

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners cooperating.

## Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Travis County

*Supporting Local  
Foods, Improving  
Nutrition*

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*Travis County Social Services  
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# What is Extension Service?

- Network of county offices extending knowledge from land grant university systems
  - Federal, state, and county partnership, leveraged by volunteer corps
  - Science-driven education
  - Community outreach, personal attention
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- 2012 Educational Outreach in Travis County
    - 6,619 Educational Programs
    - 200,784 Individual Contacts
    - Nearly 59,000 hours given by 1,720 volunteers
    - Valued at \$1,283,409

# Extension & the Food System

- Horticulture
- Agriculture
- 4H & Capital 4H
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Entomology

**All contacts provided in the “Making a Difference” Brochure.**



# Extension & the Food System

## ● Horticulture





A Resource For:

# Home Food Producers

- Travis County Master Gardeners
- Gardening Hotline & Help Desk
- Free or Low-Cost Horticultural Seminars
- Free Speakers for Community Groups
  - **Specialist Areas:** Vegetable Gardening, Propagation, Citrus Greening Disease, Rainwater Harvesting, EarthKind & Firewise Landscaping, Composting, Greenhouse Management, Entomology, Irrigation Efficiency, Junior Master Gardener
- Diagnostic Soil, Water, and Forage Testing



A Resource For:

## Farmers, Ranchers & Green Industry Professionals

- Research-backed advice on backyard homesteading to large acreage mgmt.
- Educational Series:
  - STRONG STARTS: Urban Farming 101
  - Green Thumb
- Training for Private Applicator License
- Direct Access:
  - Workshop on the USDA's New Microloan Program





## Low-Income Youth

- Extension's Capital 4H runs afterschool gardening programs at seventeen Title I schools.
- Master Gardener Youth Team
  - First Year: Mentor Extension gardens and develop community resources
  - Second Year: Role-based partnership with SFC
    - Formalized advisory role, youth events, JMG
- Curricula:
  - Junior Master Gardener
  - Grow! Eat! Go!



# Community Partnerships & Innovation



- Ground to Ground
  - [www.AustinGroundtoGround.org](http://www.AustinGroundtoGround.org)
  - Diverting nutrient-rich grounds to our yards, farms, and gardens.
  - 20 businesses, 1,200 gallons/mo
- Events
  - East Austin Garden Fair
  - Inside Austin Garden Tour – Edibles in the Landscape
- Educational Outreach
  - KLRU, ACC, Zilker Botanical Gardens

# Improving Nutrition

- Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
  - Adult Nutrition Education Series for economically disadvantaged (1,245)
  - Kids in the Kitchen and Exploring MyPlate with Professor Popcorn (7,211)
- Better Living for Texans (BLT) – SNAP Ed (10,887)
- Master Wellness Volunteers
- *Dinner Tonight*
- Food Safety & Food Preservations programs



# Questions?



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
**EXTENSION**

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