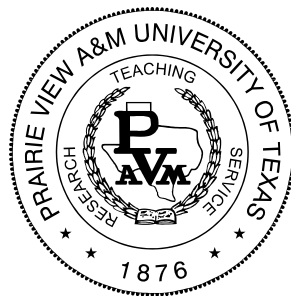

PLAN OF WORK

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



Cooperative Extension Program

Federal Fiscal Years

2000-2004

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I. PLANNED PROGRAMS

FUNCTION	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5
1890 Extension	Programs 1 through 5	Program 6	Program 7	Program 8	Programs 9 through 20

GOAL 1: An Agricultural Production System that is Highly Competitive in the Global Economy.

Program 1. Livestock Management

Statement of Issue:

The growth, production, marketing, and selling of livestock, particularly beef cattle, is the primary or secondary source of supplemental income for low-income, limited-resource producers served by the Cooperative Extension Program in Texas. A majority of these producers raise beef cattle, and an overwhelming number of these are part-time. The adoption of new technologies, practices, new knowledge and management and marketing skills which promotes sustainability is the major factor in raising productivity and keeping these agricultural production systems highly competitive in a global economy. Systems that improve health, production efficiency, and sustainability are needed to help this segment of the farming and ranching community.

Performance Goals:

- Increase the quality and number of marketable animals, reduce inputs, and increase profitability through new technologies, practices, business management and marketing skills.
- Increase agricultural producers awareness and understanding of educational opportunities and information on improving the productivity and global competitiveness of their agricultural production system.

Output Indicators:

- Number of participants or producers in attendance at educational meetings, field days, and workshops or clinics on livestock management.
- Number of mass media articles, programs and features prepared.
- Number of direct agent contacts with producers and others on specific livestock

- management problems or issues.
- Number of producers taught new skills to assess management problems.
- Greater understanding of pathological processes.
- Socially acceptable and environmentally safe production practice options for reducing inputs

Outcome Indicators:

- Number of participants who use balance sheets, income statements and cash flow statements in making financial decisions.
- Number of participants who use grain and marketing information.
- Number of participants who use enterprise budgets and a marketing plan(s).
- Number of participants who use variety or breeding selection to improve herds.
- Number of participants or producers who demonstrated the ability to recognize specific livestock management problems of a biological or cultural nature.
- Number of producers who indicated a reduction in the number of livestock losses due to pathological agents.
- Number of participants or producers indicating greater profitability or increased cash flow.

Key Program Components:

- Improve the production efficiency and competitiveness of Texas' limited resource, low-income, underserved/unserved small farm producers, ranchers, and others through the increased use of new technologies and practices, and service agencies.
- Improve livestock management systems.
- Develop efficient and site-specific practices that are compatible with and acceptable to the environment.

Internal and External Linkages:

- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Department of Agriculture and Human Sciences-Prairie View
- Colleges of Business and Education-Prairie View
- Department of Sociology and Social Work-Prairie View A & M University
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Department of Commerce
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Rural Development
- Farm Service Agency
- Heifer Project International
- Landowners Association of Texas

- Tyler Area Growers Association
- Texas Cattlemen Association
- NPL's- CSREES

Target Audiences:

Small, limited-resource, underserved/unserved livestock producers and ranchers in the Rio Grande Valley and the east-central areas of Texas.

Program Duration:

Intermediate, five years.

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources & Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	109,080	122,959	190,713	213,944	249,976	322,041
FTEs	2.35	2.35	3.95	4.75	5.55	7.15

Outreach Programs:

With the development of a Strategic Program Direction Plan for Agriculture and Natural Resources this document gives focus to the unit and its programs. Presently, outreach efforts and educational programs are being implemented to 30 of Texas' counties. The unit is : (1) assisting beginning farmers and ranchers in purchasing a farm or ranch, (2) providing pesticide trainings, (3) programming in the area of water quality, (4) doing work in farm financial management and analysis, (5) livestock management, (6) alternative enterprises, (7) whole farm systems, (8) farm pond management, (9) assisting socially disadvantaged individuals with obtaining farm operating loans, and (10) helping small farm operators, ranchers, and individuals enhance their business management and marketing skills. Risk management and farm safety seminars are also being held.

Various agencies within the state and multi-county efforts, such as the Regional Sustainable Agricultural Conference in Tyler, Texas; our Beef Cattle Clinic in Hearne, Texas; and the State-Level Forestry Workshop in Huntsville, Texas are being used to educate and assist our clientele.

Program 2. Pasture and Grazing Systems

Statement of Issues:

The profitability of any system in agriculture is dependent on the control of cost or inputs going into that system. Production cost for beef cattle producers must be kept to a minimum, and at the same time, quality of product must not decrease. To produce a marketable product, high quality forage and nutrients are a must. Forages provide the major portion of the animal's diet. Much of this forage can be provided by pastures, but these are often poor in quality and quantity, resulting in the need for a supplement to the animal's diet. Good quality hay is an important element in providing an effective and economical ration for beef cattle. The higher the quality, the lower the quantity of concentrates required. There are costs involved in producing a quality hay. Fertilizer costs represent over one half of the yearly pre-harvest cost of pasture or hay.

Systems for beef production that make more effective use of available resources on the farm or ranch, that is, the use of standing forages or pastures, should improve the profitability of an operation. Proper forage management is essential if the producer is to reap a return on his or her investment.

Performance Goals:

- Enhance forage or pasture production and grazing practices to increase the efficiency of livestock production.
- To increase the understanding of and appreciation for quality forage as key component in any livestock management system.
- Enhance the understanding of the role of pastures as sanitation tools in creating environmentally and socially acceptable profit-yielding enterprises.

Output Indicators:

- Number of producers who indicate a gain in new knowledge concerning forage species used for hay, season and growth stage at which to harvest, form in which it is fed; kinds of pastures and their uses.
- Number of producers in attendance at educational meetings, field days and workshops.
- Number of mass media articles, programs and features prepared.
- Number of result demonstrations implemented at farm and university sites.
- Number of field, workshops, clinics and tours held.

Outcome Indicators:

- Enhanced producer understanding and use of Standardized Performance Analysis and Integrated Resource Management tools to measure production and

- financial performance.
- Reduced cost of production.
- Greater understanding on the part of producers and consumers of the role forages play in enhancing our economic and ecological well-being.

Key Program Components:

- Improve the profitability and productivity of livestock operations by identifying forages and management techniques that will improve and restore worn out land.
- Quantify production and economic impacts.
- Develop strategies for using forages to improve animal performance, reduce soil erosion, increase soil fertility, and increase sanitation.

Internal and External Linkages:

- Result demonstration cooperators and volunteers
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center-Prairie View
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Texas' Cattlemen Association
- Local producers
- Landowners Association of Texas
- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at Prairie View A&M University

Target Audiences:

Small farm operators, livestock producers, ranchers and beginning farmers.

Program Duration:

Long term, over five years

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources & Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	109,080	122,959	190,713	213,944	249,976	322,041
FTEs	2.35	2.35	3.95	4.75	5.55	7.15

Outreach Program:

The 1890 Extension Program in Texas is presently implementing educational programs and trainings in forage production and pasture management in all 30 of the counties where the agriculture and natural resources program area is located. Establishment and management are key items taught.

