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 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:	North Carolina	Date:	10/8/26
Person Completing Form:	Ivelisse Colón	Phone:	919-245-2055

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

- We began the year with a drop in membership (active/associate) from 92 in 2025 to 77 due to Extension budget reductions. However, as of the end of this fiscal year, membership numbers have rebounded to 87 (active and associate combined).
- Four of our members received title promotions, 3 completed advanced degrees, and 8 were certified as trainers for different programs.
- The state VP of Members Resources, its committee and a select group of active retired members have been working on updates to the state retiree and NC Life member list.
- We had a total of 10 award applications submitted, including one Distinguished Service Award, and 2 state-only award applications.
- The state VP of Recognition and the Awards Committee are looking for ways to encourage members to apply for awards and guide them through the new timeline.
- The VP of Public Affairs compiled statewide FCS impact submitted data to national from all five districts to strengthen communication of North Carolina Extension FCS outcomes.
- North Carolina was highlighted in six of the ten topics included in the 2026 FCS National Impact Report. We're excited to provide great programs to our community and contribute to the overall value Extension FCS brings to families and local economies.
- We are proud of the eight members who were recognized during the *31 Days of* Member Magic.
- North Carolina FCS Extension maintained a good presence at the 2026 JCEP conferences, with the President and the President Elect attending the ELC, and the VP of Public Affairs attending the PILD Conference. Key takeaways included national networking opportunities and a renewed focus on combining strong impact data with clear stories to demonstrate Extension's value to decision-makers.
- Per North Carolina affiliate bylaws, our state officers officially transition into their positions upon the conclusion of the national annual session. All affiliate positions have been filled for the 2027 year and the updated will be sent to national soon.

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

- Increase membership to 2025 numbers. A short needs assessment will be shared through the Extension system so we can create a more targeted outreach and support better the professional development needs of our members and attract potential recruits.
- The state VP of Members Resources, its committee, and active retirees will continue their work updating North Carolina's National Life Members list.

- Identify new revenue streams to ensure ongoing financial support for board leadership attending JCEP and voting delegates attending NCEAFCS national meetings.

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

Travel budget cuts within NC Cooperative Extension, composed by NC State Extension and NCA&T Extension, have led some state programs and county offices to eliminate or reduce funding for staff professional association memberships and travel. This includes the postponement of Extension's own conference, a statewide 7-day meeting. Since 2025 Extension has advocated for the consolidation of all eight Extension Associations meetings into one along their own Extension conference. There is resistance from various state association affiliates to this suggested plan of action due to logistic, bylaws, policies/procedures issues it may bring to the associations. By next year, Extension will decide if they will offer this option or consider eliminating travel support for association meetings all together.

We welcome any recommendations from the association on alternative funding sources for professional development.

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

FCS Agents and other professionals such as EFNEP educators have asked why an Associate Member cannot apply for a national award on its own. Although we understand most of the Associate Members have not completed higher education degrees, they are the "experts" in what they do with many having more years of experience than some Active Members. They would like to know the logic behind this awards rule. They also requested clarification on whether designating an Associate Member as a district or state officer falls under affiliate jurisdiction, and how that designation impacts national representation.

Respectfully submitted by Ivelisse Colón, 2025-2026 NCEAFCS Affiliate President