

NRCS, ECOP, and ESCOP Joint Workshop

Fort Collins, CO

August 14-15, 2018

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Land-grant University Extension Services and Experiment Stations have worked collaboratively for decades on issues important to natural resource conservation, profitability of agricultural and natural resource enterprises and quality of life. Leaders from these three organizations from across the country met in Fort Collins, Colorado on August 14-15 to discuss potential strategies for how future collaboration can be even stronger. Meeting participants identified natural resource issues and functional and organizational initiatives to improve local, state and national partnerships across these three organizations. Deb Hamernik (ESCOP Chair-elect) and Chuck Hibberd (ECOP Chair) noted that, "Building on a rich history of collaboration between Land-Grant Universities and NRCS, this meeting brought leaders from both groups together to identify priorities for future programs and generate new ideas to more effectively leverage resources, minimize duplication of effort, and continue to provide high-quality programs and services to people that rely on this information." Jimmy Bramblett (NRCS Deputy Chief) stated; "Land-grant Universities and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have a long history of positive collaboration. The Cooperative Soil Survey is one great highlight of this positive partnership. Looking forward, our renewed commitment to an enhanced partnership will result in valuable research that will have positive impacts for most Americans, and many citizens around the world, as we face the collective challenge of increasing agricultural productivity while improving the quality of our natural resources."

The inter-institution planning committee (Robin Shepard, CES-EDA Team; Jeff Jacobsen, ESS; Sharif Barnham, NRCS, and Amanda Schaller, NRCS) will be organizing the notes from the August meeting for guidance and feedback from representatives from the three organizations who participated in this meeting. The goal is a proposed action plan by 10/1/18.