

NCCC052 Family Economics

Annual Meeting October 16 - 17, 2008

The annual meeting of NCCC052 Family Economics was held at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel in Detroit Michigan on October, 16-17, 2008. These minutes constitute the official record of the meeting.

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Present from the North Central Regional Association: Urvi Neelakantan (urvi@illinois.edu), Illinois; Craig Gundersen (cggunder@illinois.edu), Illinois; Cindy Fletcher (cynthia@iastate.edu), Iowa; Constance Costner (Costner@msu.edu), Michigan; Catherine Huddleston-Casas (Chuddleston-casas2@unl.edu), Nebraska; Sharon Seiling (sseiling@hec.ohio-state.edu), Ohio; Elizabeth Gorham (gorham.liz@ces.sdstate.edu), South Dakota; Michael Collins (jmcollins@wisc.edu), Wisconsin

Present from outside the North Central Regional Association: Michael Gutter (msgutter@ufl.edu), Florida; Frances Lawrence (flawrence@lsu.edu), Louisiana; Jane Schuchardt (jschuchardt@csrees.usda.gov), Washington, DC (USDA/CSREES Representative)

Absent States from within the North Central Regional Association: Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota

Guests: Eric Scorsone (Michigan State University), David Schweikhardt (Michigan State University), Olga Savic Stella (Detroit Economic Growth Corporation)

DAY 1: Thursday, October 16, 2008

1. Introductory Remarks

- Meeting attendees introduced themselves.
- Fran Lawrence reviewed
 - the program for the meeting
 - the minutes from last year's meeting
 - what needs to be done in relationship to the NCCC052 proposal
 - the research priorities of NCCC052
 - Planning for a Secure Financial Future
 - Household Food Security and Health
 - Loss in Times of Disaster.

2. Formal presentations

Constance Costner (Michigan State University), Eric Scorsone (Michigan State University), and David Schweikhardt (Michigan State University)

“The Mortgage and Housing Crisis”

Handouts from a PowerPoint presentation and a publication entitled “Housing Counseling 101” were distributed.

3. Lunch and formal presentation

Liz Gorham (South Dakota State University) and Michael Gutter (University of Florida)

“Update on NC-1172: The Complex Nature of Saving: Psychological and Economic Factors”

The PowerPoint presentation and the poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) can be obtained by contacting Craig Gundersen (cggunder@illinois.edu).

4. Formal presentations

Cindy Fletcher (Iowa State University)

“Consumer Views on Biofuel Industry: Does Proximity Matter”

The PowerPoint presentation and the poster presented at the Annual Meetings of ACCI can be obtained by contacting Craig Gundersen (cggunder@illinois.edu).

Urvi Neelakantan (University of Illinois)

“Household Bargaining and Portfolio Choice”

The PowerPoint presentation can be obtained by contacting Craig Gundersen (cggunder@illinois.edu).

5. Formal discussion

Policy Briefs

In the 2007 annual meeting of NCCC052 Family Economics, it was suggested that a series of policy briefs would be an excellent way to advertise the work being done by researchers in NCCC052. In response, Craig Gundersen prepared a discussion about how this goal could be met.

Gundersen distributed some examples from the Policy Brief Series at Iowa State University. (The examples can be found at <http://www.hs.iastate.edu/makeadifference/pdf/farmfamfs.pdf> , <http://www.hs.iastate.edu/makeadifference/pdf/foodstampb.pdf> , and <http://www.hs.iastate.edu/makeadifference/pdf/Gundersen.food%20insecure%20and%20overweight.pdf> .) He suggested that the same general format be used for NCCC052 Policy Briefs with two differences being a different heading and no pictures. Suggestions for other changes included (a) acknowledging the funding source of the work being reviewed, (b) tying the brief into one of the three NCCC052 research priorities noted above, (c) renaming the section “We recommend” to instead read “Implications”, and (d) change “Policy Briefs” to “Research Briefs”. All four of these suggestions were seen to be worth doing by participants.

Gundersen further discussed what sorts of research items could be used to create policy briefs. At Iowa State, the briefs had to be based on a refereed journal article that had been published (rather than just forthcoming). Iowa State used this method because it made for easier editing of the briefs and provided some validity for the research. Discussion ensued about this requirement and one participant suggested that papers from peer-reviewed meetings be allowed. Others disagreed with this further inclusion but no consensus was reached on this issue. Another issue about the policy briefs is who would be allowed to write these. Gundersen suggested that any member of NCCC052 who was included in the annual report for their school would be eligible. This was seen as acceptable by participants.

The policy briefs need to be hosted by some website. Angela Lyons at University of Illinois is in the process of establishing a website titled “Center for Economic and Financial Education” there that can host these briefs. Angela has agreed to have a portion of the website devoted to NCCC052 briefs. Consistent with the suggestions of some at the meeting, links will be provided from other locations as well.

6. Visit to Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Detroit Branch

This trip included a building tour and a presentation by tour guide, Katherine Nelson, and economist, Martin Lavelle. The discussion in the latter concentrated on the recent financial crisis.

