

Diversity is Moving: From 1906 to 2024 and Beyond

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Tuskegee Institute's George Washington Carver first used the Jesup wagon in 1906. It was a mobile classroom that allowed Carver to teach farmers and sharecroppers how to grow



crops like sweet potatoes, peanuts, soybeans, and pecans. This was one of the greatest contributions to Cooperative Extension, and variations of this vehicle are still used today to reach underserved audiences.



For example, in 2011, Alabama passed a state immigration law called House Bill 56. At the beginning, Alabama Extension's health and nutrition team at Alabama A&M had slow turnouts for Hispanic health and nutrition programs due to House Bill 56. Therefore, they devised a new marketing strategy to take nutrition education to them through the Nutrition Education Lab. The Nutrition Education Lab was equipped with a small kitchen that allowed the team to do on-site nutrition education and food demonstrations.

Today, **Alabama Extension still uses modern Jesup wagons to reach diverse audiences through the new and improved Mobile Nutrition Lab, the Mobile STEM Lab, and a water conservation lab called Water Wheels.**

Reference

Williams, W. (2022, November 17). *The Jesup Wagon: Rooted in history, still used today.* Business & Community.