



Partnering with Volunteers and Sharing Leadership to Achieve Impact

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Abstract: This session will introduce the Extension Leadership System (ELS) in Georgia Cooperative Extension and explain how it is being utilized to overhaul the existing county advisory system. An overview of the five year implementation plan will be shared with the focus on building strong local partnerships in the program areas between the county faculty and the volunteers. Examples of shared leadership which resulted in program growth, specific successes and increased impact will be presented. Both the state and county perspectives will be included.

Objectives:

- To Explain the Extension Leadership System (ELS) utilized in Georgia
- To Report how ELS is being Implemented
- To Illustrate Partnering and Shared Leadership at the County Level
- To Discuss and Summarize Successes, Benefits and Impacts of ELS
- To Provide Examples of how this can be Replicated in other States

Advance Preparation:

- 45 packets assembled

Materials Needed:

- Computer with Internet Connection and connected Projector
- PowerPoint Presentation
- 45 packets

Time Needed: 30 minutes

BACKGROUND - In an effort to build strong partnerships at the local level that were tied to program area, as well as build a system to eventually provide advocates for the total Cooperative Extension Programs in Georgia, a five year plan was developed to overhaul the county advisory system and create the

Extension Leadership System (ELS). GA is currently in year three of the implementation and is already seeing much stronger local partnerships as well as enhanced programming and impact. The objective is to build a network of strong advocates across the state as well as strengthen the local ties that make the programs relevant and address local needs and issues.

INTEREST APPROACH – Ask what constrains Extension Programming at the local level – answers will most likely be time, money and personnel

LESSON – follow powerpoint presentation

APPLICATION – Overview of how one state addressed the issue of creating local networks of support for Cooperative Extension Programs while building an advocacy network across the state. Applicable to most state Extension Programs and can easily be replicated.

REFERENCES – see the UGA County Operations web site for more details:
<http://www.caes.uga.edu/intranet/coextopr/progdevelop/index.html>

HANDOUTS –

- 1) Long Range Plan (1 page)
- 2) Implementation Timeline for New Agents (1 page)
- 3) Program Development Team Operating Guidelines (1 f&b page)
- 4) Sample County Goals (2 pages f&b)
- 5) Agenda Setting Using REPE/Do's & Don'ts (1 f&b page)
- 6) Minutes Template (1 page)
- 7) Success Stories (1 f&b page)
- 8) Do's & Don'ts of Shared Leadership (1 page)

POWERPOINTS – see attached

EVALUATION – see attached

Tips for Using this with your Council

This presentation is an introduction to the Extension Leadership System (ELS) at the University of Georgia that overhauled and is enhancing the county advisory system in Georgia. Resources and more details maybe found at:
<http://www.caes.uga.edu/intranet/coextopr/progdevelop/index.html#leadership>