



# 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](mailto:djessup@executiveoffice.org)

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

State/Territory: CALIFORNIA Date: 12/31/2025

Person Completing Form: Mary L. Blackburn – President Phone: 510 504-1566

## WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAS YOUR AFFILIATE MADE IN THE PAST YEAR? (CONSIDER MEMBER RESOURCES, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ETC.)

**CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE:** Three CAEAFCS members attended the 2025 NEAFCS Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Yu Meng, Wendi Weston, and Alexa Erickson were delegates.

### **NEAFCS NATIONAL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION**

**Professional Development:** Two CAEAFCS members participated in the Program Planning Committee. They reviewed proposals for concurrent and poster sessions for the 2025 annual conference. (Alexa Erickson, Mary Blackburn).

**Endowment Committee:** Mary Blackburn, a representative from Western Region since 2022, reviewed applications for mini grants, and for registration scholarships for the 2025 annual conference.

**Member Resources – JNEAFCS Journal Sub-Committee:** Mary Blackburn, member since 2003, reviewed manuscripts for the 2025 issue.

**Leadership and Mentoring:** Mary Blackburn served on the committee since 2019 helps to review and match mentors with mentees.

**Other Affiliations:** Mary Blackburn is active in the American Association of Family and Consumer sciences; the International Federation of Home Economics; American Society for Nutrition, and Canadian Nutrition Society.

### **CALIFORNIA HIGHLIGHTS**

**International Conference Presentation:** Mary Blackburn presented “*Social Justice in Human Nutrition Research*” at the 10th Edition of Innovations in Food Science and Human Nutrition (IFHN-20), July 15, 2025, Vienna Austria. The planners invited her to present at the 11th Edition, July 2026 in Rome, Italy.

**NEAFCS Conference Presentation:** Two CEAFCs members (Yu Meng, Alexa Erickson), and a non-member Marisa Nelson, presented a workshop at the 2025 NEAFCS conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan on *Household Food Waste*. Forty nine participants signed in and requested a pdf of the Toolkit, and 42 completed a post-evaluation survey. Survey results show over one third were first-time learners on household food waste, 84% wanted the toolkit to conduct community workshops.

**North Central Valley Highlights:** Veronica L Van Cleave-Hunt in a five-county region in the North Central Valley of California, reported exposing over 43,000 Elementary School students to locally grown fruits and vegetables. Taste Testing responses over two years, among kindergarten - 8th graders found an average of 42% had tried the item before. Of the total group, 67% were willing to eat the food again, and 59% were willing to ask for the food item.

**Northern California Highlights:** Jessica Hartman in northern California reported celebrating 20 years of the Healthy Shasta countywide Coalition. Supported Shasta Growers Association with the "Shasta Market Match" Program funded by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Nutrition Incentive Program. Over 5,400 individuals reached through non-social media outreach efforts. Promoted physical activity with a Silver Shoe Quest scavenger hunt at 23 schools and 6,100 students; a Golden Shoe Hunt for 20 shoes in trails and parks with clues in English and Spanish reached over 800. A Community Walk registered over 900, and 500 received free T-shirts.

**San Francisco Bay Area Highlights:** Mary Blackburn in the San Francisco Bay Area reported serving on the: Roots Non-profit Community Health Center, Diabetes Self-Management, Education, and Support (DSMES) Advisory Group since 2019. She participated in its August 2025 program review. Chaired the UCANR Aging Californians in Rural and Urban Settings Workgroup since 2004 and co-chaired the UC ANR-UCSF Health Equity Among California's Elders Working Group to develop a user-friendly Disaster Readiness Resource Guide for older adults and disabled people. Member of the UC ANR-UCSF Mental Health Working Group that developed an on-line database and a consumer-resource on the interconnections between brain health, nutrition, and physical activity. Served on the Alameda County Community Nutrition Action Partnership of public and community groups since 2006, fostering the nutrition and wellness of limited income families and communities.

**What are your Affiliate's goals for the next 12 months?** In the aftermath of the SNAPED funding loss, California Affiliate members like other affiliates around the nation will focus on a variety of fund development efforts to sustain or develop new program ventures. Other areas of focus will include building the Masters Food Preserver program; Early Childhood Farm to School programs; cancer prevention; the mind, body, and physical activity interfaces; Disaster readiness of older and disabled adults; and brain health of older adults.

**What challenges do Cooperative Extension and/or Family & Consumer Sciences face in your state?** Loss of SNAP-Ed funding and programs and limited Academic Advisors supporting the California-wide Community Nutrition and Health Program make it difficult to develop strong relationships and build effective long-range sustainable programming.

**To assist NEAFCS in future planning and communication, please list concerns your Affiliate has for the NEAFCS Board to address:** National/Regional Planning Sessions around potential sources of collaborative public and private wellness and nutrition education funds for limited income families.

*"When the last tree is cut down, the last fish eaten, and the last stream poisoned, you will realize that you cannot eat money". CREE PROVERB*