



Extension Program and Staff Development

It's hard to believe that fall is already upon us. With this time of year comes the beginning of a semester on campus, but more importantly, opportunities for clientele to benefit from new programs across the state.

This season also includes opportunities for professional development, with several Extension associations hosting national meetings September through December. As you consider attending these, please be sure to take a look at what the KERS in-service catalog has to offer. We are including a host of additional trainings that are sure to pique your interest and enhance your skills!

As some of you may know, we have completely revamped Core Training for new agents. Instead of signing up for a 2-3 day training block and sitting in on numerous short sessions that introduce pertinent topics, agents can now sign up for any individual topic they deem relevant to their role as a county agent. Most of the trainings will also be offered multiple times throughout the year. This will help minimize agents having to miss certain trainings due to scheduling conflicts, then needing to wait a year before a particular training is offered again.

Another big change is that these topics are being made available to everyone and not just new agents. At your earliest convenience, be sure to take a look at the [list of trainings](#), then go sign up as soon as possible!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Jones
Director

News

Strategic Initiative Resources are now in KERS: As of this fiscal year, beginning July 2016, our programmatic efforts are now categorized under Strategic Initiatives which aim to provide an overall focus among each program area. Under each strategic initiative is a list of major programs that were identified as priority areas by 4-H, ANR, FCS and CED.

When logging in to KERS, agents and specialists will no longer see a list of PAC codes, but a new numbered list of Major Programs from which they can select to associate with specific programming. A drop-down menu can be found in most KERS templates where agents and specialists can choose when reporting (e.g., statisticals, success stories, etc.).

In addition, agents will notice that there is no longer Priority Indicator or Featured Program reports to submit. The Major Programs are connected to a new report, Program Indicators, for FY2017. When agents click on the link “Program Indicators (FY2017)” and select a major program from the drop-down menu, a list of indicators will appear. In the past, it was indeed a challenge to adequately come up with similar numbers for the priority indicators. Now, these Program Indicator numbers can easily be tallied using the evaluation tools provided. The process is as simple as distributing an appropriate evaluation

to clientele after a program, then taking the total responses from the evaluations and entering the data in the KERS Program Indicators report. Once the data is entered, agents can go back and add to the numbers at any time. More importantly, agents/counties have an instant source of data that can be used to prepare and strengthen success stories. Specialists (particularly those serving as contacts for a major program) can also aggregate statewide data from all counties through the KERS reports page.

A list of all resources are available online. [Click here](#) to access materials by program area. We believe that these new features will help us communicate a stronger message to stakeholders about the value of Extension. If you have any questions about the Strategic Initiatives, Major Programs or Program Indicators, don't hesitate to contact me, your Assistant Director or a specialist that works with a specific Strategic Initiative.

-Ken

Kentucky Extension Diversity Awards: Since 1994, Kentucky Cooperative Extension has recognized Extension professionals who, through targeted efforts, excelled in reaching new clientele. The awards are annual and are available to both KSU and UK Extension professionals. Those chosen for the award receive a plaque and a program award of \$500 (individual) and \$1,000 (team) to use in their County or department to continue diversity efforts. Beginning November 1st, nominations/applications will be accepted and will close December 19th. Information on what to include in the nominations can be found [here](#). If you have any questions please contact Quentin Tyler, Assistant Dean and Director for Diversity at Quentin.tyler@uky.edu.

Cooperative Extension Service Summer Internship Program: The 45 interns that represented the class of 2016 has come to an end, but the memories will last a lifetime! Based on evaluations, it is remarkable to see that 39 out of 45 interns are interested in seeking full time employment with UK CES. For a more in-depth update on the 2016 Internship Program, [click here](#). The summer internship program application will be open October 1st – December 31st. We will begin soliciting for county host at the end of October. If you have any questions please contact Mia Farrell at (859) 218-4800. Marketing materials and application will be available [here](#).

Jr. MANRRS State Leadership Institute, December 2016: The 5th Annual Jr. MANRRS State Leadership Conference will be held December 9th-10th, 2016. Registration is free. We hope to share this experience with the youth in your community! Please contact your local 4-H Youth Development Agent about membership & registration. See the [Diversity website](#) for more information.

Agents in Action

New Extension Agents, Summer 2016: PSD warmly welcomes the new County Extension Agents who completed their orientation in August. Learn more about our new colleagues...[read more](#)

Success Story: Bryce Robert (Spencer County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension), Wildlife Habitat and Management Program. During the past 15 years, Spencer County has nearly tripled its population, going from 6,000 residents to nearly 19,000. As we have seen this growth, we've also encountered issues with wildlife damage to gardens and crops due to a decrease in wildlife habitat...[read more](#)

Professional Development Opportunities

IN-SERVICE: Survey Basics Join Pam Sigler for training on survey basics this fall! Topics covered include: Sampling, Design, and Developing Questions; Guidelines for Writing Questions; Accessing Survey Tools; Methods for Conducting and Distributing Surveys; Survey Responses, Data Entry, Analysis, Results, and Reporting Findings. Each webinar lasts one hour, and there will be 2 face-to-face sessions in this series. Agents are eligible for KERS credit for each one attended. For more information on dates and times, or to sign up for these trainings, head over to [KERS](#).

IN-SERVICE: The Road Trip to Successful Teaching Training Series is being offered to Extension Agents and Program Assistants who are interested in learning various teaching methods in order to enhance educational programs in their counties. The goal is that Agents/Program Assistants will be equipped with skills to create effective lesson plans, present educational material in various ways to improve their teaching to clientele, and to assist them in evaluating their educational programs. For more information on dates and times, or to sign up for these trainings, head over to [KERS](#).

IN-SERVICE: NEW Report to the People Webinar. There is a new template for the Report to the People, as well as a change to the submission process. This training will discuss these changes and provide an opportunity for questions and discussion for attendees. Both Support Staff & Agents responsible for putting the content of your office's Report to the People in the template and providing it to the main campus are welcome to register in KERS for this training. For more information on the 3 training dates and times, or to sign up for this training, head over to [KERS](#).

CES Mentorship Program: The newly improved UK Cooperative Extension Service mentorship program was introduced July 1, 2016. The program is beneficial to the mentor, mentee, and to the extension system. The 1st mentor training was conducted on September 2nd via Lync as part of the new Core Training model. Thank you to the agents that have been trained and ready to mentor new agents! Agents interested in being a mentor must have at least 3 years of service with UK CES. Future training dates have yet to be determined, but will be occurring twice a year as part of Core Training. Agents who attend the mentor training will receive in-service credit. For more details on the program, [click here](#).

Chi Epsilon Sigma is the National Cooperative Extension Support Staff Fraternity of the University of Kentucky. Join us for our 2017 Annual Meeting on April 12-14, 2017. For information on membership and more, please visit our website at <http://chies.ca.uky.edu/>.

Evaluation Tips: When beginning a multi-session program, consider asking the participants what they want to accomplish over the next six weeks or year. Plan your evaluation...[read more](#)

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