

Association of Northeast Extension Directors (NEED)

Empowering Collaboration | Advancing Regional Priorities | Connecting Resources



FACT SHEET

Contact Us

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Members

Cornell University
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
Delaware State University
University of the District of Columbia
University of Maine
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of New Hampshire
Pennsylvania State University
University of Rhode Island
Rutgers University
University of Vermont
West Virginia University
West Virginia State University

Selected Collaborators

- Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)
- Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU)
- North Central Cooperative Extension Association
- Association of Southern Region Extension Directors
- Western Extension Directors Association
- Northeast Center for Rural Development
- National Urban Extension Leaders
- National 4-H Council
- Association of 1890s Extension Administrators
- Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET)

What is NEED?

NEED is a professional association where Cooperative Extension Leaders from the twelve northeastern States and the District of Columbia come together to set and advocate for regional priorities, link resources, collaborate on new projects, and support integrated programming.

We do this by

- convening regional symposiums and conferences;
- connecting subject matter experts across the region;
- highlighting state successes to inform regional change;
- creating and distributing professional development resources;
- serving as an expert resource on issues that span NEED's priority areas and cross state lines;
- fostering partnerships with collaborators, stakeholders, and funding organizations, both public and private, to address intersecting priorities;
- working in harmony with the agricultural experiment stations and the national extension system to tackle critical issues.

What is Cooperative Extension?

Established in 1914 through the Smith Lever Act and subsequent amendments, Cooperative Extension is

- a system of non-formal educational programs stemming from the Land Grant Universities;
- a network of +32,000 University- and county-based employees and 2.8 million volunteers crossing every state and U.S. territory;
- mission driven to help individuals and communities use tailored, trusted, science-based information to live vibrant healthy lives;
- trusted staff who meet your constituents where they live on their own terms to
 - deliver tailored, innovative, and accessible programming,
 - link resources to address locally identified problems,
 - convene partners to co-create solutions

National priorities: Nutrition, health and wellness 4-H Positive youth development, water quality and use, food production and security, community and economic development

To learn more about cooperative extension in the Northeast Region visit our website at www.northeastextension.org

Northeast Regional Priorities

With a population of 60-65 million people, the northeast region holds an estimated 19% of the U.S. population on 5% of its land area. The region is a center of wealth and population, its citizens drive food production decisions, its marketplace is the epicenter for consumer voices, and its schools are the training ground for America's future workforce. The issues facing the northeast's urban and rural communities throw into sharp relief many of the greatest challenges facing the Nation.

Primary Focus Areas include:

- Small scale, specialty, and urban agriculture;
- consumer literacy;
- individual, family, and community health, nutrition, and health culture;
- sustainable food systems;
- community and environmental resilience;
- youth development;
- bridging urban and rural communities;
- integrated pest management for invasive plant and animal species;
- workforce development and entrepreneurship including farmer stress, market support, and innovation; and,
- urban issues including green cities and nutrition deserts.

What can NEED do for you?

1. **Deliver** expert perspectives on policy questions, the impacts of regulatory language, and other issues that span NEED's priorities and cross state lines.
2. **Connect** you to the regional network, data, and human resources.
3. **Help** you access stories on how extension delivers effective and efficient change on issues that matter most to you through, cooperatively financed programs in partnership with State, county, and local governments.
4. **Provide** access to the region's Cooperative Extension leadership at one place and at one time.

What actions can you take?

1. **Consider** Cooperative Extension as an efficient, responsible, and data-driven partner for delivering programs across the country.
2. **Contact your state's Cooperative Extension services** to better understand current activities and to learn how you may align efforts, collaborate, or leverage resources for common goals.
3. **Call your representatives and share** how Cooperative Extension programs positively impact your life. Extension activities are enabled by matching Federal funding with state, county, and local resources. Without the support of elected officials Cooperative Extension cannot do its crucial work including
 - delivering 4-H positive youth development opportunities;
 - serving vulnerable communities through EFNEP, SNAP-Ed and anti-opioid abuse programming;
 - providing financial guidance to new and established farmers and small businesses; and more.

If you are unsure of how to talk to your representatives, NEED is standing by with the resources to help.

4. **Get involved** with the Cooperative Extension service in your state. Opportunities are available to volunteer, partner, or bring services to your community!

Talk to us about what Cooperative Extension is doing on the issues that matter most to you!