

From: all-extension-bounces@lists.usu.edu on behalf of Noelle Cockett
[Noelle.Cockett@usu.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 10:46 PM
To: All-Extension@lists.usu.edu
Subject: [All-Extension] eXtension

Dear all:

As you know, eXtension is a Cooperative Extension program that provides internet access to information on a wide range of topics. To date, faculty and other professionals from seventy-four 1862, 1890 and 1994 land-grant institutions jointly develop eXtension materials for placement in twenty-six Communities of Practice (CoP), with another 24 CoPs under development. Content placed in a CoP is agreed upon by participants and then peer reviewed. The information is publicly available using internet search engines, with credit given to the “local” Extension organization when the browser is engaged.

Please know that USU Extension administration is very supportive of USU faculty and staff involvement in eXtension activities. This is a wonderful venue for disseminating public information that will certainly gain importance over time. eXtension also provides opportunities for contributing to national and international forums in an area of expertise.

In order to give proper weight and credit to activities involved with eXtension, we have developed the following guidelines:

1. Ask An Expert – each answered question should be considered as a contact.
2. FAQ – each accepted FAQ should be considered equivalent to an encyclopedia entry.
3. Review of a FAQ - requests for a review should be considered equivalent to a review of an encyclopedia entry.
4. Content page – each accepted content page should be considered equivalent to an Extension fact sheet.
5. Revision of a content page – each revision should be considered equivalent to the revision of an encyclopedia entry.
6. Review of a content page – requests for a review should be considered equivalent to a review of a journal manuscript.

7. Co-leader/leader of a Community of Practice – this occurs after the Community of Practice has been developed, and includes responsibilities for revisions and updates. This should be considered equivalent to being a member of an editorial board or a co-editor of a journal.
8. Development of a Community of Practice – this is considered equivalent to the development of a flagship program, with a 2 to 3-year duration. A proposal for the Community of Practice (COP) is prepared and submitted for a competitive review. If selected, funding is provided for the development of the COP, including the identification of experts who will contribute information. COP funding is considered to be a national competitive grant; ongoing operation of the COP beyond three years could lead to future competitive grants.
9. Participation in the eXtension annual conference offers opportunities for national presentations and poster sessions

I will make changes to the Role Statement templates for agents and specialists to reflect the value of eXtension activities. Because of the significant time involved with the development of a COP proposal, as well as serving as a co-leader/leader, these activities should be added to the annual work plan.

I hope you will consider getting involved in eXtension. It is a wonderful way to expand your reach.

Sincerely,

Noelle

P.S. Special thanks to Chuck Gay, Dennis Hinkamp, Kelly Kopp, Rhonda Miller and Larry Rupp for helping me with these guidelines.