

Item: ED Report – 2014/15 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

2014/15 Activities	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)										
Cotton Winter Nursery Relocation – In fall 2013, the Cotton Council decided to terminate its relationship with INIFAP in Mexico resulting in closure of the CWN in fall 2014. I am currently working with Don Jones, Cotton Inc, and Richard Percy, ARS, to determine an appropriate location for reestablishment of the CWN. I have accompanied Don on two visits, Sep 3-5 and Jan 27-29, to northern Costa Rica to learn about the potential of that location to meet with Syngenta’s winter nursery manager and with the owner/manager of Costa Rican Seeds. We will plant a small scale nursery with Costa Rican Seeds in the 2015-’16 season to test the site and their management capabilities.		X		X	X		X	X		

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<p>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Jane DeMarchi, VP Government and Regulatory Affairs, ASTA, asked me to help gain the AES Directors’ support for Senate ratification of the Treaty. So I worked with her to provide an informational session on the Treaty at the Sep ’14 ESS Workshop, which included ARS, industry, and breeder perspectives on the Treaty. Subsequently, I facilitated approval of ratification support by ESCOP, the BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy, and finally the Policy Board of Directors. A letter of support for ratification was then sent in January by the Policy Board Chair to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee’s Chair and Ranking Member. I attended a follow up strategy meeting with Hunt Shipman, Ian Maw, Jane DeMarchi, and Bernice Slutsky, ASTA Senior VP for Domestic and International Policy, at APLU on March 11.</p>				X	X		X	X		X
<p>Hypoxia SERA – Along with Robin Shepard (Extension ED, NC Region) I helped facilitate the development of a SERA 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. SERA 46 was approved Oct 1, 2014, and met in Atlanta on Jan 22-23 to set priorities. I also attended a hypoxia workshop sponsored by this group on Sep 14 – 16 and the HTF meeting on Oct 20 – 21. The SERA leaders will meet with the HTF again in Columbus on May 20 to discuss future actions.</p>	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
<p>Southern Local Foods Initiative – I worked with Rachel Welborn (SRDC) and Ed Jones (CES, VA Tech) to start an integrated southern local foods initiative. A planning meeting was held in Atlanta on Dec 11-12. The group decided to first do an inventory of research and extension activity in this area within the region. Those faculty have been identified and a survey is being developed for distribution to them. A second meeting is planned for Aug 11-12 in DC to meet with appropriate federal agency people.</p>	X	X	X	X		X	X			

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<p>Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee – I am the research ED support for this joint BAA and Board on Human Sciences effort to develop a “big ask” in this area for FY '18. The Steering Committee has had three conference calls and will meet in Atlanta on May 6. I'm also the research ED support for the ECOP/ESCOP Health Implementation Team, which is under this broad initiative. The Team has established five Action Teams of Extension and research faculty to move forward with activities aimed at youth, families, and communities. The Steering Committee is concentrating on the integration of agriculture systems, food, health, and chronic disease prevention.</p>		X	X	X			X	X	X	
<p>Joint Workshop with Academic Program Directors – A third joint workshop with the southern region Academic Programs directors was organized and held Sep 10-11 in Atlanta to discuss common issues and concerns, share best management practices, and identify potential joint initiatives. Discussion topics included teaching & research in tenure and promotion decisions, public/private partnerships, and distance education. It was decided the next joint workshop would be in fall of 2016.</p>		X	X	X					X	
<p>NAPB Strategic Planning – I was asked to be on the Strategic Planning Committee of the National Association of Plant Breeders to help develop their five-year plan. In 2009, this association was initiated by a plant breeding coordinating committee (SCC 80) that I helped start in 2007. The now have over 400 members, domestic and international, and hold an annual 3 ½ day conference attracting public and private plant breeders as well as numerous graduate students. I met with this group on Aug 5</p>		X		X	X		X			
<p>VA Tech Review – I was asked to lead a team to review all aspects of the outlying Virginia Tech's research and extension centers. The six person team was in Virginia for five days, visited five centers, and met with faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders at each location. The review was Nov 9 – 14.</p>				X	X					X
<p>Peanut IP Issue – I facilitated two meetings between the National Peanut Board and directors from eight AES's to discuss resolution of some unfavorable terms and conditions in the 2015 research agreement that governs NPB funding. I attended the second meeting on Mar 19.</p>	X	X		X			X			

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Regional Assignments and Other Continuing Regional Activities										
Southern Region Multistate Projects – With my Administrative Assistant, Donna Pearce, and the MRC, two replacement S projects were approved to begin Oct 1 along with one SCC's and seven SERA's.	X	X	X	X	X			X		
NRSP-8, National Animal Genome Research Program, Lead Administrative Advisor – 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 10-11.	X	X				X	X			
SERA 45, Crop Diversification Opportunities to Enhance Viability of Small Farms, Administrative Advisor – 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. I met with this group on Feb 10.	X	X	X	X			X			
S-1062, The Importance of US Food and Agricultural Trade in a New Global Market Environment, Administrative Advisor – The current project began Oct 1, 2014. I met with this project group Oct 2-3, and also arranged a meeting in San Juan, PR on Mar 26-27, so the group could interact with agricultural economists and trade experts at the Univ of Puerto Rico.	X	X		X			X			
SCC-83, Quantifying the Linkages between Soil Health, Organic Farming and Food, Administrative Advisor – This project meets alternately with the American Society for Horticultural Science and the Agronomy Society of America. The current project has terminated and the group is considering preparing a proposal for a multistate research project. I met with this group on Oct 30-31.	X	X	X	X						

