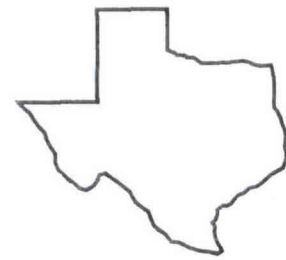
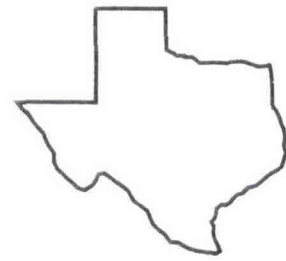
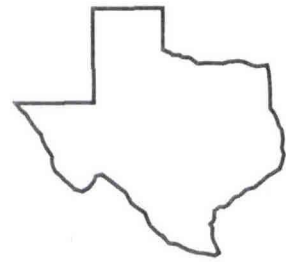
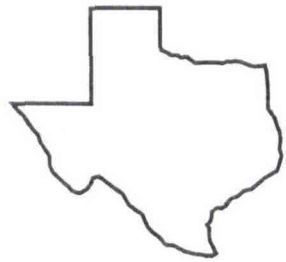
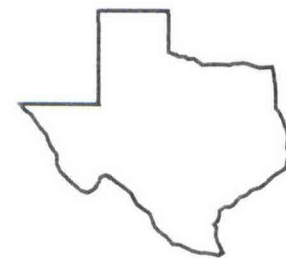




Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Texas Agricultural Extension Service
The Texas A&M University System



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THE NEW HORTICULTURE FIELD LAB - A FACILITY FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

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Background. The Horticulture Field Lab located at the North Farm of the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton, Texas was completed in 1993. The building was jointly funded by the Bruce McMillan, Jr. Foundation, Overton, Texas, and proceeds from the Permanent University Bond Fund. The building was designed to support research and education activities associated with ornamental, fruit and vegetable production and utilization. These facilities are also being used to support recent initiatives in the area of sustainable agriculture.

The building is divided into two main areas - a small meeting/laboratory room and a commodity processing area (Figure 1). Support facilities such as restrooms and an office/break room area are also available. The meeting/laboratory room was designed to hold as many as 50 for commodity group oriented meetings with the ability to make slide presentations. The proximity of the building to major plot areas used for horticultural research enhance the educational opportunities. One side of this room was designed for use as a laboratory with capabilities for processing plant and soil samples for physical and biological measurements. Standard laboratory equipment such as a fume hood and high and low capacity balances are available for use.

The commodity processing area was designed as an area where horticultural commodities could be brought after harvest for processing and storage experiments. The room can be used for controlled temperature processing with equipment available for headspace analysis in packaging and controlled atmosphere experiments. Other equipment available includes a high capacity drying oven and controlled temperature storage rooms for high and low temperature vegetable storage, rose budwood storage, and low temperature storage for fruits and vegetables with optional high humidity storage of nursery stock. In addition, lighting and temperature can be controlled so that this area can be used for the postharvest evaluation of potted flowering and bedding plants.

Current Information and Recommendation. The field lab will be open to the public on Field Day. Educational exhibits and equipment displays will be featured.

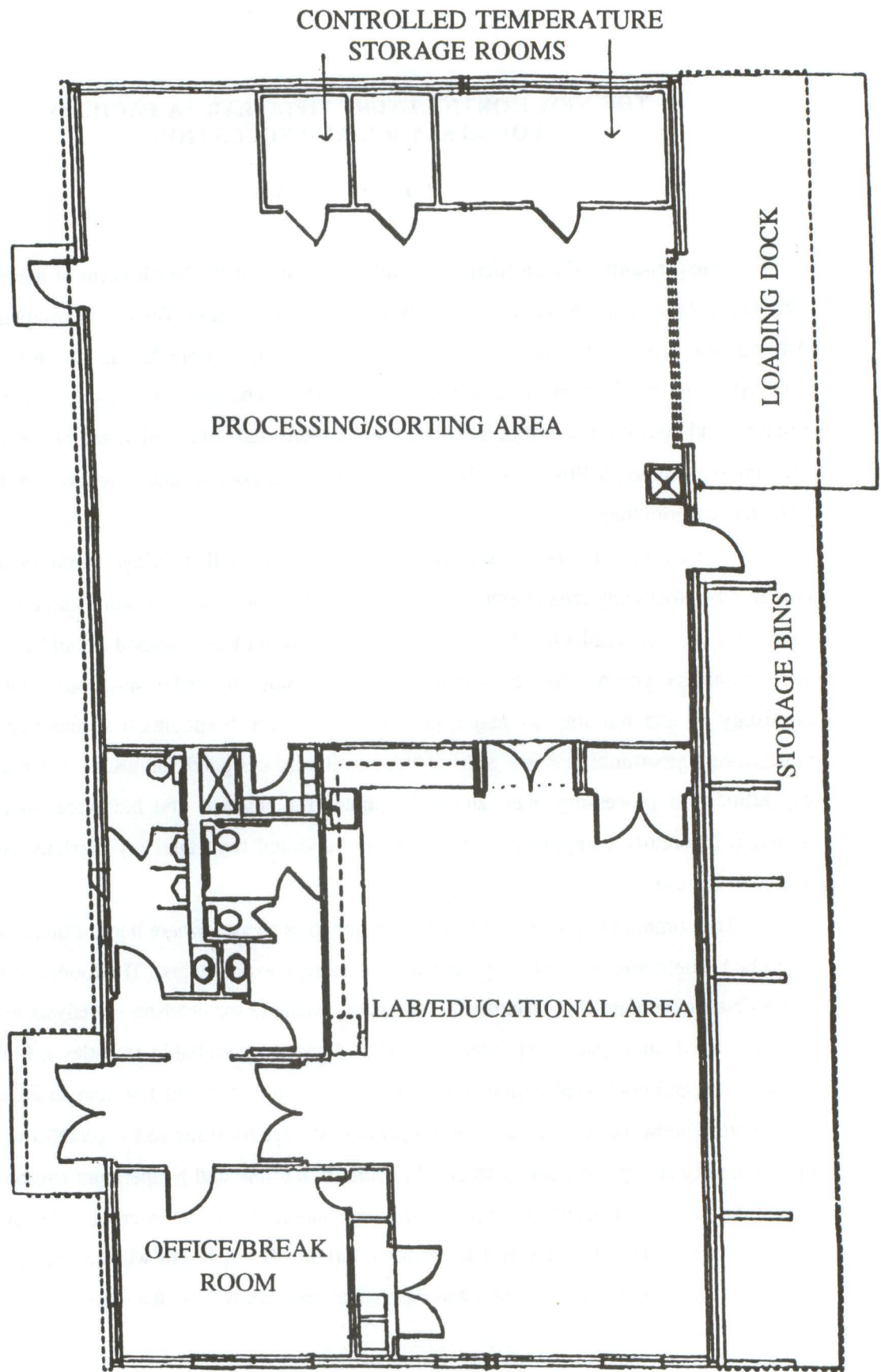


FIGURE 1. FLOOR PLAN FOR HORTICULTURE FIELD LAB.