



# EXTENSION

## 2017-2018 Needs Assessment Employee Statewide Summary

### Introduction

NC State Extension's 2017-2018 needs assessment process incorporates a multi-method approach to collecting county trend data and stakeholder input related to educational and service needs in agriculture, nutrition and health, youth development, and community and rural development. The stakeholder group of interest in the employee phase of data collection is state and county paid Extension employees working in County Extension Offices. Input from employees was collected using an electronic survey. Employee surveys were received from 290 employees representing all 100 of North Carolina's counties. Information from the employees is provided to state Extension leadership in aggregate form to guide statewide program planning efforts and provided in disaggregated form to County Extension Directors to guide county level planning.

### Obsolete Programs

Future Extension program priorities should take into consideration a number of identified programs deemed to be obsolete or will become obsolete in the next one to five years. Some of the identified obsolete programs include the Extension Community Association, nutrition programs (due to the number of organizations providing duplicative programs), traditional 4-H community clubs, and financial literacy programs. It was also identified that Extension needs to make changes to the delivery methods to maintain relevancy.



## Emerging Issues

Future Extension program priorities should also take into consideration a number of identified emerging issues. Included is the need to preserve farmland and promote controlled development associated with population growth and urbanization. In addition, there is also the need to update the delivery methods of Extension programs based on the way people access information and use technology, the need to eliminate the duplication of services that are also provided by other agencies, the need to show the impact of programing, the increase difficulty in recruiting volunteers, and the lack of community awareness of Extension services. Emerging issues in the area of agriculture include the need to diversify production, decreased profits and increased input costs, increased regulation, farm transition, new farmer needs, and increasing demand for local foods.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Number Times Mentioned</b>
Farm Preservation vs. Development	Urbanization/Development, Farmland Preservation, Cost of Land, Aging Farmers/Fewer Farmers, Population Growth/Loss, Urbanization	106
Extension Service Delivery	Delivery Methods, Technology, Social Media, Way People Access Information, Community Awareness of Extension, Declining Funding, Duplication of Services Provided by Other Organizations, Demonstration of Program Impact, Recruitment of Volunteers	81
Agriculture	Diversification, Profitability, New Farmers, Regulations, Farm Transition, Environmental Protection/Climate Change, Demand for Local Food, Livestock, Horticulture, Gardening, Landscaping, Ag literacy	77
Families & Consumers	Chronic Disease, Obesity, Substance Abuse, Food Insecurity, Poverty, Healthy Lifestyle, Mental Health, Parenting	48
Community Development	Workforce Development, Business Development, Affordable Housing	32
Youth Development	STEM, Life skills, Afterschool, Youth Programs, At-Risk Youth	19
Changing Demographics	Hispanic, Military Families, Aging/Elderly, Retirees	18

## Agriculture & Natural Resources

Current Agriculture and Natural Resource programs are focused in the areas of horticulture including commercial and consumer horticulture, Extension Master Gardener, and growing local foods; animal agriculture including best management practices and husbandry practices, production, animal health, forages and pastures; field crops production, disease identification, and crop assessment and planning; farm safety including training for animal waste management and pesticide application, and post-harvest food safety including GAP and FSMA training; farm and producer programs including farmland preservation, voluntary agricultural districts, consultations, and work with small farms; natural resources including water quality, forestry, soil health, and climate change; and development of agricultural awareness and literacy among the general population. Recommended future Agriculture and Natural Resource programming should continue to focus on horticulture, pesticide safety, agricultural awareness, farm profitability, livestock, crops and local foods.

### *Current Extension Programs and Services*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Number Times Mentioned</b>
Horticulture	Commercial & Consumer, Master Gardener, Local Foods	294
Animal Ag	Best Management Practices, Production, Animal Health, Forages, Pastures	158
Field Crops	Production, Disease, Assessment, Planning	101
Safety	Farm Safety, Animal Waste Management, Pesticide, Post-Production Food Safety	138
Farmers	Farmland Preservation, Consultations, Small Farms, Voluntary Ag Districts	58
Natural Resources	Forestry, Water Quality, Climate Change, Soil, Trash/Litter	55
Ag Awareness	Sources of Food, Farm Days, Community Events	16

### *Priority Future Programs and Services*



#### 4-H Youth Development

Current 4-H/Youth Development programming is composed of traditional 4-H programs such as clubs, camps, and afterschool programming; science based programs such as STEM programs including robotics and electric, school enrichment including embryology and school gardens and animal competitive events; healthy living programs including nutrition programs, safety, and prevention programs; life skills programs such as leadership, presentations, citizenship, community service, and career and college readiness; and at-risk youth programs such as teen court and restitution. Recommended future 4-H/Youth Development programming should continue to focus on life skills and healthy lifestyles, school enrichment and STEM, and general programming to engage youth.

#### *Current Programs and Services*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Number Times Mentioned</b>
Traditional Programs	Clubs, Camps, Afterschool	228
Science	STEM, School Enrichment, Embryology, Livestock Competition/Animal Science, Gardening, Robotics	193
Healthy Living	EFNEP, SnapEd, Health Rocks, Nutrition, Safety	85
Life Skills	Leadership, Public Speaking, Citizenship, Service, Career Development	97
At-Risk Youth	Teen Court, Restitution	17

#### *Priority Future Programs and Services*



## Family & Consumer Sciences

Current Family and Consumer Science programs are focused in the areas of healthy living including nutrition, physical activity, and obesity and chronic disease prevention; food safety including training for consumers and food service workers, canning and food preservation; and programs for families and consumers such as parenting, programs for aging population, financial resource management, and volunteerism. Recommended future Family and Consumer Science programs should continue to focus on healthy eating, food safety and preservation, resource management, and parenting.

### *Current Extension Programs and Services*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Number Times Mentioned</b>
Healthy Living	Nutrition, Physical Activity, Chronic Disease Prevention, EFNEP, SNAP Ed, Med instead of Meds	181
Food Safety	Safe Plates, Home Food Safety, Food Preservation, Canning	158
Families & Consumers	Parenting, Caregiving, Aging, SHIIP, Early Childhood, Resource Management, ECA	49

### *Priority Future Programs and Services*

