

ABSTRACTS
*** Author Presenting Paper**

54 Multi-state extension programming. S.P. Washburn*¹,
¹*North Carolina State University, Raleigh.*

Extension programs across state lines- frustrating or rewarding? Multi-state extension programming can be perceived as a threat because faculty may feel that jobs will be eliminated or that they will be asked to do more with less. However, multi-state extension program efforts can allow individuals the freedom to develop an expertise of particular interest and work in that specific area across state lines in contrast to general approaches in smaller areas. Industry clientele appear eager to embrace more regional approaches related to their commodity group interests. At the Southern Dairy Conference, a panel of 3 farmers and a cooperative manager recommended a regional approach to dairy extension, teaching, and research that would consolidate program efforts. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Pork Producers Council have also encouraged multi state programs. Factors needed to ensure effective multi-state extension programs include supportive administrations, complementary efforts, a cooperative local spirit, funding sources, and willingness to share credit. Ideas and program development need to start with faculty, including agents as field faculty. To facilitate such efforts, opportunities for informal sharing of ideas and team building must be encouraged. Multi-state agent and specialist retreats such as those hosted in recent years in North Carolina for dairy extension faculty have stimulated multi-state program efforts, including grant proposals, regional conferences, and agent training programs. Such retreats have given field faculty opportunities to share ideas and expertise and to be included on programs in other states. Workshops on national program efforts in swine and beef have also been effective in stimulating multi-state program efforts including professional swine managers conferences and a regionally shared exhibit and training program on improving beef production and quality. Portions of appropriated funding, privately funded programs such as producer check-off funds for education or research programs, and various grant opportunities need to emphasize regional components to further facilitate team building and innovative approaches.

Key Words: Programs, Multi-state, Teams