

# NC STATE EXTENSION HISTORICAL MILESTONES:

Extending Knowledge, Enriching Lives for Over a Century



Dive deeper into Extension's history!



**1862**

Abraham Lincoln signs the Morrill Act, allocating funds from the sale of public lands to establish "land-grant" colleges for teaching agriculture and mechanical arts in every state.



**2022**

NC State is selected as the forever home for the presidential-pardoned National Thanksgiving Turkeys, Chocolate and Chip, for the first time. Extension specialists oversee their care at the university's turkey education unit.



**1889**

The North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, now NC State University, opens its doors as the state's land-grant institution.



**2019**



Extension's annual economic impact to North Carolina is valued at \$2.1 billion.

**1907**



James A. Butler is hired as the state's first county agent, serving in Iredell. He hosts North Carolina's first farm demonstration two days later.

**NC STATE**

**EXTENSION**

**1993**

NC State launches the first university Extension website in the nation. Today, more than 11 million people visit our sites each year.



**1911**

Home demonstration agents start the first Girls' Canning Clubs, which expand and evolve into today's Family and Consumer Sciences programs.



**1960s**

Extension's 4-H program expands to include urban youth for the first time, reflecting both the state's declining rural population and Extension's expanding focus beyond the farm.



**1914**

The Smith-Lever Act formally establishes a national Cooperative Extension System associated with each land-grant institution. Extension in North Carolina – first known as the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service – is born on May 8.

**1936**

For the first time, Extension farm demonstration agents are serving all 100 counties.



**1952**

Mary Margret Smith becomes the first agent to serve the Qualla Boundary, as Extension formally partners with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.