

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: May 12, 2014

SUBJECT: Proclamation – North Carolina Cooperative Extension Centennial

PRESENTER: John Mitchell, Business and Community Development Director

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1.) Centennial Proclamation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

May 8, 2014 marks the Centennial of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act which established the Cooperative Extension. The North Carolina Cooperative Extension is requesting the Board to issue this proclamation to encourage recognition of their 100 year history of service to the citizens of North Carolina.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the attached North Carolina Cooperative Extension Centennial Proclamation as presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board adopt the attached North Carolina Cooperative Extension Centennial Proclamation.

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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PROCLAMATION

North Carolina Cooperative Extension HENDERSON COUNTY Centennial Proclamation

WHEREAS, May 8, 2014 marks the Centennial of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act which established Cooperative Extension, the nationwide transformational education system operating through land grant universities in partnership with federal, state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, U. S. Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and U.S. Representative A.F. Lever of South Carolina authored the Smith-Lever Act to expand the “vocational, agricultural and home demonstration programs in rural America” by bringing the research-based knowledge of the land-grant universities to the people where they live and work; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Henderson County is a critical component of the three part land-grant university mission and works collaboratively with research and academic programs associated with the North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University to reach traditional and underserved audiences in all communities across North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Extension System continues to receive federal programmatic leadership and support enabled by the Smith Lever Act and other legislation through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Smith-lever Act requires a partnership between county, state and federal governments and encourages priorities be established locally to meet the needs of each county; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Cooperative Extension education disseminated through Henderson County for agriculture producers has helped establish North Carolina as a leading agriculture producing state; 4-H youth development has reached millions of youth and helped prepare them for responsible adulthood by equipping them with citizenship and leadership skills; family and consumer sciences has prepared people for healthy, productive lives and breaking the cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Henderson County engages with rural and urban learners through practical, community-based and online approaches, resulting in acquisition of knowledge, skills and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protect natural resources, help people make healthful lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality and prepare the next generation of leaders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners:

Recognize the significance of the Smith-Lever Act to the establishment of Cooperative Extension nationwide; and

Encourage the people of Henderson County to observe and celebrate the centennial with a focus on congratulating the accomplishments of the past 100 years and ensuring a thriving future for Cooperative Extension; and

Honor the local Extension Agents and university faculty who dedicate careers to providing trusted education to help people, families, youth, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future; and

Thank Cooperative Extension volunteers who provide thousands of hours to promote excellence for 4-H, Master Gardeners, family and consumer sciences and other programs in their communities; and

Encourage continued collaboration and cooperation among federal, state and local governments to ensure Cooperative Extension's sustainability as the nation's premiere non-formal educational network; and

Celebrate millions of youth, adults, families, farmers, community leaders and others who engage in Cooperative Extension learning opportunities designed to extend knowledge and change lives.

Adopted this 12th day of May, 2014.

CHARLIE MESSER, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

TERESA L. WILSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD