



# Affiliate Annual Report Form

Submit this form to your Regional Director and the  
NEAFCS National Office, 325 John Knox Rd. Suite L103 Tallahassee, FL 32303  
Fax: (850) 222-3019 Email: djessup@executiveoffice.org

Please return this form by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year to your Regional Director and a copy to the National Office.  
**This report should cover anything that has occurred between January 1 and December 31 of the current year.**

State/Territory: Iowa Date: 12/31/2024  
Person Completing Form: Danielle Day, President Phone: 641-229-6563

**What accomplishments/progress has your Affiliate made in the past year?** (Consider member resources, awards and recognition, public affairs, etc.)

- Sent monthly newsletter at the beginning of the month with important information, events, highlighted webinars (recordings and new), note from president, etc. to all members (active, life, student)
- Membership total: 2023-33 Active Members to 2024-35 Active Members and 2 Student Members
- Hosted a virtual spring social to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary for active, life, and student members. A student member assisted with the creation of the PowerPoint trivia, historical information, and discussion of NEAFCS in the past, present and future. Those attending were encouraged to create their own charcuterie board and try one of the historical mocktail recipes included. (The presentation has been shared and other states have edited to utilize as they need, for example the national Historian edited and used at a state meeting in Indiana.)
- The elected president resigned from her position in February upon return from maternity leave. Per the bylaws the president-elect fulfilled the role for the remainder of the term.
- VP of Professional Development created a Microsoft Teams Channel for members to engage in active conversations around the webinar topics and continue the learning.
- Presentations at Annual Session:
  - David Brown presented the Iowa-created "Relationships Can Heal" Program
  - Cindy Thompson presented "Fostering a Sense of Belonging in Extension Programs" with a National Committee
- Awards at Annual Session:
  - Central Region Food Safety Award Winner-"Safe Food for a Healthy Future", Team members: Sara Sprouse, Cathy Drost, Vera Stokes, Kelsey Salow, Shelley Woodall, Kristin Taylor, and Lyndi Buckingham-Schutt
  - Distinguished Service Award Winner-Cindy Thompson
- Annual Session Ambassadors
  - Sara Sprouse, 2024 Ambassador Committee Chair, Danielle Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Cindy Thompson (1<sup>st</sup> Year)

- We are well represented on the National Board with Barb Wollan serving as Central Region Director and Cindy Thompson being elected as Secretary at the Annual Business Meeting in Tucson, AZ.
- An informal dinner was held the night before our Human Sciences Professional Development Days in October with members being able to engage socially to share what they are currently working on or excited about within their work and build connections as a team.
- We had two active members and one life member on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee that helped with the planning of various activities at Annual Session in Tucson that aligned with the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- We held an Annual Session send off virtual coffee break. Those providing presentations shared what their presentations were about and when they would be held. Committee members and award applicants shared their application information.
- Hosted a virtual Awards Coffee Break after the 2025 portal opened for members to be able to come together and learn about the award opportunities, discuss applications and share any ideas or information with each other.
- Our mental health impact was included in the national impact reports.
- We voted to have student and associate members pay the National dues, but there would be no state dues; however, this also meant that those membership levels would not qualify for any of the reimbursements for award winners/presenters at annual session.
- All members received a 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary Iowa bookmark to commemorate the 90th anniversary of NEAFCS.

**What are your Affiliate's goals for the next 12 months?**

- Continue monthly communication with all members. We've had a lot of positive feedback from life members that appreciate seeing what we are up to and engaging with them.
- Continue hosting virtual learning/social opportunities for members
- We are also looking into ideas for fundraising for our affiliate.
- Our largest goal is to support our current members, continue to invite new members, better include student members, and work to recruit associate members!

**What challenges do Cooperative Extension and/or Family & Consumer Sciences face in your state?**

- Professional development funds are limited and many organizations are vying for membership from our Health and Human Sciences staff. This means we are competing with other professional organizations for membership and are continually identifying ways to "sell" the importance of NEAFCS as a professional organization that staff should want to belong to.
- New leadership for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and new leadership for Health and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach means lots of changes, adaptations, learning and growing together.
- Several natural disasters and economic impacts across the state affected our staff and communities. This influenced the focus and direction of some of our programming based upon funding available to reach these communities with financial and mental wellbeing programming.
- Funding continues to be limited at a federal and state level leading to a need for creative funding solutions to be able to offer quality programming to meet the needs of Iowans and provide competitive salary and benefits packages to attract qualified staff to open positions. In addition to limited state and federal funding, we are seeing more private, for-profit and non-profit entities entering the educational programming realm and competing with similar opportunities that extension offers.

**To assist NEAFCS in future planning and communication, please list concerns your Affiliate has for the NEAFCS Board to address:**

- Things are going in the right direction.