



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: Michigan Date: December 1, 2023
Person Completing Form: Courtney Aldrich Phone: 517 993-8649

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

One of our biggest accomplishments of 2023 was to revise our affiliate bylaws and handbook. We included the associate member category as a major revision, and updated language and policies that were outdated. Another major revision was to move from regional vice presidents and committee assignments to elected vice presidents and committees assigned based on preference. We were finding that our northern region did not have enough membership to fill a committee, putting an unfair burden on a few people.

We have also been working on moving our files to Microsoft Teams to make them more accessible to our members given the platforms our university is using.

We also hosted a really rich and well-received professional development that we opened to all of MSU Extension on working with tribal communities.

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

We really want to work on increasing the connections within MEAFCS and helping members recognize the relevancy of the association. Action goals include a "branding campaign", an impact statement writing day, an award writing forum/day, as well as some social and/or volunteer events to build relationships.

We are also working with leadership to encourage membership in the association and allow us to have some time at one of our institute conferences to hold a meeting for current and prospective members.

We will also be forming committees and begin engaging members in planning for annual session 2025.

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

We have had a lot of turnover in Extension and many positions remain unfilled, leading to smaller work teams and higher work loads. We are lacking staff in some regions with great need, and it is unclear whether those positions will be filled. We are figuring out how to navigate continued demand for virtual programming with increased demand for in-person programming.

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

The cost of membership dues is a barrier for many potential members.

The budget for annual session is not adequate to cover costs, particularly with the steep increase in prices over the past year.