
**HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS
COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION,
AND EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Newsletter 2006-1

CONTAINS DATED INFORMATION—PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

This newsletter is transmitted electronically each quarter from Joseph L. Wysocki, National Program Leader, Indoor Environment, CSREES, U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is intended for Cooperative Extension System educators and researchers working with housing and environment programs. A copy is also transmitted to Administrators of Family and Consumer Science Programs, 1890 Institutions, and Tuskegee University.

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Fiscal Year 2007 President's Budget Highlights

On Monday, February 6, 2006, President George W. Bush forwarded the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Budget to Congress. The FY 2007 Budget for the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) includes discretionary funding totaling \$1,038,057,000. This represents a decrease of \$161,264,000 or approximately 13.44 percent below the FY 2006 Appropriations Act post-rescission amount of \$1,199,321,000. However, this is an increase of \$5,358,000 or approximately 0.52 percent above the FY 2006 President's Budget amount of \$1,032,699,000.

The FY 2007 Budget supports the Administration's commitment to competitive programs and to the streamlining of program delivery and responds to stakeholder input. In a time of limited resources, this is accomplished by increasing funding for the National Research Initiative (NRI) and maintaining funding, but restructuring the allocation of the Hatch Act and McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry programs by redirecting a portion of the formula funds to nationally, competitively-awarded, multi-state/multi-institutional projects while retaining a portion to be awarded on the formula basis.

The budget proposes funding of \$247,500,000 for the NRI to support: a) increases in genomics, emerging issues in food and agriculture biosecurity, ecology and economics of biological invasions, and plant biotechnology and water security; b) water quality, food safety, pest related, methyl bromide transition and organic transition programs formerly funded under Integrated Activities; and c) ongoing research activities under the program. This is an increase of \$66,330,000 over the FY 2006 Appropriations Act post-rescission amount.

The budget proposal includes \$2,970,000 for the New Technologies for Ag Extension Program to support systems that will make available research-based education offered by the eXtension network. Increases are proposed for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative, the new Higher Education Agrosecurity Program to expand current efforts that address agricultural security issues, and the Asian Soybean Rust program. Increases also are proposed for the 1890 research and extension programs, Graduate Fellowship Program, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, and the Outreach and Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers grants program under Section 2501.

The FY 2007 Budget includes funding to continue current program activities for most of the other CSREES programs and, in some cases, proposes funding for programs at approximately one percent below FY 2006 President's Budget level, reflecting the Congressional 2006 rescission enacted at the end of last year.

The CSREES Budget homepage is being updated and information will be available as soon as possible. The homepage address is <http://www.csrees.usda.gov> – click on Budget Information under

quick links for the link to the FY 2007 President's Budget Proposal.

Information on the USDA FY 2007 Budget, including the FY 2007 Budget Summary Book, will be available by going to <http://www.usda.gov> clicking on About USDA, and then clicking on budget information.

CSREES News

• Portfolio Review

This past Fall has been a particularly hectic time for me due to two major activities—the hurricanes (Katrina and Rita) and Portfolio Review. You have heard a lot about the hurricanes and the great work done by the affected states (including Claudette Reichel) and the Extension Disaster Education Network (Eden). Eden proved that government can work when it partners with our land-grant system in an integrated relationship.

In my last newsletter, I introduced you to President Bush's performance rating initiative, the Program Assessment Rating Tool or PART. We spent part of the Summer and all Fall drafting the document (277 pages long) that was used for PART. The ten-member review team was in Washington, DC, the end of January to preview our Portfolio programs in Family and Consumer Sciences (including 4-H and youth and excluding Nutrition).

Specifically, they reviewed our portfolio in terms of relevance, quality, and performance. Their recommendations included a need for us in Families and 4-H to concentrate on:

- A shared vision;
- Strategic planning;
- Building a program planning, evaluation, and reporting system;
- Proactively communicating and marketing our programs; and
- Seeking and investing funds to support and strengthen our portfolio.

I was specifically responsible for one knowledge area in the portfolio "Human Environmental Issues Concerning Apparel, Textiles, and Residential and Commercial Structures." I included many of the research and extension programs that are conducted by our Land-Grant partners including outputs, outcomes (impacts), and success stories.

I also identified new directions for our programs throughout the country including:

- Energy conservation and alternative energy sources;
- Aging population issues related to housing;
- Housing durability especially as related to disasters;
- Obesity and the built environment;
- Land use/environment issues relative to housing; and
- Workforce housing and affordable housing alternatives.

I will be interested in your reaction to this list.

The review team included representatives of the nature of the work we do including 4-H and youth, family development, family resource management, and housing. **Jorge Atilas, Associate Dean for**

Outreach at the University of Georgia, was on the review team.

A REMINDER: Impact data showing behavior change, is an important element of the portfolio review.

Both Barbara Allen, Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes, and Janice Klepka, who is in Wisconsin helping with Healthy Homes, have requested that you complete impact forms for these programs. Please complete the forms and return them before the end of the month.

The only way we can continue to get financial support for our programs is for you to document the work and impact you are having.

- **NPL Liaisons**

CSREES and our Land Grant partners have decided to assign National Program Leaders to the role of state liaisons. The primary role is to represent CSREES and serve as a resource and information conduit for the Land Grant College and University System.

Liaisons will engage in dialogue and gather information from the states about issues and concerns that require agency level attention and respond to or direct inquiries about agency administrative and program oversight issues. (Note: The Liaisons will not, however, serve as advocates for the state or their unit, nor will they be expected to serve as experts on all agency issues.) The liaison role will be handled by telephone conference call, participation in meetings, site visits, and other venues that serve the role of the agency and institutions.

This project is just starting, and it may be a few months before the actual work begins. I have been assigned to North Carolina and Alabama.

Contact Joe Wysocki by email if you're interested in knowing who your state NPL liaisons are.

Housing, Research, Education, and Extension Programs

As a result of the recent Portfolio Review of Housing and Environment Programs (see above), I began thinking about the extent of these programs across the nation in research, education, and extension. I thought you might find the following of interest:

- Almost half of the states are conducting housing and environment research (including 1862's and some 1890's).
- Slightly over half of the states have an extension housing specialist (1862's) plus DC and two 1890's institutions. Housing and Indoor Environment extension programming is also conducted in at least twelve other states by Specialists with other titles including Agricultural Engineering, Health and Energy and Environment. Of course County Family and Consumer Sciences educators are teaching housing in many states as well.
- There are undergraduate and graduate education (including MS and Ph.D.) programs in housing in eight states.

Currently, two states are interviewing for new State Extension Housing Specialists.

Program Updates

- **Healthy Homes**

As of February 15, I received 26 state proposals in the amount of \$4000 to support outreach efforts for

the HUD Healthy Homes program. These are currently being processed, and you should receive funds in the next few weeks. As in the past, I will personally fax each program manager a copy of the notice that the funds are available. In addition, we have been able to support several other projects with these funds including:

- Cornell University developing a Healthy Homes video and teaching guide;
- Auburn University for Healthy Homes Interior Design for the Tuskegee House;
- Midwest Planning Service at Iowa State University for a major revision of the House Planning Handbook;
- The Hispanic Radio Network for outreach to 200 radio stations about healthy homes;
- Tuskegee University for continued outreach efforts with the Healthy Homes Tuskegee House; and
- Translation of the Healthy Homes booklet into Spanish and Bosnian.

Auburn University has hired Patrick Kennealy as the coordinator of the National Healthy Homes program. He comes with a wealth of experience and will also be the Housing Associate for Alabama. His contact information is: Auburn University, 215 Extension Hall, Auburn, AL 36849-8631; kennepj@auburn.edu

- **Radon Action Month**

January was Radon Action Month, and the Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes program and EPA and the National Safety Council have cooperated for the past four years in sponsoring an annual poster contest for school-age children to raise awareness about the dangers of radon.

We did not sponsor a contest this past Fall since EPA wanted to rethink their campaign. However, we learned that several states held state radon poster contests on their own and selected state winners.

In light of this, we asked the states to submit their posters to us. We selected a winning poster from Tennessee. An award ceremony for this winner, his parents and 4-H county educator, and staff from EPA and CSREES was held in DC at the end of January.

If you would like a copy of the poster, contact Kristin Marstiller at the National Safety Council at marstilk@nsc.org or call her at (202) 974-2469.

