
nEXT Generation Project

Cooperative Extension is the embodiment of the Wisconsin Idea, bringing the research and knowledge of the University of Wisconsin directly to the people. Cooperative Extension is a partnership of counties, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Wisconsin, using non-formal education and outreach to provide vital, practical information to farmers, businesses, communities, families and young people.

Wisconsin's 2015-2017 biennial budget reduced University of Wisconsin System funding by \$250 million, of which Cooperative Extension's portion is \$3.6 million per year, or 8.3 percent of its ongoing state funding. The institution has chosen to address these cuts through a formal restructuring process designed to generate locally relevant, modern, flexible models for research, education and outreach.

UW-Colleges/UW-Extension Chancellor Cathy Sandeen has asked planning teams to implement a multi-county area structure while maintaining an office in each county. Decisions will be made to establish the appropriate mix of staff in each multi-county area to best serve the needs of that area. There will be recommendations on expanded use of digital technology in program delivery and educational product development. Changes will occur in 2017.