

Class Starters & Enders

Making the Most of Instructional Time Five Minute Lessons

Class Starters and Enders help utilize the last minutes of class when a lesson ends but there is not enough time to start another, or for an interest approach at the beginning of class. Mini-lessons correlate to GPS in the programs areas below.

Cooperative Extension Service

Program Areas: Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, Consumer Services, Culinary Arts

Instructions: Read the narrative and make notes of important points, answer questions, and be ready to discuss this topic.

History:

A number of congressional acts were passed to establish the Cooperative Extension Service. They are:

The Morrill Act – 1862 which established Land-Grant Universities

The Hatch Act – 1887 which established Agriculture Experiment Stations

The Smith-Lever Act – 1914 which established the Cooperative Extension Service

During 1862 – 1914, land-grant universities began offering off campus training with field demonstrations for farmers, home management demonstrations for rural women, tomato clubs for girls and corn clubs for boys. The problem was that these programs lacked funding, and were not well received by the masses of the common man. The passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 gave funding to these outreach programs and put field agents into the communities.

The purpose of the Cooperative Extension Service is to bring the new technologies and benefits of research to the public from the Land-Grant Universities and the Agriculture Experiment Stations. In the early years of the Cooperative Extension Service, the agents were mainly focused on agriculture related issues, from teaching young people to adults in the community. Every county in every state was to establish an office with an agent or person with direct contact to both the Land Grant Universities and Experiment Stations so that they could pass on the new technologies and new discoveries to the farmers in their communities. The Cooperative Extension Service is a division of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and gets their funding from federal, state and county governments and through land-grant colleges.

Cooperative Extension Today:

The Cooperative Extension Service wears many hats in today's world. The development of programs comes from three major areas: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H and Youth Development. The Cooperative Extension Service agents' duties vary from county to county and state to state. They cover services for urban, suburban and rural communities. Most people associate the agents with directors of the 4-H programs in the county. Not only do the agents work with youth but also with adults in the community. Agents also help with agricultural problems from backyard gardening to row crop and livestock production. The agents provide such services as soil testing, water testing and fertilizer and pest management. Most people consider their County Agent an integral role in the formation of tomorrow's leaders and today's community. The Cooperative Extension Service employees supply guidance for 4-H as well as for adult community programs such as the Master Gardener's Program.



History Connection

Briefly define the following.

Morrill Act, 1862	Smith-Lever Act, 1914
Cooperative Extension Service	4-H
Land Grant University	Experiment Station

Review

1. What year was the Cooperative Extension Service founded?
2. What two federal acts were passed prior to the Smith-Lever Act that helped in the development of the Cooperative Extension Service?
3. What adult program is listed as one that the Cooperative Extension Service provides?
4. Why was the Cooperative Extension Service formed?
5. What entity formed the Cooperative Extension Service?
6. How is the Cooperative Extension Service funded?