

NEAFCS Network Newsletter  
June 2022

**President's Message**

*Susan Routh (OK), NEAFCS President*



***Please click the image above or visit <https://youtu.be/yZ2fwYK9pDU> to watch this month's President's Message.***

Don't forget to participate in the Newsletter Icon Contest for the 2022 NEAFCS Annual Session. Locate the special icon (Wright Brothers airplane) in each issue of the NEAFCS Network newsletter through the 2022 Annual Session. Each time you find it, email President Susan Routh at [susan.routh@okstate.edu](mailto:susan.routh@okstate.edu) and tell her where you found (what article) the icon. If you are one of the first 5 to email her, your name will go into a drawing to win a free registration to the 2022 Annual Session.

**What YOU Need to Know NOW in NEAFCS!**

*National Office Staff*

- **June** - All NEAFCS National Award Applicants notified via email about the status of their application(s)
- **July 15, 2022** - Deadline to apply to be a [NEAFCS Ambassador for the 2022 Annual Session](#)
- **August 12, 2022** - Early Bird Registration closes for the 2022 Annual Session in Raleigh, NC

## **USDA NIFA FCS Update**

*Keith D. Harris, PhD, National Program Leader, USDA NIFA, Kansas City, MO*

Greetings FCS Program Leaders!

I would like to extend my appreciation for your support during my appointment as Acting Division Director and introduce our new Acting Division Director – [Dr. Jeff Sallee](#). Jeff likes to think he served as an FCS Agent for eight months during a vacancy in a county he directed. Seriously, Dr. Sallee has partnered and worked closely with the FCS program throughout his career. Join me in welcoming Dr. Sallee to this role!



## **USDA NIFA Live FAQ Sessions: Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agriculture Systems**

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) [Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agricultural Systems \(A1712\)](#) program area priority is designed to rapidly identify and implement strategies to protect the nation's food and agricultural supply chains and the people who support them during and after extreme weather events. Applications for Extension or Integrated (research and Extension) projects must directly address the effects associated with an extreme weather event or disaster that has occurred, and applications must also address one or more of the following emphasis areas: 1) Agroecosystem Resilience, 2) Agricultural Commodity and Nutrition Security, and 3) Health, Well-Being, and Safety. Applications will be received on a continuous basis; a Letter of Intent must be submitted within 14 days of an extreme weather event or disaster. NIFA invites interested applicants to join live Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webinars on June 14, September 14, and December 8 at 3:00 pm ET/2:00 CT to learn more about this program area priority and to meet the A1712 team. Visit the [NIFA Events page](#) to register and for details. Contact [afri-rapidresponse@usda.gov](mailto:afri-rapidresponse@usda.gov) for questions.

Additionally, please review our current open Funding Opportunity: [Enhancing Opportunities for Military Veterans Competitive Grants Program](#). If you have questions regarding these programs, consult NIFA's website or please contact the NIFA's [National Program Leader](#) for more information.

Expect the best, be the best, and program the best!

## NEAFCS Nominating Committee Presents 2022 Slate of Officers

*Dianne Gertson (TX), NEAFCS Immediate Past-President*



Click the image above, or visit <https://youtu.be/Bkot5TRRDq4>, to view this month's message about the Slate of Officers from NEAFCS Immediate Past-President, Dianne Gertson.

### **From Hats and History to Networking and Knowledge... The Value in Attending Annual Session**

*Christine Kniep (WI), NEAFCS Historian*

Our Association's first meeting, described as a "House Party" in 1930 was held in Denver, CO. Officers were identified at the "Breakfast Meetings" held at the Schroeder Hotel in Milwaukee, WI, in 1933, the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City in 1934 and the "first" Home Demonstration Agents National Association Meeting at the Palmer House in Chicago, IL in 1935. Pictures of these meetings show our predecessors dressed in heels, hats, and gloves!



