

eXtension

USDA/CSREES Cooperative Extension

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National eXtension Initiative



Cooperative Extension

The outreach arm of the land grant university system in the USA, taking research based knowledge to the people through non-formal educational programming.

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Extension Today

- 4-H Youth Development
- Agriculture
- Leadership Development
- Natural Resources
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Community and Economic Development

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Scope of Extension

- 104 Colleges and Universities
- Every state and territory
- 3000 local county offices
- 15,000 faculty and educators
- countless volunteers

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eXtension, an Internet based educational partnership of 104 land grant university system that helps people improve their lives by providing access to objective research-based information and learning opportunities.

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eXtension, the nation's first 24/7/365 collaboratively built non-formal education and information system available on any Internet-ready device

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History of eXtension

- Formed 2004
- Initial staff hired Fall 2004
- First 8 CoPs named Fall 2005
- Additional 14 CoPs added Fall 2006
- Public site launched February 2008

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How it works...



Communities of Interest



Questions,
Issues, or
Life Events

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Basic Information
Ask the Experts
FAQs
Distance Diagnostics
Discussion & Chat
Decision Tools
Conferencing/Streaming
Videos
Individual Learning Modules
Multiple Learning Modules
Certificate/Credit Courses^L

eXtension Usability Study

(November 2007)

- Strengths
 - Unbiased, in-depth information from university experts on a broad range of topics
 - Ability to ask university experts any question
 - A Google search function that will return more relevant articles than a normal Google search on the web

www.extension.org



eXtension Usability Study

(November 2007)

- “You think more about a Web site that has information from universities.”
- “This is an informational and educational site where I can get objective, unbiased information...a place to go when I want to learn something.”
- **“This is much better than Wikipedia, where you don’t know how accurate the information is.”**

www.extension.org



Public Site
www.extension.org

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Community of Practice

A virtual network of content providers who share knowledge or competence in a specific content area and are willing to work and learn together over a period of time to further develop and share that knowledge in forms of educational products and programs.

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Communities of Practice

- HorseQuest
- Financial Security for All
- Imported Fire Ants
- Extension Disaster Education Network
- Consumer Horticulture
- Entrepreneurs and Their Communities
- Just In Time Parenting
- Wildlife Damage Management

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Communities of Practice

- Beef Cattle Clearing House
- Family Caregiving; Caring for the Aged and/or Disabled Adults
- Youth Science, Engineering and Technology for Life
- Pork Information Group
- eOrganic
- DAIReXNET
- Corn and Soybean Production

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Communities of Practice

- Urban Integrated Pest Management
- Map@Syst: Geospatial Solutions for Rural and Community Sustainability
- Diversity Across Higher Education
- Cotton
- Integrated Pest Management
- Livestock & Poultry Environmental Management Learning Center

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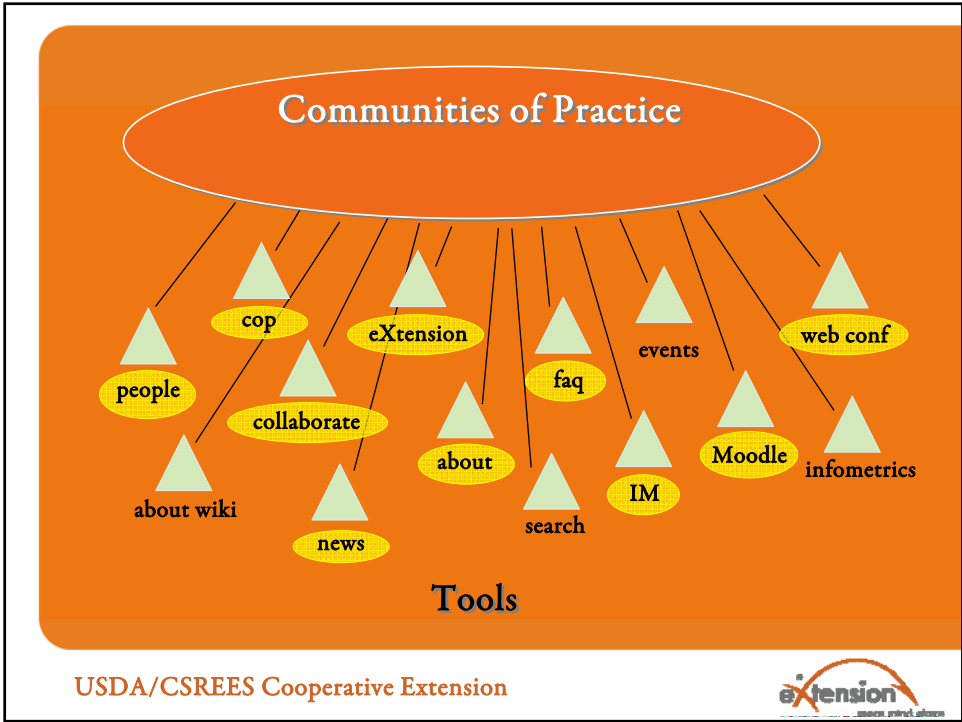


Communities of Practice

- Water Quality: Drinking Water Issues
- Families, Food, and Fitness
- Meat Goat Industry
- Extension Wildfire Information Network
- Sustainable Agricultural Energy
- Niche Meat Marketing and Processing

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Discussion

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