Program 3. Food Crops

Statement of Issues:

The production, growth, marketing and selling of fruits and vegetables is another source of supplemental income for clientele served by the 1890 Extension Program in Texas. Additionally, many of these individuals supplement their diets with these food crops. To remain competitive these producers must adopt new varieties and cultivars that are resistant to drought, earworm infestation, and other environmental stresses. Production systems must be adopted that are more efficient and promote low-input, sustainable practices. Before this can happen, producers must be taught new technologies, introduced to new and more adaptable varieties, and taught sustainable concepts applicable to their locale. Marketing of produce is key to sustain ability, and as a result, marketing strategies must also be taught.

Performance Goals:

- Increase the quality and percentage of marketable produce per area.
- Reduce inputs, increase profitability, and where possible, increase nutritive value of items produced.
- Improve those practices in production which will result in these practices becoming more environmentally sound.
- Increase agricultural producers awareness and understanding regarding the production of new and alternative food crop enterprises.

Output Indicators:

- More efficient production practices.
- Number of producers in attendance at educational meetings, field days and workshops.
- Number of mass media articles, programs and features prepared.
- Use of marketing information.
- Number of practices designed to reduce overall reliance on chemicals(pesticides and fertilizer).
- Number of result or method demonstrations

Outcome Indicators:

- Number of participants who use improved marketing and management skills such as balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements in making financial decisions; enterprise budgets and a marketing plan.
- Number of producers who use or adopt new and more efficient varieties or alternative food crops.
- Greater profitability.

- More efficiency in the use of chemical controls and additives, including soil testing and fertilizers.

Key Program Components:

- Increase efficiency and competitiveness through the use of suitable varieties of fruits and vegetables.
- Improve the production and management systems of food crops.
- Improve handling practices, including storage and shipping.
- Improve food safety and quality of produce.

Internal and External Linkages:

- Department of Agriculture and Human Sciences
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Interdepartmental programs where feasible
- Area Food Banks
- Brookside Brothers Grocery
- Tyler Area Growers Association
- Texas Departments of Agriculture and Commerce
- Texas Organic Growers
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Target Audiences:

Small farm, limited-resource, underserved individuals and families primarily in east-central and Rio Grande Valley areas of Texas.

Program Duration:

Intermediate, five years.

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	109,080	122,959	190,713	213,944	249,976	322,041
FTEs	2.35	2.35	3.95	4.75	5.55	7.15

Outreach Programs:

Regular 1890 Extension and Outreach programming in the area of food crops is being implemented in 14 of Texas' counties. Educational training is being provided clientele in financial management, risk management, variety selection, insect and disease control, soil management techniques, marketing, niche marketing, alternative enterprises, and adding value to products.

Program 4. Farm Pond Management

Statement of Issues:

Many small landowners own or control numerous farm ponds which can be used to depict low input production opportunities to produce fish for increased farm nutrition and income. The use of existing yet unmanaged farm ponds for aquaculture allows the small landowner to diversity the use of the farm pond resource beyond traditional uses, such as livestock watering and irrigation, to include fish production.

Performance Goals:

- Enhance farm pond production capacity to include catfish.
- Enhance understanding of the role of farm pond utilization in overall farm management approaches to sustainability.

Output Indicators:

- Number of direct agent contacts with producers and others on specific farm pond management issues.
- Number of producers who indicate a gain in new knowledge concerning alternative economic enterprises and an integrated systems approach to farm pond management.
- Number of participants who tested farm ponds and private lakes for water quality purposes.
- Number of participants or producers who receive technical information on farm pond management.
- Number of producers who attend farm pond management programs and activities sponsored by the Extension Program.

Outcome Indicators:

- Number of producers who adopt farm pond management strategies according to Extension recommendations.
- Increased profitability.
- Diversified farm pond use.

Key Program Components:

- Improve the production efficiency and increase use of farm ponds.
- Develop efficient and sustainable practices that ensure environmental quality in and around pond ecosystems.
- Improve nutrition and increase consumption of fish as an alternative in the diet.

Internal and External Linkages:

- Southern Region Aquaculture Center
- University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Farm pond owners and operators
- Landowners Association of Texas-Tyler Chapter
- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at Prairie View A&M University
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center

Target Audiences:

Primarily small farm producers and ranchers and absentee landowners in east, northeast and central Texas.

Program Duration:

Five years.

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	109,080	122,959	190,713	213,944	249,976	322,041
FTEs	2.35	2.35	3.95	4.75	5.55	7.15

Outreach Programs:

Most of the 1890 Extension programming in the area of fisheries has been in the management of farm ponds for catfish production and watering of livestock. Work is being done to help producers control weeds, run-off's, oxygen depletion; and cage studies.

Program 5. Farm Financial Management and Marketing

Statement of Issues:

The latest Census of Agriculture indicate that there are 205,000 farmers in Texas. An overwhelming majority of these fall into Economic Sales Class I, meaning that gross sales fall between \$1000 and \$10,000. Most of these farmers fail to take the time to analyze the potential for increased profitability associated with their operations. Many are unable to conduct adequate financial analysis of their farming operation to maintain its profitability. Recent financial difficulties in the agricultural sector have caused many farmers to examine their operation, looking for alternatives or better ways of managing. As a result of these difficulties farmers are being displaced from farming at a more rapid rate than the general population. Some of the displacement have been attributed to a lack of sound management practices, a failure to adopt new technologies, and not being aware of technical assistance available to them. Training programs will target the enhancement of skills in record keeping, farm accounting, risk management and marketing of agricultural commodities.

Performance Goals:

- Decrease the number of producers going out of business.
- Improve access to agencies offering technical assistance.
- Develop farm financial management strategies that improve the efficiency of operation.
- Improve understanding and use of risk management strategies to minimize losses and ensure sustainability.

Output Indicators:

- Number of producers in attendance at educational meetings, workshops, and clinics.
- Number of direct county agent contacts with producers and others on specific farm financial management issues or marketing issues.
- Use of balance sheets, income statements and other items in making financial decisions.
- Use of enterprise budgets and a marketing plan.

Outcome Indicators:

- Producers who use improved marketing and managing skills such as marketing options and information on agriculture commodity sales.
- Enterprise budgets and marketing plans.
- Improved financial management and increased profits.

Key Program Components:

- Initiate the preparation of enterprise budgets and farm and home plans.
- Understand how farm financial analysis can improve overall management skills.
- Quantify production, economic impacts, and risk of the farming system to better judge how inputs are to be expended.

Internal and External Linkages:

- College of Business-Prairie View
- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at Prairie View A&M University
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Agricultural Marketing Service-USDA
- Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards-USDA
- Economic Research Service-USDA
- National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Tyler Area Growers Association
- Landowners Association of Texas
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Target Audiences:

Small farm producers and ranchers, members of various cooperatives and absentee landowners.

Program Duration:

Five years.

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	109,080	122,959	190,713	213,944	249,976	322,041
FTEs	2.35	2.35	3.95	4.75	5.55	7.15

Outreach Programs:

Farm financial management and analysis, farm and home plan preparation, record-keeping, and the use of financial statements are integral parts of the 1890 Extension

programming efforts. Workshops and clinics are held regularly in the 30 counties where the agriculture and natural resources program is located. Budget preparation and forecasting are two other major components taught by Extension educators.

