



Joint Council of  
Extension Professionals



## **JCEP Sponsored “Issue-Focused Summit”**

### **Purpose**

To be used as a professional development opportunity to assist ECOP/Extension Directors and JCEP to advance our ability to address rapidly emerging issues. The purpose is further to build capacity of the Extension professionals giving them the ability to address emerging national or regional issues by increasing opportunities to engage with national experts, to build strong teams across state lines or within regions and to build a broader based understanding of the issues.

### **1. Expected Outcomes**

- a. Develop staff so they would return to their states armed with a uniform approach and the ability to address emerging issues.
- b. Create interdisciplinary teams that will work together at the multi-state, regional or national level to address an emerging issue.
- c. The six member associations of JCEP will be committed to have as a priority providing professional development opportunities that enable Extension professionals to address emerging issues.
- d. State Extension Directors and Extension Administrators will see the value of the proposed issues-based professional development training and would support the staff to attend the summit.

### **2. Projected Impacts**

- a. Extension will be seen by others as an organization that has the ability to respond to and can address emerging issues quickly.
- b. Professional development that will allow staff to respond to emerging issues that may not be in their areas of expertise by providing organization and leadership to address emerging issues.
- c. Positive impact on clients in a much more on-time/on-demand kind of programming.

### **3. Considerations**

- a. Develop a means or ability to respond rapidly and to plan for professional development, having dedicated resources available to address emerging issues. (Short planning cycle – 6 months)

- b. Determine a process to create a core group that will serve as the planning committee with the experience to plan a summit and who are able to balance their commitment of planning the summit against their responsibilities in their home states.
- c. Must have the ability to assemble teams of people who have expertise and interest in the emerging issue.
- d. Must be able to bring together groups of professionals that may have already started to address an emerging issue but need additional professional development or human resources to successfully address the issue.
- e. Seek both internal and external funding sources for staff to attend this summit.
- f. Recognize that the issue(s) selected for the professional development summit may involve subject matter that is of importance to some or all of the six member organizations.

#### **4. Recommendations — Location, Invitees, Etc.**

- a. Each organization will need to develop a means of collecting information from their membership to help identify emerging issues and to direct that information to JCEP, who in conjunction with ECOP, will determine the need for a professional development response.
- b. Determination of a summit location must be such that it would encourage staff to attend in light of limited travel dollars. Considerations may include: several regional locations, a virtual conference, or a single conference.
- c. Summit should allow conference attendees to learn from those who are most knowledgeable on the issue, as well as to allow interaction and to create working relationships with Extension professionals from neighboring states, regions or across the country.
- d. Determine ways to interact with USDA-NIFA and other federal agencies as part of the summit.

#### **5. Blue Ribbon Committee Members –**

Ann Berry – ESP

Alison Davis – NACDEP

Peggy Ehlers – NEAFCS

Charles Hibberd – ECOP

Bill Hoffman – USDA – NIFA

Larry Howard – NACAA

Earl McAlexander – NAE4-HA

Jeff Schalau – ANREP

Bob Ohlensehlen – JCEP Executive Director