

## A Three-Way Partnership: Historical Highlights

### Michigan State University Extension

Year	Federal	State	County
1849		Michigan Agricultural Society formed; called for establishment of a state agricultural school	County Board of Supervisors re-established in 1842, with membership representing townships.
1850	Federal government, under the Swamplands Act, allocates land to each state; land can be sold to establish schools of agriculture		
1855		Public Act 130 establishes Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University)	
1862	<p>The Morrill Act is approved by Congress and signed by President Lincoln. Each member of Congress was allocated 30,000 acres to be sold to establish a college of agriculture.</p> <p>“Where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classic studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life.”</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Agriculture is established.</p>	Under the Morrill Act, Michigan received 240,000 acres to sell for financing Michigan Agricultural College.	
1887	The Hatch Act created the experiment stations for the land grant colleges; it required the states to provide matching funds.	Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station established (1888).	

1890	<p>The second Morrill Act was passed by Congress; appropriated funds “for more complete endowment and maintenance of agricultural colleges now established or which may hereafter be established...”</p> <p>This funding established sixteen land-grant colleges for primarily black students in the southern states.</p>		The last of Michigan’s 83 counties were established. (1891)
1894		Public Act 166 allocated \$5,000 for Farmers Institutes under the direction of the Michigan Agricultural College.	
1904		A proposal calling for federal legislation to expand Extension work in land-grant colleges was authored by the MAC president and a professor and introduced in Congress by a Michigan legislator.	
1906		MAC appoints first Extension specialist; following the demonstration model developed by Dr. Seaman Knapp in Texas.	
1908	<p>President Roosevelt establishes the “Country Life Commission” to make recommendations on rural problems; it proposed a national cooperative extension system that would develop rural capacities through widespread education.</p> <p>“Care must be taken in all the reconstructive work to see that local initiative is relied upon to the fullest extent and that federal and even state agencies do not preform what might be done by the people in the communities.”</p>		The Constitution of 1908 gave counties responsibility for health and welfare activities.
1912	Federal funds allocated for farm management, field studies and demonstrations (the beginning of the three-way partnership).	The legislature approved a measure authorizing county boards of supervisors to appropriate funds and levy taxes to further teaching and demonstrations in Extension.	Twelve county Extension agents were appointed.

1914	The Smith-Lever Act was approved by Congress, creating the Cooperative Extension Service. The act provided money for “the rapid expansion of the county agent system into every agricultural county in the nation.” It called for the cooperation between federal, state and local governments. A basic amount was allocated (\$10,000) to each state, and then grants were provided to states in proportion to their rural population, when matched by state funds.	Michigan Public Act 65 (1915) accepts the benefits of the Smith-Lever law.	The first “home demonstration” agents named (1915).  The first youth agents were named in 1917 but youth agricultural clubs had been started in 1908.
1919		A plan is developed to discontinue the funding from the Michigan Farm Bureau and to shift the funding to state and local sources.	The state legislature (P.A. 315) gave counties the ability to appropriate funds or to levy taxes to provide for Extension work in cooperation with Michigan Agricultural College.
1928	The Capper-Ketcham Act was passed to provide for the expansion of work in home economics and 4-H. Eighty percent of the funds were allocated for county staff.	Michigan Public Act 56 (1929) permits acceptance of federal grants for the expanded development of Extension work in the state.	
1935	The Bankhead-Jones Act extended the scope of research conducted under the Hatch and Smith-Lever Acts.  The Soil Conservation Service was developed after the passage of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act.		
1939	The Act of 1939 provided for further development of Cooperative Extension work.		
1945	Bankhead-Flannagan Act expanded the appropriations for Extension work, particularly for county programs.	In response to requests from the tourist industry, Extension specialists appointed to work in tourism; earmarked funds provided.	

1946	Agricultural Marketing Act provided for further research “to improve and facilitate the marketing and distribution of agricultural products.”		
1953	The Smith-Lever Act (Public Law 83) is amended, consolidating nine acts relating to Extension. The law established a permanent funding formula for allocation of monies to the states		The W.K. Kellogg Foundation grants money for an experimental “Township Agent” program. State funds were appropriated in 1956 to promote agricultural interests in townships and to encourage cooperation between MSU and townships for the conduct of educational programs (PA 197 of 1956).
1955	Section 8 added to the Smith-Lever Act to provide for Extension rural development work.	Michigan State College becomes Michigan State University.	
1966	Congress established the National Sea Grant College and Program Act, under the Department of Commerce, to “provide for applied research, formal education and extension services for development of marine and Great Lakes resources. (Integrated with Cooperative Extension in Michigan through MSU and U of M).		The Michigan Legislature establishes County Boards of Commissioners, to be elected by the citizenry in each county, proportional to the population. This plan (implemented in 1967) eliminated the County Board of Supervisors. It was adopted in response to the federal Supreme Court rulings regarding “one person, one vote.”
1969	Congress establishes the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program to provide nutrition education to low-income families.		
1978	The Renewable Resources Extension Act provided for educational programs dealing with issues such as fish and wildlife management, range management, timber management, and watershed management.		

1992		<p>The Michigan Legislature appropriates \$70 million to Michigan State University to improve or expand the teaching and research facilities related to animal agriculture. In 1994, \$4.2 million was approved to provide programmatic support to expand the teaching, research and Extension capabilities related to animal agriculture.</p> <p>MSU Cooperative Extension becomes Michigan State University Extension in order to more clearly convey the concept of being the direct link from the university to every county in the state.</p>	
1994	<p>The National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Act established educational programs on Native American reservations and tribal jurisdictions.</p> <p>The Department of Agricultural Reorganization Act established the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service to coordinate USDA and state agricultural research, extension and education programs.</p>		
1997		<p>The Michigan Legislature provides \$5 million to enhance the plant industry. Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs) was an industry sponsored initiative.</p>	

This chart was compiled by Elizabeth Moore, Extension Specialist, Michigan State University, February, 1999.

Primary resources:

- Olstrom, Einer, and Miller, Howard, *Plus Two Score: The Cooperative Extension Service in Michigan, 1940-1980*, Michigan State University, 1984.
- SeEVERS, Brenda, and Graham, Donna, and Gamon, Julia and Conklin, Nicki, *Education Through Cooperative Extension*, Delmar Publishing, 1997.