

Item: ED Report – 2015/16 Regional and National Activities

Presenter: Eric Young

On-Going Goals:

- Manage the SAAESD Multistate Project Portfolio, Activities, and Other Association Business
- Facilitate Inter-institutional Collaboration within the Southern Region and Nationwide
- Enhance Integration of Research with Extension and Academic Programs
- Identify and Communicate Emerging Issues and Opportunities
- Provide Data and Information to Assist the Southern Region Directors in AES Management
- Promote the Southern Region to Decision Makers and other Stakeholders
- Represent the Southern Region Directors with Regional and National Groups
- Work within APLU and with USDA’s NIFA and ARS to Promote Favorable Federal Policies and Improve the Southern Region’s Research Capacity
- Collaborate with other Regional Research and Extension ED’s on National Issues and Other Activities
- Carryout Other Tasks as Requested by SAAESD Directors and Their Chair

<p align="center">2015/16 Activities (Activity priority: 1=high, 2=medium, 3=low)</p>	Manage Business	Facilitate Collaboration	Enhance Integration	Identify Issues & Opportunities	Provide Data & Information	Promote Southern Region	Represent Directors	Work with APLU & USDA	Collaborate with Regional ED’s	Carryout Other Tasks
Major and New Activities (Regional and National)										
<p>Cotton Winter Nursery Relocation ¹ – I have been working with Don Jones, Cotton Inc, and Richard Percy, ARS, to relocate the CWN to northern Costa Rica. Last summer we hired Alfonso Palafax as the nursery manager, who had been the assistant manager in Mexico. In early September we visited Costa Rica and arranged with Bayer Crop Science to use some of their land to plant a small-scale nursery for the 2015-'16 season. Don, Richard and I visited the nursery this February and the plants look very healthy, although somewhat small due to late planting. A larger nursery is planned for next year, which will include a more complete representation of past faculty users.</p>		X		X	X		X	X		

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<p>NCSU Research Station Review ² – The North Carolina Agricultural Research Service (AES) conducted an internal review of their outlying research stations during 2015. I was asked to facilitate faculty feedback sessions held in November and December, along with a recorder. These sessions were an hour each, eight sessions were held involving a total of 48 faculty. A report, including a compilation of faculty comments and my observations and recommendations, was delivered in late December.</p>				X	X					X
<p>Unmanned Aircraft in Agriculture ¹ – During the fall SAAESD meeting, a discussion on unmanned aircraft use in agriculture resulted in a decision by the directors to facilitate development of a multistate research project in this area. In order to gauge interest among faculty in this field, I held a conference call in November with 15 faculty representing 12 southern institutions. The faculty on the call expressed great interest in moving forward. To begin the planning and proposal development process, a meeting was held in Atlanta with 27 faculty representing 14 southern institutions. Ten of those faculty are currently co-leading four writing groups to finalize the objectives chosen and supporting information. A conference call with the 10 co-leaders will be held in mid-April.</p>		X	X	X						X
<p>Southern Local Foods Initiative ¹ – I'm worked with Rachel Welborn (SRDC) and Ed Jones (CES, VA Tech) to start a SERA on southern local foods. A meeting was held Aug 11-12 in DC with numerous federal agency representatives who are involved in local foods research and extension funding. A writing group has since drafted a SERA proposal, which will be discussed and finalized at an upcoming meeting in DC on May 9 – 10.</p>	X	X	X	X		X	X			
<p>Infrastructure Deferred Maintenance Study ¹ – As a follow up to the Sightlines infrastructure deferred maintenance study, the BAA appointed a Deferred Facilities Maintenance Strategies Committee on Feb 25. I have been asked to be one of the support ED's for that committee. Tom Coon, OK State, will chair.</p>		X		X	X			X	X	

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<p>Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee ¹ – I continued to serve as ED support for this joint BAA and Board on Human Sciences initiative. The Steering Committee met in Atlanta on May 6 and at that meeting set up a Research Priorities Subcommittee, which I was asked to lead. The subcommittee developed a document that outlined five priority areas based on a previously completed survey of researchers and the committee's own expertise. In late July, the Steering Committee adopted the Research Priority Committee's report and appointed a Writing Committee, which I also was asked to lead, to develop the final initiative document. The final initiative report was completed in early December and transmitted to the BAA and BoHS chairs along with a recommendation for a committee to develop funding strategies. The report was released publically in early March and is available on the APLU web site.</p>		X	X	X			X	X	X	
<p>Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Implementation Committee ¹ –This committee is charged with taking the Healthy Food Systems/Healthy People Report and developing an implementation strategy, which includes a budget for the proposed work, and a funding/advocacy strategy. I have been asked to be one of the ED supports for this committee. An initial conference call will be held in late March.</p>		X	X	X			X	X	X	
<p>ECOP/ESCOP Health Implementation Team ¹ – I'm continuing as the research ED support for the ECOP/ESCOP Health Implementation Team, whose activity falls under one of the Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People initiative's goals. The five Action Teams of Extension and research faculty are moving forward with activities aimed at youth, families, and communities in the broad area of health related education. I met with the Implementation Team in Atlanta on May 4 – 5 and again in Roanoke on April 5 – 6, 2016.</p>		X	X	X			X	X	X	
<p>ESS/CES Joint Meeting ¹ – In September 2016, the ESS and CES will have their first ever joint national meeting. I am a member of the joint Planning Committee and are responsible for coordinating the national updates/reports session and a session on AES/CES partnerships. Meetings of this committee are by conference call.</p>		X	X	X			X	X	X	

