



National Extension Association
of Family and Consumer Sciences

IMPACT 2019

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educators provide a multitude of Educational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency

Traditionally, Extension professionals have helped clients plan and prepare for emergencies in educational settings. More and more, though, with larger and more frequent disasters, family and consumer sciences faculty are stepping up to help with important roles in response, recovery and mitigation. Knowing when and how to work side-by-side with emergency professional agencies and volunteer organizations can help individuals, families and neighborhoods improve resilience and recover more quickly.

Planning

At the 2018 NEAFCS Annual Session Pre-Conference Workshop, *Disasters Happen*, participants learned how the *Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)* could help FCS programs make an impact with emergency preparedness programming from preparation to recovery. Presenters were Extension colleagues from **New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, Michigan** and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) **FCS National Program Leader**, Beverly Samuel. Of the 24 survey respondents, 100% said knowledge and skills gained were relevant and useful.

"Great session, very timely and good information," "I welcome all the resources given," "I plan to conduct emergency preparedness workshops" – FCS participants at *Disasters Happen* workshop

In **New Mexico**, the FCS Agent taught *Preparing a Business Disaster Plan* to 18 Farmington Chamber of Commerce members. In the course, participants explored disaster communication, inventory/financial records access, business continuation, and supply chain

or technology disruptions plans.

Oregon State University Extension was awarded a \$130,000 NIFA Smith-Lever Special Needs Competitive Grant to help residents and guests build a culture of preparedness by *Preparing for the Cascadia Subduction Zone Event* through an online learning system. New research has revealed that Magnitude 8.0 to 9.1 mega-thrust earthquake (4 to 7 minutes of shaking) and tsunami is a naturally recurring disaster in the Pacific Northwest with a 32 to 47% chance of occurring in the next 50 years. Four modules will be posted on eXtension.org in English and Spanish. An additional module for professionals will be included.

"Our business has a disaster plan, but we had not looked at situations like supply chain disruptions, or business continuity if our location was compromised." – **New Mexico** participant in *Preparing a Business Disaster Plan* workshop

Preparedness

The social media campaign, #*PrepareKansas* online challenge focused on activities related to the National Preparedness Month. Short videos introduced weekly themes and provided information about related challenge activities. Videos were available in English and Spanish. Total views exceeded 200 during the month across Extension's social media platforms.

Oklahoma ranks third for federally declared disasters. At seven *Youth Safety Days*, 1,592 youth reinforced or built skills for their family communications plans and other preparedness activities with an Extension educator. Evaluation data shows that 62% of youth

Raising kids. Eating right. Spending smart



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have a family meeting place in case of emergency and an additional 25% will talk to their family about finding one.

To raise awareness of the need for emergency preparedness a **New Mexico** FCS Agent distributed 290 *Emergency Preparedness Guides* at 3 local health fairs. The guide includes instructions on how to prepare for an emergency and what to do in a specific event.

My P.I., a *National Youth Preparedness Initiative* in 29 states and territories trains teens in disaster preparedness and response. **Tennessee** Extension educators provided 16 lessons to 41 high school students regarding what to do when weather or “man-made” disasters happen. This program gives youth knowledge and confidence to help in a *Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)*, assist 6 other families in their preparedness efforts, assemble their own emergency preparedness kit and create their family communication plan.

“You basically learn about natural disasters and trying to be able to go help out and help your community and help yourself in disaster training.” – **Tennessee** Teen *My P.I.* participant

The *Preparedness Conference and Expo* in **Utah** was offered to help people prepare for disasters and emergencies and increase their motivation to take actions. There were 71 exhibits or sessions visited by 1,500 participants. Emergency preparedness merit badges were earned by 50 Boy Scouts.



National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) provides professional development for Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities and provide education in the areas of: Childhood Obesity Prevention; Community Health and Wellness; Diabetes Prevention and Management; Financial Management; Food and Nutrition; Food Safety; Healthy Homes and the Environment; Improving Children’s Lives; and Protecting our Resources – Family Life. NEAFCS is an equal opportunity/affirmative action association. NEAFCS values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not by invitation. (Strategic Plan 1993-97)

Mitigation

When San Juan County, **New Mexico** entered into a severe drought in early 2018, the FCS Agent developed a presentation board and information handout on *Ways to Save Water* in and around the home. The program reached 1,042 citizens.

Response

The North Carolina coastal region was directly impacted by 2 major hurricanes resulting in significant damage in 2018. Social media enabled **North Carolina** Extension to share their *After the Flood* videos via the state Extension YouTube and Facebook channels to assist English and Spanish speaking residents with cleanup.

Recovery

A **Minnesota** Extension educator shared the *Recovery After Disaster: The Family Financial Toolkit* and the *Recovery After Disaster Video Series* at a Multi-Agency Recovery Center in rural community impacted by flooding. Nearly 50 disaster survivors were encouraged to document loss and recovery expenses, determine current financial status to inform future financial decisions and to seek stress/mental health assistance as needed. These resources were also shared with over 300 professionals at the Governor’s state homeland security and emergency management conference

“Taking this class has given me the chance to think about what I should do in preparation for emergencies. It should help me prepare to act wisely in an emergency situation.”
- **Utah** Emergency Preparedness participant

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