

PLAN OF WORK

For

**THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND EXTENSION CENTER**

Presented to

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COOPERATIVE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION
SERVICE**

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Gina E. Eubanks

Vice Chancellor for Extension

Kirkland Mellad

Vice Chancellor for Research

Leodrey Williams
Chancellor

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Introduction:

The FY 2005-2006 Plan of Work for the Agricultural Research and Extension Formula Funds submitted by Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC) covers the period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center was established July 1, 2001 as the fifth campus of the Southern University System. SUAREC combines both research and extension functions into a unified system at the campus level. Consequently, the Center assumed administrative responsibilities for the federal research and extension funds as stipulated under sections 1444 and 1445 of the National Agriculture Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act (NARETPA) of 1977.

The Plan of Work for SUAREC consists of one consolidated and integrated plan for both the research and extension programs at Southern University. Extension programs address all five national goals, while research programs address National Goals 1, 3 and 4. The tables for projected costs show federal funds and the state match for both research projects and extension programs.

PLANNED PROGRAMS

In order to address the five national goals, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center places emphasis on the following broad areas:

- 1. Sustainable Agricultural Systems
- 2. Urban Forestry and Natural Resource Management
- 3. Nutrition and Health
- 4. Family and Human Development
- 5. Youth Development
- 6. Economics and Community Development

To further enhance its capacity to address the five national goals, SUAREC Research and Extension Programs have key identified program areas. Research program areas include: (1) Plant and Animal Production Systems, (2) Human Nutrition, Health, Family and Consumer Sciences, (3) Urban Forestry, Natural Resources and Environment, and (4) Economics, Marketing, Policy and Community Development. Extension program areas include: (1) Agriculture and Natural Resources, (2) Diet, Nutrition and Health Education, (3) Family and Human Development, (4) Youth Development, and (5) Community and Economic Development.

Goal 1: An Agricultural System that is highly competitive in the global economy

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Modifications in this update include the discontinuation of four research projects: 1) Efficacy of Kenaf as a Forage Crop in the Production of Goats; 2) Refinement of Laboratory Methods for Bone Particle Determination in Mechanically Deboned Rabbit

Meat; 3) Modified Hydroponics Systems for Field Production of Strawberry; and 4) Hormonal Control of the Nest Building of Rabbits. These projects will be replaced by the following: 1) Production of Selected Ornamental Plants and Specialty Vegetables Under Protective System; and 2) Pastured Poultry and Vegetable Production: An Integrated Approach.

Updated Planned (old and new) Research Projects are as follows:

1. Effects of Grazing Cattle and Goats Together and Separately on Animal Performance.
2. Use of Crawfish Waste in Livestock Diets and Plant Production.
3. Utilizing Multiple Indices to Measure Quality Deterioration in Value-Added Meat Products During Storage.
4. Production of Selected Ornamental Plants and Specialty Vegetables Under Protective System
5. Pastured Poultry and Vegetable Production: An Integrated Approach

**PROJECTED COST OF RESEARCH PROGRAM
(7 YEARS)**

FISCAL YEAR	FEDERAL	STATE MATCH	TOTAL
2000	\$656,874	-0-	\$656,874
2001	656,874	295,593	952,467
2002	656,874	328,437	985,311
2003	656,874	394,124	1,050,998
2004	656,874	459,812	1,116,686
2005	656,874	525,499	1,182,373
2006	656,874	591,187	1,248,061
TOTAL	4,598,118	2,594,652	7,192,770

Note: Request for a waiver of the state match for FY 2000. A match of 45% is required for FY 2001; and 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90% for FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 respectively.

EXTENSION PROGRAMS:

Changes in this update involves the introduction of two new educational programs for extension. These educational programs are: 1) Louisiana Agricultural Mediation Program (LAMP), and 2) Outreach Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (2501).

Planned educational programs (old and new) for extension include:

1. Small Farm Viability
2. Adding Value to New and Old Agricultural Products
3. Louisiana Agricultural Mediation Program (LAMP)
4. Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (2501)

Extension Program objectives remain the same as follows:

- 1.1 Producers and their families to learn how to make necessary adjustment in farm operations and financial management to attain their goal.

Key Program Components:

1. Financial Management Workshops
2. Bulletins
3. Training Meetings
4. Market Analysis
5. Certification Workshops
6. Producer Meetings
7. Field Days
8. Farm Visits
9. Family and Youth Exposition

- 1.2 Small farmers diversify operation to explore alternative enterprises and niche market that enhance economic growth.

