

Meet the Board

Vanessa Hoines (ND), Central Region Director

Greetings from sunny North Dakota! I am Vanessa Hoines and am honored to serve as your Central Region Director. My involvement through NEAFCS has led to tremendous growth for me professionally, from attending several Annual Sessions to PILD to connecting with the network of friends and colleagues across the states. I am excited by the work of our association. We were able to move through the past year with a successful virtual conference and we have found more ways to connect as members, like Connecting with Colleagues. When we encounter a barrier, we find a way through it!



I grew up on a small farm in the red river valley of North Dakota, where some of the most fertile soil in the country is found. I joined 4-H at 7 years of age, and I like to say I never quit – I'm still in 4-H! I attended North Dakota State University and earned a bachelor's degree in Family Consumer Science Education and a master's degree in Human Development and Family Science. I began work with NDSU Extension soon after I graduated and have worked here my entire career. I enjoy programming for youth and adults in nutrition, food safety, food preservation, aging issues, child development and financial management. I am blessed to work with a great group of colleagues both in my county and across the state.

My husband and I have two college age children, a daughter and son, who were both involved in 4-H, and I still serve as a 4-H leader for our 4-H club. As an empty nester, I'm beginning to renew my love for past hobbies. I enjoy knitting, gardening, cooking, singing in choir and volunteering at my church. I have also been called a "Ding Dong" – I play in a handbell choir!



I look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids, Michigan! 😊