

March 14, 2023

Dear Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Volunteers,

At the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, we celebrate National Volunteer Month for the entire month of April as a way to highlight and to salute the people and the programs that drive our agency's success. Each year, thousands of volunteers work through our Texas 4-H Youth Development Program to help our young students develop the skills and foundation for success. Our Texas Master Wellness Volunteers devote outreach and education efforts that promote health and well-being to Texans for lasting, effective change. Our Texas Master Naturalist volunteers provide communities with the opportunities to spend time outside, to appreciate the wonders of our state, and to help protect our natural areas and wildlife. And our Texas Master Gardeners impact many thousands of people every month with their detailed knowledge and constant presence in the community with events like trees sales and assorted conferences.

Last year in 2022, we had the opportunity to work with 78,051 Extension volunteers who gave an incredible 3,160,087 volunteer hours of service to our programs and events around the state of Texas. What a tremendous benefit this is to our state and to our communities! Every day, hundreds of more people arrive in Texas to make this state their home and more than ever, we need you and others like you to help us conduct outreach and programming for a growing state with diverse needs in stewardship, conservation, and youth education.

It is truly my honor to represent you and your dedicated work when I visit with members of the Texas Legislature. Legislators and staffers from around Texas take time to thank me for the work that you do, the hours that you put in, and the cheerful attitudes you share within your community. I hear consistent and positive feedback about the work of Extension volunteers in nearly every legislative committee hearing that I attend.

As an agency, we are blessed by your time and we are blessed by your talents. Thank you, each of you, for what you do to make Texas a better place. Thank you for the commitments that you share with our agents and our programs to bring science-based education to your community. Thank you for letting the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service become your partner as we work together for a bright future in agriculture!

Sincerely,



Rick Avery, Ph.D.

Director

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

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