7. Dinner and informal discussion

DAY 2: Friday, October 17, 2008

1. Formal discussion

Registration Fee

The registration fee, to be paid to Michigan State University Extension, was set at \$130.

Location of Meeting Next Year

Two suggestions for locations were made during the meeting – University of Florida or Ohio State University. Subsequent discussion led to a consensus for Ohio State University. Sharon Seiling graciously agreed to serve as Local Arrangements Chair.

Accomplishments from Previous Year

Fran reviewed the accomplishments of NCCC052 over the previous year.

- Creation and subsequent distribution of 1-page research priority flyer. The flyer was distributed through many venues, both on-line and in-person.
- Research on the first two points from the flyer - Planning for a Secure Financial Future and Household Food Security and Health – was especially extensive.
- Based on state reports, committee members recorded that colleagues at their respective institutions had published 116 refereed journal articles related to family economics areas, 40 books/book chapters, 61 articles in refereed proceedings, 17 technical reports/research briefs, 29 theses/dissertations, and 69 other publications. In addition, 103 grants/contracts totaling over \$22M were received and 29 theses and dissertations were overseen by committee members. It was suggested that that future aggregation of state reports also cover (a) the proportion of output that was multi-state, (b) the proportion of output that was multi-disciplinary, and (c) which of the publications directly met one of the three objectives on the NCCC052 flyer.

eXtension

Sharon Seiling led a discussion about eXtension (<http://about.extension.org/>) and how the site connects with the work of NCCC052. One tie-in she mentioned was that NCCC052 should track the articles that have been recently published in journals with relevant findings for those coming to the eXtension site for advice. From these articles, brief descriptions written for laypersons could be garnered. It was further suggested that these descriptions be tied into the specific sets of questions being posed on the eXtension site.

To facilitate the tie-in between the research articles and eXtension, journals were assigned to people at this meeting. From each journal, articles are to be chosen and the author of the articles (or one of the authors if multiple authors) should be contacted to encourage to write a brief for eXtension. The following were assigned to follow the contents of the journals and contact authors: *Financial Services Review* – Fran Lawrence; *Journal of Financial Planning* - Liz Gorham; *Journal of Consumer Education* - Urvi Neelakantan; *Journal of Consumer Affairs* - Cindy Fletcher; and *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* – Craig Gundersen. While this will be an ongoing project, the plan is to have several briefs prepared by next year's NCCC052 meetings.

Chair-Elect

Catherine Huddleston-Casas of the University of Nebraska graciously agreed to serve as Chair-Elect.

Attendance by Representatives from Different States

Several states which are part of NCCC052 have been well-represented at recent meetings. Other states, however, have either been absent at all the recent meetings or a subset of these meetings. To improve attendance, it was suggested that the Chair contact the heads of state Agricultural Experiment Stations to try to ensure someone from each state is represented. In addition, it was suggested that we might encourage new faculty and graduate students to attend.

Update on CSREES

Jane Schuchardt gave a presentation on recent changes that have been made at CSREES. Of particular relevance for NCCC052, CSREES has changed its name to the National Institutes for Food and Agriculture and the National Research Initiative (NRI) program has changed its name to Agricultural and Food Research Initiatives (AFRI). The governance structure of CSREES has also changed insofar as the new head will be a political appointee. More details on the content of Schuchardt's talk can be found in the Attachment.

4. Formal Presentations

Olga Savic Stella (Detroit Economic Growth Corporation)
"Social Compact Detroit Drilldown"

Three handouts, including one for a PowerPoint presentation, were distributed to attendees.

Cathey Huddleston-Casas (University of Nebraska)

"Update on NC-1171: Interactions of Individual, Family, community, and Policy Contexts on the Mental and Physical Health of Diverse Rural Low-Income Families"

The PowerPoint presentation can be obtained by contacting Craig Gundersen (cggunder@illinois.edu).

Craig Gundersen (University of Illinois)

"Stress and Childhood Obesity"

The PowerPoint presentation can be obtained by contacting Craig Gundersen (cggunder@illinois.edu).

5. Lunch and informal discussion

Recorded by Craig Gundersen, Chair-Elect

Confirmed by Frances Lawrence, Chair

Approved:

October 29, 2008

Craig Gundersen
NCCC052 Chair-elect

Date

Carla Peterson
NCCC052 Administrative Advisor

Date

Attachment

Update on Farm Bill Implementation Activities (September 2008)

IMPLEMENTATION

A USDA implementation team, with representatives from each USDA mission area, meets weekly. The top priorities are those provisions that have specified deadlines or are essential to enable continuity of ongoing programs. An example for CSREES is the specialty crop research initiative which provides \$30 million and must be awarded before September 30, 2008. For the REE mission area, the start of a roadmap has a specific deadline and is referred to later.

New Farm Bill programs have been assigned to appropriate agencies and the delegations of authority are nearing completion, with the exception of a very few programs. Each agency has set a timeline for what is needed and how they plan to implement each program for which they are responsible.

