



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: Maryland Date: 12/2025
Person Completing Form: Alex Chan and Troy Anthony Anderson Phone: 410-535-3662

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

JCEP. State affiliate officers Troy Anthony Anderson and Deon Littles attended and presented at the 2025 JCEP Leadership Conference held in Savannah, GA. Their experiences underscored the conference's significance in leadership development, and they encouraged fellow members to participate in future gatherings.

2025 Annual Session. Demonstrating unwavering commitment and expertise, eleven members journeyed to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to actively engage in the NEAFCS annual session. Maryland representatives stood out by presenting eight concurrent sessions, one in-depth session, and one poster presentation. Their contributions were honored with several regional awards in both individual and team categories. Notably, several members received national accolades during the prestigious annual awards ceremony, further cementing Maryland's influence and excellence.

Recognitions. We are delighted to share that Jesse Ketterman has been re-elected to the National Board for a second two-year term as Treasurer, while Dhruti Patel has been elected to serve a two-year term as Vice President of Public Affairs. Troy Anthony Anderson will continue in his role as National Vice President of Member Resources until the 2026 Annual Session. Our members have achieved numerous accomplishments this year. Dr. Dhruti Patel has also been recognized for completing her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. Furthermore, Mona Habibi has successfully submitted her application for tenure as Senior Agent, and Shauna Henley has done the same for Principal Agent. Both have shown remarkable diligence, and we anticipate their significant contributions to Extension.

Member Resources. In celebrating the successes of our members, we also pause in reflection to honor the memory of our colleague Michael Elonge, who passed away on July 29, 2025. His legacy and contributions will be fondly remembered within our community. This year, the NEAFCS Maryland Affiliate conducted two board meetings. Our all-member summer meeting and professional development session concentrated on local research regarding dairy cattle, agronomy, and chestnut orchards overseen by the Central Maryland Research and Education Center in Ellicott City, Maryland. Attendees were also provided with a wagon tour of the farm to observe each area.



Recently, our Fall meeting and Elections was held at The Ascend Building in Columbia, Maryland where we worked through a Breakout box team activity, conducted business, and elected officers.



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

- Invite new employees to join NEAFCS-MD within their first week of employment
 - Increase 1890 colleague membership
- Create and maintain a conference calendar to facilitate year-round planning for both the affiliate and members
- Increase utilization of affiliate resources, such as professional development funds
- Support scholarship efforts of members by identifying FCS-relevant journals and conducting professional development around submission development
- Develop resources to reduce the administrative burden of members, including peer support, advocacy with Extension leadership, and other tactics

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

- **Funding Constraints.** One of the most significant challenges is limited funding. Both Cooperative Extension and FCS programs rely heavily on federal, state, and local funding, which can be unpredictable and insufficient to meet all program needs. Budget cuts or stagnant funding levels have led to reduced staffing, limited resources, and curtailed programs, affecting the ability to serve communities effectively.
- **Urbanization and Changing Demographics.** Maryland has diverse communities ranging from rural to highly urban areas. This diversity presents a challenge in tailoring programs to meet the varied needs of these populations because of the Educator shortage. Urbanization also brings about different issues, such as food deserts and urban agriculture, which require innovative approaches to address.
- **Technological Advancements and Digital Divide.** While technology offers new avenues for program delivery, it also presents challenges. There is a need to continuously update technological capabilities and train educators to effectively utilize new tools. Additionally, the digital divide remains an issue, particularly in rural and underserved areas, limiting access to online resources and virtual programs.
- **Engagement and Awareness.** Building awareness and engaging communities is an ongoing challenge. Many residents may not be aware of the services offered by Cooperative Extension and FCS. Increasing visibility and demonstrating the value of these programs is essential for broader community involvement and participation. However, educators sometimes lack the support of an assistant and the time for marketing and branding efforts.

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

- Introduce certification programs that allow members to gain specialized skills and credentials, boosting professional standing within Extension.
- Organize regular workshops and increase webinars on emerging trends, technologies, and best practices in family and consumer sciences.
- Offer increased endowment potential for more individuals, using a \$1000 fund to aid members in developing community-based impact initiatives for less-prioritized start-up programs and FCS content categories.
- Launch marketing campaigns to raise public awareness about the role and impact of family and consumer sciences professionals within NEAFCS.