

2014 Ohio State University Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work Review

Status: Accepted

Date Accepted: 06/27/2013

2014 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 (OSUE), the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) and the College of Food Agriculture and Environmental Science (CFAES) for 2014-2018. The new Dean and Vice President of CFAES is Dr. Bruce McPheron, who will be leading the statewide efforts in the research and extension mission. An important part of this effort will be the OSU Discovery Themes which 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 Challenge areas within the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). CFAES is in the initial stages of Advancement planning, which will support the college's strategic plan and campaign plan and expand connections with alumni, friends, and stakeholders. Government relations and industry relations are also part of the plan. 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 use several types of advisory committees for review of grants. Publications are peer-reviewed. OSUE conducts long-range strategic planning to prioritize programs. Merit review processes that are in place in OARDC and OSUE 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:

It would be helpful if this section gave some examples of specific multi-state activities or joint activities that are being undertaken. Those specific examples could be used to answer the questions asked by NIFA in this section.

1. Issues of strategic importance and stakeholders: Advisory committees are used by OARDC,

OSUE and the Vice President for Agriculture to obtain input and guidance. There are also linkages with county, regional and statewide groups. In addition, each academic unit has subgroups of stakeholders based on the needs of their research and extension programs.

2. The needs of under-served and under-represented populations of Ohio: OARDC and OSUE are continually building linkages to under-served groups. They describe numerous methods for identifying under-served and under-represented groups. They create a community that focuses on building a culture of acceptance and appreciation of diversity.

3. How expected outcomes and impacts will be described: OSUE and OARDC will continue to evaluate all programs based on outcomes and impacts by assessing new scientific knowledge gained, behavioral changes of clientele, and change actions in practices and resultant products. The outcomes are expected to impact Ohio, the nation, and the world, especially by growing the economy, creating jobs, improving food security, reducing world hunger, moving toward more energy independence, and mitigating the impacts of climate change and other environmental problems.

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.

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:

a. Actions taken to seek stakeholder input that encourages their participation

CFAES, OARDC and OSUE are guided by strategic plans that were developed with extensive stakeholder input. OARDC, OSUE and academic departments within CFAES have external advisory committees that meet 2-3 times per year to discuss current programs and provide input for future directions. All county extension offices have overall advisory committees and focused committees.

b. Method used to identify groups and individuals

OARDC and OSUE use numerous methods to identify stakeholder groups and individuals including, public meetings and listening sessions, focus groups and surveys.

c. Methods for collecting stakeholder input.

Numerous methods are used to collect stakeholder input. Efforts to seek stakeholder input are extensive.

d. Statement of how collected input will be considered.

This Plan of Work includes a good description of how collected input will be used.

Planned Programs Section (Required):

Acceptable		
YES	NO	

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
<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 seventeen programs in the Plan of Work are well justified. Appropriate outputs and outcomes are listed. It is useful to have information about how the planned programs are integrated with the CFAES signature areas and the OSU Discovery Themes. It seems that most of the planned programs are important to all of the signature areas and all of the Discovery Themes.

A bit more editing of the brief summaries of planned programs would be helpful. For example, The Soil, Air and Water Program summary contains several references to "Global Food Security" when it should be "Soil, Air and Water." This was clearly a "cut and paste" problem. Also, the text contains several misspellings, including a statement in the Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics Program summary that indicates that "The faulty group leading the research..." I suspect it should have referred to the faculty group. The write-up for the Sustainable Energy Program mentions the development of shale natural gas in Ohio but a more thorough treatment of this issue and how it will influence or not influence the Sustainable Energy Program would have been helpful.

All in all, the 2014 Ohio State University Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work is well written and planned programs are appropriately justified. Planned evaluation studies are extensively described.

General Recommendations:

This Plan of Work describes seventeen planned programs. They are well justified. The knowledge areas are appropriate. Appropriate outputs and outcomes are described for each program.

We hereby recommend NIFA acceptance of this Plan of Work.

Anne Lichens-Park /s/

NPL Signature

06/09/2013

Date