GOAL 2: A Safe, Secure Food and Fiber System

Program 6. Food Safety & Quality

Statement of Issues:

The safety and quality of food for limited resource families continues to be a major concern. Food safety educational programs encourage utilization of recommended practices that will reduce risk of food borne illnesses. There is also a number of families who engage in safe food storage and preservation practices through workshops implemented by FCS staff.

Performance Goals:

- Families increase awareness, understanding and information regarding food safety and food borne illnesses.
- Consumers retain or enhance nutritional value of food through proper storage and preservation methods.

Output Indicators:

- Families participates in non - formal class sessions on sanitation practices at home and on the job.
- Food safety certification classes for food service cafeteria employees.
- Food stamp recipients enroll and participate in food preservation and storage workshop.

Outcome Indicators:

- Individuals enrolled in a series of educational workshops practiced proper food safety measures in handling foods during meal preparation and service.
- Family member adopted correct sanitation practices before handling perishable foods.
- Families and individuals identified potential sources of toxic substances and microorganisms in meal preparation areas.
- Proper food preservation methods increased food preservation methods increased food quality and safety.
- Food safety skills and knowledge were increased as indicated by food stamp participants who adopted recommended food storage and preparation techniques.

Key Program Components:

- Food Safety: Selection, Preparation, and Storage

- Quantity Cookery
- Cross- Contamination
- Sanitizing food preparation area
- Hot foods Hot - Cold foods Cold
- Refrigeration Vs. Freezer storage

Internal and External Linkages:

- College of Agricultural Research Center
- Prairie View College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
- Texas Department of Health
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Senior Citizen Outreach Center
- Housing Authority

Target Audiences:

Underserved clientele in urban and rural communities desiring information to change improper food handling and storage habits.

Program Duration:

Long term

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	187,525	211,385	204,714	199,981	199,981	208,989
FTEs	4.04	4.04	4.24	4.44	4.44	4.64

Outreach Programs

Currently educational programs are being conducted through the FF NEWS project and other targeted audiences to address this issue.

GOAL 3: A Healthy, Well-Nourished Population

Program 7. Nutrition & Wellness

Statement of Issues:

Obesity, diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease rank high among health problems in all racial groups, but general statistics indicate that the incidence of these health problems are higher in the African American, Hispanic and Native American populations than in other population groups. Nutrition education programs implemented by 1890 Family and Consumer Sciences staff are critical in providing up-to-date and applicable information to limited resource families in the counties served.

Performance Goal:

- Families optimize their health by improving the quality of diets, the quality of food and number of food choices.
- Families and individuals reduce health risks through improved dietary habits and physical exercise practices.

Output Indicators:

- Educational workshops and activities conducted on diabetes, osteoporosis, blood pressure, cholesterol and physical fitness.
- Families participate in non-formal class sessions, small group meetings, information letters and health fairs.
- Cancer prevention and early detection seminars.
- Educational tours expose participants to new learning environment.
- Food stamp recipients enroll and participate in nutrition education group meetings and food demonstrations.

Outcome Indicators:

- Families and individuals participate in educational workshops, study groups and demonstrations and adopted practices to reduce health risks.
- Lifestyle changes reported lowered glucose level, decrease in cholesterol LDL, increase in stamina and flexibility.
- Health screens offered through health fairs targeting limited resource audiences indicated early detection of various health issues and chronic diseases.
- Expectant teen mothers adopted healthy eating habits following a series of educational sessions on mineral and vitamin functions and food selection and consumption.
- Food stamp participants cited improvements in low fat meal preparation, label

reading, cooking with less salt, modifications to traditional cultural dishes, increased consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Key Program Components:

- Managing Hypertension
- Diabetes: Type I, II and III
- Extending Food Resources
- Factors affecting food choices
- The Typical Southern Diet
- Heart Disease
- Food Planning and Preparation

Internal and External Linkages:

- Prairie View College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- College of Nursing - PVAMU
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Houston Medical Center
- Texas Department of Health and Human Services
- American Cancer Society

Target Audiences:

Limited resource families and individuals in both urban and rural communities seeking to improve nutrition and exercise habits.

Program Duration:

Long term

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	268,756	302,951	289,207	278,802	278,802	287,710
FTEs	5.79	5.79	5.99	6.19	6.19	6.39

Outreach Programs:

The Health Promotions project is currently conducting programs to address these

issues as well as FF: NEWS (Families First: Nutrition, Education and Wellness System) and other local and state educational trainings and programs.

GOAL 4. To Achieve Greater Harmony Between Agriculture and the Environment

Program 8. Sustainable Agriculture

Statement of Issues:

The consequences of conventional farming have become increasingly important to all segments of the population. Public concern about the intensive use of chemicals in agricultural systems is at an all time high. This concern will continue to result in more regulations designed to limit their use. The sustain ability of modern-day agriculture is in question. Current data indicate that traditional farming systems are not meeting the criteria of social acceptability, and many farmers are concerned about their health and the health of others. Public concerns over food safety, water quality, conservation of natural resources, environmental risks, and even global warming have made sustainable agriculture a national priority.

What is needed is an integrated system of production that promotes efficiently managed farm systems, and the ability to reduce risk and emphasize the importance of selecting and using sustainable agricultural practices. Maintaining profitability and sustaining the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends are indispensable components of this system.

Performance Goals:

- To increase awareness, understanding, and information among agricultural producers regarding the adoption of agricultural production practices that sustain and /or protect ecosystem biodiversity on or adjacent to agricultural production sites or land uses.
- To increase producer adoption of agricultural production practices that conserve and/or protect surface and groundwater supplies on or adjacent to agricultural production sites or land uses.
- To increase producer adoption of agricultural production “best practices” that conserve, protect, and/or enhance the soil resources on or adjacent to agricultural production sites or land uses.

Output Indicators:

- Number of producers who indicate they gained new knowledge concerning integrated pest management concepts.
- Number of producers who indicate they gained new knowledge concerning waste management and water quality techniques.
- Number of program participants who tested their irrigation water.
- Number of participants who tested farm ponds and private lakes for water quality

purposes.

- Number of participants who receive information on soil conservation practices.
- Number of producers who acquired new skills to minimize fertilizer and pesticide runoff.
- The total number of non-formal education programs on topics related to sustaining and/or protecting ecosystem biodiversity while improving the productivity of the U.S. agricultural system.
- The total number of non-formal education programs implemented on topics related to sustaining and /or protecting the quantity and quality of surface water and groundwater supplies.
- Number of participants in attendance at educational meetings, field days and workshops on topics related to sustainable agricultural concepts and practices.
- The total number of non-formal education programs implemented on topics related to conserving, sustaining, and/or protecting soil resources.

Outcome Indicators:

- The total number of acres of agricultural land on which integrated pest management practices have been adopted on an annual basis by agricultural producers.
- Number of producers who use an integrated pest management approach for guidance in making pest control decisions.
- Number of producers who use alternative soil management inputs based on soil test data, and understanding of how to value alternative inputs such as manure and composts.
- Number of producers who use plant tissue analysis as a decision-making tool.
- Number of producers who use reduced or conservation tillage systems.
- Number of producers who use integrated pest management programs.

