

## Extension History

### Oregon State University Extension Service Founded in 1911

Oregon leaders had anticipated passage of the Smith-Lever legislation some time in advance and had obtained state appropriations for Extension work by Chapter 110, Oregon Laws, 1913. At the time of the passage of the state act, Oregon State College was already cooperating with two counties, the Board of Regents having appointed the first Oregon Director of Extension in September 1911. The first women in Extension work were a state leader of home economics and a state club leader, both appointed in 1914. The first county agent in Oregon was appointed in **Marion County** on September 7, 1912. Financing on the first agent was entirely from commercial sources raised through the local Chamber of Commerce. While no state funds were used, the county agent had close connections with the college, using experiment station results as the basis of his demonstration program and calling upon college specialists for assistance.

The second county agent was appointed September 8, 1912, in Wallowa County. Financed by the Federal Office of Farm Management Demonstrations and the OWR&N Railroad.

After passage of the state act in 1913, seven additional counties began cooperation by appropriation of county funds for Extension work under the provisions of the same act. There was a gradual increase in cooperating counties up to the time of the outbreak of World War I. The first home extension agents were hired in August 1917 to do wartime emergency work. In 1917, 14 county agents were employed. Several of the agents were retained by counties after World War I. By 1937, all counties had at least one county extension agent.