

## Eastern Region Updates

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The summer has kept Eastern Region FCS educators busy with a variety of teaching opportunities. Here are some highlights from the Eastern region:

- Lisa Fishman shared some news from the small, but mighty Maine Affiliate of NEAFCS. They have 5 members (including one member from New Hampshire). Like many other educators, they had to adapt from in-person to virtual in their education. This video demonstrates how they took a resource that traditionally was done at a home visit and created it into a weekly phenomenon that has gained a lot of followers on Facebook and the UMaine YouTube channel. Mainely-Dish recipes are EFNEP recipes that have been brought into the 21st Century!  
<https://extension.umaine.edu/food-health/efnep/recipe-video-series/#blueberry-cobbler>
- Here is some exciting and innovative programming happening in West Virginia from Dana Wright! West Virginia University Extension Service's "**WVU IMPACT Challenge**" serves as an example of the synergy that results from multi-disciplinary collaboration among units and colleges within the University setting. The IMPACT Challenge is a collaboration between WVU Extension's 4-H, WVU Extension's Family and Community Development unit, WVU Chambers College of Business, WVU Davis College of Agriculture School of Fashion and Design, and WVU LAUNCH Lab. The program engages WV high school youth in a **three-day immersive, hands-on learning experience that builds entrepreneurial skills.** High school students work in teams alongside WVU Fashion and Dress Merchandising collegiate students and business owners to create and develop prototypes that will address WV's most plaguing problems.

The result is the development of innovative products that may lead to improved quality of life, promotion of economic growth, and reduction of the out migration of talented young West Virginians. This unique learning experience helps youth build entrepreneurial skills, develop and create a business plan, increase self-efficacy, win prize money to further assist development of their ideas, and experience WVU campus life while earning one hour of college credit. The preliminary program impacts have led to an expansion in the course to include an agribusiness track. The **2021 challenge** is scheduled to take place **November 12-14**, on the main campus of West Virginia University.

It is great to see exciting, innovative projects from the Eastern region.