Ed Smith grew up in Tahoka in Lynn County, Texas, about 33 miles south of Lubbock. Fortunately, he found his way to Aggieland and began what became a 38-year career with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. He also found his way onto the national scene, first as an Extension economist—often advising the agriculture committees of Congress and high-level government officials. Policy makers, agribusinesses, and producers valued his analyses, outlooks, and marketing strategies.

As AgriLife Extension’s director for eight years, Dr. Smith guided significant improvements in the agency’s strategic planning, administrative structuring, and funding mechanisms, as well as the statewide and national standing of Extension education. Dr. Smith oversaw an annual budget of $148 million and a workforce of 1,847, aided by some 100,000 Extension-trained volunteers—all effectively aimed at achieving the Extension mission to deliver quality, relevant education that addresses the priority needs of Texas residents.

Earning recognition throughout his career, Dr. Smith most recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association; the Ruby Distinguished Service Award, the highest recognition of Extension’s nationwide professional fraternity, Epsilon Sigma Phi; and the Excellence in Leadership Award of the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors.

Retirement Reception
Honoring

Edward G. Smith

Director
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
The Texas A&M University System

Leader, Visionary, Colleague

August 17, 2012
2:30–4:30 p.m.
The Zone Club at Kyle Field
College Station, Texas
Celebrating a Career

January 1975–August 2012

Presiding

Charles Hall
Professor of Horticulture and Extension Specialist, Ellison Endowed Chair in International Floriculture, Texas A&M University

Remarks

John Sharp
Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System

Mark Hussey
Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences, The Texas A&M University System

Vernie R. Glasson III
Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Texas Farm Bureau

Steve Verett
Executive Vice President, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

Ross Wilson
President and Chief Executive Officer, Texas Cattle Feeders Association

Marcus Hill
President of the Board, Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation
President and Chairman of the Board, Agricultural Workers Mutual Auto Insurance Company

Bob Robinson
Regional Program Director Emeritus, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Tommy Engelke
Executive Vice President, Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

Special Presentations

Response from Dr. Smith

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor is given by what he gave.”

– Calvin Coolidge