



2026

The Urban Difference

*Impacts from Alabama Extension
at Alabama A&M University*



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System From the Hill to the Community



From the President

Dr. Daniel K. Wims, *President, Alabama A&M University (AAMU)*

I am pleased to recognize the outstanding work of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama Extension), which continues to serve as the primary outreach arm of Alabama A&M University (AAMU). Through its unwavering commitment to service, Alabama Extension extends the University's land-grant mission to individuals, families, and communities across our state—from Huntsville to Alabama's Gulf Coast.

Last year, Alabama Extension delivered impactful programming in 63 of Alabama's 67 counties, responding where needs were greatest and where communities requested assistance. This remarkable reach reflects not only their dedication but also the relevance, quality, and trustworthiness of the programs they provide. In return, I extend my sincere appreciation to the staff and partners of Alabama Extension for their steadfast commitment to improving lives across Alabama. Their statewide efforts exemplify Alabama A&M University's enduring commitment to service, education, and excellence.



From the 1890 Administrator

Dr. Majed Dweik, *Vice President for Research & Economic Development, Interim 1890s Extension Administrator, AAMU*

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama Extension) remains the cornerstone of Alabama A&M University's land-grant mission, serving as the vital bridge between the University and the people and communities of Alabama.

Despite a leaner workforce, we successfully delivered educational programs in 63 of Alabama's 67 counties. This broad reach reflects the dedication, innovation, and resilience of our Extension staff, as well as the trust that state residents place in our programs. For these reasons and more, I am deeply appreciative of the exceptional work that is performed daily. Alongside our partners, Alabama Extension continues to strengthen agricultural systems, advance economic opportunities, improve health and well-being, promote environmental stewardship, and enhance the quality of life for people throughout Alabama.



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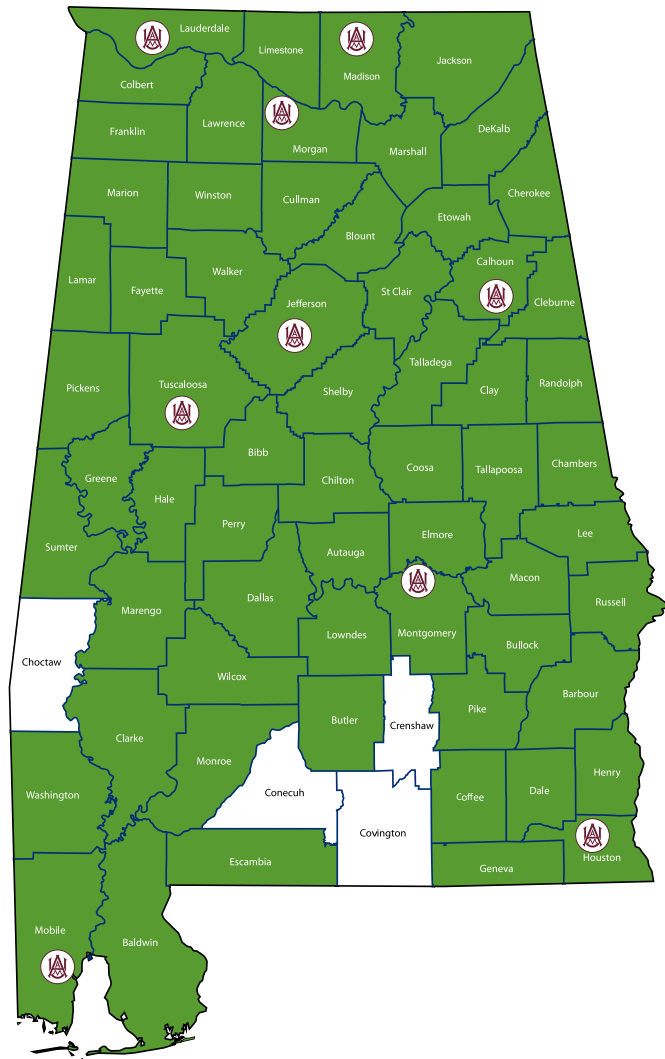
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2025 | At-a-Glance

Operating out of nine urban centers across Alabama, Alabama Extension at AAMU works within a network of experts, educators, and volunteers to impact all 67 Alabama counties. This report includes our latest impacts from reporting year 2025. Alabama Extension reports on the previous year's efforts and implements programming in the current year while planning for the following year.

Today, Alabama Extension at AAMU offers programming activities in 4-H youth development; animal science and forages (goat and sheep management); forestry, wildlife, and natural resource conservation; human health, diet, and nutrition; integrated pest management; family and child development, including older adults; workforce development and personal money management; community resource development, such as entrepreneurship; and home and community lawn and garden care.



