

USDA NIFA FCS Welcome and Update

Keith D. Harris, PhD, National Program Leader, Acting Division Director, USDA NIFA, Kansas City, MO



The previous Division Director for FCS, Suzanne Stluka, recently accepted a new position at NIFA as the Deputy Director for the Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition. With her transition, I will now be serving as the Acting Division Director for Family and Consumer Sciences (DFCS) to continue addressing the challenges and opportunities that face U.S. agriculture. Prior to joining NIFA, I served as Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. My professional experiences include a 20-year industry career with increasing accountability managing agricultural commodity trading, supply chain management strategies, and global purchasing. I look forward to working with you all moving forward.

A few updates from NIFA:

1. DFCS participated in the NIFA Nutrition Security Webinar Series on August 31st to discuss how our programs are contributing to Nutrition Security. You can find the recording of our webinar and other webinars in the series on the NIFA website [here](#).
2. I am currently planning a webinar with the FCS Program Leaders for the Southern region leaders.
3. The planning for the National FCS Program Leaders annual session is underway. The meeting is set to take place virtually on November 4 and 5. For more information and to register for the conference, visit the [NEAFCS conference website](#).
4. In our last NIFA update, we shared about the NIFA Competitive Education Programs webinar. If you missed this, you can find the recording [here](#) under the Webinars listing.

As we continue our partnership and work, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.