

Feeding the World Conference

Julie Garden-Robinson (ND), NEAFCS President-Elect

Julie Garden-Robinson represented NEAFCS at the two-day meeting held Feb. 1-2, 2022, in Kansas City, MO. It was a combined effort of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) - International Agriculture Section, and the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the Foreign Agricultural Service. The goal was to develop a roadmap to increase collaboration in agricultural research, teaching and Extension across North America.



It was a hybrid conference with several people participating remotely from other states or countries. Carrie Castille, NIFA, and Doug Steele, APLU, welcomed us. The focus was on domestic and international agriculture and how programs in research and extension can strengthen the challenges of feeding the world.

Many individuals presented information on the current situation with 7-minute talks, representing Mexico, Canada, British Columbia, many states (Purdue, South Carolina, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin, Kansas, etc.) and NEAFCS. Several USDA representatives were present. Program participants represented the Center for International Programs, Agricultural Economic Development, and others. Updates on university research and USDA policies and programs were provided in the “thought pieces.”

In her report, Julie provided some NEAFCS history, our mission, vision, current membership, states represented, impact statement topics, recognition opportunities, outreach, and ways we remain connected. Several people thanked Julie for her talk because she was the only person representing the FCS topic area.

Both large group and small group discussions were held to develop a vision for addressing food security, climate change and workforce development in agriculture to feed the world. University, industry, and government partners are needed for this effort. The groups did a SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities, threats) activity and an environmental scan and developed some priorities. A road map illustration is in development.