



Extension Committee on Organization & Policy (ECOP)

**Report to Extension Family and Consumer Sciences State Leaders
Doug Steele, ECOP Chair and Director, Texas AgriLife Extension
Jorge Atilas, Board of Human Sciences Liaison to ECOP, and
Associate Dean for Extension and Engagement, Oklahoma State University
September 17, 2012**

ECOP continues to position Cooperative Extension as the local and online transformational education leader for a safe and affordable food supply, healthy people and families, sustainable natural resources, adaptation to varying climate, and community economic viability. Selected recent progress relevant to Family and Consumer Sciences against four core themes is reported below.

Build partnerships and acquire resources

- Encouraged the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between USDA and the U.S. Department of Energy on energy literacy and State Energy Extension Partnerships.
- Plans to initiate a task force on Nutrition, Health and Health Care (working title) under the leadership of Daryl Buchholz, ECOP Chair-Elect and Associate Director, Kansas State Research and Extension.
- Voted in support of USDA-NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) funding to be directed toward the Institute of Youth, Family and Community.

Increase strategic marketing and communications

- Joined the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) to educate Congressional leaders about the results of research and Extension capacity funding.
- Authorized the formation of a task force to plan and implement a 100-year anniversary celebration of the Smith-Lever Act, which established Cooperative Extension in 1914.
- Joined the National Council on Food and Agriculture (C-FAR) to advance advocacy for food and agriculture research, Extension, and education.

Enhance leadership and professional development

- Funded research conducted by Purdue University to identify the characteristics of the 21st Century Extension Professional.
- Engaged with the Board on Human Sciences for representation at spring meetings in DC.

Strengthen organizational functioning

- Under the leadership of Doug Steele, ECOP Chair, initiated a dialogue related to the structure and leadership model for 4-H.
- Engaged in a national process to identify Cooperative Extension Strategic Opportunities, which include themes related to a safe food supply, energy independence, workforce preparation and life skills, and helping families, youth and individuals be physically, mentally and emotionally healthy.

For more information, contact Douglas L. Steele, Chair, dsteele@montana.edu, or Jane Schuchardt, Executive Director, jane.schuchardt@extension.org.

ECOP is the representative leadership and governing body of Cooperative Extension, the nationwide transformational education system operating through land-grant universities in partnership with federal, state, and local governments.