



Creating the future through continuous learning

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INVEST Monthly Newsletter

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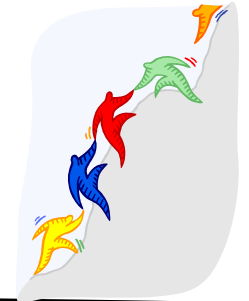
The Advocacy Message. *Knowing this brief background and history of Texas Cooperative Extension, there are four major items the Leadership Advisory Board should know when relaying the Texas Extension message.*

1. Education – Texas Cooperative Extension is an educational institution that has a county presence in all 254 counties in Texas. The County Extension Agents work in the areas of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Family & Consumer Sciences, 4-H & Youth Development, and Community Resource & Economic Development. These County Extension Agents teach research based information provided by the Texas A&M University System through educational programs.

2. Access – Texas Cooperative Extension is the door to Texas A&M University System in the county. Every person in the county has access to the County Extension Office and can utilize the County Extension Agent for information based on their individual needs.

3. Relevance – Texas Cooperative Extension helps people improve their lives every day. In order to maintain relevancy, Texas Cooperative Extension is constantly scanning the environment to identify needs in communities. Texas Cooperative Extension uses several resources when evaluating community educational needs. These major sources include Program Area Committees, Leadership Advisory Boards, Texas Cooperative Extension's Subject Matter Specialists, and county stakeholders / elected officials. These issues and programs that stem from these issues are also closely monitored through a strategic plan that is adjusted annually to ensure local needs are being met.

4. Linkages – Texas Cooperative Extension is a linkage between federal, state, and county partners. All three are essential for the design, implementation, and evaluation of educational programs to the people of Texas.



For more information on Volunteerism within Texas Cooperative Extension, please visit: <http://texasvolunteer.tamu.edu/>

And for information regarding Leadership Advisory Boards, please visit: <http://texasvolunteer.tamu.edu/LABmaterial.htm>

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact:

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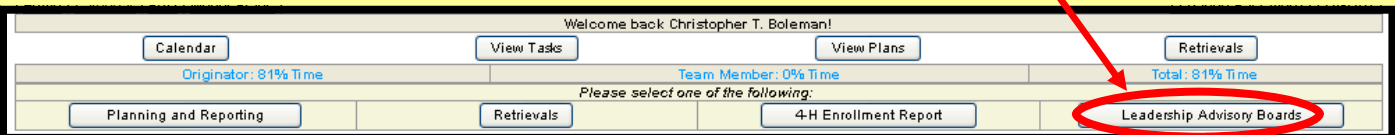
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Steps of LAB Validation

One of the roles of the Leadership Advisory Board is to help provide direction and focus for the county program by ensuring educational programs are meeting the needs of local audiences.

Step	Item
1	With the entire staff, determine the top 3-7 issues that need to be highlighted.
2	As a staff, determine the issue sources from which the issue was identified.
3	Make sure the County Extension Agent responsible for the program has outcomes he / she can share with the Leadership Advisory Board (either through an outcome summary or some other means). A one-page program highlight report is recommended.
4	Make sure that the County Extension Agent responsible for the program also has communicated with their Program Area Committee revealing what they plan to share with the Leadership Advisory Board.
5a	Leadership Advisory Board – Item 1. Have County Extension Agents share their programmatic highlights and ask the Leadership Advisory Board to provide their input related to future direction of the program.
5b	Leadership Advisory Board – Item 2. Ask the Leadership Advisory Board to provide new issues Texas Cooperative Extension should consider addressing. Also, ask them to define the issue (provide brief justification).
6	Enter information into the website ¹ .
7	Print version and disseminate among county staff for their information.
8	Send a copy to District Extension Administrator and Regional Program Directors.
9	Share with appropriate program area committees, youth boards, task forces, or other organized planning groups to build educational programs to address issues.

¹To enter validation information online, please have **one** person from the county (county coordinator), login to the **TEXAS System**. Once in the system, click on the **Leadership Advisory Board button** (far right).



If you have any questions with entering validation information, please contact Rey Santos (j-santos@tamu.edu) for technical problems/questions and Chris Boleman (ct-boleman@tamu.edu) / Courtney Dodd (CFDodd@ag.tamu.edu) for content-related issues.

General Eric Shinseki once said, "If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less."