

Creating our Future
North Carolina Cooperative Extension
Community Listening Session
Union County Extension Center, Monroe
November 14, 2013

Approximately 90 people attended the Community Listening Session at the Union County Extension Center in Monroe to provide input into the visioning initiative, *Creating our Future*. Dr. Joe Zublena, Associate Dean and Director of NC Cooperative Extension Service, welcomed the participants and shared background information on the changes Cooperative Extension is facing. The goals of the visioning initiative are:

1. Define and focus on our most competitive and needed programs
2. Strengthen our impacts and value to citizens, the counties, & North Carolina
3. Create a financial buffer and gain flexibility to stay aligned to priorities
4. Develop a staffing model that aligns to our new fiscal reality and provides competitive salaries and a better quality of life to our employees

Working in small groups at their tables, participants discussed the questions posed to them and recorded their responses onto paper templates. The instructions provided to the participants and the detailed responses to each question are included in this document.

Participants were encouraged to provide additional input and to continue to monitor the progress of the visioning initiative on the website: www.ces.ncsu.edu/vision-initiative



THE BIG PICTURE

What are the important issues in your community that brought you to this conversation today?

From Hoke County:

Youth Development
Parenting Education
Good resources for agriculture
Horticulture
Nutrition
Family Development
Health
Local Foods
Water Quality

Union County -strong delivery

Protection of Production Agriculture....contributes jobs, GDP, tax base

20+ year 4-H Horse Volunteer

"Make sure everyone here understands the importance of 4-H" (cited examples of former 4-H members who are now very successful)

Union County Master Gardener

Is Extension still going to continue? We want it to continue (cited 7000 volunteer hours by Master Gardeners, trying to hold things together since no horticulture agent since July)

Richmond County Farmer

Production Agriculture



PROGRAMS & ORGANIZATION

PROGRAMS: When you think about Extension’s value, where can this organization have the greatest impact in your community and the state? What are the programs/services in your county that Extension must “sow or grow” and tell us why. What are the programs/services in your county that Extension could “prune or plow” and tell us why.

ORGANIZATION: Think about how Extension will have to make organizational and staffing changes to thrive in this new reality. (How might it prune back?) Thinking about the best interests of your county/community, how can Extension partner with you in a new and different way to meet your needs? What won’t work as Extension considers new and different ways to partner with your community?

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
<p>EMG program: - manuals - advanced education - develop communication skill sets to help with disseminating information</p> <p>Potential for a position for EMG program management, advocacy</p> <p><u>Reasons Why:</u> Non-commercial... Home horticulture is: - more prevalent - environmentally more aware - healthy eating awareness</p>	<p>EMG program, but needs to be kept up-to-date</p> <p>EMG “routine maintenance” to program, information to be disseminated</p>
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don’t Work
<p>We are not fully aware of all Extension applications and programs to suggest what to prune and plow</p>	<p>Sharing horticulture agents across heavily agricultural counties is a waste of travel, time, and money</p> <p><u>Reasons Why:</u> Doesn’t give the same level of relationship and consistency</p>

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
<p>- Field crops research - Nutrient management, education, and support</p>	<p>- Regional agents - Regional staffing</p>

- Ruminant nutrition (regional or state) - Forage specialist (regional) - resource allocation based on revenue question <u>Reasons Why:</u> Effects all areas of agriculture	- Resource allocation based on revenue question
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
Non-net revenue generating programs, except 4-H	- county arborist

Ideas to Sow & Grow (Reasons Why in Parentheses) 1. Training volunteers, to extend work/mission of Extension (they need to feel they have a purpose) 2. Communication (more people have access to information) 3. Develop youth leaders who can become productive citizens (youth are our future) 4. Community projects—partnering with other Extension program areas and other community organizations 5. Do more cross-county events 6. Create internship programs in each program area so we can utilize college students for some positions that have been cut (saves money—pools resources) 7. Go green. Recycle. Cut back on food at events	Ideas that Work 1. Perhaps CED could be a cross-county position, leading two county staffs 2. Providing research-based info. 3. Media/radio/social media—can help get info out to more people (it's the way of the future—and present)
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
1. Do fewer single county events 2. Cut Extension administrators and put more personnel in counties (too top heavy?) 3. Pay attention to waste—go green	1. Cross-county 4-H agents will <i>not</i> be effective (too much to do!)

