

Volunteerism in Texas AgriLife Extension

Expanding Extension Outreach to More Texans

Volunteers Extend the Sphere of Influence and Access

- ◆ Volunteering is a form of civic engagement through which individuals can make meaningful contributions to their own visions of societal well-being.
- ◆ Volunteer labor and philanthropic nonprofit organizations are generally dedicated to filling gaps in service provision that markets do not reach.

Volunteerism in Extension Programs

- ◆ Mobilizing and organizing a strong volunteer base is essential to the mission of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, which has the largest volunteer program of any agency in Texas.
- ◆ Volunteers are the resource that help expand Extension outreach and programming into many Texas communities and neighborhoods.
- ◆ Extension volunteers not only improve their own skills in various disciplines but also help people gain knowledge and skills that will benefit them for life.
- ◆ Volunteers are one of Extension's most valuable assets - allowing us to reach more people, ensuring that our programs are relevant, and interpreting the value of Extension to others.

Economic Value of Volunteerism

- ◆ In 2006, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service utilized over 89,991 volunteers across all programming areas.
- ◆ These volunteers worked an average of 30.5 hours annually for a total of over 2.74 million hours volunteered.
- ◆ The economic value of volunteerism was estimated in terms of the opportunity cost of volunteers' time, e.g., the compensation that is foregone because an individual chooses to volunteer rather than work for compensation.
- ◆ An hourly rate of \$14.52 for Texas was used to value the time contributed by volunteers.
- ◆ Using the hourly wage and the number of volunteer hours contributed by Extension volunteers, the value of volunteers was \$39 million in 2006.
- ◆ Texas AgriLife Extension Service continues to utilize volunteers to deliver programs that address important issues in the state.



* A detailed article (*Volunteers-Economic Value to Texas Counties - MKT 3557I*) on the economic analysis is available at <http://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu>
Click on *Economic Impact Studies*

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