

SRPLN FCS State Report 2014

Reporting Institution: 1862 1890 (check one)

Name of Institution: Alabama Cooperative Extension System – Auburn University

Budget Situation: We received a slight increase in our Smith-Lever funds and our state budget. Our funding is stable, and we are assessing programs for cost effectiveness. We are urging the use of more technology as our mode of instructional delivery versus printing.

Staffing Update (field and state office): We are fully staffed. We are expanding our Communication and Marketing department as we move toward a “service center” model. We have approximately seven REAs completing a doctoral program through Auburn University. We had three REAs who completed their dissertations and graduated.

How Institution is Addressing the Situation:

We are closely monitoring our personnel costs. We are also seeking additional opportunities for those obtaining terminal degrees to utilize their knowledge and retain them as employees. This is a good situation to address.

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

- The cottage Food Law was enacted in Alabama in June 2014. One of the requirements of the law is that the individuals must have a food safety training prior to the sale of the food products. The Alabama Department of Public Health contacted the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Food Safety Team to develop a course for the individuals to take.
- **NEP:** One way to combat childhood obesity in youth is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption. Of the 2,477 Alabama third graders, 1,674 who participated in a 17-class *Body Quest: Food of the Warrior* SNAP-Ed obesity prevention program significantly increased consumption of available school lunch fruits and vegetables compared to 803 non-participating control students. Adoption of this positive dietary habit leads to successful body weight management practices. Successful findings for Body Quest were highlighted in the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) Impact Statements for 2014.

- USDA Radio News requested a phone interview with one of our Human Nutrition, Diet and Health REAs who wrote an article on tips to make better choices from the vending machine or cafeteria

New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:

- Collaboration with the Alabama Department of Senior Services and funds provided to reach those who qualify for Medicare benefits. The local Area Agency on Aging and the Regional Extension Agent will partner to reach the aging community in the rural areas.
- A “Unique” collaboration with a Comfort Inn hotel to share financial information with staff on spending habit. This program success could lead to other program opportunities with hospitality services. Our Consumer Science and Personal Financial Management REA will provide staff of the hotel with better spending practices to complement their income.
- Collaborative efforts with Workforce Development from a local Chamber and the Human Resource department of a North Alabama plant that was closing to provide the staff with skills specific to resume writing, interviewing techniques, and job search assistance with Hillshire Farms.

Contact for Additional Information:

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