

Kansas Cooperative Extension Service Facts

- 1868 The Union Agricultural Society met on campus November 14, 1868, and held the first Farmers Institute program.
- 1868 The first off-campus Institute was held in Wabaunsee.
- 1870s The Farmers Institutes were widely publicized in the *Kansas Farmer*.
- 1880-1890s Farmers Institutes were held regularly throughout the state.
- 1903 The Kansas Legislature passed an act providing for annual county appropriations to support the Farmers Institutes.
- 1905 The first Farmers Institute train, the Rock Island railway system, traveled 1,030 miles throughout the state. It made 30-minute stops at 135 stations.
- 1907 Youth clubs were recognized. Four hundred men and boys were enrolled for the Institute.
- 1908 Recognition was first given to home economics at the Institute.
- 1909 The first Extension specialists were employed.
- 1912 The Division of College Extension was established by the Board of Regents.
- 1912-1914 The organization of county Farm Bureaus was under the direction of Edward Johnson, Superintendent of the Farmers Institute. Ten county farm bureaus were organized prior to the Kansas Farm Bureau Law.
- 1912 Leavenworth County employed the first county agent in the state.
- 1914 Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act which began the second important era of Cooperative Extension work in Kansas.
- 1914 The Farm Bureau Constitution and By-laws were adopted to establish the organization's duties and responsibilities in conducting county agent work.

- 1914 The Division of College Extension departments at Kansas State Agricultural College were Rural Engineering, Home Economics, Home Study Service, Rural Service, and Institutes and Demonstrations.
- 1915 The County Farm Bureau Law was passed by the Kansas Legislature. It authorized county appropriations to help support Extension work in the counties.
- 1915 Employment of county extension agents was by cooperative agreement between the College and the respective county from the time the first agent was employed. A portion of the salary was paid directly to the agent from college funds.
- 1915-1917 The Director of Extension assigned personnel to organize county Farm Bureaus throughout the state.
- 1919 In 1919, the Kansas Legislature amended the 1915 Kansas Farm Bureau Law in several respects:
 - . The minimum appropriation required from the county commissioners was raised from \$800 to \$1,200 per year.
 - . A county appropriation was made mandatory on the part of the county commissioners.
 - . The commissioners were permitted to make a tax buy against all the tangible property in the county to raise funds for the Farm Bureau.
 - . A budget system governing the expenditure of funds was provided.
- 1920 The name of the Department of Institutes and Demonstrations was changed to "County Agent Work."
- 1920s County extension programs and county fair organizations replaced the Farmers Institutes.
- 1929 The Cloud County commissioners refused to appropriate the minimum required by law. The Cloud County Farm Bureau officers brought a case to the Kansas Supreme Court which held that the appropriation was mandatory.
- 1933 The Extension Service was assigned the responsibility of administering the National Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) program in each county.
- 1935 The Farm Security Administration (Farmers Home Administration) provided financial assistance to many families who had developed plans for an improved farm and home plan under the direction of the county agent.

- ▶1935 The Extension Service was assigned the duty of organizing a Soil Conservation Service in each county.

- 1936 Extension specialists and county agents organized Rural Electrification Cooperatives through the State of Kansas.

- 1950 Trego was the last county organized under the Farm Bureau Law.

- 1951 The County Farm Bureau Law was changed. County Extension Councils became the county organization which sponsored the county extension programs.

- 1951 The County Agricultural Extension Council Law provided for increased county tax levies for Extension.
 - . Counties with \$30 million or less valuation were authorized to levy up to one mill but not to exceed \$15,000. Counties with valuation above \$30 million could levy one-half mill without limitation.

- 1951 Gove was the last county organized to conduct county extension work under the County Agricultural Extension Council Law.

- 1961-1970 Specialists were assigned to off-campus locations:
 - . 1961 - Colby and Iola
 - . 1963 - Hutchinson
 - . 1964 - Belleville and Hays
 - . 1965 - Hiawatha, Concordia and Parsons
 - . 1970 - Chanute

- 1963 The Kansas Legislature revised the levy limitation of the County Extension Council law. Counties with \$30 million or less valuation could levy 1 ½ mills or not more than \$22,500. Counties with over \$30 million valuation could levy ¾ mill.

- 1969-1972 The Area Offices were established:
 - . 1969 - Southwest Area Extension Office, Garden City
 - . 1971 - Northwest Area Extension Office, Colby
 - . 1972 - South Central Area Extension Office, Hutchinson
 - . 1972 - Northeast Area Extension Office, Manhattan
 - . 1972 - Southeast Area Extension Office, Chanute

- 1972 The County Agricultural Extension Council Law was amended to change the name to County Extension Council Law. Other amendments were to broaden the purpose, change election procedures, terms of office and representation on the Executive Board.

- 1986 The Northwest Research-Extension Center was established.

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- 1987 The County Extension Council Law was amended to change program areas, the number of members on each local council, and the budget approval process.
- 1991 The Kansas Legislature passed the Extension District Law that permits two or more counties to combine and conduct the Extension program as one unit.
- 1994 First Kansas District, Post Rock Extension District No. 1, was formed, consisting of Lincoln and Mitchell counties.
- 1999 The Legislature suspended all existing statutory fund mill levy rate and aggregate levy rate limitations on Extension Councils and Extension Districts