11 Universities
7 State Agencies
The Texas A&M University System
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Texas A&M Forest Service
Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
Dwight Look College of Engineering
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M Engineering Department Station
Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service
Texas A&M Transportation Institute

THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES AND TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

Patrick J. Stover
Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences
Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Acting Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

OUR CONNECTION TO THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OUR MISSION – Develop new knowledge and tools to ensure healthy, safe, affordable supply of agricultural products; expand agricultural sustainability, profitability and environmental stewardship; and preserve and enhance natural resources.

NEW LEADERSHIP

Dr. David Lunt
Chief Operations Officer
AgriLife Research

Dr. David Ragsdale
Chief Scientific Officer
AgriLife Research

Dr. WHO?
Associate Director for Social-Behavioral Sciences
AgriLife Research

Dr. Clare Gill
Interim Executive Associate Dean & Associate Dean for Research
AGRI LIFE LEADERSHIP CULTURE

- Promote a culture of trust, transparency, accountability and cooperation with NO friction
- Lead by example
- Build and strengthen capacity and opportunity
- Build and strengthen partnerships!
- Support a Market Place of Ideas/Experimentation
  - experiment/take risks - “Everything is better in Beta”
  - innovation is bottom up – administration enables!
- Make investments with parties at interest (skin in the game)
- Look forward/Limit navel gazing.
- Leverage and/or integrate programs and resources whenever possible
  Outstanding programs take advantage of and build from existing strengths
NEW EXPECTATIONS OF AGRICULTURE AND THE FOOD SUPPLY

- Heath Care Costs
  - Diet-related chronic disease costs the US economy $1 trillion USD annually
  - 50% of US adults are being treated for a chronic disease

- “True Costing” agriculture and food

- Federal mandate for nutrition policy/guidance is now to lower health care costs.
  - Food/agriculture is the opportunity to lower health care costs
Committee on a Framework for Assessing the Health, Environmental, and Social Effects of the Food System

DATA ARE MISSING!
THE LANDSCAPE
- BALANCING THE EQUATION -

Texas has transformed into an urban state
- It is imperative that the Texas Bioeconomy and Rural Culture endure
  - We will maintain our commitment to “classical” agriculture
  - We need to meet the needs of both the urban and rural populations
    - Environmental Health
    - Public Health Nutrition
    - Bioeconomy
    - Labor Markets
  - Connect Urban and Rural through “Balancing the Equation”:

Healthy Agriculture + Healthy Environments = Healthy People + Healthy Economies

AGRILIFE RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- Strategies to increase the Excellence and Impact of our Research
  - Center Directors and DHs Sub-committees
- External review of Core facilities, Institutes, Centers, Departments
- Developing a business model and governance structure around cores
- Build research on the consumer side of the food system
- Integrate Service, Extension and Research
- Metric-informed decision-making
Precision Technology Hub: This hub brings together life scientists and engineers to develop and validate technologies which can be used in the field by Extension staff (Healthy Texas, A&M Students, military) that allow continuous and point-of-care measures of diet exposure, nutrition status and function, and disease state including metabolic, brain, liver, and kidney disease on a smart phone. This hub complements existing A&M strength in precision agriculture.
INSTITUTE FOR PRECISION NUTRITION, RESPONSIVE AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH

**Big Data to Evidence Hub:** This hub brings together life and computer scientists to develop new approaches to integrate large data sets that link indicators of human, environmental, economic and social health to give holistic assessments of the evidence underlying dietary and nutrient recommendations and policies, agriculture policy and related food system policy.

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**Center for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Agriculture, Food, Environment and Health.**

This center will affiliate with major international scientific evidence synthesis consortia to:

1) conduct systematic reviews that address critical questions for policy makers, producers and consumer groups;

2) develop methodologies for evidence synthesis from different types of data and

3) develop rigorous evaluation research that supports AgriLife Service Agencies.
Responsive Agriculture Hub: This hub brings together life and agricultural scientists to develop commercial agricultural and other food products responsive to human dietary needs for health, consumer acceptance and waste reduction.

Human Behavior Change Hub: This hub brings together social scientists and information scientists to address important questions related to consumer and producer preferences and acceptance/adoption of new technologies, as well as agriculture and food products.
**Stem Cell Nutrition, Health and Longevity Hub**: This hub brings together life scientists and biomedical engineers to understand the unique nutritional needs of adult stem cells during aging that preserve their number and quality to allow life-long tissue regeneration and healthy aging.

**AGRIlIFE RESEARCH**

- Discovery/Innovation Research
- Extension
- Demonstrate Impact
- Methods
- Metrics/Measures
- Technology
- Behavior Change
- Disseminate Knowledge
- Evaluation Research
- Update Program
- Improve Program Impact
Healthy Texas Food Labeling Core: This analytical core will be part of the Responsive Agriculture Hub and will develop analytic measures to assess food quality leading to a “Healthy Texas” label for food.

Big Data Analytics and Scientific Survey Core: This core will have information science expertise for developing surveys and web-based analytics to understand consumer preferences and values, and computational and relevant statistical expertise to support all hubs.

Partners:

Children's Nutrition Research Center | Baylor College of Medicine
Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany
The Microsoft Research - University of Trento Centre for Computational and Systems Biology (COSBI), Italy
Cornell University, Division of Nutritional Sciences
THANK YOU!