

## NEWSELA

# New programs to help farming families

By Stateline.org, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.28.14

Word Count **629**



In this photo provided by New Mexico State University, farm manager Andy Otis (left) and Warren Metzger, Cooperative Extension Service program director in Torrance County, examine a curly top-infected pumpkin plant at Ness Farms south of Moriarty, New Mexico. Photo: New Mexico State University, J. Victor Espinoza

When people in Sullivan County, New Hampshire, have questions about farming they call Seth Wilner. For 15 years he has been a farming expert in the community.

"Used to be, someone in my county called up and said, 'I have a llama and two goats, can you come out and look at my pasture?'" Wilner said.

Wilner was a teacher at the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Every state runs extension programs at universities to share agricultural knowledge with farmers.

The Cooperative Extension Service was created by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914. Back then, more than half the U.S. population lived outside cities and towns. Three out of 10 people farmed for a living. Today fewer than one in 50 Americans makes their living from farming. Only about one-fifth of Americans lives outside a town or city.

## **Extension Service Shares Science And Advice**

New Hampshire gave less money to the extension program in 2011. As a result, the University of New Hampshire had to reorganize it.

Today, Wilner works in an office in Sullivan County. He and other trainers still travel all around the state to meet farmers and give them advice. Yet, now he also relies on technology like Google Chat and Skype and offers online tutorials and webinars.

The extension service still operates across the country. However, it has made big changes in how it does business.

Extension still shares science aimed at helping farms and ranches make money. Now, it also works on a wide range of other issues, like teaching job skills, the environment and making people healthier.

## **New Kinds Of Training Programs**

For many states, agriculture is still the main work of extension. Oregon's brings together grape growers, winemakers and students interested in making wine. Virginia's trains farmers on food safety laws.

In many states, extension is expanding its mission. In southwestern Kansas, extension works with the large number of immigrant farmers.

Kansas extension planned to start 4-H clubs that use Spanish and English. They filled four clubs with 90 youths. Hundreds more are on a waiting list.

Last year, the Delaware and Maryland extensions developed a training program to help people buy health care. The program has spread to 30 states, said Michelle Rodgers, head of the University of Delaware Extension.

Future efforts will help the community to make healthier school lunches and restaurant menus, Rodgers said.

## **Help With Paying The Bills**

Extension is turning to charities and businesses to help pay the bills. The Spanish-language 4-H clubs were offered nearly free after a dairy owner donated \$30,000 to pay for them.

Back in the day, extension was funded equally by national, state and county governments, said Sonny Ramaswamy, head of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. He says that has now changed.

U.S. government money for extension goes to states based partly on the number of farmers each state has.

Now, there is much less national money. Much more extension money must come from states, counties and cities, said Jimmy Henning, who is with extension's national governing board.

Extension needs to find other funds in the future, said Douglas Steele, head of the Texas A&M program.

After the state of Texas cut money, Texas' extension had to do just that. The extension was able to hire a worker with money given to it by a health care company.

### **"Programs Are More Focused"**

As this becomes more common, some worry that those giving money to extensions may have different views on how it should be spent.

In New Hampshire, people were unsure about the changes to extension, but eventually they changed their minds.

Lisa Townson, who works with the New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, said she has not heard of any major problems. "People say programs are more focused and better quality."

**Quiz**

- 1 Which of the following paragraphs from the article would be BEST to include in a summary of the article?
- (A) "Used to be, someone in my county called up and said, 'I have a llama and two goats, can you come out and look at my pasture?'" Wilner said.
  - (B) Extension still shares science aimed at helping farms and ranches make money. Now, it also works on a wide range of other issues, like teaching job skills, the environment and making people healthier.
  - (C) Kansas extension planned to start 4-H clubs that use Spanish and English. They filled four clubs with 90 youths. Hundreds more are on a waiting list.
  - (D) U.S. government money for extension goes to states based partly on the number of farmers each state has.

- 2 Read the sentence below.

*Even though extension services still focus on farming, they must develop different services to match new needs.*

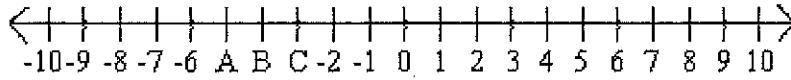
This is the main idea of which section?

