



**University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Update for
ASRED/AEA/AES Joint Meeting
August 22-26
Nashville, TN**

[UK Cooperative Extension Homepage](#)

Significant Activities

Defining Strategic Initiatives for UK Cooperative Extension and the County Plan of Work

Work on redefining the breadth of UK CES programming continues. Campus specialists have been involved to a much greater degree, and agents have been on the strategic initiative teams to produce better programs and service for clientele. The reporting system has been changed to handle these changes, and most teams have developed common evaluation instruments. At the same time, we have been developing a web-based mobile app for on the spot reporting of contacts and demographics, and a prototype is nearly ready for testing.

Work continues on the integrated programming teams. Most have a combined logic model and have made progress towards evaluation instruments.

These initiatives will be used by agents to compile their plans of work that began April 1. Although the initiative framework continues to be refined and augmented, including integrating the Kentucky State University reporting into this framework.

Kentucky Extension Employs First County Manager

County Extension Director roles have been common in most states for many years. Because of increases in population and associated increases in county staff, UK Extension recently hired our first full time “Extension County Manager” in Boone County KY. Located in Northern Kentucky and part of the Cincinnati metro area, Boone County has a current population of approximately 130,000 people. It also has largest Extension budget in the state and over 20 employees.

The County Manager responsibilities include direct agent and support staff supervision, facilities management, Extension Council and Board development and serving as office contact with elected/public officials.

<https://boone.ca.uky.edu/>

Kentucky Nutrition Education Program Growth

Despite flat funding for Extension in many other areas, Kentucky’s NEP has seen continued growth. Because of our ability to consistently manage our staff and document behavioral changes in our clients, additional nutrition education funds have been secured and additional staff have been added. Currently over 140 NEP paraprofessionals are employed in Kentucky.



<http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/nutrition-education-programs>

Extension to launch Comprehensive Review

By fall 2016, UK CES will begin a comprehensive review of programming, operations, IT, marketing and communication, and external relations. The review is a product of discussions between the Dean and Provost to explore ways for UK CES to be more transparent, accountable and explore innovative ways to improve its level of service. The process will have significant leadership from Extension and administrative professionals from outside of the University and Kentucky. Completion is hoped for in 6 to 9 months.

UK CES Undergoes Internal Audit

Beginning August 1, UK CES is being reviewed by the UK Department of Internal Audit. The process is beginning with interviews of administrative leadership. Results of these discussions will lead to audits of a number of county extension offices.

Budget/Funding/Legislative

The state budget of the University of Kentucky was reduced 4.5% in the first year of the biennium beginning July 1, 2016 and a 5% performance-based hold back (my words) was instituted in the second year. The Provost and the Vice President for Finance allocated the majority of the \$3.1M reduction in the College of Agriculture to the Field Programs Unit (\$2.6M). The \$2.6M represents a 14% reduction in state support to Field Programs. This reduction came from the benefits budget paid on county agents that are locally funded. Field Programs will make the reduction to this new budget figure over three years, with the Provost and the College providing bridge funding. The outcomes of the Comprehensive Review will assist in any needed reallocation or adjustment to county staffing and/or cost share arrangements. Little is known about the nature of the performance targets or the 5% hold back for the budget beginning July 1, 2017.

Hiring of agents in state supported positions has been slowed greatly to create recurring budget savings. Counties that choose can pay the full cost (called 'Stop Gap' funding) can replace vacancies immediately. Counties unable to replace agent vacancies using the stopgap mechanism can expect to wait 18 to 24 months for their position to be posted and filled.

The UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment was able to secure \$15M in new funding for a Grain Crops Center of Excellence at the UK Research and Education Center in western Kentucky. These one-time funds came from the tobacco master settlement resources administered by the Governor's Office of Ag Policy and require a 1:1 match.

Administrative/Policy/Staffing

College-Retirements and Staffing Changes

UK CES is in the final stages of a national search for an Assistant Director for 4-H Youth Development. Three finalists were interviewed and shared presentations in mid – July. A final announcement is expected by late August.



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