With a presence in all 77 counties, Extension offers programs that touch on all aspects of life, from financial management and nutrition to youth development and agriculture. In an effort to enhance the lives of all Oklahomans, programs are free, or low-cost through federal and state government funding.

Programs are the result of local needs assessments conducted by Extension educators, who use their expertise from the backs of trains and traveled on foot or horseback to visit farms and towns.

Today, the service uses 21st-century technology to reach Oklahomans of all ages. In addition to a strong social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram, Extension’s two weekly television shows — “SunUp” with agriculture and “Oklahoma Gardening” — boost more than 5 million online views.

For 100 years, Extension educators and specialists have worked one-on-one, side-by-side with Oklahomans to solve local issues and assist families with everyday challenges, said James Trapp, associate director of OCES. “For us, it’s personal. It always has been and it always will be.”

Extension is marking its 100th birthday with a variety of county and statewide events throughout the year, including a feature-length documentary set to air on OETA-TV on the date of May 8, 2014. As part of the celebration, OCES is marking its 100th birthday with a cake-cutting ceremony in Stillwater.

In the Centennial party Jan. 31, 2014 at OSU, Extension directors and prestigious university leaders celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) has kicked off its celebrations of 100 years of extending knowledge and improving the lives of Oklahomans.

The centennial party officially started in January with a cake-cutting ceremony and Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb reading a proclamation marking the occasion.

“As a land-grant university, our job is to train great talent, do great research and share that with our state, our nation and the world. One important way we share with our state is through the Cooperative Extension Service,” Hargis said. “For 100 years, Extension has been changing lives by providing research-based expertise in everything from agriculture to health and nutrition, and assisting families and communities.

“President of the Division of Agriculture Mike Woods kicked off the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 100th anniversary in 2014 with a cake-cutting ceremony in Stillwater.

President Burns Hargis reads the proclamation marking the 100th anniversary of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

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