From those beginnings, Annual Session has been held at sites across the country – Chicago, Denver, Honolulu, Miami Beach, Pittsburgh, Phoenix, San Diego, New York City, and many places in between. Each host state(s) partners with the Association Board and National Office to provide a program rich in content, with local flavor and a wide variety of opportunities in a jam-packed schedule, balancing the traditions of "Welcome Events" and "Workshops on the Move" with a formal business meeting and award recognition.

If you're in the thinking stage about attending Annual Session 2022 in Raleigh, NC, here are ten reasons I'd encourage you to attend (not in any order of importance!)

1. Professional Development – workshops across the FCS spectrum of programming

2. Bigger Picture Perspective – learn what Extension colleagues are doing across the country
3. Get to know Raleigh North Carolina and Carolina Extension colleagues
4. Raise funds for the awards and recognition program
5. Meet and get to know our National officers and National Office Staff
6. Connect/Re-connect with colleagues across the country – friends in every state!
7. Make memories – from the site, to the colleagues, to state’s night out
8. To thank the officers who have provided leadership to our association this past year
9. Recognition of the outstanding work being done by NEAFCS members
10. Help decide the future of NEAFCS through the Business Meeting
11. Re-connect in person after two virtual Annual Sessions
12. Get energized for the next programming cycle

Oops, that’s 12 and I could go on and on! Attending NEAFCS Annual Session is a must for me – hope to see you there!



### **Winner, Winner, See You at the Awards Dinner!**

*Samantha Kennedy (FL), NEAFCS Vice President for Awards & Recognition*

Awards announcements went out June 1. All winners and non-winners should have received an email from the NEAFCS national office. If you have not, but are certain you should have, please contact me and I will help sort it out for you.

I wanted to take a moment to congratulate all of our regional and national winners. Your applications were exemplary and the work they represented was stellar and impactful. Thank you for taking the time to submit your good work for awards consideration. I look forward to seeing all of you receive your well-deserved recognition at the annual conference in Raleigh, NC.



Some awards come with perks, such as a partial or full scholarship to the national conference and/or the opportunity to present a concurrent session or a poster during the Showcase of Excellence. If you are unsure if your award qualifies for any of these, please refer to the [2022 Awards-At-A-Glance](#) document on the NEAFCS website.

I would also like to thank all of the affiliate awards VPs for their help this awards season. It is a mammoth task to coordinate awards at the national level, and it would not be possible without all the collaboration and organization done at the affiliate level.

And as always, thank you to Will Ferguson. Awards wouldn’t happen without him. 😊

### **Annual Session Registration Now Open!**

*National Office Staff*

We are excited to share that the 2022 NEAFCS Annual Session will be held in-person!. The conference will be held September 12-15 in Raleigh, NC. At this time, there are no limitations on attendance.

We ask all members to assist NEAFCS in planning for the Annual Session by:

- Completing your registration as soon as you have finalized your plans (do not wait till the last minute), and
- Reserving your hotel room as soon as you have finalized your plans. **Please do not HOLD extra rooms at the hotel if you are unsure of your plans as this time.**

## HOTEL INFORMATION

NEAFCS has secured two hotels for the 2022 Annual Session due to limited number of rooms available at each. Attendees may select the hotel of their choice. **Please be aware that the Marriott City Center is almost SOLD OUT and we recommend attendees contact the Sheraton to book a room at this time. Both properties are directly across the street from the Convention Center and within walking distance.** For full details and to book your hotel, please visit <https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/2022-hotel-information>.

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & IN-DEPTH SESSIONS

We offer both Pre-Conference Workshops and In-Depth Sessions during the course of Annual Session. These additional opportunities are ticketed items outside of the "full registration" option. If you are interested in participating in any of these, go ahead and plan now on which one(s) you want to register for as these classes are limited seating. Some of these will take place on-site at the convention center, while others will take place off-site and will include transportation.

For information on **Pre-conference Workshops**, please [click here](#). For information on **In-Depth Sessions**, please [click here](#).