Key Program Components:

1. Results Demonstrations
2. Bulletins
3. Training Sessions
4. Market Analysis
5. Certification Workshops
6. Producer Meetings
7. Parish Visits
8. Farm Visits
9. Family and Youth Exposition

**PROJECTED COST OF EXTENSION PROGRAM
(7 YEARS)**

FISCAL YEAR	FEDERAL	STATE MATCH	TOTAL
2000	\$232,590	-0-	\$232,590
2001	232,590	104,665	337,255
2002	232,590	116,295	348,885
2003	232,590	139,554	372,144
2004	232,590	162,813	395,403
2005	232,590	186,072	418,662
2006	232,590	209,331	441,921
TOTAL	1,628,130	918,730	2,546,860

Note: Request for a waiver of the state match for FY 2000. A match of 45% is required for FY 2001; and 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90% for FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 respectively.

Goal 2: A safe and secure food and fiber system

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Planned Research Projects: (None)

EXTENSION PROGRAM:

Extension Program for FY 2005-2006 is:

1. Families First - Nutrition Education and Wellness System (FF-NEWS)

The objective and program components are as follows:

- 2.1. Consumers increase awareness and understanding of food availability and accessibility.

Key Program Components:

1. Nutrition Classes
2. Parish Visits
3. Health Fairs
4. Fact Sheets

5. Food Safety Demonstrations
6. Advisory Committee
7. Parish Recognition/Achievement Days
8. Family and Youth Exposition

2.2 Consumers increase awareness and level of understanding for food safety and food borne risks and illnesses.

Key Program Components:

1. Nutrition Classes
2. Parish Visits
3. Health Fairs
4. Fact Sheets
5. Food Safety Demonstrations
6. Advisory Committee
7. Parish Recognition/Achievement Days
8. Family and Youth Exposition

**PROJECTED COST OF EXTENSION PROGRAM
(7 YEARS)**

FISCAL YEAR	FEDERAL	STATE MATCH	TOTAL
2000	\$200,000	-0-	\$200,000
2001	200,000	90,000	290,000
2002	200,000	100,000	300,000
2003	200,000	120,000	320,000
2004	200,000	140,000	340,000
2005	200,000	160,000	360,000
2006	200,000	180,000	380,000
TOTAL	1,400,000	790,000	2,190,000

Note: Request for a waiver of the state match for FY 2000. A match of 45% is required for FY 2001; and 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90% for FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 respectively.

Goal 3: A healthy, well-nourished population

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

One research Project addressing goal 3 was terminated : Obesity, Fat Distribution and Chronic Disease Risk Factors in Young African American Women.

Planned Research Projects – The following projects are planned for research during FY 2005 – 2006:

1. Nutrition Label Use, Nutritional Knowledge, and Food Security in Louisiana.
2. Effectiveness of Early Nutritional Intervention Strategies for Head Start teachers in Louisiana.
3. New Technologies for the Utilization of Textile Materials

**PROJECTED COST OF RESEARCH PROGRAM
(7 YEARS)**

FISCAL YEAR	FEDERAL	STATE MATCH	TOTAL
2000	\$210,518	-0-	\$210,518
2001	210,518	94,733	305,251
2002	210,518	105,259	315,777
2003	210,518	126,311	336,829
2004	328,371	229,860	558,231
2005	328,371	262,697	591,068
2006	328,371	295,534	623,905
TOTAL	1,827,185	1,114,394	2,941,579

Note: Request for a waiver of the state match for FY 2000. A match of 45% is required for FY 2001; and 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90% for FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 respectively.

EXTENSION PROGRAMS:

Planned Extension Programs: One new program (Sisters Together) has been introduced:

1. Health Risk Factor Reduction
2. Health Community Advisory Council

3. Sisters Together

The objective and program components are :

3.1 Reduce the health risk factors through non-formal education programs which will improve dietary habits and physical exercise practices in which extension has a role

Key Program Components:

1. Nutrition Classes
2. Health Fairs
3. Fitness Workshops
4. Fact Sheets
5. Newsletters
6. Parish Visits
7. Advisory Committee
8. Food Demonstrations
9. Parish Recognition/Achievement Days
10. Healthy Youth, Healthy Communities
11. Family and Youth Exposition

3.2 Healthy community advisory councils will be established in seven of the nineteen parishes

Key Program Components:

1. Community Initiatives/Forums
2. Workshops
3. Advisory Meeting
4. Health Fairs
5. Newsletters
6. Family and Youth Exposition

PROJECTED COST OF EXTENSION PROGRAM (7 YEARS)

FISCAL YEAR	FEDERAL	STATE MATCH	TOTAL
2000	\$225,000	-0-	\$225,000
2001	225,000	101,250	326,250
2002	225,000	112,500	337,500
2003	225,000	135,000	360,000
2004	225,000	157,500	382,500

2005	225,000	180,000	405,000
2006	225,000	202,500	427,500
TOTAL	1,575,000	888,750	2,463,750

Note: Request for a waiver of the state match for FY 2000. A match of 45% is required for FY 2001; and 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90% for FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 respectively.

