



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 31st of each year to your Regional Director (bwollan@iastate.edu) 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: Ohio Date: 11/7/2024
Person Completing Form: Misty Harmon Phone: 740-684-3096

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

2024 was a great year for Ohio Affiliate, with 75 active members and 37 life members! Ohio was well-represented with at least 25 members on 15 national committees (including 9 leadership positions). Our members continue to serve as award reviewers, peer proposal reviewers, ambassadors, mentors, and as volunteers at Annual Session.

Misty Harmon represented Ohio at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Extension Leadership Conference in February 2024. Alisha Barton represented Ohio at the Public Issues Leadership Development Forum (PILD) that was held in April 2024.

This year 41 members attended Annual Session in Tucson. Ohio had 12 individuals/teams presented concurrent sessions and 2 individuals/teams presented in the showcase of excellence. Fourteen applications were submitted from Ohio NEAFCS members for individual or team NEAFCS awards to Regional Judging. Thirteen of the fourteen received awards. At the 2024 NEAFCS Annual Session, Ohio received 4 National Awards and 6 Regional Awards along with 1 Continued Excellence Award and 2 Distinguished Service Awards. Additionally, one Ohio member received a national award as part of a submission from the state where she previously worked.

The Ohio affiliate continues to make strides in increasing involvement of Central State University (CSU) Extension. Their membership in NEAFCS increased in 2024. One of their members has agreed to run for President-Elect for 2025. When elected, they will be the first person from CSU to serve as the Ohio Affiliate President-Elect and then President. Hopefully, this will encourage more CSU members and even newer OSU members to become active at the state and/or national level.

Ohio continues to strengthen the state affiliate and implement processes and procedures to help future officers in decision-making, not only for NEAFCS, but our Ohio JCEP affiliate as well. One of those was the development of a rubric by the resources management committee for association presidents to use to request money from Ohio JCEP, as there was no process in place previously. The Ohio Affiliate NEAFCS President encouraged that committee to develop a scoring rubric so there is a standard by which requests can be measured. The requesting association president will complete the form and submit it to the resources management committee for their review and scoring. Then that committee will make a

recommendation to the JCEP Board to approve or deny the request based on their expertise. The board will then vote on the request. This process was developed because in 2024 the JCEP Board was asked for money to support the 2024 ANREP Conference, then the 2025 NEAFCS Annual Session, and the 2024 ESP Conference.

Our very own Ohio Affiliate member Melissa Rupp is serving as one of the tri-liaisons for the 2025 NEAFCS Annual Session being hosted by the Central Region in Grand Rapids, MI. In addition, Ohio has three members serving as national committee chairs for the 2025 Annual Session and many more serving on various committees. The Ohio Affiliate secured a donation of \$5,000 from the Ohio JCEP Board to support the 2025 NEAFCS Annual Session and the Ohio Affiliate is donating an additional \$2,500 from their fund to support the conference. Hopefully, the affiliate will be able to implement a process for requesting money from the state association prior to the end of 2024 since there is no formal process in place for using money from the Ohio NEAFCS fund. The Ohio Affiliate increased member dues to ensure our state affiliate continues to remain financially sound because after the national dues were increased for 2024, the Ohio NEAFCS fund was no longer receiving any money from members.

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

Develop a process for requesting money from the Ohio NEAFCS fund and also for increasing dues in the future, if needed.

Continue to offer bimonthly/quarterly updates for the Ohio Affiliate to keep members informed of opportunities and deadlines. Encourage members to participate in professional development offerings from NEAFCS including webinars and committee meetings.

Continue to include Central State University Extension in Ohio NEAFCS conversations and communications. Encourage continued networking and support for members. Promote joint programming with members from The Ohio State University and Central State University to improve Ohio Extension's reach. Include CSU data with OSU data for reporting impacts when and where appropriate.

Collaborate with the Ohio Alliance for FCS to continue and to expand partnerships with American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) and Ohio Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (OATFACS) to advocate for and promote the work of Family and Consumer Sciences professionals across the board. Encourage more FCS Extension professionals to attend the Ohio FCS Conference in 2025.

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

Uncertainty in Extension leadership continues to be a challenge in Ohio. Central State University now has a President, an Extension Director, and an FCS Program Leader in place which will hopefully lead to more clarity and stability for CSU professionals. Ohio State University Extension has more uncertainty than this time last year, as the Extension Director search did not result in a recommendation, so this position is being filled by the interim for another year. Most of the program leaders are in interim positions and two new administrative structures have been proposed by the committee, though no final decision has been made as to which one will be implemented or when the changes will occur. With all these unknowns (at least for OSU), we want to equip all our membership with the necessary tools and information to meet local needs. Coordinating efforts for statewide impact is another challenge due to differences in reporting and in programming between the two universities.

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

The most important issue is recognition of the importance of FCS in helping individuals and families to live better, and for communities and the state to be more prosperous.