

A&M System Vast Research, Extension Organization

The freshman entering A&M this fall is enrolling in one of the nine major parts of one of the greatest educational, research and extension organizations in the South.

The A&M College System, established in 1948, is a state-wide organization, charged with the responsibility for educational, research and extension services in the broad fields of agriculture and engineering and in such other areas as the Legislature of the

State of Texas may assign it from time to time.

The System's four colleges are A&M College of Texas, oldest publicly supported institution of higher learning in the state; Prairie View A&M College, at Prairie View; Arlington State College, at Arlington; and Tarleton State College, at Stephenville.

The five service organizations are the Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Agricultural Extension

Service, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, Texas Engineering Extension Service and the Texas Forest Service.

6,400 Employees

In terms of size—the System has over 6,400 full-time employees; its work is conducted in every one of the state's 254 counties; its staff works on problems ranging from control of insects in the Piney Woods to control of evaporation on open reservoirs to development of

better row crops for Texas farmers.

During the long term of the 1961-62 school year, the four colleges of the System provided educational programs for more than 14,000 Texas men and women.

The service organizations, and the colleges, provided adult education training programs for some 35,000 adult Texans, with courses ranging from those for Civil Defense crews concerned with radia-

tion fall-out to plumber apprentices, firemen, vocational teachers, bankers, egg-graders and ranchers.

During the same year, System personnel inspected livestock feeds, conducted rodent and predatory animal control programs, made some 40,000,000 pine seedlings available for plantings on East Texas timber lands, pioneered construction of prefabricated highway bridges, developed information on how food reacts when sterilized by atomic waste products, made significant contributions to plant regulation by light waves and gibberellic acid, found out more about anaplasmosis and leptospirosis in cattle, developed new grain sorghums for Texas farms—to mention a few of the year's achievements.

Board of Directors

The System is headed by a board of directors, consisting of nine members, appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. These board members hold office for terms of six years, with appointments staggered so that each two years three members retire and three new members begin their terms of service.

The chief executive officer of the System is Chancellor M. T. Harrington, who is directly responsible to the board. In charge of each part of the system is another executive officer—for colleges, presidents; for service organizations, directors. These men are responsible to the Chancellor for the efficient operation of their particular schools or service groups.

Affects Texans

The System's work affects Texans in three major ways—through education, research or extension work. For example, colleges of the System each year enroll several thousands of young men and women, graduate other thousands and furnish facilities and staff members to aid in special courses in adult education.

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station engages in research

ranging from developing better range grasses to eliminating insect pests; from improving beef cattle production through sire and progeny-testing programs to developing better types of grains, fruits and vegetables for Texas production.

Extension Service

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service, through its county agricultural agents and home demonstration agents working in 252 of the state's 254 counties, brings information on the latest agricultural research to the farmers of the state.

The Texas Engineering Experiment Station engages in research ranging from finding better processing methods for cottonseed processing to highway design and construction work.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service provides training at short courses on the campus and through courses held in Texas towns and cities by itinerant teachers in fields which include the natural gasoline plant industry, police and firemen's training, supervisory training and instruction for municipal water and sewage plant operators.