Ideas to Sow & Grow - nutrition/health** - youth—integrate all areas into programming*** - adults - entrepreneurship - parenting** - farmers—teach new and best practices - food safety* <u>Reasons Why:</u> - obesity - chronic disease - lack of teaching in schools and home - youth are our future leaders - longevity - community gardens - local foods programs - young adults want to learn food preservation	Ideas that Work (Reasons Why in Parentheses) - agent/agency community collaboration (many programs could not be offered without collaboration) - grant money (makes bigger impact)
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Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
(Reasons Why in Parentheses) - in metropolitan areas—cross-country agents (agricultural agents can combine for programming) - compare agents to number of client needs (save money)	(Reasons Why in Parentheses) - duplication of programs (wasting money and time) - foundation money is not working for every county - inadequate training support staff and agent basic training - too much responsibility - no advertising from state office

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
- sustainable agriculture - new and emerging crops - marketing - youth and volunteer programs - nutrition and health/wellness -parenting and family well-being - resources development - understanding and meeting regulations/compliance issues <u>Reasons Why:</u> - economic viability - the future leaders of the county/state - sustainable community	- strong community partners - restructure DED/CED rotation for districts - volunteers/liason groups - local research/on-farm demonstration

Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
-wildlife/forestry <u>Reasons Why:</u> other agencies provide services for these areas	- loss of county partnerships

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
- Production agriculture: livestock, field crops, poultry—revenue generating agriculture industry - Utilize shared positions based only on production needs - Promote and/or educate general public about Extension	(Reasons Why in Parentheses) - Support the programs and industry that provide the funding and economic base for the Extension service - Use volunteers effectively with strong Extension leadership (recruitment and retention)

Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
(Reasons Why in Parentheses) - Bureaucracy and excessive management (more agents, less management) - Extension specialty areas should be funded/supported according to performance evaluations and public impact	- micromanagement

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
- youth agriculture	(Reasons Why in Parentheses)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - youth STEM - youth leadership - basic knowledge—garden to table - ECA volunteer involvement and education that is sound and research-based - leadership development - research-based apps <p><u>Reasons Why:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - youth and adults need to know source of food - where will we go if youth don't learn basic info? - involved volunteers can see and teach big picture and relationship between problems - growing informed citizen leaders who are involved - youth need good examples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - volunteer management for staff to expand reach (volunteers provide foundation to reach more clients) - consistency, NOT uniformity—tailor to local conditions and opportunities (different needs in different locations) - recording/reporting volunteer involvement (demonstrates impact)
<p>Ideas to Prune & Plow</p> <p>(Reasons Why in Parentheses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - incorporate technology to cut fact-to-face interactions, but increase opportunities to learn (make information more enticing and interesting through delivery methods) - cultivate adult leadership through ECA, etc. (help adults gain skills to help youth and others) 	<p>Ideas that Don't Work</p> <p>(Reasons Why in Parentheses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - position freezes (if you need it, fill it) - multi-county doesn't work for all areas (some areas need more direct contact) - little to no marketing support

<p>Ideas to Sow & Grow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - horticulture agent to strengthen healthy families - demonstrate/educate on best practices - importance of local food—growing and providing market - strengthen partnerships in education programming so partners take more responsibility - support and strengthen volunteerism through Master Gardeners <p><u>Reasons Why:</u> Education—children and public about healthy eating, how to make good choices and where food comes from</p>	<p>Ideas that Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - experts training and supporting a volunteer force to help provide services to public and in schools - food preservation education - local plant sales
<p>Ideas to Prune & Plow</p> <p>Everything is important to our community</p>	<p>Ideas that Don't Work</p> <p>Sharing an agent across multiple counties</p>

