



Climate Change and Variability

Cross Committee Program Meetings

August 24, 2011

Facilitator: Mike Spranger, Associate Dean, University of Florida IFAS Extension

Action Plan

Subject Matter: Climate Literacy

Identified Projects

1. Regional Climate Change and Southern Pines Project (Bill Hubbard, SREF, and Eric Taylor, TAMU, are Extension Co-Lead)
2. Climate Variability and Change: Extension Challenges & Opportunities in the Southeast USA (Clyde Fraisse, University of Florida IFAS Extension is Extension Lead)
3. NOAA Southern Region Climate Collaboration Team

States' Commitment to Collaboration and Partnering:

A majority of states are already engaged in these new projects. SPLN member will encourage new faculty become engaged in the projects and use this as opportunity to build new relationships and program on the topic

Goals:

To have stakeholders in Southern region see Extension as the place to receive relevant, science-based information, tools and resources to deal with the impacts of climate variability and change.

Objectives:

1. Increase climate literacy among southern region extension faculty and stakeholders
2. Increase climate literacy with stakeholders that we work with in cross-cutting programs
3. Disseminate products and tools developed by regional projects identified to extension professionals in the South

Process: SPLN members will use recently funded regional projects as vehicle to assist in building climate literacy among faculty and state holders in the region.

1. Have Southern Region Program Leaders encourage extension faculty to participate in regional survey on Perceptions of Climate Change being conducted in 12 states (part of

the Regional Climate Change and Southern Pines Project) being coordinated by Dr. Martha Monroe (U. of Florida). Faculty contacts have already been identified within each state.

2. Provide SPNL Leads for all program areas with information that can be placed on their listservs on planned climate variability and change webinars that will be held in 2011-12 through the two regional projects (Regional Climate Change and Southern Pines Project; Climate Variability and Change: Extension Challenges & Opportunities in the Southeast USA).
3. Inventory existing climate variability and change programs and activities. (Dr. Caroline Crocoll, NIFA Director, Division of Family and Consumer Services, ccrocoll@nifa.usda.gov) will provide inventory on human dimension projects that was recently conducted. Dr. Deborah Tootle, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas Extension, dtootle@uaex.edu) will provide inventory of projects and materials developed within CRD area.)
4. NOAA is creating a Southern Regional Climate Collaboration Team made up of internal NOAA units and external members. It was suggested that land grant extension have a representative on this team. First meeting is 19-20 September 2011 in Baton Rouge. (Paul Correil has been contacted; Brian LeBlanc has been volunteered to attend this first meeting to observe and participate; he can make recommendations on who might be most appropriate person within SPNL to be on this team.)
5. The group liked the University of Florida Work Action Teams (WATs) in the various program areas. It was suggested that perhaps these WATs might consider expanding their membership to the other states to future develop regional projects. Mike Spranger, University of Florida, will discuss this with the Florida Climate Variability and Change Focus Team that meets on 30 August, 2011 in Orlando, FL.
6. To encourage and engage all SPNL in increasing their awareness of climate literacy, it was recommended this be a topic of discussion at a plenary session next year. Two suggested speakers:
 - a. Dr. Martha Monroe could present findings on the perceptions and rankings of our stakeholders and faculty with this study.
 - b. Keynote speaker suggested is Eileen Shea, Chief, Climate Services Division of the NOAA National Climatic Data Center. She is an excellent speaker, knows EXTENSION, and is an advocate of using the land/sea grant extension networks in the delivery of NOAA climate products, tools and services to local stakeholders. (Mike Spranger has worked with Dr. Shea in the past and would be willing to invite her. He also would be willing to serve as moderator for this session.)