



**PVAMU HONORS NATIONAL GARDENING DAY
BY GROWING SOLUTIONS TO FOOD INSECURITY**

Prairie View A&M experts are available for media interviews throughout April.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (April 9, 2025) - As National Gardening Day approaches on April 14, [Prairie View A&M University](#) is proud to spotlight its leadership in sustainable gardening and food security through the expansion of its [Foodscaping](#) Project. The collaborative initiative is designed to combat food insecurity while beautifying campus landscapes with edible plants.

Foodscaping, a vision for the future of community health, integrates vegetables and herbs into ornamental landscaping to create sustainable access to healthy food for students and the surrounding community.

As part of the University's ongoing academic and practical commitment to addressing food insecurity, the College of [Agriculture](#), Food, and Natural Resources, in partnership with the Student Garden Club, [Food Security Research Center](#), PVAMU [Student Government Association](#), and [John B. Coleman Library](#) staff, recently transformed empty planter boxes in front of the library into flourishing sources of fresh, organically grown produce.

For years, PVAMU's Student Garden Club has provided staple crops—such as mustard, turnip, and collard greens—to those in need. The expansion of this program comes at a time when understanding and addressing food insecurity is more crucial than ever.

"Gardening is a powerful tool in the fight against food insecurity," said Dr. Gerard D'Souza, CAFNR dean and director of Land Grant Programs. "Through this expansion, we're not only cultivating produce but cultivating a culture of self-reliance and sustainability."

Beyond hands-on gardening, PVAMU is at the forefront of research and innovation aimed at resolving the root causes of food insecurity. The Food Security Research Center is dedicated to exploring solutions through key areas, including nutrition, plant and animal science, workforce development, and food access infrastructure.

"Our interdisciplinary research tackles the systemic challenges that prevent people from accessing nutritious food," said Dr. Jennifer J. Quinlan, executive director of the FSRC. "We are committed to not just understanding the issue, but to developing real-world solutions."

Experts available for media segments and published articles:

Foodscaping & Sustainable Gardening

- Dr. Gerard D'Souza, dean, College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Kimberly M. Gay, head of reference, Coleman Library
- Dr. Ram Ray, professor, Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Jeremy Peaches, PVAMU Extension agent
- Dr. Richard Griffin & Dr. Laura Carson, SGC co-advisors
- Dr. Erdogan Memili, executive associate director, Cooperative Agricultural Research Center

Food Security Research

- Dr. Jennifer J. Quinlan, executive director, FSRC
- Dr. Aruna Weerasooriya, professor, Plant Science
- Dr. Elvis Ndembe, assistant professor, Food Access Research

College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Leadership:

- Dr. Gerard D'Souza, dean, College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Dr. TeKedra Pierre, director, Information and Impact Center
- Dr. Ashwani Srivastava, director, Agro-Innovation and Technology Center

- Dr. Carolyn J. Williams, executive associate director, Cooperative Extension Program

Members of the media are also welcome to explore Prairie View A&M University's 770+ acre [Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Farm and Ranch](#), a cornerstone of its agricultural legacy and home to cutting-edge meat and international goat research centers, a poultry center, and thriving natural resources. The farm also offers fresh meat and poultry retail sales to both the campus and surrounding communities, connecting innovation with impact.

Our experts are available for interviews throughout April. To schedule an interview or a tour of the farm, or to feature PVAMU's work in your publication or broadcast, please contact Liz Faublas-Wallace at lswallace@pvamu.edu.

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PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY, founded in 1876, is the second oldest public institution of higher education in the state of Texas and the third largest Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in the nation. Designated as an "institution of the first class" in the Texas Constitution, the enrollment exceeds 9,000 students and over 80,000 graduates. PVAMU offers academic programs through its ten colleges and schools, boasting degree options leading to bachelor's and doctoral-level degrees. A Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) University and a member of The Texas A&M University System, PVAMU is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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