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 vision of societal well-being.

- Volunteer labor and philanthropic nonprofit organizations are generally dedicated to filling gaps in service provisions that markets do not reach.

Volunteerism in Extension Programs

- Mobilizing and organizing a strong volunteer base is essential to the mission of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, which has the largest volunteer program of any agency in Texas.

- Volunteers are the resources that help expand AgriLife Extension outreach and programming into many Texas communities and neighborhoods.

- Extension volunteers not only improve their own skills in various disciplines but also help others gain knowledge and skills that will benefit them for life.

- Areas where AgriLife Extension volunteers serve include youth boards, master programs (such as Texas Master Gardener), 4-H Youth Development, leadership advisory boards, and program area committees and task forces.

INVEST in Extension Volunteers

- Volunteers are one of AgriLife Extension's most valuable assets, allowing us to reach more people, ensuring that our programs are relevant, and interpreting the value of AgriLife Extension to others.

Value of Volunteer Time Contributed

- In 2021, AgriLife Extension engaged more than 86,300 volunteers across all programming areas.

- These volunteers worked an average of 50 hours annually, for a total of 4.3 million hours volunteered—2,065 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

- An hourly rate of $28.54 was used to value the time contributed by volunteers.

- Using the hourly rate and the number of hours contributed by AgriLife Extension volunteers, the value of volunteers was an estimated $122.6 million in 2021.

- AgriLife Extension continues to engage volunteers throughout the state to deliver programs that address important issues.

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE l PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

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