- (A) "Extension Service Shares Science And Advice"
  - (B) "New Kinds Of Training Programs"
  - (C) "Help With Paying The Bills"
  - (D) "Programs Are More Focused"
- 3 How does the article show that Seth Wilner is a farming expert?
- (A) by giving an example of somebody asking him for help
  - (B) by saying that he works at a cooperative extension service
  - (C) by explaining that now he uses technology to help people
  - (D) by explaining why he likes farming so much

ELA - Day 6

- 4 Which of the following is NOT a way the article elaborates on the need for cooperative extension services to change?
- (A) giving examples of new programs extension services are providing
  - (B) explaining that fewer people are using extension services because there are fewer farmers
  - (C) noting that the US government is no longer providing as much money to extension services
  - (D) quoting a farmer saying that extension services are no longer needed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

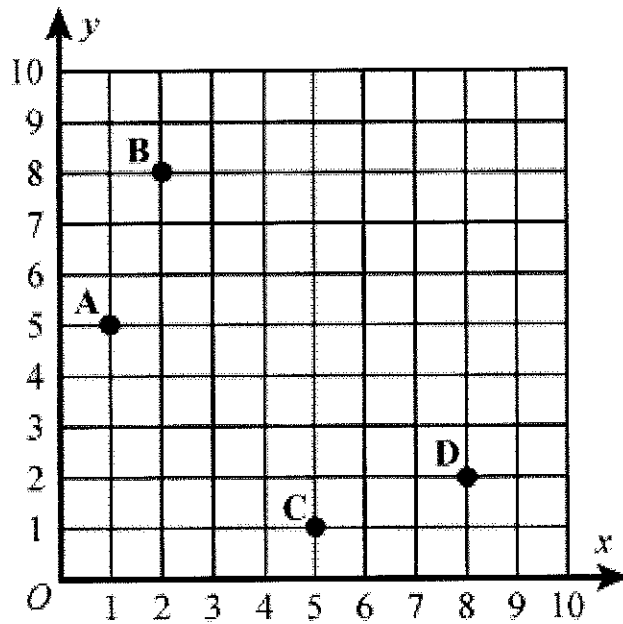
**NTI - 6TH GRADE MATH - DAY #6****Question 1 of 10**

What are the values of A, B, and C?

- A. -5, -4, and -3
- B. -3, -4, and -5
- C. 3, 4, and 5
- D. 5, 4, and 3

**Question 2 of 10**

Look at the coordinate grid below.



At which point on the grid is point B?

- A. (1, 5)
- B. (2, 8)
- C. (5, 1)
- D. (8, 2)

**Question 3 of 10**

Which of the following is the opposite of +10?

- A.  $\frac{10}{1}$
- B.  $\frac{1}{10}$
- C.  $-\frac{1}{10}$
- D. -10

**Question 4 of 10**

Use the number line above to determine the difference between Z and W.

- A. 3
- B.  $3\frac{1}{4}$
- C.  $3\frac{1}{2}$
- D. 4

**Question 5 of 10**

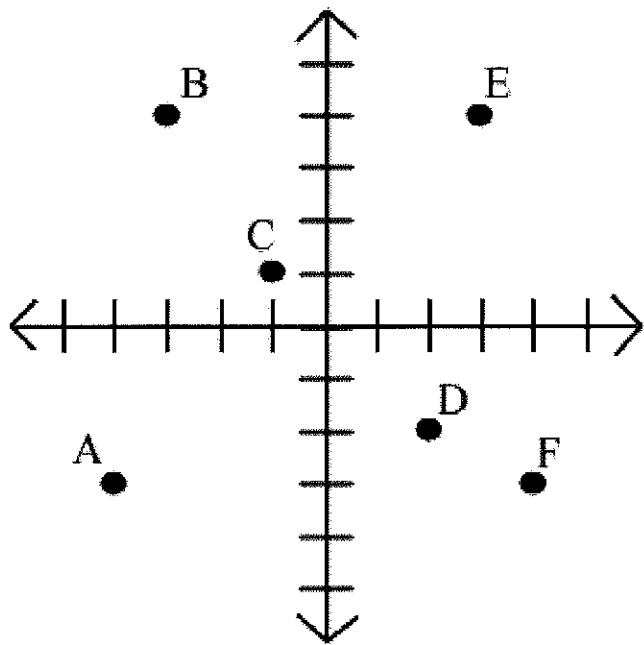
The record low temperature recorded at Mayfield Middle School was  $8^{\circ}$  below zero. Which of the following represents this temperature?

