

**Re-Envisioning Kentucky Cooperative Extension
Regional Programming Approach
May 2003**

Regional Programming:

- Create Regional Issues and Program Committees to address important issues and program needs in eastern, central or western Kentucky or in the state as a whole.
- Link field agents with specialists, faculty, associates and administrators at UK and KSU main campuses and field stations to address important issues.
- Identify issues using input from county Extension councils strengthening county councils.
- Develop programming priorities on a regional basis cutting across regions when appropriate.
- Focus resources on high importance issues, with agents drawing on resulting programs as appropriate for individual counties.
- Allow other colleges within UK or KSU to better focus their own outreach efforts through Extension's network regionally.
- Use Extension to strengthen community and economic development efforts.

Composition and Selection of Regional Issues and Program Committee Members:

Membership---Each Regional Issues and Program Committee Comprised Of:

Nine County Extension Agents, three State Extension Specialists, one Department Chair, two Department Extension Coordinators, one KSU Extension Specialist, one KSU Extension Administrator, Extension Assistant Directors, and the Regional Program and Development Coordinator for the regional committee.

Term of Membership---Two-year rotation with staggered terms:

Initially, four County Extension Agents will serve one-year terms, five County Extension Agents will serve two-year terms, two State Extension Specialists will serve a one-year term, and one State Extension Specialist will serve a two-year term. One Department Extension Coordinator will serve a one-year term with the other Extension Coordinator serving a two-year term. Thereafter, all committee members will be appointed for two-year terms. The U.K. Department Chair and the KSU Extension Specialist or Extension Administrator will serve a two-year term.

The assistant directors will serve on all three Regional Issues and Program Committees. Their membership does not rotate and is not staggered.

The Regional Program and Development Coordinator will serve as facilitator/coordinator of the Regional Issues and Program Committee for the prospective regions.

Application/nomination process:

- **Agents:** self-nomination, peer-nomination, and/or nomination by District Director
- **Specialist/Extension Associates:** self-nomination, peer-nomination, nomination by Assistant Directors and/or Department Chairs
- **Department Chairs:** nominated by Associate Director and/or Dean of College
- **Department Extension Coordinators:** nominated by Department Chairs and Assistant Directors.
- **KSU:** nominated by KSU Administrator for Cooperative Extension Programs

Selection Procedure:

Final selection of members for the each Regional Issues and Program Committee will be determined by a team of the Associate Director for Extension, Assistant Directors and Regional Program and Development Coordinators and taken from nominations.

It is very imperative that each Regional Issues and Program Committee represents the **diversity in programming and personnel** of the Cooperative Extension. Each committee should have parity in representation in regards to geographic locations, program areas, varying levels of experiences, race and gender, etc.

Meeting Procedures of Regional Issues and Program Committees:

Initially, there is a need for flexibility in the number of meetings to be held by the Regional Issues and Program Committees. After the first year, the Regional Issues and Program Committees will need to meet once or twice a year as originally designed.

Regional Work Groups/Teams:

- Work groups/teams formed to address high importance issues, will be interdisciplinary.
- Regional Issues and Program Committees will determine the work groups/teams' function and membership composition.
- Along with Extension personnel, team members include volunteer stakeholders, faculty from other colleges at U.K and KSU or other universities, and, when appropriate, additional agency personnel.
- Teams may be formed within a region, cut across regions or encompass the state.
- Counties may join together to form work groups/teams to carry out programs that are not a priority focus for the region.

Timeline/Due Dates:

June 15-Applications for Regional Issues and Program Committees due to the Regional Program and Development Coordinator.

June-Selection of Members for the Regional Issues and Program Committees

August-Planning for first Regional Issues and Program Committee meetings by Regional Program and Development Coordinator, Assistant Directors and the Associate Director.

September-First Regional Issues and Program Committees meeting. Orientation for committee members and begin reviewing of issues based data.

Fall-Work groups/teams formed and begin to function.

