

Item: ED Report – 2018/19 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

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Major and New Activities (Regional and National)										
<p>Joint Southern Mini Land-grant Meeting – I was asked by the S-AHS to lead an effort to reestablish a southern mini Land-grant meeting in spring 2019 that includes the 1862 and 1890 AHS, research, Extension, and academic programs directors, as well as the region’s CARET delegates, hosted by UFL. A logistics planning committee, consisting of the ED’s of each group along with UFL’s and FAMU’s administrative heads, and a representative from UFL’s conferences office worked through most of Fall 2017 to select a hotel, determine meeting schedules, and space needs. The committee was expanded in January 2018 to include a representative from each group and has worked since then on planning the one day joint session and other logistical details.</p>	X	X	X	X	X				X	

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<p>Healthy Forest Initiative – In late 2017, a joint Board on Natural Resources and BAA task force was established to develop a national initiative on forest health. The Task Force is chaired by John Hayes, Dean, College of Nat Resources at CO State Univ, and I was asked to be ED support, along with Wendy Fink, for this group. Initial conference calls in early 2018 were held to develop the outline and chose subgroups to write the various sections of the document, which is still on-going. When the sections are complete, John, Wendy and I will edit for style and format consistency, and develop a summary and introduction for the initiative white paper. This group's business is all done by conference call.</p>		X	X	X	X			X		
<p>APLU Vice President Search Committee – I was asked to represent the research ED's on the Search Committee for the APLU Vice President of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (Ian Maw's replacement), chaired by Alan Grant, Dean at VA Tech. This committee met twice by conference call to discuss the position description, search process, and selection criteria, and once to do initial screening of applicants. In-person interviews were conducted in Chicago May 22 – 24 and one person was recommended to the PBD, who was accepted and ultimately hired.</p>	X	X					X	X		X
<p>NRCS Workshop – Along with the other research ED's, I attended a workshop arranged with national and regional leadership of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Ft. Collins on Aug 13-16. This workshop was intended to help leadership from the LGU's and NRCS better understand the organization and culture of each other and to foster more future collaborations.</p>		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
<p>2019 Joint ESS/CES Meeting and Workshop – George Hopper, as ESCOP Chair-elect, is co-chair of the planning committee for the joint ESS/CES meeting and workshop to be held late Sep in Nashville. As George's support ED, I am on this planning committee also. The committee started its work last December and has met by conference call numerous times since then.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	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, 14 new S projects were approved to begin Oct 1 along with 1 new SCC and 2 new 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. I provide administrative advice to these Coordinators as well as the project's overall chair and chair-elect. In 2018, this group worked on finishing the rewriting of their project proposal for a new 5-year term beginning Oct 1, 2018. The proposal was approved, but the directors also asked for a plan to go off NRSP funds at the end of this 5-year term. I met with this project group Jan 11-15 for their regular meeting and to begin developing the transition plan.	X	X				X	X			
S-1072, The Importance of US Food and Agricultural Trade in a New Global Market Environment, Administrative Advisor – This group project proposal was approved and the new project started Oct 1. I met with this project group in New Orleans on May 20-22 and in Charleston on Oct 28-30.	X	X		X			X			
Hypoxia SERA 46 – Along with Robin Shepard (Extension ED, NC Region) I continue to serve as the Administrative Adviser for SERA 46, a 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 winter, 2014. This project will be writing a new proposal during 2019. I attended the SERA 46 meeting in Baton Rouge on Jan 30 – 31.	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
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. I met with this project group during the NAPB conference in Guelph, Ontario on Aug 7-10.	X	X		X	X		X			

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Unmanned Aircraft in Agriculture – This project started Oct 1, 2016, as S-1069, Research and Extension for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Applications in U.S. Agriculture and Natural Resources. The group is working on developing common protocols for meta data collection during UAV flights. I met with this group in Starkville on Feb 26-28.		X	X	X						
SERA 18, Rice Technical Working Group – I took over as AA for this project in Aug when John Russin retired. They organize a conference on all aspects of rice production each year that attracts 400 – 500 participants from many rice-producing areas of the world. I worked with their Writing Committee to develop the proposal for a new 5-year project. This group only meets every other year, so they did not meet in 2018.		X	X	X	X					
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 try to meet with them annually, either at their spring or fall meetings. I met with NAUFRP in DC on Mar 5-6.	X			X	X		X			
New Director Visits – When a new Director (COO) begins their job in the Southern region, I visit with them on campus sometime within the first 3 to 6 months. This visit is intended to orient them to SAAESD, ESCOP, APLU, and my responsibilities, as well as to get to know them better. I visited with Bob Houtz at University of Kentucky on Oct 26-27.	X				X	X				
SERA Review Committee Member – This research/extension committee reviewed 2 new proposals and made recommendations to ASRED and SAAESD on approval of the projects. This committee meets by conference call in early August.	X	X	X				X		X	