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Meetings with New Directors ¹ – In order to help orient and inform new directors in the southern region, I meet with them on their campus, usually between three and six months after they start. We discuss the role of SAAESD, ESCOP, ESS, and BAA and how those groups interact with APLU. I also briefly describe the current regional and national issues and initiatives pertinent to AES directors. I met with Jackie Burns (UFL) on April 23 and Esbal Jiménez-Cabán (UPR) on Dec 8.	X			X	X					
New SAAESD Web Site ¹ – Donna and I have initiative work on redesigning the SAAESD web site. We met with the NCSU Extension Information Technology director and one of their web designers and programmers. They estimate the development cost to be approximately \$4,290 and the annual fee for maintenance, security, and server space to be approximately \$1,000. The new web site should be available sometime mid-summer.	X				X	X				X
Regional Assignments and Other Continuing Regional Activities										
Southern Region Multistate Projects ¹ – With my Administrative Assistant, Donna Pearce, and the MRC, three replacement S projects were approved to begin Oct 1 along with two SCC's and two SERA's.	X	X	X	X	X			X		
NRSP-8, National Animal Genome Research Program, Lead Administrative Advisor ¹ – This project has a \$2.5 million five-year budget that is divided among six species groups plus bioinformatics and managed by 11 Coordinators and Co-coordinators. I provide administrative advice to these Coordinators as well as the project's overall chair and chair-elect plus the six species groups' chairs and chairs-elect. I met with this project group Jan 9 – 10. NRSP- 8 is also closely tied to the national initiative Functional Annotation of Animal Genomes (FAANG). I attended a workshop for this initiative in DC on Oct 7-8.	X	X				X	X			
S-1062, The Importance of US Food and Agricultural Trade in a New Global Market Environment, Administrative Advisor ¹ – The current project began Oct 1, 2014. I met with this project group in San Antonio on Oct 28 – 29. Their spring meeting is scheduled for May 12 – 13 in Savannah.	X	X		X			X			

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SERA 45, Crop Diversification Opportunities to Enhance Viability of Small Farms, Administrative Advisor ¹ – I assisted a group at the Univ of Kentucky, along with faculty from six other institutions, in establishing this new SERA project focused on crop diversification for small farms. It's now in its second year and will meet this spring or summer.	X	X	X	X			X			
Hypoxia SERA 46 ¹ – Along with Robin Shepard (Extension ED, NC Region) I continue to serve as the Administrative Adviser for SERA 46, a multistate project to coordinate the research and extension efforts in the 12 Mississippi River states who signed the Non-funded Cooperative Agreement with the federal Hypoxia Task Force in fall '13. I attended a SERA 46 meeting May 18 - 19 and the subsequent HTF meeting on May 20 – 21. I attended the Healthy Waters Symposium on Nov 30 – Dec 3, which was organized in part by SERA 46, and a SERA 46 planning meeting in Ames, IA on Jan 25 – 27.	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
SCC-80, Plant Breeding ¹ – This “top-down” project was initiated by Ann Marie Thro (NIFA) and myself in 2007 to bring together public and private plant breeders. In 2009, this project group established the National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB), a professional association representing all plant breeders. SCC-80 was renewed last October, I met with this project group during the NAPB conference in Pullman on July 27 – 29.	X	X		X	X		X			
AC-6, Horticulture, Administrative Advisor ² – This group meets annually at the Southern Association of Agricultural Sciences conference to review multistate projects related to horticulture and discuss issues relevant to their departments.	X			X	X		X			
AC-13, Forestry, Administrative Advisor ¹ – This AC had been inactive relative to SAAESD until 2010 when I reconnected with them through the Southern NAUFAP group. I now meet with them annually, either at their spring or fall meetings. I met with this group in Baton Rouge during the SAF conference on Nov 2 – 5.	X			X	X		X			