Key Program Components:

- Improve the production efficiency and increase the competitiveness of Texas' small farm producers and limited resource individuals and families through increased use of practices and concepts that are scientifically based and proven.
- Develop efficient and sustainable farming and ranching practices that ensure environmental integrity and enhance the quality of water, soil, and other resources, including the quality of life.
- Develop production alternatives that reduce off-farm purchased inputs.
- Develop strategies that better utilize naturally occurring or biological cycles to reduce risk, lower inputs, and increase profits.

Internal and External Linkages:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- College of Agriculture and Human Sciences-Prairie View
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Heifer Project International
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Southern Rural Development Center
- Tyler Area Growers Association
- Texas Organic Growers
- Texas Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
- Holistic Resource Management of Texas
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education -Southern Region Training Consortium

Target Audiences:

Small Farm Producers, limited resource individuals and families, organic growers and ranchers.

Program Duration:

Greater than five years

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	109,080	122,959	190,713	213,944	249,976	322,041
FTEs	2.35	2.35	3.95	4.75	5.55	7.15

Outreach Programs:

The Cooperative Extension Program has been very active in the non-formal training and teaching of sustainable agricultural concepts to the clientele it serves. Numerous field days, workshops, cattle and swine clinics, financial management seminars, risk management and others have been held, including a regional sustainable agriculture conference in east Texas. Some of these educational meetings have been multi-county, state-level and regional. In-service trainings for agricultural professionals have been held and yet continues in varied subject matters, all designed to teach sustainable concepts, including those that have social implications and environmental.

GOAL: 5. Enhanced Economic Opportunity and Quality of Life for Americans

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Program 9. Parenting Education

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Statement of Issues:

The family is one major social support network that is used by limited resource families and individuals to cope with economic and societal pressures. Parenting programs that lead to school readiness, healthy children, and stable nurturing families can positively impact the well-being of children. Parenting education was identified as a critical issue in the counties served by the 1890 staff.

Performance Goals:

- Increase the incidence of strong families resulting from non-formal education programs on parenting.
- Increase the capacity of communities, families and individuals to improve their own quality of life.

Output Indicators:

- Educational programs and workshops administered to limited income parents that addressed; family stress, child rearing, physical and emotional abuse, personality responsibility and accountability as role models.
- Short courses and small group series conducted at various community centers and work sites were designed to increase the opportunity for more males and grandparents to participate.
- Health Fairs and Immunization Clinics held in community centers and churches targeted African-American and Hispanic-American families.
- Seminars provided parenting education activities to examine discipline, the growth and development process, communications and dependent care providers.

Outcome Indicators:

- Impact statements indicated that individuals enrolled in series of parenting sessions and workshops adopted practices and demonstrated improvements in: parenting/child relationships, communication skills, and family stability.
- Immunization clinics served limited resource families with timely medical assistance and information on individual/family health status.
- Parents of pre-school students cited significant results in self-concept, reading and comprehension skills, and character of their children who participated in a nine month in-depth educational program.

- Parents and grandparents indicated practices and behaviors adopted as a result of group discussions and trainings on discipline issues, family role and responsibilities and building family resiliency.

Key Program Components:

- Building Family Strengths
- Discipline
- Communicating with children, teenagers and adults
- Stress management
- Recognizing and reporting abuse and neglect
- Healthy children: Immunizations

Internal and External Linkages:

- Prairie View A&M University College of Agriculture & Human Sciences
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Texas Department of Human Services
- Local Faith Community
- Housing Authority
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Family Outreach
- Memorial Hermann Healthcare System

Target Audiences:

Limited resource families and individuals in both urban and rural communities seeking to improve parenting skills.

Program Duration:

Long term

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	222,338	250,628	240,926	233,761	233,761	242,770
FTEs	4.79	4.79	4.99	5.19	5.19	5.39

Outreach Programs:

Currently efforts are being made at the state and local levels to address the parenting issue. Training has been conducted of Family & Consumer Sciences staff with programming responsibilities.

Program 10. Financial Resource Management

Statement of Issues:

The effects of poverty are central to the status and well-being of limited resource families. Managing resources presents many challenges to families balancing work and family but most critical on families enrolled in the Temporary Assistance for Need Families program. Recent changes such as welfare reform threatens to diminish social support programs and push even more children into poverty and other risky situations. Financial management education was identified as an issue in the 1890 counties to address the economic well-being of limited resource families.

Performance Goals:

- Families and individuals improve their financial status through financial management education programs.

Output Indicators:

- Financial management non-formal sessions, small group meetings and individual consultations will teach ways to develop and monitor individual or family budgets.
- Long and short term goal setting strategies will assist families in financial planning that will address managing and establishing credit, developing a savings account and considerations for major purchases.
- Provide consumer decision making guidelines and updates on products, hazards and risk management.
- Provide resources and training for home-based business and entrepreneurship.

Outcome Indicators:

- Families and individuals participated in educational workshops, study groups and seminars and adopted practices that developed and increased savings accounts.
- Family budgets were established and communication as well as family goals were improved.
- Decrease in consumer debt was cited through county evaluation reports.
- Understand a credit report and consumer rights.

Key Program Components:

- Establishing and maintaining budgets.
- Setting long and short term financial goals.
- Managing credit.
- Access and interpretation of a credit report.
- Establishing a savings account and decreasing debt.

Internal and External Linkages:

- Consumer Credit Counseling Service
- Local financial institutions
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Adult Probation Department
- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at Prairie View A&M University
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center

Target Audiences:

Low income families and individuals needing financial management counseling and assistance .

Program Duration:

Long term

Allocated Resources

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	175,921	198,305	192,644	188,720	188,721	197,729
FTEs	3.79	3.79	3.99	4.19	4.19	4.39

Outreach Programs:

Currently educational programs and workshops are being implemented to address this issue.

Program 11. Community Enhancement

Statement of Issues:

The communities in which the low-income reside are generally unsightly and require major work and the cooperation of residents to upgrade their status. That is the case in the counties where programs are implemented by the 1890 Cooperative Extension Program. Residents are not motivated to maintain and improve their communities and consequently, the unsightliness and living conditions continue to worsen. The communities are plaque with debris, trash, tall weeds, unkept lawns, unsightly homes that need repair and painting, etc. These communities usually lack educational and recreational activities for youth and adults. Crime is prevalent and on the uprise in these communities.

Performance Goals:

- Community residents and leaders become involved in activities that enhance their communities and their place of residence.
- Communities establish a crime watch program.

Output Indicators:

- Develop and conduct programs that promote community maintenance and improvement
- Organize communities to implement community improvement/leadership programs

Outcome Indicators:

- People organize to enhancing their communities and the places where they reside
- Community residents participate in community clean-up and fix-up activities
- Families and individuals adopt home beautification and maintenance practices
- Community residents establish and conduct programs that provide education, recreation, and a safe environment

Key Program Components:

- Home maintenance and beautification knowledge and skills that build community pride
- Improved and enhanced communities
- Lower crime rate in communities

Internal and External Linkages:

- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affair
- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at Prairie View A&M University

- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Council of Governments
- Texas Community Improvement Program
- County sheriff and police departments
- Home Improve Centers
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Local government
- Chambers of Commerce

Target Audiences:

Low-income families and individuals residing in low-income communities and neighborhoods.

