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Dear Extension colleagues,

**Our first two state program teams, Animal Systems and Local Foods, are ready to start taking applications for membership!** Ultimately we plan to have a group of program teams supporting each of Extension's strategic priorities/objectives against which we report in ERS (not the new visioning plan objectives), as well as our core program areas, which can be found here.

We are pleased that **Matt Poore will chair the Animal Systems team and Joanna Lelekacs will lead Local Foods team.** County co-chairs will be named shortly. These two programs were selected as the initial or pilot teams because there is considerable structure and leadership already in place.

**The application** to join one of these program teams is available at:  
<http://goo.gl/forms/MHLfNBmXi4>

**The application is due by July 15.** Please note that your supervisor's approval to apply is required. Terms of service are for up to 3 years, but some individuals may only serve 1 or 2 years initially to help begin a staggered rotation of team members.

Efforts will be made to have representative teams based on knowledge and skills, time in service, geographic locations, university affiliation and demographics. Most importantly, we need people who are passionate about moving Extension forward.

**Program teams** will be composed of specialists, Extension associates, area specialized agents, and county agents to function as leadership teams to plan, deliver, evaluate and report on programs. Each team is encouraged to invite one or more stakeholders and/or research faculty to participate as team members. Teams also may help determine which outcome indicators are reported against in ERS. Co-chairs will represent both county operations and departments.

The teams will develop a proposed plan of work (PPOW) to include planned events and resources that may include agent training, publications, tours, workshops, field days, new or improved portals or other technology-based tools including those for forecasting/monitoring, improved decision-making, identification/diagnostics, etc. The PPOW will include a proposed budget to help fund the PPOW and affiliated workgroups. Guidelines and administrative support will be provided.

**Workgroups** may be characterized as sub-program teams. They may be formed around an issue or specific commodity. Initially, program teams will establish workgroups, but later workgroups may form independently and affiliate themselves with one or more program teams with approval from the program teams. Workgroups can be affiliated with multiple program teams. Doing so will provide the opportunity for workgroups to have multiple funding sources and help provide cross-team programming to avoid programming silos.

**The time commitment** will be greatest for chairs/co-chairs. Team members will likely have to participate in at least one face-to-face meeting per year and several meetings via the communication technology the team chooses to use. There may be assignments from the committee that require additional time. However, time invested should result in improved relationships among agents and specialists and improved programs and technical support for our clientele.

Initiating these teams/workgroups is a critical step toward achieving our strategic plan goal to strengthen capacity and collaboration. We expect the teams to lead program growth, drive research innovation and cultivate stronger relationships (internally and externally) to move the organization forward for our clients. Together we create prosperity for all North Carolinians.

Sincerely,  
Tom

Tom Melton, Joe Zublena, Sheri Schwab, and Mike Yoder  
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[www.ces.ncsu.edu/vision-initiative/strategic-plan](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/vision-initiative/strategic-plan)