

Extension Expands Educational Resources

The most copied education technique is the Cooperative Extension Service in agriculture, home economics, 4-H youth and community development.

It has been studied by Americans from all walks of life as well as by foreign leaders from practically every country with an eye towards adapting Extension techniques, or portions of it, to their own needs.

The Extension Service came into being in 1914 with the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act by the U. S. Congress.

Congressman Lever said in part at that time, we have accumulated . . . sufficient . . . information which, if

made available . . . to the (people) of this country and used by them, would work a complete and absolute revolution in the social, economic and financial conditions of our population.

The congressman added that the Congress had spent 50 years looking for an efficient agency to spread the information throughout the country and putting it into the hands of the people for whom it was collected.

Referring to the Smith-Lever bill which created Extension, the Congressman said this bill proposes to set up a system of general demonstrations teaching throughout the country and the agent in the field to be the mouthpiece through which the infor-

mation will reach the people.

The agricultural part of Extension has been a world-wide recognized success story.

The home economics program started out to show homemakers successful ways in which to preserve foods, adequately clothe the family and organize and manage the home for family living. Our home economists have now progressed beyond the one-time exclusive rural audience and in addition now serves the inhabitants of Indian Reservations, Inner City residents, disadvantaged neighborhoods, retirement villages and those who are aging. The subjects besides nutrition, clothing and home management have reached out to encompass most areas of interest to the people with whom they work.

And, while 4-H once appealed to primarily rural youth with their chicken, rabbit, calf; vegetables, grain or cotton projects it now includes projects and interest activities for today's youth in practically any urban, suburban or rural setting.

While Extension has always contributed to community development programs, a new emphasis with vibrant vitality has been launched in Arizona to actively engage in community development programs. Many community successes have already been realized where Extension has served to provide the education resources for community planners and leaders. Extension's role is to be helpful to the people in a community so that they, the citizens of the community, can arrive at their own conclusion as to the program they wish to initiate and launch.

And, that's not all . . . you'll find Extension actively working with our Indians on every Reservation in the state.

You'll find that Extension is dedicated to serve all who live in Arizona regardless of their race, color, creed or national origin.

Find out for yourself! If you haven't already done so get acquainted with Extension people in your County. There are some who live and work with you.

Harold E. Myers

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