Program Duration:

Long term

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	83,868	93,658	88,356	84,226	85,127	87,829
FTEs	1.79	1.79	1.83	1.87	1.89	1.95

Outreach Programs:

Currently educational programs are being conducted to address this issue.

Program 12. Housing

Statement of Issues:

The program development process identified housing as a critical issue in most parts of Texas. In the counties being served by the 1890 Cooperative Extension Program, there is a shortage of affordable housing and housing for the low-income. Most low-income families live in substandard housing except for those being supported by government housing programs. Many low-income families are unaware of the various housing programs established to assist them in obtaining decent housing. Many low-income families that qualify for government assistance worsen their financial condition in obtaining better housing by not utilizing government assistance programs

and others continue to dwell in substandard housing.

Performance Goals:

- Individuals and families will acquire and maintain housing that meets approved government inspection standards.

Output Indicators:

- Provide families and individuals information on the various housing programs.
- Educate home owners, tenants and landlords on housing related issues.
- Provide assistance to those that need help with completing applications.
- Staff collaborate and cooperate with government agencies and organizations

Outcome Indicators:

- Families and individuals acquiring decent housing
- Families and individuals utilizing governmental housing assistance programs

Key Program Components:

- Provide information to assist families and individuals acquire Improved housing
- Utilization of governmental housing assistance programs by those who qualify
- Better understanding of housing related issues by home owners, tenants and landlords

Internal and External Linkages:

- Rural Development
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at Prairie View A&M University
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Local government
- Local banks
- HUD

Target Audiences:

Low-income families and individuals needing better housing

Program Duration:

Long term

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	95,155	107,262	100,909	95,937	96,838	99,540
FTEs	2.05	2.05	2.09	2.13	2.15	2.21

Outreach Programs:

Currently efforts are being made at the state and local levels to address the housing issue. Training has been conducted of all staff persons with programming responsibilities.

Program 13. Leadership Development

Statement of Issues:

Texas communities rely on their local leaders to identify and successfully find solutions for economic and community development issues. It is essential to develop new and younger leadership, especially in rural areas of the state. Communities needs leaders who are knowledgeable about economic trends, local needs, resources and development strategies. Leaders must translate their knowledge into new strategies to stimulate the economy and mobilize people and resources to ensure the community's future. Leaders must visualize improvement and opportunities and partner and capitalize on community assets to maximize the future.

Performance Goals:

- Inspire and refine the qualities of leadership already present in program participants.
- Program graduates will enhance self confidence and believe that they can make a difference.
- Enhance understanding of and increase skills and abilities to effectively participate in the public decision-making process.
- Improve participants ability to lead group involvement in the public decision-making process.
- Develop and strengthen skills in community mobilizing and promote cooperation among public support systems to maximize resources

Output Indicators:

- Recruit, develop and train new leaders.
- Assist leaders to utilize community and economic resources to identify and solve problems.
- Developed partnerships with other organizations and agencies.

Outcome Indicators:

- Participants select a community project or a policy issue, and develop strategies to solve a community problem.
- Leadership program participants continue community involvement.
- Trained participants become new leaders at all levels in their communities.
- Leaders trained in Extension programs elected to offices.
- Community improvements: clean-ups, fix-ups, services/utilities acquired, buildings renovated, etc.

Key Program Components:

- Enhance and develop leadership skills in individuals through the Community Voices, Texans in Leadership and Teen Leadership Connection curriculums.
- Work in partnerships and coalitions with other organizations and agencies to promote community mobilization.
- Develop skills and prepare local residents to take an active, responsible role in the community; thus promoting community and economic growth and community revitalization.

Internal and External Linkages:

- Prairie View A&M University
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Texas Rural Leadership Program, Inc.
- Texas Department of Health & Human Services
- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at Prairie View A&M University
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Texas Municipal League
- Texas Rural Development Council
- Area Chamber of Commerce
- Utility Companies and Cooperatives
- Lower Colorado River Authority
- Southwestern Bell Telephone
- Hispanic Coalitions
- Community Associations

Target Audiences:

Small rural communities, urban neighborhoods, churches, schools, counties, organizations, under-served populations and youth.

Program Duration:

Five years

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	89,121	100,460	94,632	90,082	90,982	93,685
FTEs	1.92	1.92	1.96	2.00	2.02	2.08

Outreach Programs:

Community Voices ongoing programs in Brazos and San Patricio counties; Community Voices co-facilitator training for organizations (about two a month); Texans in Leadership programs average 4-6 going on at all times across the state; and Teen Leadership Connection in Harris county only in Spring 1999.

Program 14. Business Development

Statement of Issues:

In Texas business development activity lags in traditionally agricultural and natural resource dependent communities. Migration from rural to urban areas is the trend of many families and individuals, especially the younger population because of the lack of jobs. Owners of agricultural and small traditional businesses find it becoming increasingly difficult to remain in business. Management, financing and business diversification are crucial areas that need to be addressed in helping clients establish, maintain and enhance their businesses. Most rural communities are economically depressed. The low-income and under represented groups are usually the most adversely affected. Communities need programs that will stimulate business development activity. Special assistance is required if economic development activity in rural economically depressed communities to be successful.

Performance Goals:

- Low-income and under represented groups will establish, maintain and enhance their businesses and create new jobs.

Output Indicators:

Utilize all available educational and financial resources to assist:

- Potential business person in developing business plans and starting business
- Existing businesses in implementing business retention practices and expansions
- Communities in attracting agricultural and traditional businesses and industries
- Agricultural businesses in expanding opportunities and adding new enterprises
- New and existing businesses in creating additional employment opportunities

Outcome Indicators:

- Potential business persons assisted with developing business plans
- Businesses assisted with implementing business retention practices and expansions
- Agricultural businesses assisted in expanding and adding new enterprises
- New businesses established
- Businesses assisted in creating additional employment opportunities
- Number of jobs in established businesses before assistance was provided
- Number of new jobs created in businesses assisted
- Total number of jobs in businesses assisted

Key Program Components:

- Business plan development
- Implementation of business development principles
- Training in: Profit Forecasting, Cash Flow Forecasting, Analyzing Your Market, Financing a Small Business and Customer Relations

Internal and External Linkages:

- College of Business - PVAMU
- Department of Agriculture, Nutrition and Human Ecology at PVAMU
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Small Business Administration
- Rural Business - Cooperative Service
- Rural Development
- Local Banks

- HUD
- Lower Colorado River Authority
- Economic Development Organization

Target Audience:

Low-income and underrepresented groups interested in establishing, maintaining and enhancing businesses.

Program Duration:

Long term

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	95,155	107,262	100,909	95,937	96,838	99,540
FTEs	2.05	2.05	2.09	2.13	2.15	2.21

Outreach Programs:

Currently a rural business development project is being conducted in four Texas counties targeting the low-income and under represented groups.

Program 15. Acquisition and Maintenance of Communities Facilities

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Statement of Issue:

Rural communities are unlike urban communities where in most cases needed resources and facilities are a part of the community. Some of the rural communities' infrastructure and facilities are community driven and require the effort and support of community residents. Many of the rural communities are experiencing difficulty in obtaining and upgrading some of the basic needed resources. Some of those include rural water systems, volunteers fire and safety departments, meetings and recreation facilities, and marketing facilities.