<p>Ideas to Sow & Grow</p> <p>(Reasons Why in Parentheses)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instead of shared agents among counties, utilize and train agents to cover more than one area and/or program within a county (public interaction/more vested in local community) 2. Production agriculture, keep as priority (economy and population growth) 	<p>Ideas that Work</p> <p>(Reasons Why in Parentheses)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support staff is vital (a “real” person with knowledge to direct clients and assist agents) 2. No “cookie cutter” model—each county is unique—utilize varied work models with local input (local government “buy-in” and support through resources)
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<p>3. FCS important; agent needed in each county, this is position not suited for cross-county sharing (life skills necessary and important)</p> <p>4. Horticulture and local foods to increase economic impact, GAP (public health)</p> <p>5. 4-H/youth development (it's the future)</p> <p>6. Research-based education should be primary focus; cannot do "everything" and do it well</p>	
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
<p>(Reasons Why in Parentheses)</p> <p>1. Programs that could be handled by other agencies, e.g. childcare and parenting, Medicare, nutrition (to increase focus with more concentrated effort)</p> <p>2. Decrease the oversight or management of farmers' markets (should be managed by other entities or agencies)</p>	<p>(Reasons Why in Parentheses)</p> <p>1. Turnover rate too high and too frequent (starting salaries too low—less than teacher salaries; burnout due to excessive workload)</p>

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - face-to-face contact - reach out to youth (Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots vision) - invest in youth - hire more program assistants - partnerships with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts - maintain Family Consumer Science Programs - nutrition education is vital - volunteers—invest in them - partnerships with churches <p><u>Reasons Why:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - farmers don't have time to get on the computers - partner with county to hire assistants so that Extension can have more face-to-face contacts - to leverage more resources - to extend what is being done at health departments and DSS - volunteers keep our organization going - churches help you reach out to family unit 	<p>(Reasons Why in Parentheses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do an assessment to see what each county needs and what each county can do (some things work in one county but don't work in another) - Personal relationships (Extension benefits with growing public personal relationships) - Education (keeping the people educated) - Keep employees we have - Comp time for agents (balancing family life)
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - paperwork and red tape - maintain traditional programs in specific counties <p><u>Reasons Why:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - invest within our own communities - traditional and established programs vary from county to county but it is important to allow the agent to decide programs that are vital 	<p>(Reasons Why in Parentheses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cross-county agents (every county is different, with different needs) - statewide initiatives don't work for each county—one size fits all (overworking agents) - everything can't be on the computer when specialists release information for consumers (accessing information)

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
- 4-H	1. Each county to have strong say-so in staffing of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production agriculture - Livestock - Poultry <p><u>Reasons Why:</u> These support tax base of county</p>	<p>local Extension personnel</p> <p>2. Combine programs with similar activities</p>
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
<p>Cut or combine some programs that do not have an economic impact on our county. This should be utilized regionally where suited best.</p> <p><u>Reasons Why:</u> We're looking to get a better "bang for the buck"</p>	<p>Not having a local CED</p>

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - specialized cross-county agents as opposed to one agent in the county covering all program areas - promoting agricultural production and advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - county-based programming that is driven by local needs - every county needs 1 FTE agriculture agent housed in that county - every CED needs a subject area too
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - services provided by other agencies in the county - top heavy administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - top-down programming from specialists implementing grants - relying on grants for permanent funding

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nutrition—cooking: don't know how to cook healthy - What <i>local foods</i> to buy—local vs. imported - Entrepreneurial—serve as economic engine - GAP certification - Help for the small farmers - Food processing - Role of community colleges? - Preventive health - Programs need to be <i>local driven</i>/need to meet needs - Strengthen ECA adult leadership <p><u>Reasons Why:</u> Self-explanatory!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the agent system works if staffed correctly - agents need direction from <i>local</i> people - programs that are economically-oriented - located in every county - right sizing - "cut the fat" - more selective/streamline the use of paper resources - want the personal touch - utilize volunteers—FCS—Master Gardener
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
<p>Redundant program</p>	<p>Agent sharing across county lines</p>

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master Gardeners work - Horticulture—agent to represent Master Gardeners, horticulture industry, voice for individual Union County - Family and consumers: 4-H - Food safety, health: Eat Less, Move More 	<p>(Reasons Why in Parentheses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Face-to-face public/human interaction (people respond to personal contact) - Volunteerism—adjunct or supplemental to Extension services, UC, MG, VA, 4-H (free resource)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canning - Local food extremely important—CSA, tie Extension to - Need resources to help with everyday gardener, beekeeper, small livestock <p><u>Reasons Why:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - educate community - needs a voice to represent county officials - family is at heart of Extension - economic driver, jobs, health implications, access to healthful products, quality of life 	
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
Hard to find other places to prune <u>Reasons Why:</u> Already bare bones	

