

# Sustaining Agricultural Production THROUGH EDUCATION



## Challenges

- Livestock and poultry producers face serious threats from pervasive and invasive animal diseases such as bird influenza, Rift Valley fever, West Nile virus and tick-borne diseases.
- Changing global markets and managing agricultural production and price risk have farmers and ranchers seeking ways to maximize production efficiency to maintain competitiveness.
- Issues regarding Texas' water supply and demand balance have brought about the need for more efficient use of this vital resource.
- Rising input costs and various production-related challenges, including droughts, invasive species and other pests, have placed serious stress on farmers and ranchers across the state.

## AgriLife Extension Response

In agriculture, AgriLife Extension delivers wide-ranging educational programs focused on research-based production and management practices, evaluation of technologies, improved decision-making, water-use efficiency and job training. AgriLife Extension is at the forefront in responding to emerging issues such as drought, wildfires, and insect and disease outbreaks.

- **Crop production** programs cover variety testing, irrigation efficiency, disease, pest management and control, commodity marketing, financial risk management and farm bill education.
- **Livestock production** programs focus on improved reproduction strategies, animal health, feeds and nutrition, forage production, breeding stock replacement strategies and livestock marketing.
- Through **16,700 educational events**, planning meetings and workshops in 2021, AgriLife Extension achieved more than **2.1 million** educational and other contacts.
- AgriLife Extension often collaborates with industry groups and other government entities to deliver educational programs.

## Economic Impacts

Selected programs are highlighted below, where impacts were measured by the increase in net returns associated with adoption of certain management practices taught in 2021.

- Livestock and dairy production programs resulted in an estimated economic gain of **\$84.5 million**, and crop and livestock-related financial risk management programs resulted in estimated gains of **\$26.9 million**.
- Outreach related to crops, floriculture and nursery production led to an estimated increase in annual net returns of **\$54.9 million** and assisted cotton growers with variety selection valued at **\$26.2 million**.
- The **boll weevil eradication** program had estimated benefits of **\$350 million**, with cumulative benefits of **\$5.1 billion** since 1996.
- These crop and livestock-related impacts supported an additional **4,018 jobs** in agribusiness and retail sectors.
- **33,816 Texas farm units** were analyzed using the web-based decision aid for the 2018 Farm Bill, developed by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC), with an estimated impact of improved decision-making valued at **\$79.7 million** in 2021.
- Provided required job training and continuing education related to pesticide safety, cotton ginning and beef cattle handling for 62,635 business owners and employees, with an annual wage base of **\$1 billion**.



## Contact

Office of the Director  
Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension Service  
(979) 314-8200  
extension@ag.tamu.edu



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE | PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

2022

AGRILIFEEXTENSION.TAMU.EDU/IMPACTS