

**Cooperative Extension Regional Scan for ECOP
Northeast Extension Directors (NEED)
October, 2014**

Critical Issues

- The Northeast Extension Directors participated in the July 14-16, 2014 Joint Summer Meeting with the North Central Region in Madison, WI. Major topics included the Healthy Lifestyle initiative, water quality and creating a sustainable national funding model. Our joint meeting with NERA focused on the climate hub working relationships and the planning grant process.
- What started as a NE states response to the Affordable Care Act has become a multi-state, multi-region Extension team focused on Health Insurance Literacy. This initiative has moved through ECOP approval and is now a BAA initiative. Much of the summer Joint COPS meeting focused on how to evolve this concept into a national emphasis.
- NEED is focused this year on finishing what we have started. Ken LaValley (UNH) is leading an effort to develop a regional research agreement between institutions as a means to facilitate the process of submitting multi-state grant proposals. (This included a discussion on institutional indirect costs). The model that the Northeast is using is based an agreement of the Sea Grant Institutions in the Northeast. Mike O'Neill continues to lead an app development challenge to engage students in building Extension-related mobile apps. A focus on developing an international Extension training center is still in progress.
- Support for program evaluation is crucially needed in the Northeast states. Conversations have occurred on ways to work multi-state.

Other Items:

- Northeast Program Leaders continue to meet on a regular basis via phone conversations. The 4-H leaders met face-to-face in August. The FCS leaders meet on a monthly call. The ANR leaders meet as called by the chair. They met face-to-face in DC during the Centennial celebration.
- NEED in collaboration with NERA funded a joint planning grant process in 2013. Two \$4000 grants were designed to facilitate Extension and research faculty interacting and encouraging the submission of larger, multi-state grants. These planning grants focused on building the competitive advantage of the Northeast states regarding the food system. The focus was on new and promising integrated research and extension activities that bring together specialist from diverse fields. A required outcome is the submission of a proposal for NIFA funding.

Personnel Changes

- NEED hired a new Executive Director, Nancy H. Bull, former Extension associate director in Connecticut to fill Linda Kay Benning's position, who retired December 31, 2013.
- NEED said goodbye to long time Extension Director John Pike, New Hampshire.
- Rick Rhodes, Rhode Island will complete his term as chair of NEED; Dan Lerner, Vermont will assume this leadership role.

Future Meeting Dates

- NEED meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. ET
- The 2015 Joint (NERA/NEED) Summer Meeting will be hosted by New Hampshire July 7-8, 2015.