The Legacy of the Land Grant

Treaty of Paris – 1783
U.S. was an agricultural country
85% of employed people worked in agriculture in 1800
Need for better ag products and higher yields
Availability of land led to poor farming, deterioration of the soil
First efforts to improve agriculture

Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture was organized in 1785 by Benjamin Franklin

Berkshire Agriculture Society was organized in 1811 in Massachusetts; used fairs and shows to promote improvements

900 societies organized by 1861
Settlement of Frontier Land

- Some land given to soldiers, other land sold to land companies
- Land Act of 1800 – land sold directly to settlers
- Creation of USDA
- Pacific Railroad Act gave land to railroads – 1862
- Homestead Act of 1862 gave 160 acres of land to individuals who would improve the land, live on it for six months

A College for the Common People

- Most colleges focused on classical studies
- Wealthy, white men went to college
- Did not match needs of majority of the people, different type of college was needed
- Some private colleges began to offer agriculture, including Columbia and Harvard
- Michigan, Pennsylvania and Maryland were first states to establish colleges of agriculture
- Struggled for many years
Justin Morrill introduced land bill in 1857
Bill would donate federal land for states to sell to support agriculture and mechanics colleges
Vetoed by Buchanan for several reasons
South argues it was a states’ rights issue
60% of all jobs directly connected to ag
80% of U.S. population was rural
Today – less than 2% are farmers, >80% urban
Passage of Morrill Act of 1862

- Civil War broke out, South was absent when land bill was re-introduced
- New bill included study in military tactics
- Morrill Act passed and signed by Lincoln
- 30,000 acres for each member of Congress

Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College

- 1870 – Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 29 to establish Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College
- 1870 - Board of Trustees purchased Neil Farm as site of new college
- 1871 – approved plans for first classroom building
- Classes began on September 17, 1873
The Ohio State University

- 1878 – Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College was renamed The Ohio State University by Ohio General Assembly
- First president – Edward Francis Baxter Orton Sr.
- 1885 – Ohio State's first ag graduate
- 1892 – Thomas F. Hunt became first “dean” of agriculture at Ohio State

OSU Extension Milestones

- 1895 – Ohio State School of Agriculture students organize the Agricultural Students Union with the goal of getting the latest agricultural information from the college and experiment stations out to farmers.
- 1900 – first degree in home economics granted at Ohio State
Hatch Act of 1887

- Some experimental farms existed, but couldn’t meet demand for new information
- Numerous bills introduced 1882 to 1887
- 1882 – before Hatch Act was passed, Ohio General Assembly passed act to establish the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station
- Bill by William Henry Hatch passed in 1887
- Provided more money for land-grant colleges and funded experiment stations/research farms

Second Morrill Act of 1890

- A&M colleges needed more money
- Justin Morrill again led the campaign
- When second Morrill Act passed in 1890, it contained stipulations that fair and equitable accommodations be made for black students
- Rather than admit black students, schools in the South established separate institutions
Movable Schools

- Booker T. Washington founded Tuskegee Institute
- Hired George Washington Carver in 1896 to start Agriculture Department
- Carver had idea of “movable schools” in 1899, used mule-drawn wagons
- In Kentucky, faculty would go to any place that had an “adequate hall and would guarantee attendance of 50 people”
- Ohio budgeted funds for movable schools in 1916

Agricultural Trains

- Agricultural trains began in 1903 in Iowa
- College lecturers traveled by train, gave lectures at each stop
- In Ohio, trains traveled the state from 1906-1913, carrying agricultural exhibits, offering presentations on farm practices
- In 1911, 16 trains in Ohio made 418 stops and reached more than 45,000 people
“What a man hears,
he may doubt;
what he sees, he
may possibly doubt;
but what he does
himself, he cannot
doubt.”

Seaman Knapp

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Demonstration Method

- Seaman Knapp was president of Iowa State College
- Left Iowa in 1896 (age 69) to manage land venture in Louisiana; considered the *Father of Extension*
- Tried demonstrations supported by government funds
- Invited to Terrell, Texas to set up community-backed demonstrations on W.C. Porter farm
- In 1904, Knapp received USDA funds and set up demonstrations to address boll weevil crisis
OSU Extension Milestones

- 1905 – Albert B. Graham, a Clark County school teacher who had attracted national recognition by establishing boys’ and girls’ clubs (the forerunners of 4-H), is named superintendent of agricultural Extension at Ohio State, the first position of its kind in the United States.

First Extension Agents

In 1906, W.C. Stallings was hired by Seaman Knapp as first county Extension agent. Assigned to work in Smith County, Texas.

In Ohio – 1913, first agent was H.P. Miller in Portage County.

Last Ohio county to get an agent was Union County in 1929.
Country Life Commission

- Appointed by Teddy Roosevelt in 1909
- Report said “each state college of agriculture should organize, as soon as practical, a complete department of college Extension, so managed as to reach every person on the land in the state, with both information and inspiration.”
- Set stage for congressional funding

Sen. Michael Hoke Smith
Georgia

Rep. Asbury F. Lever
South Carolina
Smith-Lever Act of 1914

- Congress had considered several bills to support Extension since 1909
- Bill was sponsored by Francis Lever of South Carolina and Michael Hoke Smith of Georgia – passed in May 1914
- Gave money to states for Extension
- Memorandum of Understanding outlines state and federal responsibilities
- Requires states to match federal funding 1:1

An act signed… “to aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and to encourage the application of the same.”

-signed by President Woodrow Wilson
Other OSU Extension Milestones

- 1933 – OSU Extension helps carry out New Deal programs, overcome Great Depression
- 1941 – OSU Extension works with farmers and 4-H members to increase production as United States enters World War II
- 1962 – Ohio State holds first Farm Science Review to demonstrate farm power machinery, ag science and technology
- 1978 – Ohio Extension Sea Grant Extension program is established

Other OSU Extension Milestones

- 1986 – Master Gardener Volunteer program begins in Cuyahoga County
- 1992 – Family Nutrition Program, a partnership between Ohio Department of Human Services and OSU Extension, is created to teach money management, nutrition and food safety to food stamp recipients
- 2008 – dedication of Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center
Importance of Extension...

“...purposely designed to produce positive economic and social impacts for Ohio...” (Battelle, 2005)

Extension is needed more today than ever because:

...“it is a well-rounded program...that provides consistency...identity and responsiveness.”

...“it is among the most effective mechanisms for individual and social empowerment.”

...“it is not only about service and outreach; it is truly about engagement.”

... “of the size and complexity of societies’ problems.”

Waded Cruzado, president of Montana State University, at Seaman A. Knapp Lecture, November 2012

Importance of Extension...

Land-Grant Connections

Extension is:

- Education-driven
- A disseminator of research/technologies
- A convener of people and ideas
- A statewide network
Importance of Extension...

Land-Grant Connections

**Extension:**
- Addresses urban and rural issues
- Enhances and sustains environment, quality of place
- Emphasizes youth development, leadership
- Applies technology to ag production

Extension is... “a cooperative venture among federal, state, local and individual funding support – a system of adult and youth education that has become a model for the rest of the world.”
OSU Extension Program Areas

4-H Youth Development
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Community Development
Family and Consumer Sciences

Extension Vision and Mission

Our vision: Ohioans have the knowledge and resources they need to actively engage in creating conditions in which they thrive.

Our mission: We create opportunities for people to explore how science-based knowledge can improve social, economic and environmental conditions.