MEMORANDUM

TO: All Employees, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

RE: Director, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Douglas Steele was named by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents as sole finalist for the position of director of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service today. Final action on Dr. Steele’s appointment will be taken following a mandatory 21-day waiting period required by state law.

As director, Dr. Steele will provide leadership for all aspects of the agency, including programs, personnel, and facilities. Overall, Dr. Steele will focus on promoting quality, relevant Extension educational programs and initiatives to further the agency’s competitiveness in agriculture and life sciences, with the goal of improving lives and improving Texas.

Dr. Steele currently serves as vice president for external relations and director of Extension at Montana State University. He began his Extension career with 12 years in Texas, first as a county educator in Potter and Hutchinson counties. He departed as a 4-H and youth development specialist to join the 4-H program at Purdue University. In 1997, Dr. Steele became assistant director and state 4-H program leader at Colorado State University. He earned his bachelor’s degree in animal science from Panhandle State University, his master’s of agriculture from West Texas A&M University, and a doctorate in educational human resource development from Texas A&M University in 1992.

I would like to thank Dr. Ed Smith for his outstanding leadership as AgriLife Extension’s director since 2005. After nearly 38 years of public service, Dr. Smith will retire on August 31, 2012. His contributions are greatly respected and admired, and have made a difference not only to the Texas A&M System, but also to the people of Texas, the nation, and the world. Please join me in thanking Dr. Smith and congratulating Dr. Steele on his new role.

Mark A. Hussey
Vice Chancellor and Dean
Agriculture and Life Sciences

cc: Chancellor John Sharp
Vice Chancellor’s Executive Committee
Texas AgriLife Extension Service Director Search Advisory Committee
Department Heads, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences