

2016 Ohio State University Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work Review

Status: Accepted

Date Accepted: 05/06/2015

2016 Ohio State University Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work Review

State: Ohio

Institution(s):

Ohio State University

Type of Report (Check all that apply)

1862 Research

1862 Extension

1890 Research

1890 Extension

Tuskegee Research

Tuskegee Extension

NPL Reviewers:

Anne Lichens-Park

Plan Overview Section (Required):

Acceptable		
YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Executive summary. (Suggested in Guidance)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total FTEs are included for each appropriate institution of the plan

Comments:

The Executive Summary conveys the plans of Ohio State University Extension (OSU Extension), the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) and the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Science (CFAES) for 2016-2020. The OSU Discovery Themes are intended to guide and better integrate these efforts across all of OSU. The three Discovery Themes are (1) Health and Wellness; (2) Energy and Environment; and (3) Food Production and Security. CFAES has three signature areas (1) food security, production, and human health; (2) environmental quality and sustainability; and (3) advanced bioenergy and biobased products. These areas are consistent with the agenda and priority areas of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). OSU Extension and OARDC will work collaboratively throughout this planning period to advance their land grant mission and accomplish specific objectives. The Executive Summary lists a few important investments that will be taken by OSUE and OARDC during the planning period.

Merit/Program Review Process Section (Required):

Acceptable		
YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	At least one process has been checked (including other) (required)

Comments:

OARDC and OSUE utilize various advisory committees at differing levels according to the review and input required. Publications by OARDC and OSUE personnel are either blind peer-reviewed or peer reviewed/juried before publication either in print or as electronic media. OSU Extension uses several levels of advisory committees. Both internal and external reviews are used to assess the merit of planned programs. Merit review processes in place at OARDC and OSU Extension are appropriate.

Evaluation of the Success of Multi and Joint Activities Section (Required):

Acceptable		
YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(1) How will the planned programs address the critical issues of strategic importance, including those identified by the stakeholders?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(2) How will the planned programs address the needs of under-served and under-represented populations of the State(s)?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(3) How will the planned programs describe the expected outcomes and impacts? and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(4) How will the planned programs result in improved program effectiveness and/or efficiency?

Comments:

1. Critical issues of strategic importance and stakeholders. In planning programs, OSU Extension, OARDC and CFAES use a stakeholder-based approach through individual and collective strategic planning exercises and needs assessments. In 2014, OSU extension began participating in "Extension Reconsidered," a nationwide initiative to engage a diverse range of participants in considering the future of Cooperative Extension

programs. The target audiences for this effort are youth and young adults, ages 14-30 years old. In OSU Extension, signature programs are evaluated annually to ensure that they are addressing critical needs and issues relevant to a significant number of Ohioans.

2. Addressing the needs of under-served and under-represented populations of the State. The CFAES 2011-2016 strategic plan documents CFAES' commitment to addressing the needs of under-served and under-represented populations in Ohio. OARDC and OSU Extension continue to build linkages with under-served groups. The 2016 OSU Plan of Work provides several examples of under-served groups with whom they are building linkages, including the Somali community and groups in economically depressed Appalachia.

3. How expected outcomes and impacts will be described. OSU Extension and OARDC will evaluate programs based on assessing new scientific knowledge gained, knowledge and behavioral changes of clientele, and economic/social/environmental or policy changes that occur as a result of research and programming efforts. OSU Extension educators will implement the logic model when planning programs, as well as for determining evaluation tools to assess program effectiveness.

4. Improving program effectiveness and/or efficiency. Planned programs will ensure effectiveness by continued and enhanced focus on assessing stakeholder needs while assessing the institution's capabilities within mission to meet those needs. Efficiencies are also gained by predetermining where scarce resources are to be targeted and what impacts are expected based on the inputs allocated. Strategic plans and external program reviews will provide additional insight into program planning. OSU extension also gains efficiencies via extensive use of volunteers.

Stakeholder Input Process Section (Required):

Acceptable		
YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(a) Actions taken to seek stakeholder input that encourages their participation (Required)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Method used to identify groups and individuals (Required)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(c) Method used for collecting stakeholder input (Required)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(d) A statement of how collected input will be considered (Required)

Comments:

1. Actions taken to seek stakeholder input that encourages their participation. CFAES, OARDC and OSU Extension are guided by strategic plans that were developed with extensive stakeholder input. Each of these three entities have external stakeholder advisory committees that meet multiple times each year to discuss research, outreach and education needs within the industries that they represent.

2. Method used to identify stakeholder groups and individuals and collect their input. OARDC and OSU Extension use numerous methods to identify stakeholder groups and individuals and collect input from them. Some of the methods used include listening sessions, focus groups, surveys, social media, webinars and videoconferencing.

3. How collected input will be considered. The State Extension Advisory Committee meets 3-4 times each year to provide input on programmatic needs and proposed priorities. Annual funding for CFAES departments is linked efforts to collect input from stakeholders. The OARDC Advisory Committee also meets 3-4 times each year and is also engaged in budgeting and agenda setting. The Plan of Work includes a good description of how collected input is used.

Planned Programs Section (Required):

Acceptable		
YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses Appropriate Logic Model Elements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Knowledge Areas

Acceptable		
YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Outputs for each Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Outcomes for each Program

Comments:

The sixteen programs in the Plan of work are well justified. The Knowledge Areas listed are appropriate. Outputs and outcomes listed are appropriate, as well. Information about how the programs will be developed in the coming year was useful. For example, on page 97, in the description of the Animal Systems Planned Program, it was stated that "New hires will place an added emphasis on animal welfare and nutrient management programs. Improved and new facilities are being planned to enhance these program areas of emphasis." Such statements provide useful information about how the program is expected to evolve. In general, it is clear that the 2016 Ohio State University Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work has been carefully written. The "cut and paste" errors that were present in the 2015 Ohio State University Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work have been corrected. This improvement is much appreciated.

General Recommendations:

The 2016 Ohio State University Plan of Work is well written. Sections on merit/program review, multi-state and joint activities and stakeholder input are acceptable. The sixteen Planned Programs are well justified. The Knowledge Areas are appropriate. Outputs and Outcomes described are appropriate. This Plan of Work has been more carefully written than the 2015 Ohio State University Plan of Work. The inclusion of statements that describe how programs will be modified to meet changing needs is appreciated.

We hereby recommend NIFA acceptance of this Plan of Work.

Anne Lichens-Park /s/ _____
 NPL Signature

05/01/2015 _____
 Date