The REE Under Secretary has established a REE Farm Bill Implementation team that usually meets on Mondays. In addition to staff from the Under Secretary's office, it includes the four REE agencies' Administrators and Associate Administrators and others as determined by each agency.

CHANGES

First and foremost, with the exception of Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems (IFAFS), all funded programs that have been administered by CSREES have been reauthorized. If you cannot find a program reauthorized or repealed in Title VII of the new Farm Bill, this does not mean it is gone. It just means the program did not require reauthorization.

AFRI: The National Research Initiative (NRI) has been modified and renamed the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) and will be the core competitive grant program for research, education and extension. AFRI combines features from the NRI and IFAFS programs, and authorizes \$700 million in grants for FY 2008-12, of which the Secretary can retain no more than 4% for administrative costs. Funds are available for obligation for a 2-year period beginning in the fiscal year for which the funds are first made available. Grants are awarded on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance and may have terms of up to 10 years. (We expect to apply the 10-year award authority very judiciously.)

Of the AFRI funds allocated to research activities, section 7406 directs 60% toward grants for fundamental (or basic) research, and 40% toward applied research. Furthermore, of the AFRI funds allocated to fundamental research activities, 30% of AFRI grants will be directed toward research by multidisciplinary teams. In addition, the law specifies that of the total amount appropriated to AFRI, not less than 30% is to be used for integrated programs.

NIFA: All programs currently administered by CSREES will be transferred to a newly named National Institute of Food and Agriculture (the National Institute). This new agency will have a director, appointed by the president for a six year term with a second six year term possible. This politically appointed director will report directly to the Secretary or the Secretary's designee. The National Institute

will be the only research agency in the Department required to have a politically appointed director rather than a career executive as administrator. The National Institute must be established no later than October 1, 2009.

Chief Scientist: The Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics will also hold the title of Chief Scientist of the Department. This change should significantly increase the visibility of Research, Education and Extension.

REEO: The Under Secretary's office will establish the Research, Education, and Extension Office (REEO) to coordinate Agricultural Research. There will be six divisions:

- 1) Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment;
- 2) Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health;
- 3) Plant Health and Production and Plant Products;
- 4) Animal Health and Production and Animal Products;
- 5) Agricultural Systems and Technology; and,
- 6) Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities.

It is expected that directors for each division will be in place in early October, 2008. Their initial responsibility will be the development of a Roadmap for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education. The Roadmap is to identify major opportunities and knowledge gaps; receive stakeholder recommendations; incorporate other roadmaps; and recommend funding levels. This Roadmap is mandated to be started by September 15, 2008 and completed one year after that date.

NEW PROGRAMS

Specialty Crops: New mandatory funding totaling \$230 million is provided for Specialty Crop Research, with \$30 million for 2008. The RFA for this Program has been released. In 2009 through 2012, \$50 million is provided each year.

Organic Agriculture: For The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative in 2008 the Farm Bill lets stand \$3 million mandatory funding and also provides \$18 million in mandatory funding in 2009 and \$20 million mandatory in each of 2010 through 2012.

Beginning Farmers/Ranchers: The Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program receives \$18 million in mandatory funding in 2009 and \$19 million in each of the years 2010 through 2012.

NOTEWORTHY PROGRAM CHANGES

EFNEP: Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program has its authorization level raised to \$90 million per year. The legislation sets a floor allocation of \$100,000 per recipient institution. It also creates a formula for 1890 Land-Grant Institutions to receive a base allocation plus 10 percent, increasing to 15 percent of appropriations above the FY07 level, and authorizes UDC to participate in the program.

HSACUs: The Farm Bill establishes a new category of Hispanic Serving Institutions addressing agriculture: Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs). The law also establishes five new programs for HSACUs: (1) Endowment, (2) Equity, (3) Capacity, (4) Extension, and, (5) Research, and expands eligibility in several ongoing programs to HSACUs. The latter three programs are competitive

McIntire-Stennis: The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act is amended to include 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.

Ten year duration for certain grants: New authority allows the agency to make some competitive grants awards for up to ten years.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

OEP will continue to conduct and provide critical analyses and take necessary actions to keep us abreast of – and compliant with – new authorities, legislation, regulatory title status, RFA expected release dates, other policies and procedures (and their timing), and other activities that emanate from the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Statement regarding Family and Youth Development and 4-H The language in the legislation does not specifically mention the role of family and consumer sciences, youth development, or 4-H in any new or amended provisions or law, including those related to the REEO or the National Institute. These focal areas, however, are included in the unamended legislation which established many current and ongoing programs, such as Smith-Lever formula and Smith-Lever 3(d) programs, and as such will continue be part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture research, education, and extension portfolio. In addition, expanded flexibility in administration of other programs, particularly competitively awarded grants, could provide avenues for expansion of support to these activities, depending on priority development and appropriations.

Family and youth development and 4-H programs will be included within the National Institute staffing and structure. CSREES is working with extension directors and other leaders to clarify roles and expectations for these programs, and will convey the perspectives and concerns of these constituents to transition planners.

Colien Hefferan

Administrator