Performance Goals:

- Low-income communities will acquire, maintain and enhance community facilities.

Output Indicators:

- Dissemination of applicable information in rural communities needing facilities
- Provide technical assistance to communities when needed

Outcome Indicators:

- Communities establish rural water and sewer systems and repair, upgrade and expand existing ones.
- Organized communities acquire and maintain quality volunteer and safety departments
- Communities acquire facilities to conduct meetings and recreational and educational activities
- Organized groups and individuals establish facilities to market their products

Key Program Components:

- Advise rural communities of programs established to enhance rural communities
- Assist communities with the application process
- Provide guidance to communities in obtaining resources

Internal and External Linkages:

- Rural Development
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at PVAMU
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Local Government
- Communities Resources Group Inc.
- Community Development Block Grant Program

Target Audience:

- Residents of low-income communities

Program Duration:

Long term

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	83,087	93,658	88,356	84,226	85,127	138,870
FTEs	1.79	1.79	1.83	1.87	1.89	2.95

Outreach Programs:

Currently efforts are being made to address this issue.

Program 16: Job Force Preparation, Career Development and Entrepreneurial Skills

Statement of Issues:

As our society advances in technology, future jobs and careers will require trained and skilled individuals to hold technical and nontechnical positions. Research has found that there is a direct relationship between years of school completed and employability for unemployment rates among youths 16 to 19 years of age. Thus, a number of consequences are attached to failure in completing high school, such as minimum-wage jobs, holding unskilled positions, inability to obtain employment, and a driving force for using illegal means to meet individual and family needs for survival. The Texas Community Futures Forum defines Texas as one of the Texas issues for the 21st Century, as having a need for additional programs for youth to address skill building for future jobs and to enhance the economics of Texas communities.

Performance Goals:

- Empower youth through learning job readiness, career development, and entrepreneurial skills to enhance future employment opportunities.

Output Indicators:

Create an awareness of agriculture careers and other related fields through workshops and laboratories:

- Conduct job readiness training sessions with youth
- Provide alternatives/options for youth to earn money through entrepreneurship

Outcome Indicators:

The total of youth who:

- Applied skills and established goals for sound career choices
- Adopted and applied job readiness practices to strengthen family economic stability
- Gained insights into the principles, processes, and structures of entrepreneurship

Key Program Components:

Educational components of this program will teach youths leadership, teamwork, negotiation skills, stress management, business etiquette, business skills in developing a business plan, marketing, operations, financial planning, research networking and technology, interviewing, resume writing, dressing for success, careers in agriculture and agribusiness projects.

Internal and External Linkages:

- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at PVAMU
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Prairie View A&M University
- College of Education
- College of Business
- TAEX
- Texas Youth Commission
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Employment Commission
- National Coalition For Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs
- Kidsway Foundation
- Girls Scouts of U.S.A.
- Boy Scouts of America
- Communities In Schools
- U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
- Other local youth serving agencies
- Local Businesses

Target Audiences:

We will focus on reaching youths 13 to 19 years old youth who are under served and unserved from rural and urban communities throughout Texas.

Program Duration:

Five years

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	177,778	200,398	215,819	212,142	213,043	215,745
FTEs	3.83	3.83	4.47	4.71	4.73	4.79

Outreach Program:

Currently educational programs are being conducted through the 4-H & Youth Development Program. Annual achievement programs such as Career Awareness & Youth Leadership Laboratory, county workshops and trainings are conducted to address this issue.

Program 17. Leadership Development and Citizenship

Statement of Issues:

There is a continued need for a pool of ethical, fair and caring individuals from which future leaders will emerge having the skills to lead and ultimately determine the successes of a program, a community, or a nation. Leadership emphases have long been integrated throughout the program areas as an integral component of the 4-H program. However, a large number of adolescents lack the necessary skills in learning new insights about leadership, leading, mentoring, service to others, and life in general. These adolescents lack values such as courage, community commitment, fairness, and justice. The Texas Community Futures Forum defines Texas issues for the 21st Century as having a need for additional programs for Texas youth to address leadership and citizenship developments among community youth.

Performance Goals:

- Promote leadership and citizenship skills through innovative techniques that will enhance social responsibilities, processes and structures of democracy.
- Provide programs that are educational that will strengthen youths' abilities to become productive and responsible citizens.

Output Indicators:

- Conduct educational programs that are designed to reach traditional and non-traditional audiences in leadership
- Implement school enrichment programs to enhance youth leadership and mentoring skills
- Provide opportunities for mentoring, community and public service through workshops, seminars and conferences.
- Implement an educational leadership retreat for inspiring youth leaders and mentors

Outcome Indicators:

The total number of youth who:

- Acquired and practiced leadership skills.
- Involved in community service activities.
- Practiced good citizenship by serving as an officer or on a committee.
- Demonstrated social responsibility.

Key Program Components:

Educational activities will focus on communication, decision making, problem solving, cultural diversity, parliamentary procedures, qualities of a leader, community service, mentoring, social responsibility, and valuing youths as resources.

Internal and External Linkages:

- The Departments of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at PVAMU
- Division of Social Work, Behavioral & Political Sciences at Prairie View A&M University
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- TAEX
- CREES- 4H
- Texas Youth Commission
- Texas Education Agency
- Local School Districts
- Local Youth Serving Agencies

Target Audience:

We will focus on reaching youth nine (or third grade) through 19 years old from limited-income and at-risk youth in rural and urban communities throughout Texas.

Program Duration:

Five years

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	177,778	200,398	215,819	212,142	213,043	215,745
FTEs	3.83	3.83	4.47	4.71	4.73	4.79

Outreach Programs:

The 4-H & Youth Development Program is currently conducting educational programs for limited income youth ages 9 years (third grade) through 19 years to address this issue

Program 18: 4-H Agriculture and Natural Resources

Statement of Issues:

Youth today need real-world experiences in agriculture and natural resources to equip them for future successes in the 21st century. Agriculture and natural resources are important to survival of life; from the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, to the water we drink, to the air we breath, and the wood products needed for our shelter. Every youth should have an important understanding of our natural resources, as they relate to human and environmental needs. Because of limited understanding and exposure, e.g., how trees in our forests grow, what supports water and air quality in urban areas, soil conservation, wild life habitats and their environment, and agriculture, our natural resources are being valued secondary to our standards of living. A large number of limited income youths are not afforded opportunities to gain knowledge and respect for this field, and its importance to the community and international economy. The Texas Community Futures Forum defines as one of Texas issues for the 21st Century as having a need for additional programs and activities for youth.

