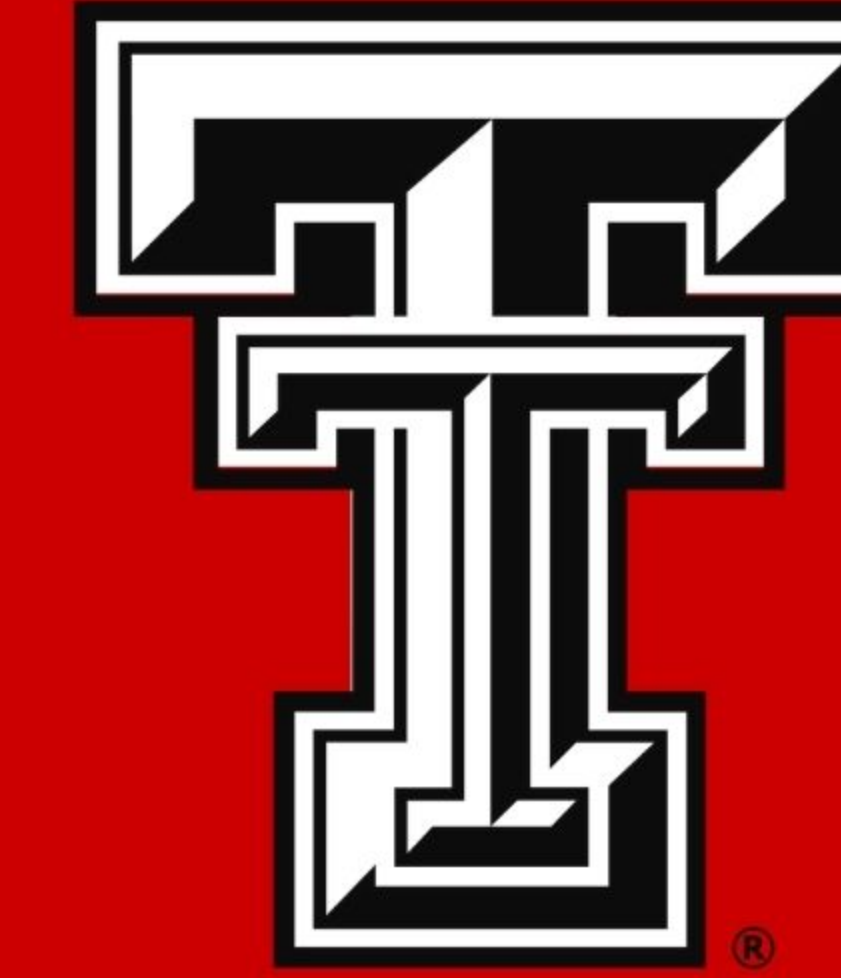


Texas Tech University

ACTT Today, Teach Tomorrow! Alternative Certification in Agricultural Education

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Introduction

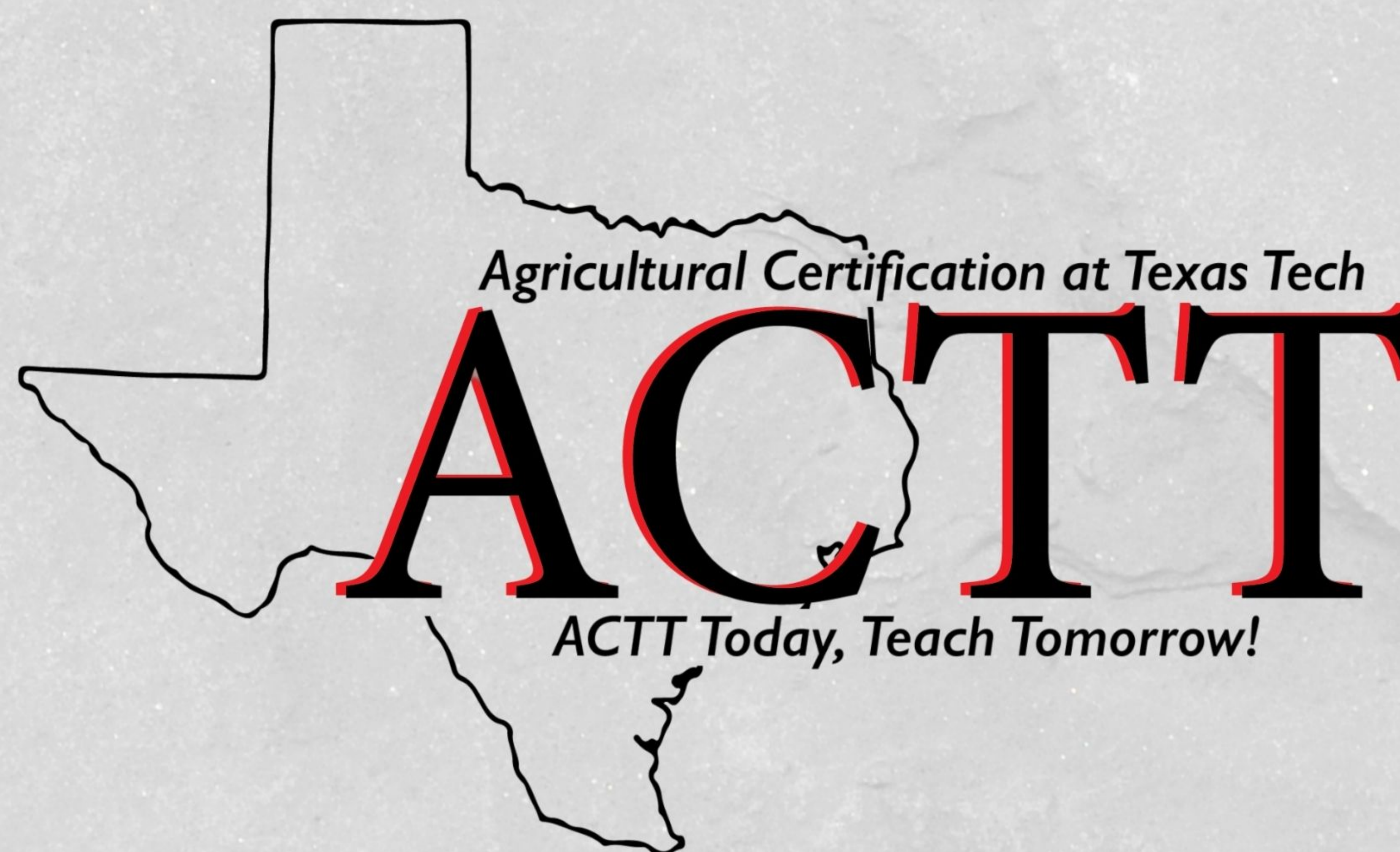
- There is a teacher shortage in the United States (Strauss 2017).
- The United States Department of Education (USDOE) recorded data reports notes specific areas where shortages exist, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Agricultural Education (Cross, 2017).
- Of the 769 full time positions open nationally in 2016, 42% were filled by unlicensed or alternatively certified teachers (Smith et al., 2017).
- This program seeks to certify industry professionals with an agricultural bachelor's degree to teach secondary agriculture science.
- By increasing the number of agricultural teachers – and, more specifically, specialized agricultural-scientists – in the field, the program may serve as a vehicle for increasing STEM integration into secondary schools.

Modules

- Modules are delivered through the Blackboard learning platform and include:
 - Introduction to Agricultural Education
 - Development of Secondary Agricultural Programs
 - Laboratory Safety and Management
 - Designing Agricultural Curriculum,
 - Methods of Teaching Agri-Science in the Secondary School
 - Managing a Classroom in Secondary Agricultural Education
 - Reading for Specialized Content
 - Introduction to Teaching
 - Test Preparation

How it works

- Participants begin the enrollment process through the TTU continuing education department. They must meet the minimum requirements set by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Documentation needed includes:
 - Agricultural Degree Conferred
 - Awarding University
 - Transcripts (minimum 2.75 GPA)
 - Pre-candidacy test scores in the PACT AFNR and PACT PPR exams
- Applications are reviewed by the program director and the TTU College of Education
- Program cohorts begin in June, August, and January and last 12-16 months (including internship) depending on individual pace.
- The internship is their first year of teaching and includes four observation by program director or a designee



Costs & Resources

- This program's development was funded by a grant provided through USDA-NIFA in the area of Building Capacity and meeting the demand: Increasing teacher certification avenues in Agricultural Education
- The participant's cost, including program, testing, and certification fees, is approximately \$5,200.
- A portion of this fee is allocated to the faculty member or doctoral student performing the on-site observations.
- The program is self-sufficient and does not require additional funding from other sources.

Results to Date, Implications & Future Plans

- The program is fully developed and the first participants were accepted in August of this year.
- Additional recruited participants will begin the program in January 2021.
- An implication over time could be the availability of adequate supervisory coverage as the program grows.
- While the AEC Department has three faculty members and several doctoral students to provide supervision, an enrollment cap may be necessary without additional faculty members or qualified doctoral students.
- Mid- and long-term expectations include increasing the traditional and alternative teacher certification programs' total growth, creating quality teachers for secondary agricultural classrooms.
- Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected over time by faculty and student assistants

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United States Department of Agriculture

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