

Southern Region Program and Staff Development Committee Report
South Carolina
August 30, 2004

Impact Statements

- A link is now provided at each county's home page to agent's Impact Statements.

Changes

- We are transitioning from six to four Extension Districts. A process is in place to hire Directors for each of the four new districts.
- We lost 27 people in June 2004 due to early outs. County offices will move toward the Lead Agent concept. The Lead Agent will be responsible for coordination of the local county budget, interaction with county council, the local legislative delegation, and the county advisory system. The Lead Agent concept is a key element in making the Regional Director's job a manageable task.
- Another element concerns the assignment and management of agents. As agents become more specialized, it is expected that they function as a team. Each agent is expected to be an active participant in the team process. Agents will be evaluated by their Regional Director with input from team leaders. This process is designed to help recognize agent work which often is performed across county and regional lines.

Accountability

- Accountability continues to be an important part of our duties. This past year data from the Clemson University Management Information System (CUMIS) were used in several ways to help support our budget and tell our story to both advocates and decision makers. CUMIS data are also used by the Governor in development of his Executive budget. The Governor has developed nine top priorities in South Carolina Government and assigned persons working in state government to committees representing these nine priorities. Our agency inventory report will be reviewed by one of these committees. The committees will recommend a budget to the Governor for his Executive Budget.

Annual Conference

- A Public Service and Agriculture (PSA) Annual Conference will be held December 7-9, 2004 in Myrtle Beach. The conference will have two purposes: training and planning. We are a completely different organization and need time to plan our future given our new reduced set of resources. There will be two half days of professional development training and one full day of subject matter training.

Announcement

- Dr. Keith Diem, new State Leader for 4-H will join us on October 1, 2004. He is from the New Jersey Extension Service where he has been a Program Leader/Specialist in Educational Design.

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