Education Where You Live

County Offices — Agents in all 67 county offices offer educational programs adapted to the needs and interests of local residents. Regional agents work in teams across county lines to provide specialized knowledge in a wide range of subjects.

Online Services — Our web site at www.aces.edu offers Extension articles, publications, and blogs written by specialists and researchers, with links to additional information.

Videoconference sites — Extension has 54 video-conference sites around the state enabling clients to participate in educational and certification programs close to home.

How Do You Tap In?
To learn how Extension can help you, to volunteer, or just to ask a question, please call us! The number is in your telephone book under your county's listing for Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Or check us on the web at www.aces.edu.

Our Story

1862 Congress creates the land-grant university system to make higher education more accessible to the average citizen through research in agriculture and the mechanical arts. Alabama's first land-grant college is established at what later becomes Auburn University.

1881 Booker T. Washington moves to Tuskegee and sets the stage for off-campus education. Information he gathers will soon become the core of the "school on wheels" offered through what is now Tuskegee University.

1882 Congress creates Agricultural Experiment Stations at land-grant colleges to conduct research to improve farming methods.

1890 Congress grants land to institutions educating black citizens.

1906 The first four county demonstration agents begin working in Alabama, taking information to farmers to make their operations more efficient and profitable. Tom Monroe Campbell of Tuskegee Institute is appointed the nation's first black Extension agent.

1914 The Smith-Lever Act enables states to establish statewide Cooperative Extension programs through their land-grant colleges to coordinate the education being delivered to the people by the demonstration agents.

1915 Cooperative Extension begins assisting minority farmers in nine Alabama counties, growing to serve 28 counties by 1920.

1971 A new Extension program is established at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville to serve 12 north Alabama counties.

1995 The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is created and Alabama becomes the first state to combine the Extension programs from its "1862" and "1890" land-grant universities, Auburn and Alabama A&M, into a unified statewide system, with Tuskegee University as partner.

How Extension Works for You

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What Is Extension?

Extension is university-based knowledge delivered straight to the people where they live and work. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is the organization of educators who take cutting-edge research from our land-grant universities, Alabama A&M and Auburn, and turn it into practical uses that improve the lives of people all across our state.

Education for Living

Extension programming provides educational opportunities to help people, individually and collectively, make sound decisions about their lives, businesses, and communities and develop economically, socially, and culturally.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers specialists and programming in the following areas:

- Agriculture
- Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources
- Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Economic and Community Development
- 4-H and Youth Development
- Technology Usage
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry
- Animal Stewardship
- Environmental Stewardship
- Civic Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Workforce Development
- Safe & Secure Food Supply
- Health and Wellness
- Home Gardening
- Viable Small Farm Businesses
- Recreation Enterprises
- Financial Literacy
- Energy Conservation
- And so much more...