

**Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP):
CSREES Overview
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In my current responsibilities with CSREES, I work to promote and achieve clean water, clean air, productive soils, working lands, and healthy ecosystems through the Natural Resources and Environment Unit (NRE).

These attributes go hand-in-hand with wholesome food, good nutrition healthy lifestyles, family and financial security, and positive youth development through the family 4-H and Nutrition Unit (F4HN).

Although new to F4HN, I am well aware of EFNEP, have been doing a lot of reading, and am interested in learning and understanding more.

Let's talk about CSREES a bit. We are a \$1.2 billion Federal assistance agency with a unique relationship with the 105 colleges and universities of the land-grant system. We sponsor work throughout the land-grant system and a variety of other institutions via formula fund grants, competitive grant programs and Congressionally-directed special research and federal administration grants.

CSREES is not a line agency, which is distinct within USDA. We are about 350 people in Washington, DC, who develop close cooperative and collaborative relationships primarily with land-grant system partners in order to conduct the business of the agency. Our Administrator, Dr. Colien Hefferan, is a career appointment, as are the Administrators in our sister agencies (ARS, ERS, and NASS) in the REE mission area. In the other USDA mission areas, the Administrators are political appointees.

CSREES is unique in another way in that our programs cover the breath of agriculture, there are programs in research, in education/academic programs, and in extension. This is reflected in the full name of the agency and in the mission of the agency.

The CSREES mission is "To advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities."

For EFNEP, we operate under CSREES Strategic Goal 5: Improve the Nation's Nutrition and Health.

We sponsor research to improve the scientific knowledge base concerning nutrition and health.

We sponsor education and extension to promote healthy diets, reach children early, ensure access to healthy food, and utilize scientifically valid information to improve food, diet, and activity level decisions.

At the program level, EFNEP very generally provides funds to provide low-income youth and families with information to increase nutrition knowledge and improve nutritional practices and choices. I want to emphasize that EFNEP is your program . . . we are your partner.

CSREES congratulates you, the State EFNEP coordinators, on your hard work, and the impacts and outcomes of that hard work.

EFNEP is valued within the Agency.

EFNEP is the largest single program in CSREES.

EFNEP is valued by Congress... appropriations have grown from \$62.0 million in 2006, to \$63.5 million in 2007, and to \$65.6 million in 2008.

EFNEP is a priority in the President's budget.

EFNEP is a priority of NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges).

EFNEP work is sponsored at all 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant institutions. Annual support levels per institution range from a \$100,000 minimum to over \$4 million.

EFNEP stretches from Maine to Micronesia/American Samoa, and from the Virgin Islands to Alaska.

Very Importantly, EFNEP is recognized for its ability to generate and report results. It has been consistently able to provide good feedback to Congress and other stakeholders. And, EFNEP is recognized for its reach to diverse and disparate, often disadvantaged, audiences.

The Agency has been strongly and broadly supportive of EFNEP. Examples:

- Funding for evaluation/reporting efforts – initiated in the early 1990s. This very forward thinking work has supported development of the reporting system.

- CSREES provided support for the 35th Anniversary. Planning occurred at the highest levels of the Agency. We recognize that the 40th Anniversary is coming up in 2009, and it is time to initiate those conversations again.

You will be discussing some important things at this conference:

- ! Distribution and proper management of funds, we must be compliant with legislation, regulation and policy.
- ! Transparency and accountability across government. Recent legislation and agency actions mandate the use of Grants.gov and portfolio planning.
- ! Actions needed to build the interface between research and program practicing.
- ! Planning and action to build the national-level database and its analyzer.

In closing, EFNEP is an exemplary program led by exemplary people. It can and will be even better. It will continue to be a flagship program for the CSREES-land-grant university system partnership.