

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMO TO: County Judges and Commissioners
FROM: Jeff Ripley 
Associate Director – County Operations
SUBJECT: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Update

I wanted to provide you with some brief updates related to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in response to the COVID-19 situation we are all facing. First and foremost, you should know that our County Extension Agents and Specialists are willing and ready to serve the needs of clientele across the state. Please note the following:

- **Programming:** In an effort to slow the spread of the virus, we are cancelling all face to face educational efforts sponsored by Extension March 16-20. We plan to re-evaluate the status later this week for those events later in March and into April. Please know that our Agents are still available to provide resources and information to you and to the communities you serve. In the meantime, Agents will be working with Specialists to develop and deliver many of our programs through online platforms to make sure our clientele have the information they need.
- **Staffing:** As far as staffing and presence in County Extension Offices, our agents are to follow the guidance of the Commissioners Court. If offices are open, our Agents are expected to continue regular staffing. If the county determines a need to deviate from a traditional office operation plan, our Agents will comply with the expectations of the county. We are partners in the Extension program in your county, and want to be certain that we are complying with local decisions when it comes to office operation and staffing during these unusual times.
- **Agency Web Resource:** Finally, I want to share with you our Disaster Education website, which contains a wide variety of information that you and your constituents should find useful in answering the myriad of questions that come your way. The site is located at <http://texashelp.tamu.edu> updated accordingly.

Thanks to each of you for the leadership you are providing in your counties, and for the partnership we have enjoyed for over 100 years. If there is anything that I can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to the District Extension Administrator who oversees the Agents in your county. We are hopeful normal operations will be restored soon.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
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