Goal 4: Greater harmony between agriculture and the environment

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Three research projects under goal 4 have been discontinued : 1) Biotechnological Urban Tree Propagation, 2) Biological Response of Southern Red Oak and Willow Oak to Hypoxia in the Rhizosphere, and 3) Community Forestry.

Planned Research Projects – The following projects will be conducted/continued during FY 2005 – 2006:

1. A GIS-RS Supported NPS-Management Information System for Urban Agriculture.
2. Utilization of Urban Woodwaste as Mulch for Growth and Development of Urban Tree Species.

PROJECTED COST OF RESEARCH PROGRAM (7 YEARS)

FISCAL YEAR	FEDERAL	STATE MATCH	TOTAL
2000	\$310,322	-0-	\$310,322
2001	310,322	139,645	449,967
2002	310,322	155,161	465,483
2003	310,322	186,193	496,515
2004	310,322	217,225	527,547
2005	310,322	248,258	558,580

2006	310,322	279,290	589,612
TOTAL	2,172,254	1,225,772	3,398,026

Note: Request for a waiver of the state match for FY 2000. A match of 45% is required for FY 2001; and 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90% for FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 respectively.

EXTENSION PROGRAMS:

One new educational program : Renewable Resource Extension Act; will be carried out while one old educational program : Sustainable Agriculture; will be continued.

Planned Extension Programs are as follows:

1. Renewable Resource Extension Act
2. Sustainable Agriculture

The objective and program components are:

4.1. Farmers adopt recommended variety selection, weed and insect control practices, in crop production.

Key Program Components:

1. Result Demonstrations
2. Bulletins
3. Circular Letters
4. Training Sessions
5. Market Analysis
6. Field Days
7. Farm Visits
8. Family and Youth Exposition

**PROJECTED COST OF EXTENSION PROGRAM
(7 YEARS)**

FISCAL YEAR	FEDERAL	STATE MATCH	TOTAL
2000	\$175,000	-0-	\$175,000
2001	175,000	78,750	253,750
2002	175,000	87,500	262,500
2003	175,000	105,000	280,000

2004	175,000	122,500	297,500
2005	175,000	140,000	315,000
2006	175,000	157,500	332,500
TOTAL	1,225,000	691,250	1,916,250

Note: Request for a waiver of the state match for FY 2000. A match of 45% is required for FY 2001; and 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90% for FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 respectively.

Goal 5: Enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Planned Research Projects: (None for FY 2005 - 2006)

One research project conducted was terminated: Consumption Patterns for Goat and Rabbit Products.

PROJECTED COST OF RESEARCH PROGRAM (7 YEARS)

FISCAL YEAR	FEDERAL	STATE MATCH	TOTAL
2000	\$117,853	-0-	\$117,853
2001	117,853	53,034	170,887
2002	117,853	58,926	176,779
2003	117,853	70,712	188,565
2004			
2005			
2006			
TOTAL	471,412	182,672	654,084

Note: Request for a waiver of the state match for FY 2000. A match of 45% is required for FY 2001; and 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90% for FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 respectively.

EXTENSION PROGRAMS:

Planned Extension Educational Programs:

For FY 2005-2006, a new program has been added - Youth Development (Youth Against Tobacco). Program planned are as follows:

1. Youth Development (Youth Educational Support After School Program)
2. Youth Development (Livestock and Poultry Show)
3. Community and Faith-Based Development
4. Center for Rural and Small Business Development
5. The Center for Community Development (CCD)
6. Consumer Education and Training
7. Child Care Program
8. Family Strengthening Program

The Objectives and program components are:

5.1. Communities and families enhance their own economic well-being to improve community involvement.

Key Program Components:

1. Faith-Based Community Development Program
2. Community Workshops
3. Louisiana State Association of Community Economic Development (LACED)
4. Technical Assistance Workshops
5. Small Business Development Seminars
6. Advisory Committee
7. Field Trips
8. Family and Youth Exposition

5.2 Youth will be provided with viable alternatives by getting involved in learning and developing skills needed to cope with societal problems.

