

## SRPLN FCS State Report 2012

Reporting Institution:  1862  1890 (check one)

Name of Institution: University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture-Cooperative Extension Service

### Budget Situation:

- Continued flat funding for the state budget. The budget may present a challenge for next year, but depends on state revenue.
- 3% salary program for non-classified positions
- Health premium increased; however, the organization assumed the responsibility for the increased. This cost the organization \$400,000.

### Staffing Update (field and state office):

- The Assistant Professor of Health position was filled by Dr. Lisa Washburn. Lisa moved from county programming to the state and is responsible for state-wide health programming, to include the 4-H Healthy Lifestyle Choices initiative.
- Interviews scheduled for August 30, 2012 for an Assistant Professor for Food Safety and EFNEP Coordinator.
- Two secretarial positions open in the FCS Department at the State office.
- County Extension FCS positions are continuing to be filled. More than 12 FCS positions have been filled during the program year.
- Continuing to employ EFNEP PA's when vacancies occur. One new PA position for the Northwest section is in the process of being advertised.
- Hired four new program associates/technicians in Family Life, SNAP-Ed and Agribility.

### How Institution is Addressing the Situation:

- Positions advertised.

### **Top 3 Program Highlights of Current Year: (program, collaborators, impacts)**

- The Best Care, Best Care Connected, and Guiding Children Successfully programs provide Arkansas's child care professionals with the verified training they need. All programs are developed by subject matter specialists in the areas of child development, nutrition, health and safety, resource management, and youth development. These programs are delivered through Extension's statewide network so they are readily available to Arkansans in all 75 counties. The programs are available in multiple formats (i.e., face-to-face, online, & self-guided) to accommodate different learning styles and work schedules. With a budget of \$343,979 for all three programs, 4,301 child care professionals successfully completed 29,006 hours of training, a calculated cost of \$11.86 per training hour. Participants had statistically significant increases ( $p < .001$ ) in their levels of understanding of all lesson topics after participating in the training. 97% indicated their knowledge of effective child care practices increased, 91% planned to do something new to be a better child care professional, and 86% actually changed at one month follow-up as a result of program participation.**
- The Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program is conducted in 12 counties in the state with seven of those in the Delta District. During the program year 8,414 people through small group and one-on-one educational sessions. Nearly 1500 adults completed six or more educational sessions. The program was delivered in 300 sites, not including individual residences. There were 2551 youth participants enrolled in the program, of those 500 were given pre/posttests. The youth showed improvements in fruit and vegetable consumption, as well as, an increase in reduced fat milk. As a result of participating in EFNEP, 93% of the graduated participants showed improvements in one or more nutritional practices—making healthy food choices, preparing foods without adding salt or reading labels; 91% of graduated participants showed improvements in comparing prices, planning meals and using a grocery list; 77% of the graduated participants showed improvements in food safety practices—thawing and storing foods safely; 35% of youth increased fruit consumption and 31% increased vegetable consumption from pre to post.**
- SNAP-Ed programs were conducted at 451 locations throughout Arkansas including schools, Head Starts, senior centers, food banks, commodity distribution sites, shelters, DHS offices, WIC offices, and grocery stores. Lessons focused on: making healthy choices within a limited budget, learning how to read food labels, cook, grocery shop and increase physical activity. Parents in 16 counties whose children participated in school-based nutrition projects were surveyed to determine**

**if the SNAP-Ed program was reaching parents through children. Parents surveyed reported the following:**

- **81% reported their child talked to them about healthy foods and snacks.**
- **74% reported their child asked for more or different fruits, vegetables, milk, or yogurt.**
- **64% made changes in their family's eating and/or were more physically active.**

**Of families that made changes:**

- **66% consumed more fruits and vegetables.**
- **62% were more physically active.**

**New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:**

- **A Red County Action Group comprised of representatives from multiple agencies was formed and is tasked with implementing strategies designed to reduce health disparities in 16 counties with a life expectancy of 6-10 years. Acts 790 and 798 encourage agencies to work collaboratively to create and maintain programs and services aimed at reducing the disparities in the identified counties. Strategies may include health screenings, education and awareness, outreach efforts and service navigation. Cooperative Extension is one of those agencies working in cooperation with multiple state agencies: Area Agencies on Aging, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Arkansas Minority Health Commission, Arkansas Optometric Association, Department of Transportation, Public Safety Organizations, UAMS-College of Public Health, UAMS-Partners for Inclusive Communities, UAMS, Area Health Education Centers, Workforce Development.**

**Contact for Additional Information:**

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