



## New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE/eXtension)

**February 18, 2016 – We ask for support to restore the funding for NTAE for FY 2017 at the FY 2016 enacted level of \$1.55M so that Extension professionals nationwide can enhance their capacity to lead the national Extension system’s ability to address rapidly evolving 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges.**

For Extension Professionals and the Public They Serve



A Part of the Cooperative Extension System

### NTAE funding:

- 1) **Strengthens** the Extension system’s workforce capacity to operate more effectively in an increasingly digital world;
- 2) **Enhances** Extension’s ability to engage diverse audiences and shifting demographics with science-based information and solutions;
- 3) **Provides** an efficient mechanism for Extension professionals to share, learn, and work together as AFRI grantees, Communities of Practice, Innovation Teams, and digital Learning Networks on critical issues such as climate variability and healthy food systems;
- 4) **Catalyzes** a national innovation lab for Extension professionals;
- 5) **Accelerates** Extension’s ability to disseminate and deliver science-based knowledge to all U.S. citizens and the world; and
- 6) **Helps** the Extension system maximize its capacity to serve U.S. citizens in meeting the challenges and opportunities of local and nationwide issues.

**This national investment leverages and strengthens Extension’s human and financial assets more equitably toward solving food, agriculture, health, and energy issues facing our communities, our nation, and the world.**

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**MORE** →

## **NTAE and eXtension Background**

The New Technologies in Agricultural Extension (NTAE) budget line within USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) has historically provided base funding for eXtension - a national platform to improve efficiency and a mechanism for the Extension system to stay in tune with rapidly developing digital technologies. Eleven years ago, the Cooperative Extension system created eXtension as a system-wide organization. In 2013, eXtension decided to move from an assessment-funded to membership-based business model. In October 2014, the eXtension Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, was created with a Board of Directors representing the five Cooperative Extension Regions (Western, North Central, Northeast, Southern and 1890 institutions). USDA-NIFA was represented on all planning groups leading up to this change and continues in an ex officio, non-voting role with the Board.

In October 2015, with a new Chief Executive Officer, the new eXtension plan was launched and focuses on:

- **Issues** -- Increasing Extension professionals' effectiveness in addressing issues of importance to the nation
- **Innovation** -- Fostering creativity and innovation in developing solutions and methods of work
- **Impact** -- Advancing the visible and measurable impact of their work for the public good

Evidence of the value placed on this new model by the Cooperative Extension System is the voluntary, three-year membership (2015-17) investment made by 80% of the institutions (59 of the seventy-six 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions).

**Members:** <https://extension.org/about/extension-member-institutions-for-2015/>

**Member Benefits:** <https://extension.org/about/extension-benefits/>

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