

Item: ED Report – 2019/20 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)										
ESCOP Chair Support – I support George Hopper as ESCOP Chair, including developing agendas for ESCOP, ESCOP Exec meetings, and monthly Chair’s Advisory Committee conference calls, preparing ESCOP input or statements to various individuals, and writing all correspondence on behalf of the Chair.	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
ECOP/ESCOP Chairs’ Meetings – Attended meetings in DC on Aug 14-15 and Mar 4-5 of ESCOP & ECOP chairs with numerous federal agency, NGO, and professional society leaders; including REE, NIFA, ARS, ERS, NRCS, AIHEC, NASDA, APLU, Amer Soc of Nutrition, NCFAR, SoAR, Entomological Soc of Amer, Nat Sustainable Ag Coalition, Amer Soybean Assoc, and Tri-Societies.	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	

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NIFA Reimagining Input – I coordinated the regional input requested by NIFA Director Scott Angle for his NIFA Reimagining initiative, which was submitted by each region. This input came from AES Directors, Administrative Heads, Business Officers, and others in each region. I also compiled all the regional input into a summary document and PowerPoint presentation that was presented to ESCOP at their March meeting		X		X	X			X	X	
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. I have edited the draft report for style and format consistency, and helped develop a summary and introduction for the initiative white paper. This group's business is all done by email and conference calls.		X	X	X	X			X		
Regional Assignments and Other Continuing Regional Activities										
Southern Region Multistate Projects – With my Administrative Assistant, Donna Pearce, and the MRC, 4 new S projects (or SDC's) were approved to begin Oct 1 along with 1 new SCC and 5 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. The project leadership has been working on a plan to go off NRSP funds at the end of this 5-year term. I met with this project group Jan 10-14 for their regular meeting and to continue developing the transition plan.	X	X				X	X			

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S-1072, The Importance of US Food and Agricultural Trade in a New Global Market Environment, Administrative Advisor – This group's new project started Oct 1, 2019. I met with this project group in Washington, DC on Dec 10-11.	X	X		X			X			
SERA 46, Hypoxia – Along with and Extension AA from the NC Region, I 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's new proposal was approved Oct1, 2019. I attended the SERA 46 meeting in Washington, DC on Feb 5-6.	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 Pine Mountain, GA on Aug 25-28.	X	X		X	X		X			
S-1069, Unmanned Aircraft in Agriculture – This project started Oct 1, 2016 as 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 will meet with this group in Prosser, WA on May 12-14.		X	X	X						
SERA 18, Rice Technical Working Group – I am AA for this project which organizes a conference on all aspects of rice production each year that attracts 400 – 500 participants from many rice-producing areas of the world. Their new 5-year project proposal was approved Oct 1, 2019. I met with this group in Orange Beach, AL on Feb 23-26.		X	X	X	X					

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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 Louisville, KY on Oct 28-30.	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 Hongwei Xin at UTK on July 18-19.	X				X	X				
SERA Review Committee Member – This research/extension committee reviewed 5 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	
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 16-18 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 fall meeting in New Orleans Aug 20-23.		X	X	X	X		X		X	

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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 meetings is covered under my consulting contract. I met with this group Feb 3 in Louisville, KY.		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 and budget compliance. I meet with them once a year, either at their regional meeting in fall or the national business officers' conference in spring. I met with them during their regional meeting on Sep 11-13 in Biloxi.				X	X		X			
Joint Southern Region Academic Programs and SAAESD Meeting – I have facilitated five joint meeting of S-APS and SAAESD directors since 2012. We now meet every other year and had our last meeting in Atlanta on Sep 9-11.		X	X	X	X					
ESCOP Assignments and Continuing National Activities										
ESCOP – I support the three southern region members of ESCOP, our ESCOP Executive Committee member, and I 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 22-25, Nov 11, and Mar 2. 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 2019 met jointly with the Cooperative Extension Section in Nashville on Sep 23-26.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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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 24 in Park City, UT and Nov 12 in San Diego.	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 June 13-14 in Beltsville, MD, and attended the ASTA conference, as liaison from NPGCC, June 16-18 in Denver.		X		X	X		X	X		
BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy – All the EDs support this committee, which was formerly the Farm Bill Committee. They meet once per year during the APLU Annual Conference and by conference call as needed.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
LEAD 21 Board – I am one of the ESCOP representative on the LEAD 21 Board of Directors, the governing Board for the LEAD 21 program, who makes all the final decisions on financial and personnel matters. I met with the Board on Jun 20-21in Minneapolis and on Feb 20-21 in DC.		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 23-26 in Chicago.		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 6-8.	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	