Impact Numbers JAN – DEC 2025

- Direct & indirect programming contacts: **264,528**
- Programming Activities: **1,554**
- Urban Extension website views: **153,244**
- Facebook User Reach: **114,060**
- Extension Website Views: **4.5 million**
- Digital Media Contacts: **396 million**

External Funding Comparison

- FY 2023/24: \$10.9 million
- FY 2024/25: \$8.3 million
- FY 2025/26: \$9.8 million

Map Legend

Alabama Extension Urban Centers

- Calhoun County - Anniston
- Houston County - Dothan
- Jefferson County - Birmingham
- Lauderdale County - Florence
- Madison County - Huntsville
- Mobile County - Mobile
- Morgan County - Decatur
- Montgomery County - Montgomery
- Tuscaloosa County - Tuscaloosa

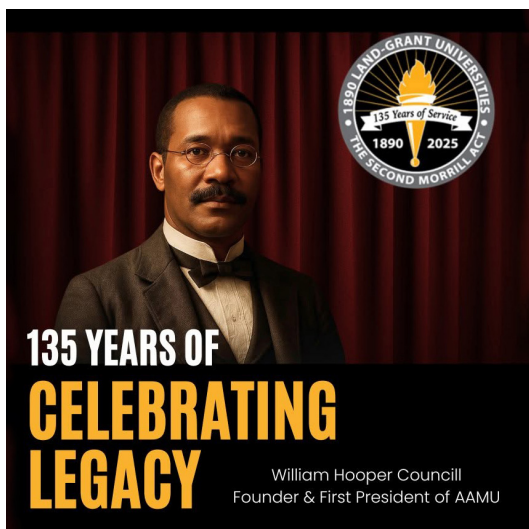
Urban Extension In Person Service Areas

2025 in Review

150th & 135th Anniversary Celebrations

In 2025, Alabama A&M University celebrated its 150th Anniversary—Rich Heritage, Bold Future. AAMU concluded the sesquicentennial year-long celebration with a formal closing ceremony on The Hill, highlighted by the lighting of the William Hooper Councilll Eternal Flame Memorial and the public unveiling of commissioned art by acclaimed artist Charles Bibbs. Dr. William Hooper Councilll, a former slave, founded AAMU in 1875 and served as its first president.

In addition, the 135th anniversary of the Second Morrill Act of 1890 celebrated the legislation that established 19 historically Black land-grant universities, known as the “19-Strong”. Commemorative events occurred on September 9-10, with an HBCU-led Cyber & AI Agriculture competition at the University of the District of Columbia, Capitol Hill briefings, and a rooftop reception at the National 4-H Council Headquarters in Washington, D.C. AAMU’s PlayCyber AI student team 25 Hackstreet won the competition!



The People's Patch Madison County Community Farm

In 2024, AAMU and the Madison County Commission agreed to establish a farm to address food insecurity while strengthening research and local food systems in Madison County. Madison County residents are free to pick fresh produce as it becomes available.

This year, 300 fruit trees were planted as part of an Alabama Extension at AAMU initiative, the Urban. Rooted. Resilient. Urban and Community Forestry Expansion project, award #25-DG-11083150-541, from the USDA Forest Service. Tree varieties included apple, plum, jujube, peach, blackberry, raspberry, and elderberry. In addition, the farm grew an estimated 342,259 pounds of produce, from sweet corn to watermelon. Note: Based on square footage planted and yield estimate charts



2025 Spring Community Garden Expo

Approximately 116 people attended the 2025 Spring Community Garden Expo, which educated participants on how to establish a community garden. It also featured tree giveaways, vendor exhibits and ended with a tour of The People's Patch Madison County Community Farm.



Alabama Extension Week, October 5-11, 2025

Alabama Extension Week was held on October 5-11. The week was kicked off by the signing of a proclamation by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, followed by week-long Extension activities across the state.



North Alabama Ag Expo

The Second North Alabama Ag Expo was held on Saturday, November 1, at AAMU's Agribition Center. Approximately 800 people attended the event that featured some of the best that North Alabama has to offer.

Platinum Sponsors: Alabama Farmers Federation, Country Financial, Huntsville Tractor & Equipment, and Madison County Commissioner, District 6. **Silver Sponsors:** Bartley Bridge, Woody Anderson Ford. **Bronze Sponsors:** Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, Deputy Commissioner Rick Pate, Allstate Insurance-The Hodge Group, LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, and Rebelution Healthcare



SAI Conference

The theme of the 2025 Successful Aging Initiative Conference was *Bloom! Don't Wither – Aging Means Living*, that celebrated the vitality, beauty and growth that come with aging. Approximately 453 participants attended the conference with 91 percent of surveyed attendees indicating they would use the knowledge they gained from the event to address everyday issues and concerns. In 2026, Alabama Extension and the Virginia Caples Lifelong Learning Institute will observe the event's 25th anniversary in Madison County.



Alabama Goat & Sheep Summit

The 2025 Alabama Goat and Sheep Summit was held on November 15, 2025, at Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and The People's Patch Madison County Farm in Huntsville, Alabama. The free, day-long event featured hands-on demonstrations, expert-led lectures, and youth STEM activities focused on sustainable small ruminant production. The Summit also featured speakers from Auburn University, Langston University, South Carolina State, and the University of Tennessee.



Mobile STEM Lab

In 2025, the Mobile STEM Lab reached more than 3,655 youth in 21 Alabama counties. Students engaged in a variety of hands-on, inquiry-based STEM experiences designed to increase engagement, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. These activities are also designed to foster greater interest in STEM education and future employment opportunities.



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