

All new and revised Hatch (and McIntire-Stennis) project proposals undergo peer review. The blind peer review panel is composed of a minimum of two members and consists of competent authorities from other land-grant universities in the discipline of the proposal/publication or related disciplines. Each reviewer completes a Peer Review Form that includes specific criteria, provides for other comments and suggestions, and makes a recommendation to the director. Reviews are returned to the author(s) for revision if needed. The director reviews all comments and recommendations from the reviewers along with the revised proposal/publication before it is sent to USDA.

Scientific peer review of multistate research projects is carried out for individual projects under the aegis of the Multistate Review Committee (MRC- formerly RCIC). The director of AFES is a member of the MRC. All faculty who are participants in Hatch multistate projects are required to have an approved Hatch Regular Research project that is related to the field of study of the multistate project. Extension has an evaluation specialist who conducts needs assessments, documents outreach outcomes and works with faculty and staff on formative and summative evaluations of individual programs. Participant feedback is collected regularly on workshops and conferences. Follow-up surveys will document any behavior changes implemented by farmers, gardeners, food workers and other stakeholder groups.

Peer review of the Extension components of the POW consist of internal and external reviews by a panel of faculty and administrators. The different review panels assess how well the activities and resources proposed in the plan contribute to achieving the proposed goals and established emphases on food security, food safety, climate adaptability, health, positive youth development and sustainable energy as priorities for the future. Collective feedback is incorporated into each iteration of the POW.

Extension developed outreach metrics for accreditation of the university by the Northwest Accreditation Commission. The most recent strategic planning process for the university launched engagement as a major theme. Extension research, teaching and outreach processes and measurements are embedded in the university's new strategic plan. CES provides information to the university annually as part of UAF's accreditation process.

III. Stakeholder Input

1. Actions to Seek

Traditional meetings will continue to be focal points for listening to and receiving input from stakeholders. Methods of soliciting stakeholder input include using television, radio, newspaper, newsletter and social media ads to announce public meetings and listening sessions; sending targeted invitations to both traditional and nontraditional stakeholder groups and key community members; conducting surveys with both traditional and nontraditional stakeholders; collecting feedback on public priorities during open houses and local and state fairs; and providing online platforms for engagement including blogs, Facebook pages, Twitter feeds, YouTube channels and more. As required by the AREERA of 1998, these will be advertised as broadly as possible and identified as points of contact for public input into research and outreach program development. CES sponsors agricultural and horticultural conferences and outreach activities with AFES participation where the units gather formal and informal stakeholder input. Outreach faculty and staff will also identify ways to overcome barriers like income, transportation, literacy, etc. when reaching out to underserved populations. CES also relies on advisory groups as an important part of the stakeholder needs assessment process. CES and AFES have traditionally met with audiences around the state in both formal and informal settings each year. Examples of these audiences include:

- Alaska Community Agriculture Association
- Alaska Diversified Livestock Association
- Alaska Native village and regional corporations and tribal organizations
- Attendees at the Delta Farm Forum and Harvest Wrap-Up
- Borough and city governments and municipalities
- Grower groups such as greenhouse growers and the Alaska Peony Growers Association
- Industries involved in food, fiber and fuel/energy production
- Kawerak Inc. Reindeer Herders Association
- On-demand meetings at the request of stakeholders
- Private industry
- Regional and Statewide Farm Bureau
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts

2. Methods to Identify

CES and AFES plan to engage with advisory committees, focus groups and participants in listening sessions as well as continue to conduct needs assessments and stakeholder surveys as methods to identify groups and individuals from whom to collect input. Faculty and staff will utilize Census data to determine potential audiences and parity goals. AFES relies on stakeholder input from agricultural advisory groups, collaborators, federal and state agencies, colleagues, faculty and students for assistance in establishing priorities and developing project directions. Members from the public who have participated in or who have an interest in CES program offerings represent an important segment of the organization's stakeholders who can be contacted after their experience to offer feedback on program improvement and interest in future programming. Stakeholders often identify themselves by emailing or calling Extension faculty or staff. Other significant stakeholder groups are public and private agencies and organizations that have professional and programmatic relationships with Extension or direct interest in CES programming.

3. Methods to Collect

Meeting with traditional stakeholder groups
Survey of traditional stakeholder groups
Meeting with nontraditional stakeholder individuals
Survey of nontraditional stakeholder individuals
Survey of the general public
Meeting with invited selected individuals from the general public (key community members)

Survey information will be collected using formal survey preparation and analysis techniques. Conferences, meetings and workshops are scheduled around themes relevant to stakeholder concerns, and post-conference surveys will establish how well information needs are addressed. Meeting minutes, videoconference archives and other records of stakeholder engagement and input will be used in planning of research and Extension programs. CES and AFES will generate a feedback loop that provides information to research and outreach programs and from research and outreach programs to stakeholders and individuals. Extension collects stakeholder input through in-person surveys following conferences and workshops, by email surveys and through public presentations with discussion opportunities made available to a variety of groups and agencies. Input is also collected individually by agents who work with stakeholders and through advisory groups. Blogs and more than 20 social media pages also provide venues for stakeholder input.

4. How Considered

To Identify Emerging Issues
Redirect Extension Programs
Redirect Research Programs
In the Staff Hiring Process
In the Action Plans
To Set Priorities
To Identify Underserved Populations

AFES and CES will continue to serve the needs of the people of the state of Alaska. Input will reflect ideas and advice given by client user groups, students, expert advisors, state and national peers and collaborators and UAF administration. The four critical issue areas identified reflect the concerns of all major stakeholder groups, and will continue to be the highest priorities in workload planning and resource allocation. Requests for specific speakers and topics at conferences guide conference agendas. Requests for programming help shape what is offered. Needs assessments will continue to help CES and AFES faculty and staff identify emerging issues. Community needs are an important consideration when assessing how to create or fill staff and faculty positions. Stakeholder needs will continue to be a driving factor in determining CES priorities for programming and AFES priorities for research.