

Changes in South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service

How this affects Meade County 4-H

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On April 12th, 2011 the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service released new changes to the way it operates and does day to day business. There has been a lot of media attention regarding these changes that has a variety of different information reported. At the Meade County 4-H Leaders Meeting held on the evening of April 18th, 2011, I reviewed these changes and the affects they will potentially have to Meade County 4-H. We are sending out this information so everyone can better understand the changes and how they will affect the 4-H program on the County and State level. Here is a summary of the changes and background of the current setup of SD Extension so you understand the impact of these changes.

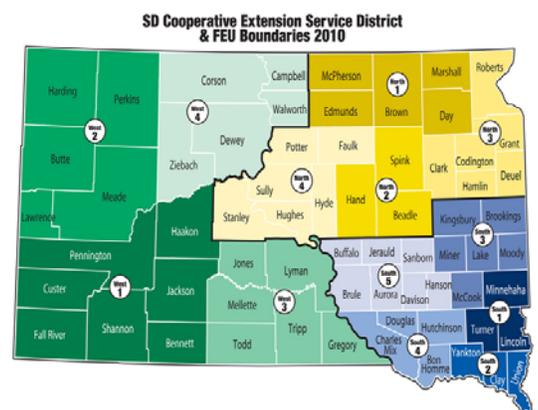
I would like to encourage everyone to approach these changes with an open mind. We need to be proactive in this situation and work together to come up with solutions for the continuation and betterment of 4-H in Meade County. I have been working with our commissioners and advisory board to overcome these changes for the continuation of 4-H in Meade County. We ask for your support in dealing with this transition and when called upon, contacting county commissioners in your district area to emphasize the need of a 4-H office and staff in Meade County.

How Extension Started:

South Dakota Cooperative Extension began in 1914 with the passing of the Smith-Lever Act. This act completed the main model of today's land-grant university system that is made up of 3 pillars: Teaching, Research, and Extension. South Dakota State University is the land-grant institution for the state of South Dakota and the administrator of extension and the services it provides. Extensions' focus is to provide non-biased information and research to the public, and implementing the 4-H program within the state.

The Current Model of Extension:

- Director of Extension
- 3 District Extension Directors for:
 - West, North, and South Field Education Units (FEU)
 - Oversee Educators in each county
- Approximately 60 State Extension Specialists with partial or full appointments to extension (also may have research, teaching, and administrative appointments for SDSU)
- Approximately 100 County Extension Educators
 - Areas of Emphasis (AOE's) - Family and Consumer Science, Horticulture, Agronomy, Livestock, Community Development, 4-H and Youth Development
- County Support Staff in 67 county offices
- Approximately 5 - 4-H/Youth Program Assistants
 - Meade County houses one of these positions



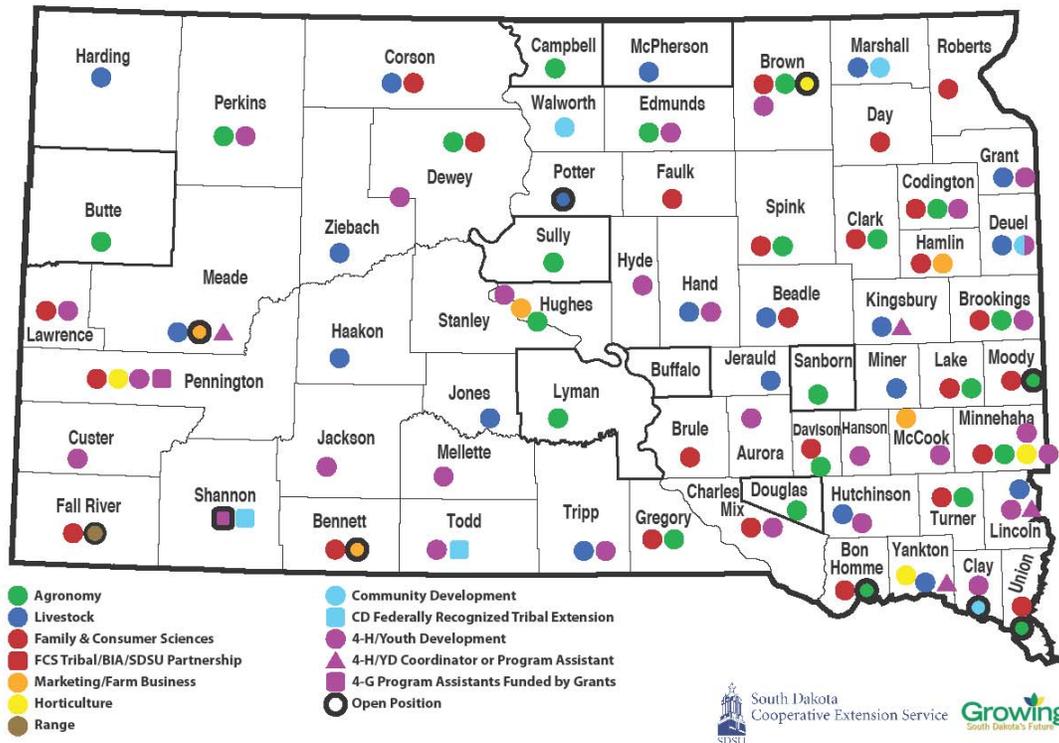
How Extension is Currently Funded:

