USDA Cooperative Extension Service: Facilitating Engagement and Public Participation

Leslie D. Bourquin¹ and John V. Stone² Michigan State University

¹Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, National Food Safety and Toxicology Center, and Food Safety Policy Center

²Department of Sociology and Institute of Food and Agricultural Standards



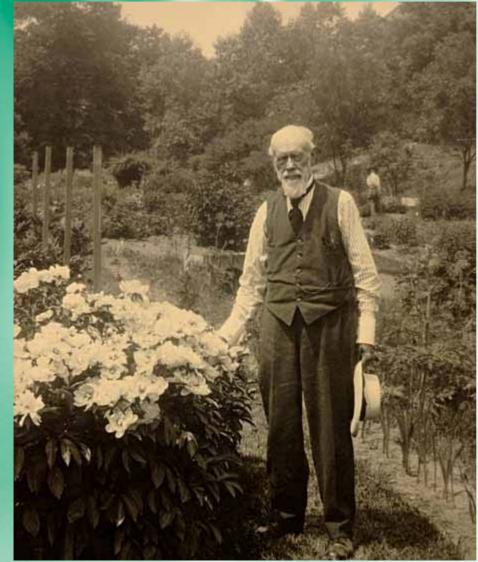
What is Extension?

- 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



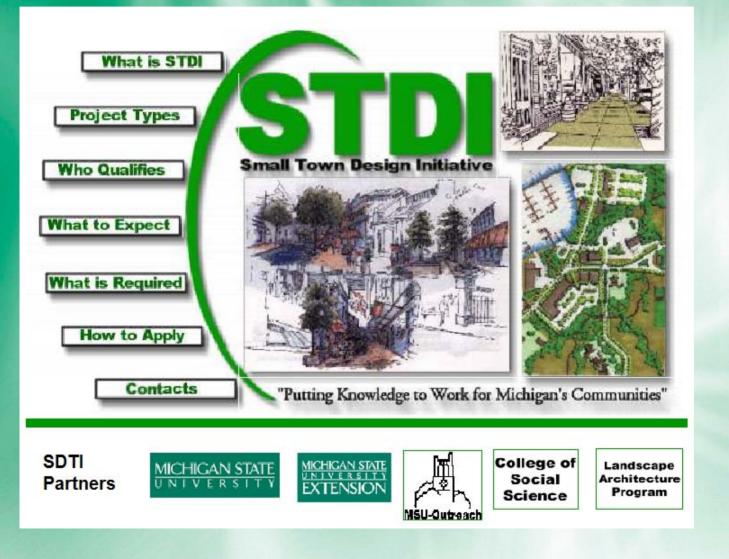
Today's Extension Service

- 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.

