The *Nutrition and Health Committee for Planning and Guidance* formed in 2008 to work with National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) national program leaders to strategically position extension programs for the future. Committee representation strives to include all regions of the country, Land Grant and minority serving institutions.

Two objectives in the *2010 Strategic Opportunities for Cooperative Extension, Executive Summary* help *focus* the committee’s efforts:

- Ensure an abundant and safe food supply for all
- Help families, youth, and individuals to become physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy

**Mission:** *Provide expert opinion to NIFA national program leaders regarding future national health and nutrition policies and programs to strategically position the Cooperative Extension System for the future.*
Five subcommittees provide support to national program leaders in the following focal areas:

- **Evaluation indicators**: Identify and develop measures to capture the outcome of interventions to improve nutrition, health, and physical activity.

- **Curriculum oversight**: Recommend a process and format for a national review and dissemination system of Cooperative Extension Service nutrition and health curriculum resources.

- **Nutrition, physical activity, and health policies and programs**: Identify needs, appropriate partnerships, current resources, and shared experiences related to nutrition, physical activity, and health educational materials and training for extension program leaders.

- **Professional training**: Assist health and nutrition state specialists, county agents, and staff in the use of new technologies as tools for professional development.

- **Communication and linkage to resources**: Foster dialogue, development and sharing of resources nationwide.

The committee is a resource and voice for national program leaders inviting new members, soliciting ideas, seeking support for subcommittee activities, and encouraging you to share this information with others.

[www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/food/in_focus/health_if_committee.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/food/in_focus/health_if_committee.html)