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional farmers need strong support of Extension 2. Master Gardeners need current research to meet the community needs 3. Union County population will double by 2050 4. 4-H programming for future farmers 5. better communication to public about what Extension is and does—benefits <p><u>Reasons Why:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. economic vehicle 2. textbook is <i>very</i> outdated 	Cutting redundant programs that other county agencies do
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
Programs that are redundant with other agencies	Cutting agents! One size doesn't fit all counties—each county's needs are different

Ideas to Sow & Grow	Ideas that Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture education - increase research and educational information online/through technology to better serve stakeholders - No Ag. representation in Montgomery or Richmond. Who is my contact for agriculture? <p><u>Reasons Why:</u> So farmers can meet the food needs of the population</p>	Flexibility in budgeting across counties and years
Ideas to Prune & Plow	Ideas that Don't Work
Don't know all the program areas to determine what to prune!	Having no known representation for agriculture



HEADLINES

We want you to envision a hugely successful partnership between Extension and you and your community. Imagine it is 20 years from now, and someone is writing an article about Extension. What is the headline of that story?

N.C. Agricultural Extension Program Numbers are the Largest in the Nation!

1. The number one volunteer-based extension program boasting over 100,000 volunteers.
2. N.C. Extension has the leading number of graduates of N.C. State University continuing in Agriculture Sciences.
3. N.C. Extension leads the nation in Ag research to ensure food and crops for our population!

Other Comments: Remember youth are our future. Future productive citizens! Keep them busy, happy and letting them achieve their goals. Setting goals are important. Positive Attitudes and Positive role models!

ECA is 120 Years Old and Growing!

1. 30-40 year olds are having largest increase in membership, realizing the importance of community in lives of children.

Production Agriculture Continues to Feed the Population Explosion of the World

Production Agriculture is Sustainable Agriculture

1. We preserve the environment
2. We must have healthy animals
3. We build up the soil
4. Our food continues to be the safest, most abundant, and most nutritious in the world

Hoke County Now Produces 60% of All Produce and Eggs for County Residents

Cooperative Extension is a Household Name!

1. Everyone knows what Cooperative Extension means.
2. Extension is your go-to source for the latest research-based information.

Everyone Knows What Extension is Now!

1. No one knows about it now, it's not advertised widely.
2. Younger parents will teach their children about Cooperative Extension.

The Best Kept Secret is Out—Extension is for You!

1. Where do you get your research-based answers for your family's needs?

Extension Education of Youth Produces Healthier and Slimmer County

Other Comments: Educating parents on proper nutrition/exercise. Parents buying more vegetables.

Local Producer Credits Extension in Discovery of Million Dollar Product

1. Local cattle farmer credits his Extension agent in the discovery of breeding phenomenon.
2. Early gestation means more animals raised in less time.
3. There is an answer to the beef shortfall.

N.C. State University Cooperative Extension Listening Session Well Attended

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1. Budget cuts and reallocations of funds continue to hinder research and support for production agriculture.
 2. Nutrition Assistance Program interest and registration at all-time high.

Sunshine Times

1. Red tape ties Extension's Hands
2. People are hungry
3. Union County still has no CED!

[Headline]

1. 20 year investment in youth paying huge dividends
2. Volunteers make a difference
3. N.C. sustains itself thanks to Cooperative Extension

Computers Can't Grow Vegetables Without Human Help!

1. Tomatoes don't text
2. Cucumbers

Sustainability Achieved!

1. Each family has organic garden, preserves food for winter
2. Disease and obesity at an all-time low. Kids prefer kale chips over potato chips. Hospitals may close.
3. Community gardens lead to soup kitchen closure. Small farming becomes profitable business.

Other Comments: Cooperative Extension impact on community is far-reaching.

What Are You and Extension of?

