

## NEAFCS Endowment Grant Summary: Working Regionally

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My NEAFCS colleagues and I were pleased to receive one of the first NEAFCS Endowment grants. We appreciate their trust in us to contribute to the organization with the funding provided. Our team completed the grant objectives this fall, so we are now ready to share the various materials we have created.

Our project, "Exploring Regional Extension Teamwork and Best Practices," resulted in three handouts and three modules featuring voiceovers by three NEAFCS members who are part of the North Central Food Safety Extension Network (NCFSEN). These materials are based on the activities of the 12-state NCFSEN and are designed to help others implement projects across borders, whether county or state-based. We have presented our materials at two conferences (NEAFCS and the Urban Extension Conference) to date.



The titles of the publications and video modules are *Getting Started*, *Getting Organized*, and *Getting Together*. The project materials were based on an interview study conducted with our network members, many of whom joined the NCFSEN group at its inception in 2016. Although our topic was food safety, especially concerning

food preservation, this model could be used to forge regional networks on numerous topics throughout the US.

Engaging with others with common goals helps share the group's strengths, connects group members, and provides mutual support and mentorship. Having a network allows for ongoing relationship building and collaboration. We hope you check out the materials. Feel free to reach out for additional information.

See <https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/endowment-grant-resources> to view the materials.

Additional NCFSEN materials, including several new food preservation handouts, are available on the NCFSEN website at

<https://www.ncrfsma.org/north-central-food-safety-extension-network-ncfsen>.

