

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY (COMBINED)

Stakeholder Input

The College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences currently solicits formal stakeholder input in many forms, from many sources, and at many locations. Existing methods of receiving stakeholder input include: Agricultural Experiment Station Research Farm Advisory Boards; Research Review Meetings with agricultural checkoff groups including the South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, South Dakota Corn Utilization Council, South Dakota Beef Industry Council, South Dakota Oilseeds Council, South Dakota Pork Producers Council, South Dakota Wheat Commission, and others.

Input is also received from state agricultural commodity groups including Ag Unity, the South Dakota Pork Alliance, the South Dakota Stockgrowers/Cattlewomen, and the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association; and from meetings with organizations that fund research such as the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, NASA, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, stakeholder input is solicited from governmental agencies, including: the Office of the Governor, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs, Office of the State Veterinarian, Social Services, Job Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1994 Institutions, and others.

Stakeholder input is received at SDSU field day tours; SDSU agricultural meetings; Community Leader Meetings throughout the state; meetings with the South Dakota Board of Regents, South Dakota Legislature, and other elected officials and boards; and events open to the public such as the South Dakota State Fair and DakotaFest. Additional input is generated during comprehensive CSREES Departmental and Institutional Reviews, which span teaching, research and Extension activities.

County Extension Advisory Boards are required by South Dakota law, and provide guidance and direction for county programming that target priority needs and issues, and are appointed by County Commissioners. Membership on this board is required by state statute to represent the racial population mix of the county and of the various interest groups served by Extension.

The State Extension Advisory Board provides guidance and direction to the Cooperative Extension Service, and informally to the Agricultural Experiment Station. Members of this board are elected from each County Extension Advisory Board and the 1994 land grant institutions.

While these existing channels of stakeholder input will remain constant, South Dakota State University's College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences is expanding its stakeholder input procedure. This will enhance the opportunities for South Dakotans to offer suggestions and requests for research and educational programs. It will rely heavily on the five year Cooperative Extension Service assessment planning data.

The revised system allows stakeholder input to be directed across the broad scope of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences, rather than exclusively to the Cooperative Extension Service or Agricultural Experiment Station. The multidisciplinary input system will use a variety of techniques that may include: direct input, brainstorming, surveys and questionnaires, nominal group technique and other appropriate methods.

An important change is the establishment of 13 Field Education Units representing all parts of South Dakota. Each unit is comprised of 1 to 9 counties. A fourteenth on-campus stakeholders input session is dedicated to soliciting input from SDSU students, faculty and other Regental constituents. Stakeholders from each Field Education Unit across the entire state will be identified, giving care to include any group or audience that may be or previously have been underrepresented or underserved. An invitation will be issued inviting representatives from each of the identified stakeholder groups to participate in the program review and development planning session. A series of general news releases will be issued inviting all citizens to participate in the process, even though they may not have been directly contacted.

The missions of County Extension Advisory Boards and State Extension Advisory Board will continue, and three new advisory boards will be created. These include:

Field Education Unit Advisory Boards – these provide guidance and direction for multi-county educational programs, and are elected to represent County Extension Advisory Boards.

State-Wide, Long Range Planning Board – this board solicits and coordinates input from multiple, statewide constituencies to ensure that state priorities and goals are being addressed through the Cooperative Extension Service. Members are appointed by the President of South Dakota State University.

Campus Resource Council – this board identifies SDSU resources available to the Cooperative Extension Service, coordinates program delivery and provides efficient access to educational expertise and opportunities. Members are appointed jointly by the SDSU Vice President of Academic Affairs, Director of the Cooperative Extension Service, and Dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. It includes representatives from SDSU academic colleges and other campus units.

Administrators evaluate all requests and comments from stakeholders to determine if clear patterns of needs exist, and if resources can be directed to the client requests. CES educators, specialists, and AES scientists actively seek out input to insure that research and education programs are fine-tuned to the current needs of stakeholders.

The SDSU Annual Accomplishment Report will summarize the impact of SDSU programs on stakeholder needs.