1. Former 4-H youth makes tremendous research discovery (cancer cure, land-grant researcher, etc.)
2. President attributes leadership to Extension and 4-H development programs!

3. Extension...there's an app for that. 4-H (you name the topic)...there's a curriculum for that!
4. A new generation of young farmers sustains the environment. Extension grows 'em good!
5. 120 years and still going strong...still empowering people and providing solutions.
6. NC Extension wins Innovation Award

Extension Produces 100% of NC Residents That Are Healthy, Skinny, Knowledgeable Leaders

1. Obesity in all age groups has ended due to FCS/ECA research-based trainings and leadership classes, activities, and community service with 4-H and other community group projects.
2. Local foods are grown and utilized in nutrition classes taught by FCS agents and knowledgeable volunteer leaders.
3. Vast amounts of tax money saved through ECA and 4-H's volunteer-based focus on community service.

Farmers are Back!!!

1. 4-H agencies across the world help youth and young farmers reach their goals in 4-H.
2. Farming around the world makes a comeback thanks to 4-H agency's volunteer farmers.
3. Future Cooperative Extension agencies are growing. Thank you for your support and thank you volunteers for getting out there to help our young people learn in a more hands on way. Thank you.

Home Gardening a Renewed Huge Success!

1. Soil improvements universally
2. Home visits from county agents
3. Organic gardening expanded exponentially

Other Comments: Unused land put into production

Extension Credited for Sustainable Local Economies

1. NC counties focus on unique niche characteristics and qualities. The business model is not the same in every region.
2. Local foods support farms and healthy lifestyles.

3. Feeding body, soul and spirit.
4. Youth interest arises in agriculture.

Cooperative Extension is Continuing to Help Farmers, Families, and Youth

1. We can thank our local farmers for clean food and seasonal produce.
2. FCS holds largest canning classes to help families preserve great food.
3. ECA has now topped 100,000 volunteer hours and saved the country 2 million dollars!

Other Comments: 4-H, FCS, and ECA are such important components of the Extension service and every county needs this research-based education to help youth and families.

Back in Time! Extension is Back!

1. Classes: family living, budget, and foods
2. Classes: farming, cattle, gardening
3. Classes improve

Local Growers Still Providing Food for Community

Extension Reaches 120 Years of Service to Local Community

Extension Investing in Local Communities Pays Off!

1. Each county is able to flourish due to face-to-face contact with their community.
2. Youth learn so much from Extension programs.
3. Community clubs continuing outreach.

Other Comments: Revamp their initial idea of success and it helps invest in each county of NC. Investing and impact is more viable than numbers to prove that Extension is doing a good job.

NC Cooperative Extension Experiences Record Growth

1. Number of people requesting family consumer classes have tripled due to changing economy and local foods initiatives.
2. North Carolina farmers are exporting more produce.
3. Elementary schools have begun 4-H clubs as an *extension* of classroom curriculum.

Homemakers Still Going Strong After Years of Involvement

1. Due to excellent training they received from Extension.

Nothing But Flowers?

1. Cooperative Extension has successfully created an ongoing, sustainable community through horticulture, agriculture, education, etc...
2. Not quite the mantra of the Talking Heads song from the 1980s, but along those lines none the less, "we used to microwave, now we just eat nuts and berries. You got it, you got it!"

State, Local, and County Governments Agree to Support Extension Programs for Growth

1. Scholarships for 4-H students, ECA members
2. FCS research programs to improve family health and wellness
3. Leadership scholarships for NCECA members. Continuing education credit hours toward degree at university level.

If We Knew Then What We Know Now, Would Never Have Cut Cooperative Extension

Citizens in Union County are starving for reliable information. The farming community needs assistance; families need help with nutrition, budgeting, and parenting. Youth programs are needed to train leaders of the future. State legislators have decided it is time to create a service that puts not only boots on the ground, but brains too.

New Yields Met for Corn in NC

1. NC State University Extension/producer/seed co./county schools—group works together to set records. 500 bu/acre.

Other Comments: Green seeds are developed through NC State University and marketed, proven to provide great yields as well as provide education for county students.

Robot Farming (Robotic Farming)

Permaculture Everywhere!

Extension Teaching Youth and Adults the Necessities of Life!