Performance Goals :

- To obtain a broad knowledge and appreciation for agriculture and natural resources
- To increase youths' participation in agriculturally related projects, such as animal production and management practices, horticulture, aquatic, and wood science
- To teach children to appreciate and enjoy experiences of group living in a residential camp setting

Output Indicators:

- Conduct a quality residential camping program for Texas youth
- Involve youth in animal projects and other agriculturally related projects
- Provide opportunities for youths to explore career opportunities in agricultural sciences through laboratories, workshop, and clinics
- Conduct a competitive event for state-wide youths' participation in goat husbandry

Outcome Indicators:

The number of youth who:

- Gained an appreciation for the out-of-doors
- Learned basic survival skills
- Increased knowledge through animal care, horticulture, aquatic, and wood science
- Gained knowledge on agriculture careers
- Gained and increased knowledge in showing and fitting animals
- Gained insights into the principles, processes, and structures of entrepreneurship

Key Program Components:

Educational activities will focus on animal care and management, renewable natural resources, gardening, nature trails, water quality, and environmental stewardship, method demonstration and illustrated talks

Internal and External Linkages:

- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at PVAMU
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- International Dairy Goat Research Center, Prairie View A&M University
- TAEX
- San Antonio Livestock Exposition
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Local School Districts
- Texas Parks and Recreation
- Local community youth agencies

Target Audience:

We will focus on reaching youth nine (or third grade) through 19 years old from limited income families and at-risk youth in rural and urban communities throughout Texas.

Program Duration:

Five years

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	177,778	200,398	215,819	212,142	213,043	215,745
FTEs	3.83	3.83	4.47	4.71	4.73	4.79

Outreach Programs:

Currently educational programs are being conducted thru the 4-H & Youth Development Program. Annual achievement programs such as Career Awareness & Youth Leadership Laboratory, county workshops and training are conducted to address this issue. A residential camping program, Goat Field Day and Dairy Goat Judging, and Community trainings workshops are conducted to address this issue.

Program 19: 4-H Volunteerism and Mentoring

Statement of Issues:

Volunteerism is an investment in our community, that results in measurable benefits for our youth. People who serve their community through volunteering and mentoring unlock the tremendous power that it possesses to help our communities, and ultimately, reaching one youth at a time. Between now and the year 2010, three thousand volunteer associations and youth-serving organizations will be lost, due to the lack of caring adults and youth volunteers. The consistent presence of a non-familial caring adult can make a difference in the social, emotional, and development of a young person, particularly one growing up in adverse situations. Volunteering and mentoring are key elements of building resilient, productive, and self-directed individuals. The Texas Community Futures Forum defines Texas issues for the 21st Century as having a need for more adult, parent, and youth to become volunteers and mentors to strengthen the communities and families.

Performance Goals:

Develop a network of volunteers and mentors to work with at-risk youths to acquire life skills.

Output Indicators:

- Train adults/youths to work with diverse audiences
- Train volunteers to become master volunteers and mentors to work with youth
- Train volunteers and mentors on how to get youths involved in community-based issues
- Strengthen local 4-H units to become involved in community service through workshops
- Conduct a conference for volunteers to share and exchange information for working with youth

Outcome Indicators:

Total number of youth, adults and parents who:

- Volunteered to teach, manage, or assist with working with youth
- Formed positive relationships with youths and peers
- Gained an appreciation and gratification for making a difference in the lives of youth

Key Program Components:

Educational activities will focus on skills in working with youths from diverse audiences through developing caring and supportive relationships, understanding the roles of volunteer and mentor, peer mentoring, identifying others, and recruitment of volunteers.

Internal and External Linkages:

- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at PVAMU
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Prairie View A&M University
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service 4-H Program
- Local School Districts
- Local Church Leaders

Target Audience:

We will focus on reaching adults, parents and youth from limited income families and at-risk youth in rural and urban communities throughout Texas.

Program Duration:

Five years

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	177,778	200,398	215,819	212,142	213,043	215,745
FTEs	3.83	3.83	4.47	4.71	4.73	4.79

Outreach Programs:

Currently educational programs are being conducted with limited income youth, nine years (third grade) through 19 years.

Program 20: Life Skills Development

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Statement of Issues:

Numerous Texas youths are considered to be at high risk for the negative consequences of behaviors such as substance abuse, school failure, teen pregnancy, adolescent health and violence. These risk issues have been seen as a major concern in every rural and urban county in Texas. The Texas Community Futures Forum defines one of Texas' issues for the 21st Century as having a need for more program activities for youth involvement to deter negative behaviors so that safer communities can be created.

Performance Goals:

To implement educational, preventive, and developmental in nature programs to strengthen youths' interpersonal, social competencies, morals, and values.

Output Indicators:

- Conduct educational programs that build and strengthen communication skills
- Conduct school enrichment programs that focus on strengthening protective factors
- Conduct parent and teen relationship workshops
- Conduct training sessions on managing youth and family anger

Outcome Indicators:

The number of youth who:

- Improved their communication skills

- Increased their protective factors and reduced risk factors
- Developed positive and caring relationships with adults
- Changed problem behaviors and attitudes
- Demonstrated social and moral responsibilities

Key Program Components:

Interpersonal skills, Understanding Others, Cultural Diversity, Decision Making, Conflict Resolution and Problem Solving, Peer Mentoring, Character Building, Consumerism, Nutrition and Fitness, Adolescent Health Issues, Leadership, Team Building; and Morals, Values, and Ethics.

Internal and External Linkages:

- The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at PVAMU
- Division of Social Work, Behavioral & Political Sciences at Prairie View A&M University
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service 4-H Program
- Texas Youth Commission
- Texas Education Agency
- Local School Districts
- Local Youth Serving Agencies
- Local City Government
- Other Universities
- Local Church leaders and Community Leaders
- College of Education at Prairie View A&M University

Target Audience:

We will focus on reaching youth in third grade or 9 thru 19 years of age from limited income families and at-risk youth in rural and urban communities throughout Texas.

Program Duration:

Five years

Allocated Resources:

Financial Resources and Allocation of FTEs						
	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal & State Funds	177,778	200,398	215,819	212,142	213,043	215,745
FTEs	3.83	3.83	4.47	4.71	4.73	4.79

Outreach Programs:

Currently educational programs are being conducted through Teen Leadership Connection Projects (TLC) and other educational trainings targeting youth in schools, communities and 4-H clubs.

II. STAKEHOLDER INPUT PROCESS

The Texas Community Futures Forum sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service of which the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University is a part of, was a grassroots efforts to listen to the people and to involve those people in finding solutions to their local issues. The effort was also supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation through a project, which promoted institutional change to improve the usefulness, quality and cost-effectiveness of higher education, research and service to the people of Texas. Forums will be held in every county of the state.

Initiated in 1998, the program engaged Texas citizens, communities and partnering agencies and institutions to speak out about the issues impacting their lives and communities now in the years to come. Texans were invited to identify, discuss and prioritize their community's current and future needs at forums that were held in every county in the state during the spring of 1999. This broad approach to identifying the issues was designed and conducted by The Texas A & M University System's network of county, district and state faculty. The Texas Community Futures Forum was conducted by Extension agents in each county in cooperation with the members of the Extension Program Council in the county.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service developed a plan that strongly emphasized the strategic involvement of citizens and communities in the identification and development of issues that were important to them locally. This evolving approach to needs assessment was introduced to Extension employees in the fall of 1998, finalized in the winter of 1998 and implemented beginning in January, 1999.

In general, the Futures Forum across the state had two common elements. The first was an Open Forum where the community at large was invited to identify the most significant issues facing their community. Because the Futures Forum was a community-based activity, the format of the Open Forums was designed to match the size, needs and preferences of the community. The second common element was a smaller Focus Forum event that involved people that represented diverse groups and neighborhoods, agencies, organizations, government and business. This group reviewed the findings from the Open Forum and focused on priority needs in which to form action plans.

