

**Mississippi State University Extension Service
Northwest Region Restructuring Plan
Steve Martin**

Issue:

Reductions in State appropriated budgets have created the need to revisit all areas in the MSU system. One of those areas is the county/area structure of the Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSU-ES). Currently, the MSU-ES is structured with a County Director and a 4-H Agent in each county office. Additionally, Area Agents are located throughout the State to deliver programs in their designated discipline. All programs are also supported by State Extension Specialists. The County Director in most cases serves as a facilitator for programs delivered by Area Agents and State Specialists. With the reduction in State budgets, funding is not available to support all of the current positions.

What has been done:

Listening sessions have been held with Extension agents, as well as many constituency groups. Extension Service structures from many other states have been reviewed and discussed. A state-wide committee has also been established to review different structures and county plans of work as well as needed program priority areas.

Impacts:

Feedback and comments have been positive about the current value of and need for the MSU-ES by the clientele and citizens of Mississippi and the Northwest Region. Plans to evolve into a leaner and more efficient and effective structure are currently being refined.

Funding Sources, Cooperators, Partners, Mentors, etc:

The current funding level is expected to remain. Cooperators include the MSU-ES Administration including State Program Leaders as well as the other three Research and Extension Center Heads.

Contact Information:

Dr. Steven W. Martin, Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, MS 38776. 662-686-9311. smartin@ext.msstate.edu