Currently, the SD Cooperative Extension Service runs off of Federal, State, and County funds. Out of those funds, approximately 95% of the Extension budget is allocated towards employee salaries. The positions of Director, District Directors, a portion of State Specialists and Educator salaries are completely funded by budgeted federal and state funding. Each county in the state provides funding for office space, support staff, and office operating costs (travel, office supplies, postage, utilities, and other general costs). Meade County also

currently funds full salary and benefits of a 4-H/Youth Program Assistant. This funding system has been agreed upon through a memorandum of understanding, established between the state and each individual county. In recent years, funding has been cut on the state level and in upcoming years we expect that more funding for Extension will be cut on a federal level across the nation.

- FY2010 state budget cut of \$200,000
- FY2011 state budget cut of \$200,000
- FY2012 state budget cut of 10% = approximately \$820,000 in state funds
 - Federal reduction of approximately \$300,000 through the 10% Smith-Lever Funding Cut

SDCES Educator & Assistant Locations

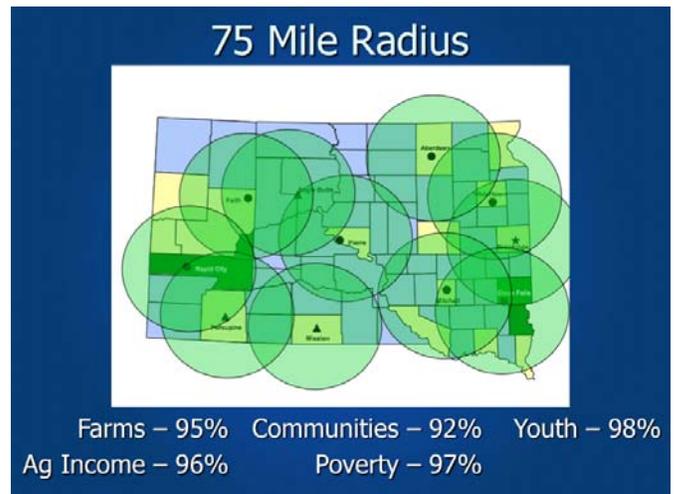


The New Model of SDSU Extension:

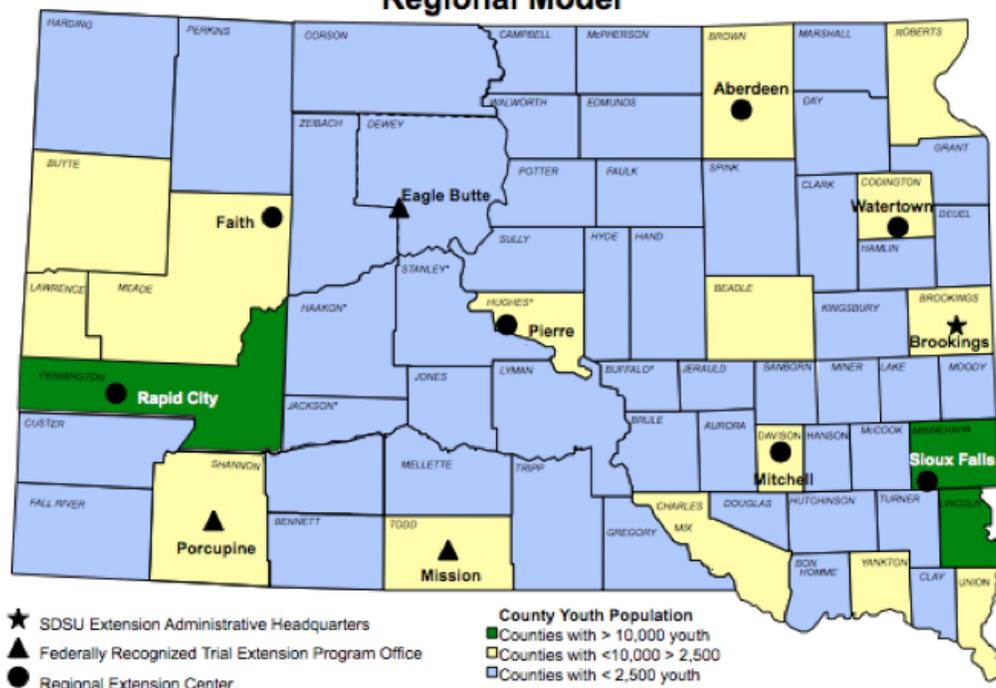
On April 12th, Dr. Barry Dunn, Dean of SDSU College of Agriculture & Biological Sciences, released an informational packet entitled “Stewards of Progress: SDSU Extension” that can be found on the SDSU Extension website: <http://www3.sdstate.edu/sdces/index.cfm>, explaining the changes that Extension will be taking in the future. None of these changes will take effect until after October 1st, at the end of the 4-H year. The new model will follow this structure:

