

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act was established by Congress. It provided funding and resources to universities and colleges throughout the United States in return for creating unique programs that would extend to local residents special horticulture, nutrition, and human resource development programs. Funding is received from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, state and local governments and grants—hence the name, ‘cooperative’. It was hoped that this partnership would facilitate more research and involvement with citizens and their universities. People across the nation have come to rely on the Extension Agent as a valuable resource for horticultural guidance and advice without a bias connected to commercial activities. Each county extension office pursues program development in four areas: agriculture, home economics, 4-H, and community development. The number of agents per office is based on the population of the county. The district staff provides administrative and program development assistance to the local staff.

The state staff consists of specialists (at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offices in Little Rock, on campus in Fayetteville, and at Research and Extension centers around the state), program leaders and administrative leaders. The state office also administers a website at: <http://www.uaex.edu/> to provide updated Extension information. The federal Extension Service guides and evaluates state Extension programs.