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<p>SCC-80, Plant Breeding – 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. Currently I’m assisting the leadership in identifying and understanding the unique roles of SCC-80 and preparing a replacement project proposal. I met with this project group Aug 5-6 and the Writing Committee on Feb 11-12.</p>	X	X		X	X		X			
<p>AC-6, Horticulture, Administrative Advisor – 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. I met with this group on Jan 30.</p>	X			X	X		X			
<p>AC-13, Forestry, Administrative Advisor – 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 on Oct 7-8.</p>	X			X	X		X			
<p>SERA Review Committee Member – This research/extension committee reviewed seven new proposals and made recommendations to ASRED and SAAESD on approval of those projects. This committee meets by conference call in early August.</p>	X	X	X				X		X	
<p>Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee – I serve as an advisor for this Cotton Council committees that meet annually by conference call or at the Beltwide Cotton Conference. I met with the Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee on Jan 6.</p>		X		X			X	X		
<p>Southern Region Water Quality Program – The regional water quality center was dissolved due to changes in funding and was replaced by SERA 43, Southern Region Water Resources Coordinating Committee. I was scheduled to meet with this group on Feb 26 – 27, but the meeting was postponed due to weather.</p>		X	X	X			X			

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Southeast Agriculture and Forestry Energy Resources Alliance (SAFER), Advisory Council Member – SAFER is now managed by the southern 25 x 25 Alliance and meets jointly with that group by conference call.		X		X		X	X			
Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group – This group was organized by UFL faculty working with leaders from key Caribbean agricultural organizations to promote collaborations related to invasive species. I attended a symposium sponsored by this group during the July 7-10 Caribbean Food Crops Society conference.		X	X	X		X	X			
Gulf of Mexico Alliance Federal Workgroup Alternate – 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 Feb 16 – 20.		X	X	X		X	X			
Southern Dairy Foods Research Consortium Advisory Committee Member – This industry/university consortium includes NCSU and MS State, and is one of four similar regional dairy consortia.		X	X	X	X	X	X			
Association of Southern Region Extension Directors Liaison – I met with ASRED on Aug 19 – 22.		X	X	X	X		X		X	
Southern Region Administrative Heads (includes 1890's AHS) – 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 the summer meeting. I met with S-AHS on Aug 1-3.		X	X	X	X		X		X	
Southern Association of Business Officers – 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 the NIFA business officers' conference Apr 29 -May 1 and at their regional meeting Oct 22-24.				X	X		X			

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Bioenergy and Bioproducts Related Activities – I attended the DOE Bioenergy Conference in DC on Jul 28-30.				X	X	X	X	X		
Climate Change Conferences – In order to learn more about the current research and future needs related to climate change impacts on agriculture, I attended the APLU sponsored Climate Change International Summit on Nov 18-21 and the Climate & Food Conference on Dec 8-10.				X	X		X	X		
ESCOP Assignments and Continuing National Activities										
ESCOP Executive Vice Chair – 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 Nov 3 and Mar 3. Also, I worked with Jane Schuchardt, national Extension ED, to schedule joint meetings of the ESCOP and ECOP Chairs with key leaders in DC, which occurred on Nov 13 and Mar 12. I also met with ESCOP on Jul 23-24 and with the Experiment Station Section on Sep 29-Oct 2.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BAA Policy Board of Directors – I support the ESCOP representative on this BAA governing body, currently Steve Slack (Ohio State University). I met with the PBD on July 22, Nov 4, and Mar 31-Apr 1.	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee – 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 9-10 and attended the ASTA (liaison to NPGCC) conference on June 11-13.		X		X	X		X	X		
BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy – All the EDs support this committee, which was formerly the Farm Bill Committee. I met with CLP on Nov 4.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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NRSP Review Committee Member – 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. I met with this committee on June 17.	X	X		X	X		X		X	
Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Advisory Committee – I represent all agricultural experiment station directors on this committee. I met with AOSCA and the Advisory Committee on June 22-25.		X		X	X		X			
National Multistate Coordinating Committee – This committee includes all the regional and national executive directors, or their equivalent, for research, extension, and academic programs. I met with this group May 6-7. In addition, the five research ED's met with various NIFA leadership groups and presented a seminar to National Program Leaders on Mar 4.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
ESCOP – In addition to currently serving as Executive Vice Chair, 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 23-24, Nov 3, and Mar 3. The ESCOP CAC has monthly conference calls.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
National Impact Database Steering Committee – Along with Ron Brown, I support the newly formed NIDST which oversees and advises the programming group at TAMU who manages the ECOP/ESCOP impacts database and search site. This group meets by conference call only.	X		X		X		X	X	X	
ESS Workshop Program Committee – The five research ED's collaboratively developed and moderated the ESS Workshop program Sep 29-Oct 2. I was specifically responsible for the session on the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	