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SERA Review Committee Member ¹ – This research/extension committee reviewed two new proposals and made recommendations to ASRED and SAAESD on approval of those projects. This committee meets by conference call in early August.	X	X	X				X		X	
Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee ¹ – I serve as an advisor for this Cotton Council committee that meet annually at the Beltwide Cotton Conference. I met with the Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee on Jan 6 during the Beltwide Conference in New Orleans.		X		X			X	X		
Southeast Agriculture and Forestry Energy Resources Alliance (SAFER), Advisory Council Member ³ – SAFER is now managed by the southern 25 x 25 Alliance and meets jointly with that group by conference call.		X		X		X	X			
Gulf of Mexico Alliance ² – The five Gulf coast states AES's and CES's membership in GOMA was accepted formally in March, 2011 and currently numerous research and extension faculty are part of GOMA's six Priority Issue Teams. I serve as an alternate for the southern experiment station representative. I attended the Gulf of Mexico Restoration Conference on June 16 – 17 in Biloxi.		X	X	X		X	X			
Association of Southern Region Extension Directors Liaison ¹ – I met with ASRED on Aug 25 – 28 in Orlando.		X	X	X	X		X		X	
Southern Region Administrative Heads (includes 1890's AHS) ² – At their request, I meet with this group at their winter meeting during the SAAS conference and the summer S-AHS/CARET meeting to report on SAAESD activities and assist the S-AHS with various tasks. Ron Brown and our chairs also attend their summer meeting in Starkville on Aug 1 – 3.		X	X	X	X		X		X	
Southern Association of Business Officers ¹ – I interact with this group on issues usually related to reporting nationally or regionally. I meet with them once a year, either at their regional meeting in fall or the NIFA business officers' conference in spring. I met with this group at their regional meeting in Pigeon Forge on Oct 14 – 16.				X	X		X			

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Bioenergy and Bioproducts Related Activities ³ – I attended the Bioenergy Biocycle Conference in Boston on Oct 19 – 22.				X	X	X	X	X		
Antibiotic Resistance in Agriculture ² – This APLU initiative report was released in December. In order to gain a better knowledge of the issues and opportunities identified in this report, I attended a workshop sponsored by the Farm Foundation on antibiotic resistance in DC on Jan 20 – 21.				X	X			X		
ESCOP Assignments and Continuing National Activities										
ESCOP Executive Vice Chair ¹ – During Bob Shulstad's term as ESCOP Chair (Oct 1, 2014 – Sep 30, 2015), I serve as the Executive Vice Chair and my office is responsible for supporting the Chair. This involves setting the agendas and taking minutes for all ESCOP and ESCOP Executive Committee meetings, as well as for the monthly ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee conference calls. ESCOP meetings I have been responsible for were on July 21 – 22 during the Joint COPs meeting. I also met with the Experiment Station Section on Sep 28 – 30 in Charlotte and ESCOP on Nov 16 in Indianapolis, and March 8 in DC.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BAA Policy Board of Directors ¹ – I support the ESCOP representative on this BAA governing body, currently Clarence Watson. I met with the PBD on July 22 in Providence, Nov 17 in Indianapolis, and Mar 22 in San Antonio.	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee ¹ - I serve as the Executive Vice-Chair of this committee, which meets once per. I support the Chair, currently Jim Moyer (Washington State Univ) and facilitate committee activity. I met with the NPGCC on June 2 – 3 in College Station and attended the ASTA (liaison to NPGCC) conference in DC on June 18 – 19.		X		X	X		X	X		
BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy ¹ – All the EDs support this committee, which was formerly the Farm Bill Committee. I met with CLP on Nov 17 in Indianapolis.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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NRSP Review Committee Member ¹ – I am currently a member of the NRSP Review Committee which reviews renewal and new proposals for National Research Support Projects and makes recommendations to the Experiment Station Section on proposal and budget approval. As of Oct 1, I am also the Executive Vice Chair supporting Clarence Watson as chair. I met with this committee in Denver on May 28.	X	X		X	X		X		X	
Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Advisory Committee ¹ – I represent all agricultural experiment station directors on this committee. I met with AOSCA and the Advisory Committee on June 21 – 24 in Vancouver.		X		X	X		X			
National Multistate Coordinating Committee ¹ – This committee includes all the regional and national executive directors, or their equivalent, for research, extension, and academic programs. I met with this group in DC on April 15 – 16.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
ESCOP ¹ – In addition to serving as Executive Vice Chair until Oct 1, I also support the three southern region members of ESCOP, our ESCOP Executive Committee member, and am a member of the ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee. I met with ESCOP or ESCOP Exec on July 21 – 23, Nov 16, and Mar 7. The ESCOP CAC has monthly conference calls.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
National Impact Database Steering Committee ¹ – Along with Ron Brown, I support the NIDST which oversees and advises the programming group at TAMU who manages the ECOP/ESCOP impacts database and search site. This group meets quarterly by conference call.	X		X		X		X	X	X	