



Affiliate Annual Report Form

Submit this form to your Regional Director and the
NEAFCS National Office, 325 John Knox Rd. Suite L103 Tallahassee, FL 32303
Fax: (850) 222-3019 Email: djessup@executiveoffice.org

Please return this form by December 31st of each year to your Regional Director and a copy to the National Office.
This report should cover anything that has occurred between January 1 and December 31 of the current year.

State/Territory: Mississippi / SE Region Date: 12/16/2019
Person Completing Form: Pamela Redwine Phone: 662-675-2730

What accomplishments/progress has your Affiliate made in the past year? (Consider member resources, awards and recognition, public affairs, etc.)

Natalie Ray, Vice President of Professional Development, spearheaded an innovative technological approach to overcome the budget deficit while addressing the need for statewide professional development training for FCS agents. Zoom is a video-conferencing tool that can be utilized a month agents, students, and faculty. It can be used from any PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, Android device or phone line. Through the use of Zoom, our agents had the opportunity to participate in eight sessions over a five week time frame. We had nine presenters covering topics from mental health, technology to aid agents and their clients, finance, gerontology, and how to utilize data at our fingertips regarding health in our communities. While networking opportunity were missed, it was pointed out that this method worked better for agents with their busy schedules and allowed them to not have to utilize travel money or be out of the office for an extended time. There were approximately 43 people who attended the eight sessions. Comments in general were positive from participants and with fiscal constraints again this year we will implement this form of training again for the upcoming year.

Kim Gowdy, Past President, made the Mississippi Affiliate more visible in our communities through the use of technology. With the help of Ag Communications she developed a FCS statewide Facebook page to highlight our programs.

Terri Thompson, Vice President of Membership Resources has been working with Mississippi State University FCS students as well as Nutrition Agents funded through SNAP Ed to increase membership. As of right now we are up 15 new members since last year.

What are your Affiliate's goals for the next 12 months?

- 1.) **To make the MSU Extension Family and Consumer Science program stronger through increased communication between administration, our specialists and our agents.**
- 2.) **Use common programs to collect evaluation data from agents across the state to write impact statements apply for awards, write journal article or apply for grants.**

What challenges do Cooperative Extension and/or Family & Consumer Sciences pose in your state?

The biggest challenge for us is the decline in our state budget. The decline in funding has posed serious challenges to many FCS agents that are having to do more programming and or serving multiple counties that do not have FCS agents on staff. It is also starting to look like some of these vacant FCS positions may not get filled in the future.

To assist NEAFCS in future planning and communication, please list concerns your Affiliate has for the NEAFCS Board to address: