



MSU Extension received two FY16 year-end state appropriation budget reductions, totaling 2% of the overall state appropriations. Additional FY17 mid-year reductions are expected due to falling revenues in the state budget. Plans have been developed to reduce lower priority programs, if additional reductions occur.

MSU Extension external funding awards for FY17 increased through grants and contracts. MSU Extension currently represents 25% of the university's total external awards.

The second year of MSU Extension's new **Program Development Process** is complete. Faculty submitted 133 planned programs to the Program Planning Team for review. A new Extension Course Catalog is being developed. The programs were developed by faculty assigned to one of ten program planning areas:

- Plant Systems
- Environmental Systems
- Forestry
- Animal Systems
- Wildlife and Fisheries
- Environmental Sustainability/Pest Management
- Community Resource and Economic Development
- Enterprise Economics
- Family and Consumer Education
- 4-H Youth Development

The MSU Faculty Senate voted 32 to 3 to support Research and Extension faculty to have tenure track positions. The Senate will work with administration to modify the current Promotion and Tenure Guidelines to support the scholarship of Research and Extension faculty during the fall of 2016.

MSU Extension is developing a new Extension Agent Evaluation Form to support the work of the field staff and the new Program Planning Process. The new instrument is being pilot tested and will be implemented in 2017.

Dr. Keith Coble has been named **Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at MSU**. Dr. Coble's primary responsibilities will include chairing and co-chairing the administrative and programmatic efforts for Extension Enterprise Economics and Community Development areas.

MSU is currently searching for two *Research and Extension Center Heads* for the Coastal and North Mississippi Research and Extension Centers. These positions lead the administrative efforts of the Center faculty and staff, branch experiment stations and County Extension Office operations with the region. (North Mississippi Research & Extension Center located in Verona, MS and Coastal Research & Extension Center located in Biloxi, MS).

Submitted by Gary Jackson, Director, Mississippi State University Extension, August 5, 2016