Visit the [2022 NEAFCS Annual Session page](#) for more information on everything taking place this year in Raleigh, NC!

### Spread the Word! It's Time to Start Gathering Donations for the Silent Auction!!

*Melissa Rupp (OH), NEAFCS Awards and Recognition Committee*

The silent auction at the Annual Session is so much more than excellent retail therapy! It is a chance to pay it forward, share your state culture and enjoy fun new items from around the nation. The silent auction is a key fund raiser for the Awards and Recognition Committee that distributes awards and benefits to those that achieve our organizations highest honors. If you've won an award, you have received the blessings of the silent auction!



This year we are back to an in person gathering.... But wait! There's more! We will continue an online bidding process so ALL can participate. We welcome each person, affiliate, region, and leader to consider donating an item to the auction. There are four basic steps to accomplishing this goal:

1. Think of a creative fun item to donate that you yourself would be excited to bid on.
2. Download the [donation form](#) complete it and return to [WFerguson@executiveoffice.org](mailto:WFerguson@executiveoffice.org).

3. Take pictures of your item(s), consider clear pictures from multiple angles. Send 3-5 pictures if possible.
4. Mark the best option for delivery (items will be marked on the online auction so buyers are aware of their purchase commitment):
  - a. Item will be mailed
    - i. You may wish to only send a picture for the in-person shopping or bring the item
    - ii. If this option is chosen, the donor must commit to sending to the buyer and that will be factored into the “value” of the item.
    - iii. If you are donating an item to be shipped direct from the source, this is the best option.
  - b. Item is for in person pick up only
    - i. With this option, the item must be brought to the meeting, and the buyer is responsible for getting it home.

Need donation ideas? Consider those items that make your area special; food, heritage arts, unique attractions, or geographic treasures. If you have a talent to share, consider creating something special for donation; a quilt, painting, jewelry, stationary, etc. Work together as a state to create a state basket, or perhaps highlight a favorite store by buying a gift card.

Whatever you do, know that your donation makes a difference and keeps our organization thriving. If you have any questions or suggestions, please send them my way! You can email me at [Rupp.26@osu.edu](mailto:Rupp.26@osu.edu).

### **Could YOU be an NEAFCS Ambassador?**

*NEAFCS Ambassador Committee*

Looking for a way to give back? Apply NOW to be an ambassador at Annual Session, a new opportunity launching at this year's in-person Annual Session! Take a few minutes to apply now at [this link](#). **The deadline to apply is July 25, 2022.** We would love to have as many affiliates as possible represented by ambassadors at Annual Session!



## **So Many Opportunities to Learn at Annual Session!**

*Pat Brinkman (OH), NEAFCS Vice President for Professional Development*

North Carolina, here we come! Registration for Annual Session is open! Our affiliates in North Carolina have been working hard to provide us with a great conference. You have lots of interesting options with pre-conference sessions and In-Depth sessions to choose besides concurrent sessions and Showcase of Excellence.

Two of the pre-conference sessions are off-site. One is “Get Connected to Local Foods,” providing insights North Carolina Extension has learned. The other off-site one is on “Foundations of Flavors,” helping you learn more about spices and their use. The onsite pre-conference is “Take Your program to New Heights,” providing you with assistance in improving your impacts.

In-Depth sessions provide many options on food insecurity, community development, eating healthy for adults and another one on childcare programs, curriculum training including Dining with Diabetes or Med Instead of Meds, and sustainable living. Sign up soon so you can register for the one you want.

Watch for webinars coming! We have three being scheduled, so you will have more webinars to check out soon. Don't forget that we always record our webinars. They are posted on our [webinar archives page](#) under different topics. Check them out!



## **Make a Statement with NEAFCS Impact Statements!**

*Jennifer Bridge (KY), NEAFCS Vice President for Public Affairs*

Our impact statement highlight is from **Community Health and Wellness** and features two outstanding affiliates!