- **Eden**

The Extension Disaster Education Network has been selected as a pioneering Community of Practice for eXtension. EDEN will be developing fact sheets, ask the expert questions and answers, and other materials in the topic of floods.

Many of you have expertise in floods and mold and moisture issues. I encourage you to contact Becky Koch, North Dakota State University, at (701) 231-7875 or bkoch@ndsuext.nodak.edu to become part of this important project.

Leona Hawks Retires

Dr. Leona Hawks, Extension Housing Specialist and Professor at Utah State University retired October 2005. Of course Leona has found another project to pursue.

She is remodeling an old LDS educational facility (about 4000-5000 square feet) into a combination

home and glass art studio. The building is art deco and Leona is bringing it into the 21st century with green building and healthy homes technology and energy-efficiency.

Leona's position has not been filled but Kerry Case is the Director of the Utah House and is continuing to showcase the Utah House as an educational/learning facility about Healthy Homes. Kerry's contact information is P. O. Box 265, Keyesville, Utah 84037, (801) 544-3089, and her email is kerryc@usu.edu

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date/Place</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Midwest IAQ & Energy Symposium	March 7, 2007 Omaha, NE	lbartos1@unl.edu (402) 441-7180
Extension Living Well Week	March 12 - 18, 2006 Nationwide	www.learningandlivingwell.org
American Council on Consumer Interest	March 15 - 18, 2006 Baltimore, MD	www.consumerinterests.org
Priester Health Conference	April 25 - 27, 2006 Louisville, KY	www.ca.uky.edu/Priester (859) 257-2968
Children, Youth, & Families at Risk Conference (CYFAR)	May 17 - 19, 2006 Atlanta, GA	www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/announcement.html
American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	June 22 - 25, 2006 Charlotte, NC	www.aafcs.org/meetings/06/index.htm
Housing Education & Research Association Annual Meeting	October 8 - 11, 2006 Ithaca, NY	Joe Laquatra JL27@cornell.edu (607) 255-2145
Association of Household Equipment Educators Meeting	October 25 - 27, 2006 New Bern, NC	Judith Barber (252) 636-4227
Education Disaster Education Network Annual Meeting	October 31 - November 3, 2006	Tim Prather (865) 974-7266

Resources

"Moving Home: Manufactured Housing in Rural America" seeks to provide balanced information to inform discussions about their use. 2005. Free from Housing Assistance Council (HAC) website -

www.ruralhome.org Printed copies are \$3.00 from HAC at (202) 842-8600, ext. 137.

The World is Flat, A brief history of the 21st Century. Thomas L. Friedman. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. \$27.50

If you are interested in reading the “hot” book your administrators may be reading, this is it. Friedman explains how the flattening of the world happened at the dawn of the 21st Century; what it means to countries, companies, communities, and individuals; and how governments and societies can, and must, adapt.

Help!!!

I know you enjoy receiving a “periodic” Housing and Environment Newsletter. Notice the emphasis on periodic.

Fifteen years ago, I wrote a monthly newsletter, then every other month. Now, I try for quarterly newsletters. Last year, I sent out only two issues. I hope to do better with your help.

Please send me items you would like to see included especially about programs, meeting/conferences, resources, and staff changes.

Frankly, after 15 years, I am tired of writing a newsletter, and my increasingly busy schedule makes it more difficult to find the time to do so. However, every time I suggest I may stop writing one, I get pleas to continue. (I do think it is a useful way for me to keep in touch with all of you in addition to annual meetings, etc.)

So, my plea for 2006 is please help me when you can. By the way, in case you didn’t realize this, I am one of only a handful of National Program Leaders who still do a newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your help!!!

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For information about indoor environment programs:

Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes: <http://www.healthyindoorair.org/>
Healthy Homes: <http://www.uwex.edu/healthyhome>
Energy Star Homes: <http://www.energyextension.com>
Home-A-Syst: <http://www.wisc.edu/homeasyst>
Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN): <http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden>

For Housing and Indoor Environment Program Support at CSREES:

Dr. Joseph L. Wysocki
Ms. Linda Cantrell

For Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes*:

Dr. Michael P. Vogel
Ms. Barbara Allen
Montana State University Extension

For Healthy Homes:

Patrick Kennealy
Auburn University

*See websites for phone, fax, e-mail, and addresses.

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