- Director of Extension – Dr. Barry Dunn
- Associate Director of Extension – Karla Trautman
- State Extension Specialists – maintaining majority of current appointments
 - 34 positions or FTE’s (Full Time Equivalent)
 - Ph. D. required
 - 17.5% salary cut – 10 months’ salary/yr (each Specialists will need to supplement rest of years salary with grant funding – if awarded)
- Field Extension Specialists
 - Housed in 7 Regional Offices in the state
 - Rapid City, Faith, Pierre, Aberdeen, Watertown, Mitchell, and Sioux Falls

- Located in the state so that most people can access these sites with less than a 75 mile drive
- 65 positions or FTE's
- Replaces 100 plus Extension Educator positions housed in every county
- Masters Degree required in program area (5 yrs to achieve)
- Capstone Program Areas (replacing AOE's) in:
 - Competitive Crop Systems, Competitive Livestock Systems, Youth and Community Leadership, Food and Family, and Urban/Rural Initiatives
- 4-H Advisors – County based and partially county funded
 - State funds 17 FTE's – County's support the rest
 - State Employee's that will manage the day to day activities of the 4-H program in county/counties they cover
 - SDSU Extension will fund based on youth population in counties:
 - 1 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) in counties with greater than 10,000 youth (green on map)
 - 0.45 FTE per 2,500 youth in one or more counties (yellow on map)
 - Counties with less than 2,500 youth will have to either fund their own 4-H advisor or join with other counties to have a combined total of 2,500 youth (blue on map)
 - If 4 counties join and still do not meet youth numbers, state will still fund 0.45 FTE.
 - Counties are asked to support SDSU Extension and 4-H programming by making a local investment of either 1) funding remainder of the 4-H Advisor salary, 2) Formation of multi-county partnerships for 4-H advisor, 3) Choosing no additional support – thus eliminating the 4-H program in that county



Restructured Extension Offices Regional Model



How this Affects Meade County:

Currently, the Extension Office in Sturgis houses 2 Educators – Livestock (Penny Nester) and Farm Business Management (Open Position) who are state funded full time employees, 1 Program Assistant (Rebecca Poelstra) a county funded full time position, and 1 Administrative Assistant (Cheryl Cross) a county funded full time position. We run out of a county owned building that also has a meeting room, which is free for public organizations and non-profit clubs to use. The county also funds our operating budget for day to day expenses and equipment.

With the new model of Extension, essentially the County Commissioners decide whether to fund 4-H within the county. The county offices will only cover 4-H and Youth within the state. Any agricultural, family and consumer science, community development and horticulture questions will be referred to the area field offices and Field Specialists. The Meade County Extension Office – located in Sturgis (if funded by the county) would potentially be made up of 1 Administrative Assistant, 1 or more 4-H Advisors (half of the salary funded by state, half by the county), and no extension personnel covering any other traditional topic areas (Agriculture). This office would just be a 4-H office only. Currently, we are working with both Butte and Lawrence counties to see if they would like to combine resources for additional 4-H coordinators to run two or more counties' 4-H programs. Either of these scenarios would be a cost savings to Meade County since they would not be required to pay for 100% of the 4-H Coordinators salary and there would be reduced office costs with no educator positions.

All operations will continue like usual until October in order to maintain the 4-H program as it currently runs until end of the 4-H year. Events like 4-H Rodeo, Summer Spotlight, State Fair and State Horse Show and the County Fair will run normally through the end of the year. All Educators are terminated as of October 21st, 2011. Field Specialists and county offices continuing with the 4-H program will be identified and hired before this October 21st deadline. If you have any questions regarding the changes to Extension or ways you can help, please call the Meade County Extension office at 347-2436.