In **Utah**, Physical Health and Wellness Activities were implemented to include wellness walks, pickleball, Tai Chi, and body gratitude. This program established 49 community partners and a total of 4,024 participants. Walk with Ease, in **Oklahoma**, mentioned 28% of Oklahomans are physically inactive. The program reached 360 participants. When the program ended, 81% reported their health had improved. *"My ankles have been swelling, but through the balance, strengthening classes I have been able to get this condition under control. I am extremely pleased with my results".* Participant from Oklahoma.



Want to know more? The 2022 Impact Statements are located on the NEAFCS website under the Public Affairs section.

Happy Summer!

## Learn about the North Carolina State Farmers Market

*Alyssa Anderson (NC), NEAFCS Annual Session Planning Committee Tri-liaison*

The Annual Session for 2022 is quickly approaching! I am Alyssa Anderson and am serving as a tri-liaison for the NEAFCS 2022 Annual Session planning committee. Make the most out of your visit by stopping at our state farmers market which is located about 2 miles from the conference center.



- This market features 77 acres of indoor/outdoor specialty shops, three on-site restaurants, and a garden center.
- Shop for local fruits, vegetables, meats, seafoods, and specialty gifts from across the state!
- Find a list of [seasonal foods here](#).
- The Raleigh Farmers Market is one of four regional farmers markets owned by the State of North Carolina and operated by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- This market has been around since pre-World War II and moved to its current location in 1991.
- Located at 1201 Agriculture Street, Raleigh, and open seven days a week: Monday – Saturday 5am-6pm and Sunday 8am – 6pm.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Raleigh, North Carolina in September!

## Migrant Farm Workers

*Diana Romano (OK), NEAFCS Diversity Sub-Committee Member*

Most of us have heard the term migrant farm worker, but do we really know what it means or who they are? As a Family and Consumer Sciences professional, it is in our best interest to get educated on this topic and know these facts:

- Most migrant farm workers are Mexican males in their mid-30s. Many come by themselves to work and send money back to their families.
- Some bring their families along and often have small children living with them. Many of them share a house with other families.
- Approximately 36% are unauthorized to live or work in the US. Few have a special visa for temporary agriculture workers.
- Every year around 2 million migrants come to work in farms to plant, harvest and pack fruit and vegetables.
- Migrants fuel our nation's \$100 billion agriculture industry, doing the toughest jobs that keep our farms running.
- In 2019, more than half of all hired farmworkers in the United States were immigrants. Many arrive with farming experience from working in or owning farms in their own countries
- They have a strong work ethic, often working extra hours without demanding more pay.



- About 61% of U.S. farm workers' income fall below the poverty level. Many have a median income of less than \$7500 a year.
- Their countries' problems push them to immigrate to look for a better life. Some of the problems are violence, civil unrest, economic crisis, narcoterrorism, lack of jobs, and land reforms.
- The US was built on the work and sacrifices of many migrant workers. In the past, the US promoted the influx of farm workers to help create the massive agricultural production we have today.

I would like to end with this quote by Eduardo Gonzales: "The faces of immigrants have changed, but their pioneering spirit, courage, determination, ability to thrive, and dreams of securing a better future for their children remain the same"

#### Sources

- Migrant farm workers: Our Nation's Invisible Population. Eduardo Gonzalez – Cornell University Extension
- Finding from the National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) 1997-1998: A Demographic and Employment Profile of United States Farm workers US Department of Labor.
- The Human Cost of Food: Farm workers lives, labor and advocacy Edited by Charles D. Thompson and Melinda Wiggings Working Poor: Farm workers in the United States by David Griffith and Ed Kissam.

### Meet the Board

*Michelle Wright (TX), NEAFCS Vice President for Member Resources*

Greetings once again from the lone star state. As your Vice President for Member Resources, I am hoping that NEAFCS has given each of you numerous reasons to love the professional organization to which you belong. Most importantly, I am hoping that it has made an impact on you as an Extension professional. I know for a fact that I have received more than I have ever given over the years to NEAFCS.



