#### USDA Cooperative Extension Service: Facilitating Engagement and Public Participation

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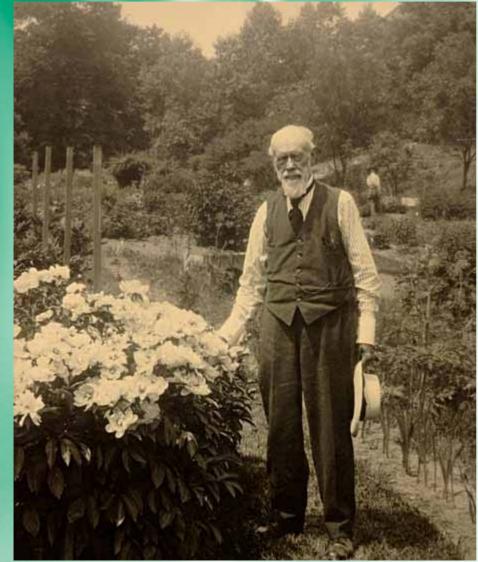
## What is Extension?

- Established by the Smith-Lever Act (1914)
- Designed as partnership of the USDA and the 1862 Land-Grant Universities

#### • Original Mission:

"...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 same..."





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MSU botany professor William J. Beal in 1873.

One of Beal's experiments on seed germination continues to this day.





Edith F. McDermott – the first head of the Department of Home Economics at MSU. McDermott is seen teaching a cooking class in an Abbot Hall laboratory.

Photo circa 1890's.





Men and women from all over Michigan came to MSC to participate in short courses, a form of adult education.

Short courses began in 1894 and set a new pattern in college services.



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4-H Action Club, seen here in 1966, was one of WKAR-TV's early children's programs. The children learned about a variety of topics from how to handle emergencies to gardening projects.



#### **Today's Extension Service**

Children, Youth and Family

Community and Economic Development Agriculture and Natural Resources



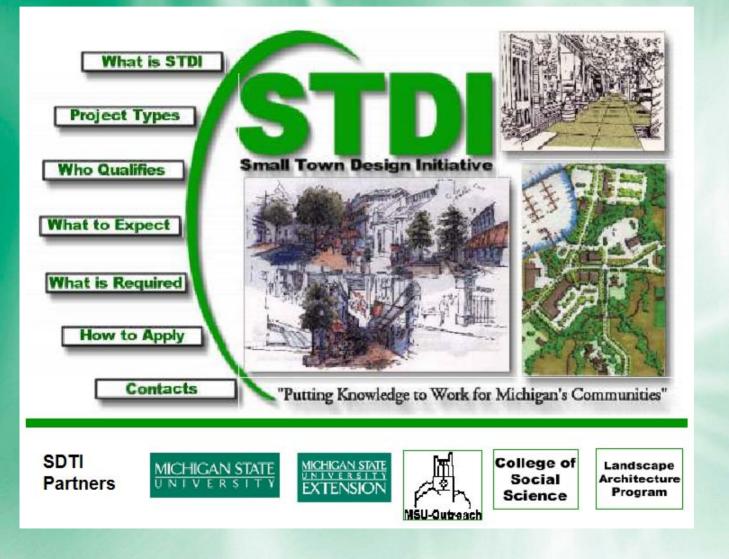
## **Today's Extension Service**

- Deep roots remain in agriculture
- Continued and emerging roles in

   Children, Youth and Family Programs
   Community and Economic Development



# **Community Design Initiative**





## Strengths

• Rich history, experience

- Pervasive
  - All states and territories
  - Physical offices and staff in most counties



## Strengths

• Embedded in and engaged with communities

- Diversity of staff and clientele

   Rural and urban
   All income and education levels
  - All income and education levels



#### Strengths

#### International engagement







#### Acknowledgments

 Photos obtained from MSU University Archives and Historical Collections.