- A.  $-8^{\circ}$
- B.  $8^{\circ}$
- C.  $|8|^{\circ}$
- D.  $|-8|^{\circ}$



**Question 6 of 10**

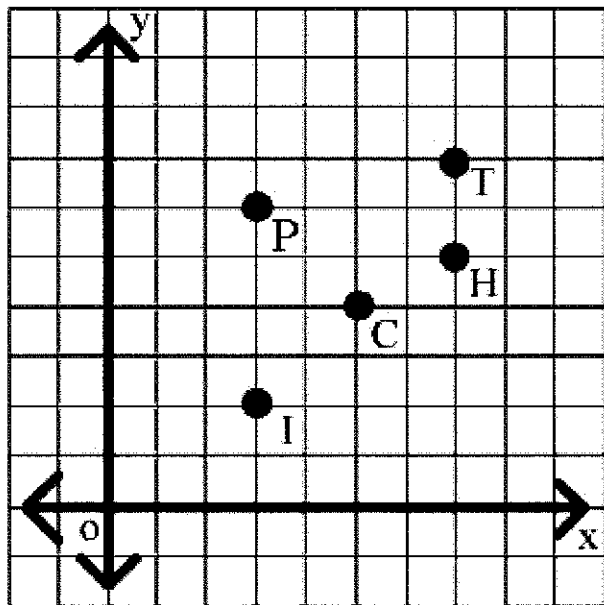
Which point represents the ordered pair  $(-4, -3)$ ?



- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

**Question 7 of 10**

What are the coordinates of point H?



- A. (3, 8)
- B. (5, 7)
- C. (6, 9)
- D. (7, 5)

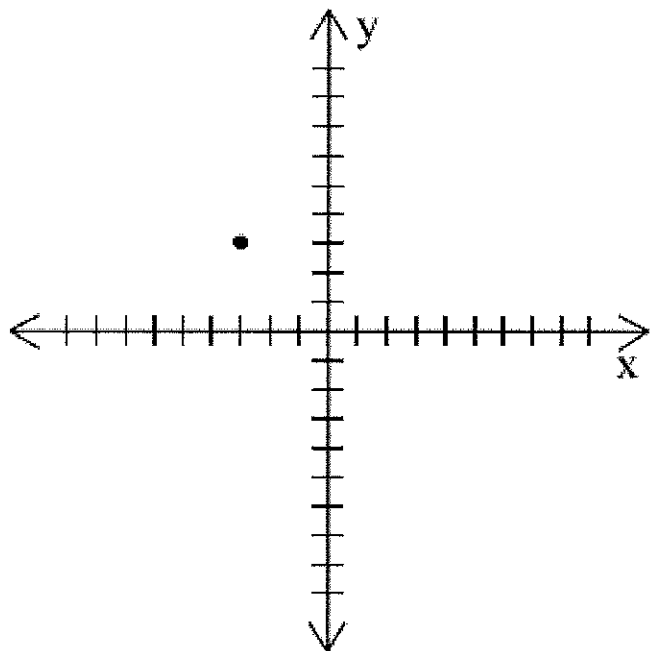
**Question 8 of 10**

Which decimal would come between 5.7 and 8.6 on a number line?

- A. 4.9
- B. 5.5
- C. 6.8
- D. 8.69

**Question 9 of 10**

Give the ordered pair for the indicated point.



- A. (-4,-2)
- B. (-3,3)
- C. (3,-3)
- D. (3,3)

**Question 10 of 10**

55% of the city of New Orleans is actually below sea level, and water is kept out by a series of levees. The lowest spot in the city is 10 ft below sea level, while other spots are 3 feet above sea level, 4 feet below sea level, and 1 foot below sea level. Write each of these altitudes as an integer and list these integers in order from least to greatest.

- A. -10, -4, -1, 3
- B. 3, -1, -4, -10
- C. -1,-4,-10,3
- D. 3,-1,-4,-10

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