Key Program Components:

1. Livestock, Poultry and Rabbit Show
2. Youth Educational and After school Program
3. Parish Achievement Days
4. Science Fairs
5. Field Trips
6. Family and Youth Exposition

**PROJECTED COST OF EXTENSION PROGRAM
(7 YEARS)**

FISCAL YEAR	FEDERAL	STATE MATCH	TOTAL
2000	\$275,547	-0-	\$275,547
2001	275,547	123,996	399,543
2002	275,547	137,774	413,320
2003	275,547	165,328	440,875
2004	275,547	192,883	468,430
2005	275,547	220,438	495,985
2006	275,547	247,992	523,540
TOTAL	1,928,829	1,088,411	3,017,240

Note: Request for a waiver of the state match for FY 2000. A match of 45% is required for FY 2001; and 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90% for FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006 respectively.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT PROCESS:

In compliance with the CSREES requirements for stakeholder input, and in keeping with SUAREC's mission of conducting basic and applied research, and disseminating information to the citizens of Louisiana in a manner that is useful in addressing their scientific, technological, social, economic and cultural needs.

- **Strategic Planning:** The First Annual Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center strategic planning conference was held in August 2003 at a site approximately 25 miles from the campus. The retreat provided a forum for sharing knowledge and information between research and extension faculty and staff and for creating a model designed to integrate both entities. The main outcome was the exchange of information to ensure that research and extension programs in the Center are relative to the needs of the people of Louisiana and planned to address the needs of citizens. Research and extension faculty and staff

from each of the six program areas of SUAREC met to discuss and plan strategies to efficiently and effectively provide services to clientele.

- **Joint Research-Extension Exchange Meetings:** As a follow up to the strategies of the strategic planning conference, joint research-extension exchange meetings were held to identify critical areas which warrant research by the Center to better serve the needs of clients. Two general and several subject matter joint meetings have been held, the information gathered is incorporated in the development of the FY 2005-2006 Plan of work.
- **Parish Advisory Councils:** Organized at the grassroots are Parish Advisory Councils for each extension program area. These Councils involve clients, community leaders, state and local government officials, and other stakeholders who are identifying community needs and/or resources, programs and projects to address them. Parish advisory council meetings are conducted regularly, and important discussions are documented and utilized in the joint research-extension exchange meetings. An evaluation of extension staff shows that 100 percent of the staff have functioning parish advisory councils in their areas. The study also indicated that 100 percent of SUAREC extension staff sought inputs from parish advisory councils, focus groups, public forums, clients and/or community leaders when planning their work.

Additionally, public forums involving community leaders are usually conducted during the Annual Faith and Community Economic Development Conference. In FY 2003, the sixth of such conference took place in Lafayette, Louisiana and forums were conducted to seek inputs on best ways to institute programs that will improve quality of life for the people of Louisiana through research and education.

- **Survey of Clients:** The Office of Planning and Evaluation of SUAREC conducted a pilot survey of clients to seek their inputs in assessing programs already in place, gather data on areas of needs, and evaluate the impacts of existing programs. These findings are vital to the conceptualization and implementation of programs that will ensure improved quality of life.
- **Survey of Extension Staff:** The Office of Planning and Evaluation also surveyed the extension staff to assess progress of previous initiatives, identify new and emerging issues that SUAREC should consider, and to seek their inputs with regards to research, education and outreach programs necessary to making life better for citizens. Findings from the surveys are incorporated in the FY 2005-2006 Plan of Work.
- **Chancellor and Program Areas Advisory Councils:** These Councils, though still in their infancy, are expected to ensure greater stakeholder input in identifying and planning meaningful, effective and efficient research, education and outreach programs to benefit the citizenry of the state of Louisiana.

PROGRAM REVIEW:

- **Merit Review:** A request has been submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA/CSREES) in Washington, D.C. for a comprehensive review of the research program in the fall of 2004. This review will focus on the relevancy of the research to local and national needs, program performance in terms of output and outcomes, adequacy of resources to meet program objectives, and the interrelationship between research and extension. Also, SUAREC is internally conducting evaluation of all research projects to ensure that they are meeting the needs of clients we purport to serve.
- **Peer Review:** All CSREES funded programs/projects and others seeking funding are subjected to a thorough scientific and educational peer review process. A Proposal Review and Evaluation Committee comprising of faculty and staff from SUAREC and the greater university community has been established. It operates as a standing committee to review proposals consistent with standard agency guidelines and other established scientific and educational criteria. Proposals usually undergo strict review, scrutiny and endorsement by discipline peers, program head, and a select review committee. Additionally, each proposal must show clear evidence of stakeholder input prior to approval by the Vice Chancellor for Research and/or Vice Chancellor for Extension.

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK:

1. Impact studies will be conducted to determine the increase in the number of clients participating in different research projects and extension programs.
2. Impact studies will be conducted to determine the percent of clients who adopt recommended practices to enhance their operations; or percent of clients who utilized educational information to change their behavior.
3. Follow-up survey will be conducted each year to determine possible reasons for client drop out from participation in research projects or extension programs.