



STATE UPDATE FOR NORTH CAROLINA August 2015

Administrative Update

College Update

Plant Science Initiative (PSI) and Food Processing and Manufacturing Initiative (FPMI). The PSI continues to move forward and shows much promise for the future of the Agricultural Sector in North Carolina. The NC Legislative Session continues, which at the outcome, will determine the PSI's action steps in the upcoming months. The indirect impact of the PSI could mean over 32,000 jobs and over \$9.2B over the next 10 years, and the FPMI and over \$15B of indirect impact.

Program Area Updates

4-H and FCS

In June, Citizenship Focus returned to Raleigh, with more than 200 youth participating in leadership and advocacy training. Youth participated in workshops and lectures prior to visiting with their legislators on the closing day. The 4-H Juntos Program, recognized by 4-H National as a key program in the future of 4-H, received grant support from New York Life, and will be piloted in both New York and Texas.

The month of July was a busy month for 4-H. One hundred sixty eight youth participated in Electric Congress, which was held at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington this year. The next week 515 youth participated in the 4-H Congress held at the McKimmon Center on the campus of NC State University. Throughout the summer, the three 4-H camps, Camp Millstone, Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Camp and the Eastern 4-H Center have provided meaningful learning opportunities for youth. The first annual awards breakfast, recognizing the individual and team winners of the 4-H Livestock Judging, Skillathon and Quiz Bowl competitions was also held at the McKimmon Center in July. Both the North Carolina State 4-H Horse Show and the Southern Region 4-H Horse Show were held in Raleigh, North Carolina and Perry, Georgia respectively, with North Carolina youth winning numerous honors at the regional event.

In August, youth will participate in leadership activities at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners meeting in Greenville, NC. The State 4-H Office is in the process of exploring expansion of our environmental education and outdoor sports programs and hope to set a clear path to do so by years end. To that end, NC 4-H was able to hire a part-time coordinator of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

Family and Consumer Science agents will participate in their annual meeting, August 5-7. This will be the first annual meeting since a restructuring of the organization to focus efforts on food, nutrition and nutritional health. Several agents have received their multi-county assignments. Extension administration has now made it possible for counties to, once again, hire full-time FCS agents.

County Operations

We are preparing for our annual appreciation dinner for our County Commissioner and County Manager partners. We are honored to have a premiere spot on their annual state conference, and our role and recognition has expanded each year! This year we will focus our outreach materials on the impacts of both LGU's from North Carolina, as well as highlight the National Impacts Database.

We partner with NC State University's Office of Outreach and Engagement on their annual "Connecting in North Carolina" (CINC) tour, where we take campus-based administrators and faculty on tours in the state to highlight various extension initiatives and familiarize them with our land-grant mission in action. This year, we are collaborating to bring some of the off-campus participants back to NC State campus for what is being called "the reciprocal tour," which will allow for deeper conversations and collaborations to emerge and take shape. We will look to repeat this reciprocating model in future tours.

Budget

The NC Legislature remains in session with universities optimistic that budget reductions will be minimal. It appears that there is a \$450 million surplus, which hopefully will equate to small salary increases of NC State employees.

University Wide Enterprise Management Systems

The NC State University on-line registration, non-degree credit, learning management system is being considered. The system, entitled "Mendix" (www.mendix.com) has been chosen as the campus enterprise solution. The NCCES Director of County Operations will provide leadership to the CALS initiative, which is slated to capture extension's 600,000+ contacts and nearly 90,000 registration entries annually. Hopes are to pilot the "registration system" within the next quarter of 2015.

Staffing Plan Update

The Cooperative Extension System has completed its first year of the Staffing Plan. The plan was launched in August of 2014 with staffing infrastructure and changes in full swing. Since the recent update during the spring:

- Only 23 County Support Staff have been eliminated, which is 54 less than we originally thought would have to be reduced. This number is smaller due to some retirements, a successful internal transfer process, and, in large part, because County Partners picked up the lost State funding.
- Also, over the last 12 months, 75 positions have been filled in 101 county centers across North Carolina.
- 6 new "Area Specialized Agents" are advertised presently (2-Horticulture, 1-Dairy, 1-Forestry, 1-Grains, 1-Poultry)

Eight additional Area Specialized Agent positions are "on deck" to be filled in late 2015. These are positions in the consumer and commercial food safety areas, respectively. The final portion of the staffing model will conclude July 2016 where county budget dollars across the state will be at least 50% for salaries. In the area of FCS (Family & Consumer Sciences), the staffing model will require agents to serve dual counties.

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