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Cotton Winter Nursery – The CWN has been relocated to northern Costa Rica with Alfonso Palafax as the nursery manager. We have leased land for the nursery plantings outside of Liberia, CR. The land also has a large building that has been modified to serve as the facility for ginning & de-linting, small equipment & supplies storage, mechanical workshop, and office. I visited the CWN on Dec 10-12 with Don Jones and the CFO of Cotton Inc., to meet with the manager and observe the plantings and facilities.		X		X	X		X	X		
Joint Cotton Improvement Committee – I serve as an advisor for this Cotton Council committee that meets annually at the Beltwide Cotton Conference. I met with this group on Jan 9 during the Beltwide Conference in New Orleans.		X		X			X	X		
Association of Southern Region Extension Directors Liaison – I met with ASRED during their spring meeting in Orange Beach April 16-19 and their fall meeting in Orlando August 20-24.		X	X	X	X		X		X	
Southern Region Administrative Heads – I now work 10% of my time as a consultant ED for this group to assist with their winter meeting during the SAAS conference and the summer joint S-AHS/CARET meeting, and other projects as needed. In this role, I also report on SAAESD activities and act as a liaison between the two groups. Travel to their two meetings is covered under my consulting contract. I met with this group July 27-29 in Auburn and Feb 4-6 in Birmingham.		X	X	X	X		X		X	
Southern Association of Business Officers – I interact with this group on issues usually related to national or regional reporting. I meet with them once a year, either at their regional meeting in fall or the NIFA business officers' conference in spring. Their fall meeting was canceled due to a hurricane, so they held a day-long conference call on Sep 13, which I participated in. I also met with them during their national meeting on April 23-26.				X	X		X			
Joint Southern Region Academic Programs and SAAESD Meeting – I have facilitated four joint meeting of S-APS and SAAESD directors since 2012. The fall 2018 meeting was not held due to the mini Land-grant conference. We anticipate having the next joint meeting in September 2019. Discussion topics will be decided by the two groups over the summer.		X	X	X	X					

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ESCOP Assignments and Continuing National Activities

ESCOP – I support the three southern region members of ESCOP, our ESCOP Executive Committee member, and am a member of the ESCOP Chair’s Advisory Committee, as well as work on various tasks with other EDs as assigned by the ESCOP Chair. I met with ESCOP or ESCOP Exec on July 16-20, Nov 12, and Mar 4. The ESCOP CAC has monthly conference calls.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Experiment Station Section – In addition to ESCOP, I represent the Southern Region overall in the Experiment Station Section (ESS). ESS meets annually in September and in 2018 met in Lincoln, NE on Oct 1-4.	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 Gary Thompson. I met with the PBD on July 18-19 in Mexico and Nov 13 in New Orleans.	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 year. I support the Chair, currently Jan Nyop, Cornell, and facilitate committee activity. I met with the NPGCC on May 29-30 in Sturgeon Bay, WI, in conjunction with the NRSP 6 Technical Advisory Committee and attended the ASTA conference, as liaison from NPGCC, June 9-11 in DC. I also attended the Plant Germplasm Operating Committee meeting in Beltsville, MD on June 19-21 to participate in a discussion on communicating impacts of the National Plant Germplasm System. In addition, I represented the NPGCC at the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council meeting in DC on Aug 28-30.		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 13 in New Orleans.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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LEAD 21 Board – In March, 2016, I was appointed as one of the ESCOP representative on the LEAD 21 Board of Directors. This is the governing Board for the LEAD 21 program and makes all the final decisions on financial and personnel matters. I met with the Board at their regular meetings on Jun 28-29, 2018 in Minneapolis and on Feb 21-22, 2019 in DC. My term is four years, but has been extended one year in order to stagger the two ESCOP reps' terms.		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 24-27 in Atlanta.		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 in DC on May 1-3 and in Orlando on Nov 27-29.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
National Impact Database Committee - Along with Ron Brown, I support the NIDC that sets policies for impact entry and advises the programming group at TAMU who manages the ECOP/ESCOP impacts database. This group meets monthly by conference call.	X		X		X		X	X	X	