



The Restructuring of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, 2004

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is making the most fundamental change our organization has ever experienced—from single-county agents to teams of educators serving multi-county regions.

Under the new structure, Extension will focus on 14 Priority Program Areas: agronomic crops; animal science and forages; aquaculture and recreational pond management; poultry; family and child development; community resource development; consumer science and personal financial management; farm management and agricultural enterprise analysis; food safety, preparation and preservation; forestry, wildlife and natural resource management; commercial horticulture; home grounds, gardens and home pests; human nutrition, diet and health; and 4-H and youth development.

What Restructuring Will Do

- Join campus and field staff in teams that will work together to plan, implement and evaluate the programs that are offered statewide in each of the 14 program areas.
- Enhance collaboration among Alabama A&M University and Auburn University employees and between the urban and rural initiatives.
- Redistribute staff so that program priorities are adequately covered across the state.
- Better serve the needs of commercial agriculture through the Regional Research and Extension Centers.

- Create greater opportunities for external funding.
- Make new and emerging technologies an even greater part of our program delivery in order to maximize our limited staffing resources.
- Offer training for our employees that develops a deeper level of expertise in their assigned areas.
- Create stronger links between university researchers and Extension educators.
- Create more opportunities for multi-state training and programming.
- Reward counties that provide higher levels of funding and still ensure that all Alabama residents have an appropriate base level of service. The new structure will allow for even more locally funded Extension positions and will ensure that all county funds are spent in direct support of Extension staff and programs within the county providing the funds.

County Offices Will Remain

Extension will continue to maintain an office in every county that provides office space. A County Extension Coordinator (CEC) will be assigned to every county that provides salary support. County Extension agent and agent assistant positions funded 100 percent by a county will work exclusively in that county. All others will work on regional assignments. These regional positions will continue to use county offices as their bases of operation.

The mission of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System will remain the same: to deliver research-based educational programs that enable people to improve their quality of life and economic well-being.