

Focus Group End of Year Report for 2023

Name of Focus Group: Extension Network Focus group

Chair/Co-chairs: Ghaffar Ali Hurtado Choque; Silvia Alvarez de Davila

Chair/Co-chairs email: ahurtado@umd.edu; salvarez@umn.edu

1. What were your focus groups major activities or accomplishments this year?

This year our Focus Group identified key areas of interests at our NCFR 2022 – Minneapolis meeting, including using technology to strengthen Extension programming.

2. What has your focus group done during the past year to further NCFR’s inclusion and diversity initiatives?

Diversity and inclusion was a key point of the discussion at the conference in Minnesota and will be integral in the upcoming meeting in Orlando. We celebrated our diverse (ethically, racial, experiences, among others) colleagues by asking everyone (if they feel comfortable) to share something about themselves, and avoid using their academic credentials.

3. Please list any concerns, questions, or suggestions.

I have a couple clarifying questions: 1) Can we create and use an email listserve to connect our focus group colleagues? 2) How can I get a list of all Extension specialist that belong to NCFR

Return by **Friday, October 14, 2023** to membership@ncfr.org

Focus Group Work Plan for 2024

Name of Focus Group: Extension Focus Group

Chair/Co-chairs: Dr. Silvia Alvarez de Davila, Dr. Brianna Roth

Email chair-cochair salvarez@umn.edu
brianna.routh@montana.edu

1. Do you wish to have a time allocated for your focus group during at the next NCFR Annual Conference?
X Yes No

2. If Yes, please list or attach tentative agenda.

See attached Agenda

3. Please list 2024 focus group goals/projects/aspirations.

In 2024, we hope to increase connect and communication with Extension Family professionals. We will start with those already in NCFR and the Extension FG to host a virtual meeting. We will also explore possibilities of inviting non-NCFR Extension family folks together as a potential recruitment tool and opportunity to connect.

We will bring to this group the possibility of sponsoring or co-sponsoring a session symposium specific to research informed programming in Extension related to Families for either 2024 or 2025.

4. Please identify any opportunities, suggestions, or concerns regarding the role of this focus group in furthering NCFR's inclusion and diversity initiatives.

One opportunity for the Extension FG to contribute to DEI in NCFR is to elevate the presence of Extension at the annual conference. This will help others to see the diverse communities the tripartite land grant institutions are working with as well as increase the opportunities for conversations between research and outreach on DEI topics. Another suggestion is to incorporate sustainable outreach implications as a specific rubric review category for at least some proposal review sections and attempt to avoid practice-based workshops with diverse audiences as last session of conference.

We will continue to discuss opportunities specifically within our FG section to see where membership sees opportunity for expansion and professional capacity building.

5. Please list any areas where you would like assistance from NCFR staff.

Add/update Extension FG leadership to Silvia Alvarez de Davila and Brianna Routh

6. Are there any other concerns or questions that have come from the 2023 focus group annual meeting?

NA- Thanks!

Attach your **2023 annual meeting minutes** to this form and return by **Friday December 1, 2023** to membership@ncfr.org

NCFR Extension Focus Group Planning Meeting
October 23, 2023

Ali raised a question about whether the focus group can be offered virtually as well as in person. Perhaps we can ask the organizers.

1. **2023 Focus Group Meeting Minutes – Due December 1, 2023** – please have someone take minutes at your focus group meeting and send those minutes along with the Work Plan Form.
2. We plan to attend the Newcomers' Welcome which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from 10:15-11:30 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom D/E.

Extension Focus Group Meeting Details. Here's the tentative agenda:

Extension Focus Group
National Council for Family Relations
Friday, November 10th, 2023
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Salon 14

Presiders: Ali Hurtado and Silvia Alvarez de Davila
We have 15 participants

1. Welcome
2. Authentic introduction - Name - Share something NEW (food, travel ... outside of your comfort zone) that you tried in the past year.
 - a.
3. Table discussion (15 min)
 - a. What kind of work you do in Extension
 - i. Extension Roles Represented: Specialists, Educators/Agents, Graduate Students, NIFA Rep
 - ii. 4-H, Finance, Family Relations, Food, Research
 - b. Suggestions for discussion questions:
 - i. How do you incorporate DEI in your Extension work?
 1. Consider and incorporate into outreach with diverse audiences

2. Attempt to hire diverse backgrounds, especially so Extension can be reflective of community, but can be hard to reach interested, qualified candidates.
 3. Skilled at facilitating partnerships across diverse stakeholder groups as well as Extension serves whole states.
 - ii. What do you think about AI? Is it something you're aware of, worried about, or using regularly?
 1. Some interest and some skeptical
 2. Use AI support lesson and dissemination planning, but relatively limited currently
 3. There is an Extensionbot coming with AI in the nearish future
 - iii. How are major global trends/ current events (recession, war, climate change) impacting your work?
 1. – No time
 - iv. Share something that works well and that you're excited about in your program?
 1. – No time
 - c. Share ideas to maintain contact during the year
 - i. Listservs- Connected with Courtney at NIFA about potentially finding this information from NIFA and will reach out more to FG contacts via NCFR directory for future years
 - ii. Announcements
4. Announcements and opportunities
 - a. Job opportunities/announcements
5. Conclusion

3.