Extension, Natural Resources, and Partnering

BETSY WIELAND
CENTER PROGRAM MANAGER
CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
EXTENSION’S BEGINNINGS

“In order to aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and to encourage the application of the same, there may be continued or inaugurated in connection with the college of colleges in each State, Territory, or possession . . .”

-Smith-Lever Act 1914
EXTENSION TODAY

EXTENSION EDUCATION MODEL

RESEARCH: discovering science-based solutions that work
EDUCATION: building a stronger Minnesota and a brighter future
VALUE: helping people develop knowledge and skills to solve problems
EXTENSION TODAY

Extension leverages Federal, State and County investments

- **Federal** $10.5 million (15%)
- **State** $27 million (38%)
- **County Government** $14 million (20%)
- **Grants, Gifts & Other** $19 million (27%)
EXTENSION TODAY

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Family Development
- Youth Development
- Community Vitality
POSITIONS IN OUR CENTER

- Program coordinators (~12)
- Local educators (~25)
- Regional educators (~50)
- Specialists (~60+)

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PROGRAM COORDINATORS

- MOA or grant based
- Program specific
- Job duty examples
  - Volunteer management
  - Technical assistance
  - Community engagement
  - Rarely research
LOCAL EDUCATORS

- MOA funded
- Typically geographically based
- Job duty examples
  - Develop educational opportunities
  - Community engagement
  - Technical assistance
  - Possibly research
REGIONAL EDUCATORS

- State allocated funding, grants, MOAs, agreements
- Topic based
- Job duty examples
  - Develop state-wide/regional educational opportunities
  - Engagement with topic-based community
  - Usually research
  - Less technical assistance
SPECIALISTS

- Faculty in another college
- Topic based
- Job duty examples
  - May split time between teaching, research and extension work
  - Less technical assistance and engagement
  - More program leadership
TOPICS WE COVER

www.extension.umn.edu

- Crops
- Livestock
- Agricultural business management
- Food safety
- Horticulture

- Water
- Forestry
- Conservation education
- More
EXTENSION EVOLVING

Systems thinking
- Position descriptions
- How systems function
- Impacts on systems
- Management techniques in systems
EXTENSION EVOLVING

- Historic partnerships
  - Counties
  - State departments
    - MN DNR
    - MDA
    - MPCA
  - UMN
    - CFANS
    - CBS
EXTENSION EVOLVING

New Partnerships

- Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative
- MAISRC
- UMN Bee lab
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
PARTNERING WITH EXTENSION

Our partnering strengths

- Strong statewide presence
  - County offices
  - Regional offices
  - Website

- Quality educational techniques

- Research base

- Trusted information source
EXTENSION...

- Has a long history of teaching Minnesotans about land management
- Is evolving to meet Minnesota’s needs
- Is interested in partnering where it fits
PARTNERING DISCUSSION

- How have you partnered with Extension?
- What went well?
- What would make it easier/better?
- Are you thinking about partnering with us?
- How would you like to partner with us?
- What are barriers to partnering?
Thank you!

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TOPICS ADDRESSED

- Crops
- Livestock
- Ag Business Management
- Horticulture
- Food Safety
- Water
- Forestry

UMN
- Extension
- CFANS
  - Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
  - Departments