When I took the oath of office two years ago, one of my goals was to foster opportunities in order to promote and share what fantastic member benefits NEAFCS had to offer to its membership. By doing this, I learned how many opportunities and member benefits were personally missed over the years. As my term ends shortly (September 2022), I want to encourage all members not to miss a single chance at taking advantage of all the wonderful "golden nuggets" this great organization has to offer for professional and personal growth. Do not let even one slip through your fingers.

I also want to challenge each of you by sharing what you have gained from NEAFCS with another Extension professional. Share the wealth! I know that this may seem very cliché, but we are truly stronger together than apart! Being a part of the NEAFCS family has truly brought me a great deal of joy. In my first "Meet the Board" article I mentioned how Extension had changed my life. I am truly excited to say that serving as your Vice President of Member Resources has also changed my life. It has been a game-changer, to say the least. The impact that it has made is unmeasurable. This office has allowed me to make so many new acquaintances and friends which will be treasured forever. Each of "YOU" made a difference in me and please continue to "MAKE" a difference in NEAFCS.

As your VP of Member Resources, know that your leadership and guidance in NEAFCS are truly appreciated and we can't do it without you! Looking forward to seeing you at Annual Session. If you have the time, I would be honored to visit! Take care and see you in Raleigh!

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
NEAFCS HAS PUT TOGETHER A GROUP OF SEASONED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP YOU BY REVIEWING YOUR PROMOTION/TENURE DOCUMENTS FOR YOU. THEY WILL ALSO REVIEW NON-NEAFCS JOURNAL ENTRIES.



[WWW.NEAFCS.ORG/EXTERNAL-REVIEWERS](http://WWW.NEAFCS.ORG/EXTERNAL-REVIEWERS)

### **Rutgers University Extension shares Weekly Wellness Webinars**

*Lisa McCoy (MD), NEAFCS Eastern Regional Director*

Rutgers University is providing a series of wellness webinars on zoom weekly on Wednesday afternoons covering a variety of wellness topics including chronic disease prevention and management and dispelling myths about nutrition and health. During August, the weekly programs will focus on different aspects of wellness to celebrate wellness month. Check out their website for more information and sign up:

<https://events.rutgers.edu/njaes/>



Somerset County Family and Consumer Sciences offers Friday Facebook live events sharing healthy recipes including warm spinach artichoke dip, mocktails and no-bake banana peanut butter oatmeal cookies in June. Here is a link to their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SCNJFCHS/>

Congratulations to a great team celebrating health and wellness in the community.

### **NEAFCS Mid-Year Board Meeting Highlights**

*Kate Shumaker (OH), NEAFCS Secretary*

Your 2022 NEAFCS Board FINALLY met IN PERSON on May 17-18. Over the course of this 2-day session we had a great time getting to know each other and had much deeper discussions than during a Zoom meeting.

Just a few of the many topics discussed include:

- Plans for the 2022 Annual Session in Raleigh, NC
- 2023 and 2024 budgetary decisions
- Affiliate Officer Training opportunities
- Review of current deadlines throughout the year
- 2022 slate of officers for election at Annual Session
- Data collection, writing and usage of NEAFCS Impact Statements



- Proposed bylaws changes

This dynamic group of Board members is working together to serve the membership and move the profession forward. We can't wait to see so many of you in Raleigh!

### **Additional News & Opportunities for NEAFCS Members**

- Link to the Home Baking Association's (HBA) June Baker's Dozen Calendar of Hospitality and Hacks <https://www.homebaking.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/JuneBakers2022a.pdf>
- HBA also welcomes your nominations for "baking spotlight" nominees! <https://www.homebaking.org/bakers-spotlight/> Youth to adults are welcomed! Just introduce us to each other and we'll do our best to post their featured expertise soon.