

USDA NIFA FCS Welcome and Update

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I am pleased to extend my greetings to you all from USDA NIFA's [Division of Family and Consumer Sciences](#). I began my role as Division Director in July 2020 and am thrilled with the work being done in the FCS community. Prior to my role in NIFA, I spent over 15 years working in the Cooperative Extension System. I am thrilled to now be able to work alongside you as a federal partner in my role at NIFA.



There was a [webinar](#) providing an overview of NIFA Competitive Education Programs on Friday, June 11. Learn more information about these programs [here](#).

Our competitive panels are underway, and I am excited to share about the programs DFCS has recently been implementing. DFCS is representing USDA-NIFA in its first agreement with the CDC and Cooperative Extension for a vaccine education effort in rural America. The [Extension COVID Immunization Training and Education \(EXCITE\)](#) program is to help promote vaccine confidence and uptake in rural and other medically underserved communities. The press release with more information on this program can be found [here](#). Additionally, please find information about other DFCS programs focusing on topics from economic development to rural safety: [Smith Lever Special Needs Competitive Grant Program](#), [Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans](#), [Farm Business Management and Benchmarking](#), and [Rural Health and Safety Education](#)