

—COOPERATIVE— EXTENSION

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SECTION TALKING POINTS FOR 2018 USDA- NIFA LISTENING SESSIONS

NIFA is a valued partner

Extension's programs have been built from a legacy of agriculture, 4-H and home economics into contemporary programs that are delivered in effective ways to farmers, their families, and the communities in which they live.

These programs are delivered to rural, tribal and urban communities as the agricultural economy is intertwined across all communities.

Extension's strategic priorities reflect the broad-based issues facing rural and urban America:

1. Nutrition, health and wellness
2. 4-H Positive youth development
3. Water quality and use
4. Food production and food security
5. Community and economic development

Extension is integrally important and valuable in the NIFA portfolio as the invaluable linkage between research and the people across America.

Capacity funds are vitally important to leverage state and local investments in supporting the locally-based, national network. These funds enable the development of local and regional relationships, development of a significant volunteer base, linkage with partner organizations and increased resources available to address issues important locally, regionally and nationally.

Notes for the three questions posed by NIFA for these listening sessions:

In your field, what is the most-needed breakthrough in science/technology that would advance your agricultural enterprise?

Integration of social sciences in multidisciplinary programs.

Engagement of end users in the research-education- extension approaches addressing critical ag issues.

When considering all of agriculture, what is the greatest challenge that should be addressed through NIFA's research, education, and extension?

Integration of all three functions with extension having co-leadership (use state specific examples)

What is your top priority in food and agricultural research, extension, or education that NIFA should address?

Build from 5 strategic priorities, noting that farmers, growers and producers live in rural communities, have families with youth.

Recognize the importance of rural-urban interdependence.

-- Questions may be directed to Cooperative Extension/ECOP Executive Director Rick Klemme – rickklemme@extension.org or 202-478-6029.