

## Reaching Latinx: A First Glance

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The NEAFCS Diversity Subcommittee decided to explore how FCS teams are meeting the needs of Latinx audiences, in particular the challenges faced when seeking to make educational materials available in Spanish. In April 2022, we distributed a Qualtrics survey to all NEAFCS members.

For the purposes of this newsletter, we included the most relevant and interesting findings and will share the full report at a later time. We received 121 responses (7% response rate) from 27 different states. Most respondents identified as non-Latino or non-Hispanic (82%) and 18% as Latino or Hispanic. There is widespread agreement that a need exists for Spanish translation of educational materials as well as translation into other languages. The vast majority (86%) of the Extension FCS units currently offer educational materials in Spanish. The materials most offered are curricula, facts sheets and videos. Translations are done mostly by the FCS' own unit and at its own expense, rather than at the Extension or college level. Most used a bilingual educator (27%) or a professional translator (23%). Only 17% had a dedicated position for translations. A third (33%) of respondents indicated that no compensation (free as a favor) was provided. Others used grant funds (28%) or internal funds (26%). Respondents expressed that this has not been a fiscal priority, noting that in many cases, translation is done on an as needed basis by a staff member who has other responsibilities and minimal time.

To better understand best practices, challenges, and the processes through which educational materials are made available in Spanish, further investigations, including qualitative methods, are needed, not only in FCS, but across Extension. Moreover, we recognize that addressing the needs of Latinx audiences and providing culturally sensitive materials goes far beyond language only. Perhaps conducting a wider needs assessment and data gathering exercise with other Extension departments should be the next step. We believe the findings would strengthen the case for sufficient funding and adequate staffing with fair compensation, as an integral part of the diversity and equity goals promoted by Cooperative Extension.