1. How to grow, cook, and preserve food.
2. How to sew and repair clothes.
3. How to grow animals and crops economically.

The Blocks are Still Standing

1. The fundamental premises that Extension was formed on are still prevailing.
2. Extension still growing responsible citizens from the ground up (starting with 4-H)
3. Extension remains the guardian of natural resources and sustainability efforts across the board.

NC Extension Lives

Best state in the nation due to its Cooperative Extension policies designed in 2013/2014.

Extension Celebrates Its 120th Anniversary Despite Rumors of Its Demise

NC Farmers Feed the Southeast

Increase in farm incomes highest in the nation.

Extension Celebrates 120 Years of Service

Anson County buries time capsule at Agri-Civic Center.

NC Extension Still Leading the “Pack”

NC Population Voted Healthiest in USA

As a result of effective partnership between state/county Extension services, local agriculture economy is booming. High quality food is affordable and available to all citizens. Most families grow at least a portion of the food they eat. Water resources are no longer scarce—rivers are flowing clean, contamination has been eliminated. Even air quality is healthy.

Extension Source of Economic Miracle in N.C.

1. Policies generate economic opportunity for small producers.
2. Moved away from social programs to focus primarily on economic initiatives.
3. Used volunteers to fill role of the social programs/outreach Extension performed in its first 100 years.
4. Partner with community college to support local economy.

Anson County Agriculture Extension Still Helping Farmers Make Money

1. Extension has provided unbiased info for the past 120 years.

2. Extension still leading the “pack.”

Anson County Boasts 100 Millionaire Small Farmers

1. Small farm development
2. Sustainable diversified small farms
3. Farm to table domination of local economy

Other Comments: Rural economic development through affordable 40 acre farms. Extension agents getting enough field time.

[Headline]

1. Community college of NCSU...
2. Students at middle school and high school share in the success of Extension...
3. Local food hubs prosper because of Extension

[Headline]

1. Families report increased food preparation at home has saved thousands of dollars in their family budgets, and the obesity rate has declined in North Carolina because of Family and Consumer Extension programs.

Other Comments: Families are the basis of our society. Families in all forms—single, multi-generational, older adults need the skills family and consumer sciences offer—nutrition, financial management, local foods, caregiving and leadership development.

Extension is Alive and Thriving

1. 4-H'ers are link between children and future of county, state, country. Education links entrance into varied career fields.
2. Master Gardeners are link to home gardeners and local food, horticulture industry—provide resources and education for self-independence and sustainability.
3. Farmers and agriculture industry work hand in hand locally to provide food and information to local consumers, source for national and international nutrition.

Statewide County Extensions Excel in Community-Based Programs

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1. Health programs
 2. Young adult/teen programs
 3. Master Gardener outreach programs

Other Comments: Agriculture programs provide big surge in local food initiatives. Counties show remarkable decrease in obesity problems, etc.

Union County Extension Program and Master Gardeners Help County Economy and People Succeed

1. Agriculture is a large part of economy, horticulture, small farms, CSA, farmer's markets, local foods and large farm production.
2. Every family has a garden, whether it is one pot with flowers or an acre of land being used to grow vegetables.
3. People spend more on food locally grown because it keeps people healthier, helps local economy, and gives resources back to our neighbors and not to another state or another country.

A-Plus Service

1. Education for youth and agriculture
2. Crops sufficient to feed population

Growing Enough Food for our Growing Population Today

What are we going to have for tomorrow without Extension services?

Union County Has No One Going Hungry

Master Gardeners in Union County Along with the 4-H Club Celebrate their 10 Year Anniversary of Having All Cities in the County with Successful Community Gardens

These community gardens have provided food for over 100 years to local food banks, local restaurants, and

the needy.

Union County Adds Another Cooperative Extension Building

We welcome John Doe to our county as our 5th horticulture agent.

Best Results Come From Partnership Whose “Seeds” Were Planted Years Ago

1. Good planning between Master Gardening volunteers and the Cooperative Extension result in strong community support and education.

Hidden Fund Grows

1. Supplier of basic food stuffs
2. Farm land prices exceed \$5,000/acre
3. Environmental restrictions improve agriculture