

SRPLN FCS State Report 2011

Reporting Institution: 1862 1890 (check one)

Name of Institution University of Georgia

Budget Status:

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) did receive a state budget cut that has resulted in some layoffs. No FACS positions were lost due to budget cuts. However, if a FACS agent retires or leaves, there is no guarantee they will be replaced at this time (with current budget). The state FACS unit, in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, did receive a pass-through budget reduction from CAES and absorbed some other expenses that in the past the CAES has paid.

How is the Institution Addressing the Situation?

University of Georgia has been implementing a tiered system of services throughout county offices in the state. Criteria for placement of ANR, 4-H and FACS agents are being used to determine the staffing in each county. A new position of county resource manager has been added for smaller counties who will only have someone to direct clientele to resources available outside their county office when there is no agent assigned to that county. This position may be split with a 4-H program associate which therefore may affect open hours of the county office. Positions, and in most cases, personnel, are being moved among counties to fulfill the tier definitions. Some high priority positions are being advertised and filled, however. With there being so few FACS agents, the criteria for FACS positions are still being determined and put into place. There is no new hiring of FACS agents except for grant-funded opportunities. A few retired agents in FACS are coming back to work part-time or full-time for designated time periods. The state FACS unit has placed two specialists on a higher percentage of grant funding to absorb cuts from last year.

Staffing Update (field and state office):

Personnel:

State Specialists: Total = 12
Child & Family Development = 3 (2.62 EFT)
Foods & Nutrition = 4 (3.88 EFT, including EFNEP Coordinator, but one now Interim Program Leader)
Housing & Consumer Economics = 3 (3.0 EFT)
Program Development = 2 (2.0 EFT)
Administration = Interim part-time (1 of FDNS specialists)

FACS County Agents: Full-time, state funded (or state/county combination) = 33.25
Full-time funded by county only = 2; part-time county funded = 2
Full or part-time funded by EFNEP = 9 positions (2 vacant)

Other FACS Educators: Professional staff = 35 full or part-time
Paraprofessional staff (program assistants) = 1 grant + 40 EFNEP

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

Walk Georgia. Walk Georgia, a statewide Extension program, was offered for 8 weeks in the Spring of 2011. Enrolled in the program were 3,688 people, of which 2,488 actively participated. Of the active participants, 523 did so as individuals and 1,965 as a member of a team. Overall, participants logged 394,584 miles of physical activity. The average weekly mileage reported among individual adult participants was 18 miles per week. The average weekly mileage reported among team adult participants was 20 miles per week. Of the adult participants, 95.48 percent reported regular physical activity during the last week of the program. The primary type of physical activity logged was brisk walking. When participants were asked the question "How does the amount of exercise you've been doing during the Walk Georgia program compare to the amount you did in the weeks prior to the program?" The responses included 25.71% saying A Lot More Now and 46.86% saying A Little More Now.

Georgia CASH. Family and Consumer Sciences Consumer Economics/Financial Management has started an online database, CASH (Consumer's Acquiring Saving Habits). County agents enroll participants from various financial education programs in this database and data is entered for setting of goals to reduce debt or increase savings. As of July, a total of 599 individuals enrolled have set a goal to either reduce debt or increase savings by \$92,523 each month. A follow-up survey has just been sent out (July 22).

Nutrition for Youth. The Childhood Overweight Prevention Project (COPP) was launched this past year as a collaboration between Extension FACS/EFNEP and county 4-H agents. FACS had previously helped create a 4-H Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles curriculum; it was utilized this past year by 104 4-H Agents and program assistants from 68 counties. FACS provided the training, technology and equipment for delivery and evaluation, and is analyzing the data now. A total of 581 sessions were held during the school year with 16,260 youth participating. Evaluations at the conclusion of the program revealed that 50% of 10,874 youth increased their nutrition knowledge; 44% of 10,765 youth reported eating more fruit; 29% of 10,717 reported eating more vegetables; 39% of 10,602 youth were more likely to eat foods from all of the food groups of MyPyramid each day; 44% of 10,736 youth increased their ability to select low-cost, nutritious foods; 31% of 10,206 youth decreased their consumption of high-sugar beverages; and 26% of 10,687 students increased their physical activity. This program will be in a total of 76 counties for the coming school year with the addition of 8 new sites.

New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension in Georgia is collaborating with the state's Small Business Development Centers to offer "Money Matters! Basic Personal Finance for Aspiring Entrepreneurs." The program is designed to help individuals who'd like to start a small business to improve personal financial management practices with the goal of improving their access to business capital. The comprehensive 4-hour workshop will be offered at multiple locations across Georgia starting September 1, 2011. A total of 28 workshops are planned in the first year for an estimated audience of more than 800 potential small business owners.

Contact for Additional Information:

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