



1890s Impacts

PHOTO: USDA

Historically Black land-grant universities are advancing the well-being of families, businesses and communities

Whether modernizing food systems, supporting local economies or mentoring youths, historically Black land-grant universities (1890) successfully bridge access to knowledge and shaped a brighter future for their communities through Cooperative Extension, agricultural research and academic teaching.

Successful examples include:

- A microclimate study conducted by **West Virginia** State University Extension Service is helping landowners learn more about the impact of climate change on regional weather with the goal of minimizing negative impacts on seasonal crops and overall farm livelihood.
- Many years of focusing on treating livestock diseases, as opposed to preventing them, have resulted in antibiotic-resistant parasites and animals that are not naturally disease-resistant. Researchers at **North Carolina** A&T State University and the University of **Arkansas** at Pine Bluff are studying how to improve the health of cows and goats through natural, sustainable strategies that will reduce or eliminate producers' overuse of antibiotics and dewormers.
- **North Carolina** A&T State University is investigating how to grow sweet potatoes sustainably, balancing minimal use of pesticides with reduced crop and revenue loss from insect damage. Additionally, they are researching whether sweet potato leaves can help prevent breast cancer. Researchers at the University of **Arkansas** at Pine Bluff are also investigating ways to improve sweet potato production.
- **Alabama** A&M University and the University of **Arkansas** at Pine Bluff are using gardening programs to teach youths about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects.
- **Alabama** A&M University is educating landowners and goat producers about the benefits of integrating goat production with forestland management. For example, goats can be used to clear understory and overgrown vegetation in urban areas where fire burning is not allowed.

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- The University of **Arkansas** at Pine Bluff is empowering communities by providing sustainable community garden assistance, supporting grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and helping families stay healthy during the pandemic.

ALABAMA

A&M University is helping families improve their health through:

- A health literacy course that educates teens and adults about healthy life choices, allowing them to take charge of their health.
- A teen education program that combats binge eating and other poor eating habits, which many teens incurred as a result of spending more time online and isolated due to COVID-19.
- A 4-H program called “Alabama Health Rocks!” that empowers young people with the tools they need to reduce or eliminate tobacco, alcohol and drug use.
- A program that taught 232 older adults how to use Zoom to host meetings, share screens and more, helping them feel less isolated and more connected to friends and family during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A financial literacy program to help individuals and families find their way back from financial hardship, especially during the pandemic.
- A program that addressed inequities in career readiness that was attended by 1,640 Alabamians (61% of whom were high school students).

ARKANSAS

The faculty at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff are empowering socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to be more profitable and sustainable by:

- Improving catfish pond production techniques.
- Developing a Beginning Farmers Training Program for Socially Disadvantaged Producers, which provides training in agriculture business, production, marketing, risk management, USDA programs and more.
- Making 90 site visits to African-American agricultural producers to develop conservation plans to improve 7,500 acres of crop and pastureland. These plans resulted in a 25% reduction in time for processing Environmental Quality Incentive Program applications and increased the chances of being funded by 50%.
- Providing forest management and estate planning education to over 1,500 people, including 84 site visits through a program called “Keeping it in the Family.”