



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: Alabama Date: December 29, 2021
Person Completing Form: Janet Johnson Phone: _____

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

FY 2020 was quite challenging even without the COVID-19 pandemic – our immediate past President left our organization as she gained employment with another entity, the current President resigned as he moved to a university in another state and being President Elect, I assumed the President position in December of 2020. However, the past President had a great virtual program that was held in August versus our usual face to face meeting in April. The transition between officers went well bearing the pandemic in mind.

Awards and Recognition FY 2020: Stephanie Helms and Team received the National award in Educational Publication in Communications (3rd place) and Melanie Allen was a Distinguished Service recipient.

FY 2021 still was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic but the Affiliate still had a great virtual meeting at our usual time in April and due to lack of having a President to assume the role, with approval by our Board, I continued to serve as President (therefore fulfilling) my regular role. At our virtual annual meeting, we were able to get back on track with our slate of officers and thus will move forward with all officers in place.

Awards and Recognition FY 2021: Tamara Warren and Team received the National Family Health and Wellness Award (3rd place) and Janet Johnson was a Distinguished Service recipient.

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

1. Increase membership in the affiliate as well as have membership representing all three land grant universities in Alabama – Alabama A&M, Auburn and Tuskegee.
2. Encourage members to submit proposals for national conference.
3. Encourage members to apply for local and national awards.

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

The Family and Consumer Science program was renamed to Human Sciences and lost two of the discipline areas – food safety was moved to the College of Agriculture and family/child development was dissolved. In 2017 Human Science agents were told they would have to relocate from county offices throughout the state to the state office in Auburn, AL. Whereas this did not happen, several agents (especially new hires) opted to seek employment elsewhere. As such there were many vacancies and with retirements, several positions were slow to be re-filled. Also, the geographic area that agents served changed with agents going from serving 6 to 8 counties to serving 9 to 11 counties (for Alabama, this is a large geographic area). This change in service area spreads the agents out quite thinly and makes it harder to serve the clientele. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent use of virtual meetings, clientele is being served, but we are losing the personal touch. Whereas virtual is very useful, it also means that clients can seek programming from anywhere

around the country which makes the experience less personal and the client may be receiving information not pertinent to their specific location and because readily available, what will be the effect on local/state Extension programming? In general, it seems there is less emphasis put on Family Consumer Science programming. This may be detrimental to all programming in the future, as the Family is the Future and without support with the challenging issues being faced, where will we be?

To assist NEAFCS in future planning and communication, please list concerns your Affiliate has for the NEAFCS Board to address (these are in no particular order):

1. Budget Cuts and Funding
2. Lack of qualified applicants for positions
3. Technology changes
4. Lack of public knowledge of FCS Extension and programming that is done
5. More opportunities to network with agents across the country
6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training