

The County Quorum Court and the The County Extension Council

On the county level, the County Quorum Court and the County Extension Council are two very important factors in the functioning of the County Extension Office.

The Quorum Court is the governing body of the county government. It is made up of elected representatives from each township who serve a two year term. They meet once a month to determine all policies and actions of the county. Its decisions are then directed by the County Judge (a non-voting member of the Quorum Court) and carried out by county employees. One of its most important committees is the Budget Committee. Since the County pays for the housing, utilities and a percentage of the salaries of its County Cooperative Extension Office, the importance of the Quorum Court to Extension programs cannot be overlooked. In some cases, the Quorum Court also provides funds for specific Master Gardener projects such as landscaping certain county facilities.

The County Extension Council (sometimes called Advisory Board) guides and directs the County Extension Office in determining what programs should be offered to the public. There are a set number of members, usually twelve. Three of them rotate off each year with three new members coming on. Members of the council are appointed by the County Judge and/or the Extension Office staff. Equal representation is sought from the home economist area, agriculture and 4-H. As citizens of their community they can recognize its needs and advise the County Extension staff on program development, long and short-term goals and establish priorities. Periodically, the Council also evaluates the progress and success of the implemented programs.