell

Pinal

Oliver Anderson
Lavern Chase
Bill & Doris Combs
Dora Duarte
Jim & Mary Faul
M. Alberta Harris
K.K. Henness
Edward Y. Hooper
Keith Jones
Louise Lucy
Walt & Francie Meyer
Paul Prechel
Lupe de Santiago
Bill Stambaugh
Hiawatha Vance
Howard Wuertz
Wilbur Wuertz

Santa Cruz

Dan Bell
Richard Harris
Janet Paz
Bill & Posy Piper

Yavapai

John D. "Danny" Freeman
Andrew Groseta
Delbert Pierce
Marta Stuart
Deborah Young

Yuma

Karen Bowen
Fatima Corona
Robert J Moody
Vickie Steinfeld
Eric Wofford