Priority issues and needs identified in all 254 counties were aggregated to form the basis for the Extension Service's statewide, long-range outreach education plan for 2000-2003. At the county level, the information generated through the Futures Forum

events have become the basis for local issue teams and from which the county Extension plan will be based for 2000-2003. This work is being accomplished in a collaborative approach with the Extension Program Councils and various program committees at the county level. This allows for another level of citizen input on the specific actions needed to solve priority issues in a county.

The Texas Community Futures Forum was momentous in several respects. More than 7,500 citizens were involved and approximately 3,000 issues were uncovered. The Texas Community Futures Forum met and in some ways surpassed the scope of *Returning to Our Roots*, *The Engaged Institution*, the third report of the Kellogg Commission on the Futures of State and Land-Grant universities (February, 1999). Perhaps most notable was its focus on partnerships through the involvement of many of the state-supported higher education institutions, public agencies and local community groups, and responsiveness to public problems.

The most striking effort that seemed to define a commitment to engagement came when more than 600 Extension professionals and other partners were specifically trained to fulfill the role of neutral facilitator to conduct the Futures Forum events. Facilitators took participants through the steps of identifying issues and then prioritizing them on the basis of their importance and the likelihood that the issues could be addressed. Beginning with the items having the highest priority, action steps, resources, time frames, and contacts were specified for addressing each issue.

Another impressive result has been the focus on accountability, through assessment, documentation, action research on the Futures Forum process and putting findings into practice through educational programs. A quality county and statewide Extension strategic plan for 2000-2003 has emerged from these community-university outreach discussions. All of the issues identified in all 254 counties are available through the Texas Community Futures Forum web site <<http://futuresforum.tamu.edu>>.

Further, in every county, citizens and educators with The Texas A & M University System are collaborating on improving their communities. Throughout the process Extension educators were humbly reminded, and repeatedly respectful, of the expertise and capabilities of the citizens, institutions and partners that were involved in the process. The Futures Forum helped build new partnerships and strengthen existing ones. Alliances and strategic partnerships have begun to form at the local, regional and state level. Extension faculty, working with local community leaders and citizens are taking action to address the issues.

The Texas Community Futures Forum required much from the faculty, administration and staff of the Extension Service. Texas Extension dedicated significant resources, accepted new ways of looking at community issues, enhanced competencies, adjusted their thinking, took on new roles and learned new skills. From the standpoint of knowledge, the growth and renewal of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service has been greatly enhanced.

This report provides a baseline against which future data can be compared. Sustaining this progress is critical to achieving the vision of The Texas A & M University System, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the 1890 Cooperative Extension Program. It embodied our resolve to serve the people, to be a vital force for community-based education and action and to be a future-oriented organization. We are well on our way to meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

One of the criteria in conducting the Community Futures Forums and obtaining stakeholder input was that the low-income and underrepresented groups be involved in the process. A special effort was made by both 1890 and 1862 to be sure these groups were included and had a voice. 1890 committee persons and others that represent these groups were involved, and their input can be found in the Community Futures Forums results.

The Cooperative Agricultural Research Center (CARC) relies heavily on the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University and the Texas Agricultural Extension service for stakeholder input. The Texas Community Forums, co-sponsored by the Texas Extension Service and the Prairie View A&M University Extension service, provide a forum to obtain stakeholder input. However, the Prairie View Extension Program through its focus primarily on the historically under represented and under-served, provide a direct link to these clientele. Through our close association with the Prairie View Extension Program we are able to obtain stakeholder input from this segment of our population.

Additionally, through jointly co-sponsored program activities (e.g. goat field day, small farmers conference) we are able to gain direct input from the historically under-represented/under-served clientele.

III. MERIT REVIEW

The merit review for the plan of work developed by the 1890 Cooperative Extension Program will be conducted by program leaders and appropriate administrators of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The associate director for administration and the 1890 associate administrator worked together and identified key individuals with knowledge and expertise in the areas in which the 1890 plan of work was developed. Each program plan will be reviewed and commented on. The reviewers and review team leaders will consist of:

- Dr. Bill Harris, Associate Director for Agricultural Sciences; Professor
- Dr. Martha Couch, Assistant Director-4-H & Youth; Professor

- Dr. Kathy Volanty, Associate Director for Family and Consumer Sciences
- Dr. Gregory Taylor, Associate Department Head and Program Leader for Extension in
- Rural Sociology Professor

The merit review process will be conducted annually if major changes are made to the plan of work program plans.

Due to the short deadline given to submit the State POW, we were unable to complete the merit review process. Only the concept was developed and key personnel were identified who will play a vital role in the conduct of the merit review. The POW is aligned with the issues identified affecting low-income and underrepresented groups. The programs developed were based on prioritized issues which are available to everyone in the state. TAEX administrative personnel identified to facilitate this process will participate by either being a reviewer and or selecting appropriate persons in their units to review the programs developed by the CEP at Prairie View A&M University. The feedback gathered will be used to enhance the programs that were developed. The criteria used will be ranking of the issues and problems addressed within.

Integration of Extension with Research on Multistate Activities

Research in the food and Agricultural Sciences at PVAMU is a primary responsibility of the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center (CARC). Within CARC there are fulltime research scientists/support personnel whose only responsibility is to engage in research. However, the CARC also have several jointly appointed faculty and extension personnel.

Fulltime Research Scientists and jointly appointed faculty work on joint research projects as well as on academic and extension projects. For example, we currently share one faculty on a three-way split: 50% teaching, 25% research, and 25% extension. The person teach beef cattle management, does outreach to farmers on beef cattle, and engage in beef cattle research. We have a similar position in goat research, whereby the person works as a research specialist in goat research and as an extension specialist with goats, primarily 4-H.

Additionally, Research Scientists work jointly with the academic and teaching programs on youth programs (e.g. 4-H; FFA), field days (e.g. annual research and extension goat field day - 1st Saturday in May each year) and other planned programs.

Currently, we have three researchers with joint extension appointments; and eleven research/academic appointments. Almost all graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences do their graduate thesis work in CARC labs. We

also employ approximately 25-30 undergraduate students each year to work as research assistants.

Historically we have participated in multi-state (Regional) research projects. We are currently collaborating on one bi-lateral project and are working on two additional multi-state proposals.

Extension and research are integral parts of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences. The college is aware of issues identified through the Community Futures Forums conducted throughout the state and participated in the process. The forums were conducted to identify issues that needed to be addressed. Extension and research have met and will continue to meet to coordinate Extension and research activities for the benefit of working together in addressing issues of low-income and underrepresented groups. Research scientists assist Extension by conducting needed research and educational programs with clientele. Teaching faculty also participate in the conduct of outreach activities. There is a strong goat program in Texas where both research and extension are involved annually in special projects such as the Goat Field Day and Giveaway and the Goat Judging Contest.

IV. FEDERAL MATCH REQUIREMENT

CURRENT AND PROJECTED FUNDS: ALL SOURCES (Federal and State Match)						
FUNDS	FY 1999 (Base)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Federal	2,466,029	2,466,029	2,466,029	2,466,029	2,466,029	2,466,029
State Matching	377,953	739,809	1,109,714	1,230,015	1,230,015	1,230,015

Submitted By:

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Cooperative Extension Program
Prairie View A&M University

(Date)