Wide Scope of Work

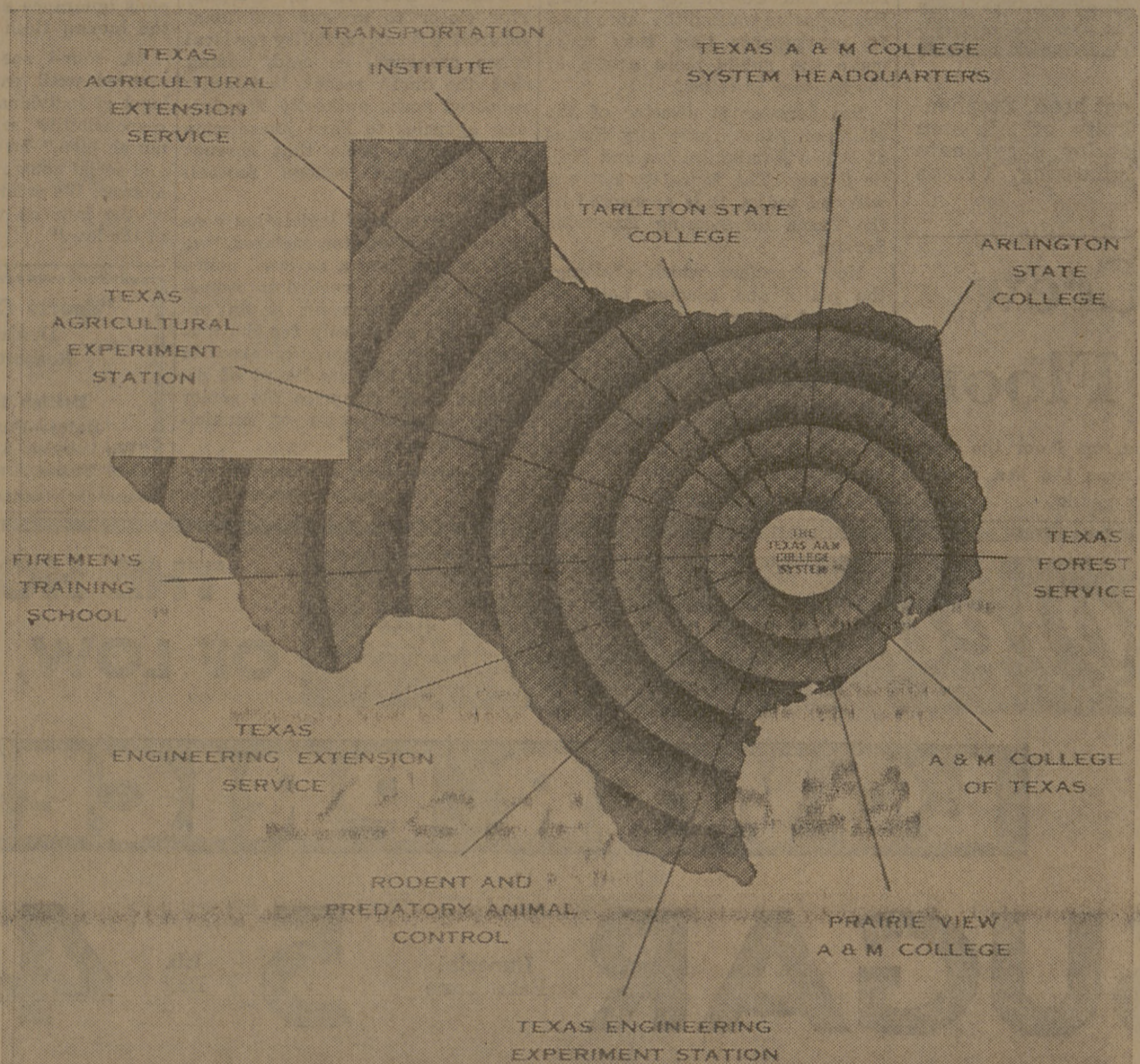
It is impossible to briefly outline the work of the System as it affects the people of Texas. It is best to show the scope of this work by an illustration:

The Texas Forest Service, for

example, engages in prevention and suppression of better pine uses for forest production of the people in the best uses of rural forest resources.

To do its work men from the Extension Service—to leaders; it may be one of the Agricultural Experiment Station's special work; it is of the Texas Agricultural Service to carry on forestry in the Texas counties, help from the System persuading more people to become foresters in forestry pre-forestry courses.

Thus, the work may affect vast areas and may call for all or part of services in the particular piece of land. The System is the four colleges and groups, working to solve the problems of agriculture and industry. To do this it provides for education, research and extension work—on a scale which was stated in definition of the System.



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