

**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 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 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.

- 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 2015, AgriLife Extension engaged more than 99,000 volunteers across all programming areas.
- These volunteers worked an average of 36 hours annually, for a total of 3.6 million hours volunteered—1,902 full-time equivalents (FTEs).
- An hourly rate of \$23.56 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 \$84 million in 2015.
- AgriLife Extension continues to engage volunteers throughout the state to deliver programs that address important issues.