

The **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** is a United States Federal Executive Department (or *Cabinet Department*). 19 Units

Purpose is to develop and execute policy on farming, agriculture, and food.

Aim is to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers, promote agricultural trade and production, work to assure food safety, protect natural resources, foster rural communities and end hunger in America and abroad

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP)

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

Economic Research Service (ERS)

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

Forest Service (FS)

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

National Agricultural Library (NAL)

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

National Finance Center (NFC)

National Organic Program (NOP)[2]

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Rural Development (RD)

CSREES Overview

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agency resulting from combining the USDA Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) and Extension Service (ES). [Being reorganized and renamed in new Farm Bill]

LAND GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (LGS) are institutions of higher education that were designated by each state in partnership with the federal government to:

- **TEACH,**
- **CARRYOUT UNBIASED RESEARCH** through Agricultural Experiment Stations, and
- **DELIVER UNBIASED INFORMATION TO CONSTITUENTS** through the Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension System is a non-formal educational program designed to help people use research-based knowledge to improve their lives.

The service is provided by the state's **LAND-GRANT (LGs) UNIVERSITIES**.

Education occurs in the areas of **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**, home and family, **THE ENVIRONMENT**, community economic development, and **YOUTH AND 4-H**.

Most CES have State Specialists, and in some cases Regional and County Specialists who provide training to CES personnel and develop educational programs on their assigned commodities or areas

These Specialists are the within state “expert(s)” for CES and the LG, and thus are often very well linked to the public and private persons, agencies and units working in that commodity within each state.

Most CES State Specialists hold PhD degrees.

LGs state offices and specialists are typically funded by federal and state funds, or various grant funds.

Traditionally, each county of all 50 states had a local extension office ... has declined as some county offices have consolidated into regional extension centers.

Today, there are approximately 2,900 extension offices nationwide.

There are many programs at all levels within a state in which the CES plays a major role

Local CES office:

- serves as focal point for educational information flow to and from the LG to both public and private sectors
- is often the first place something new is reported to and thus serves as an important conduit of first detector information

County Extension Agents operate in the County Extension Office and are employees and representatives of the LG WITHIN the County. Their responsibilities are primarily focused at the county in all areas of ag.

Most County Extension Agents today have Masters degrees in some aspect of agriculture (if ag agents).

County office is funded partially by federal funds, state funds and local funds

Master Gardeners and **4-H** are programs developed and implemented by CES.

The LGs and CES are ideally suited to carryout educational & outreach activities as well as to serve **FIRST DETECTOR ROLES** associated with the invasions of non-native organisms of concern to our US ecosystems and crops.

The LGs and CES have been hard-hit in recent years by budget reductions, and have not been able to participate in new programs and initiatives such as *The Dialogue* as a result.

CES is very under-funded when it comes to programming in the area of Invasive and Exotic Species.

For example (not complaining, but using as an example)

Georgia has 159 counties, with 157 counties having an Extension Office

Georgia has >59,000 sq miles of land, 60% of which is considered forest

Georgia has somewhat over 9 million citizens

For example (continued p. 2)

I am the only Extension person in Georgia with Forest Entomology responsibilities

I have State-wide Extension Forest Entomology Responsibilities

My forest entomology role includes:

- Supporting all CES agents
- Keeping up with research, adapting it for outreach/ application and developing programs
- Providing CES agents with educational materials AND training on forest entomology

Example p, 3

I have a 40% forest entomology (or ~ 800 hrs per year) forest entomology appointment, including invasives

I currently have almost NO operating or travel budget provided by the University

I am one of only three (?) people in the SE US with extension forest entomology responsibility

UGA does not have any other faculty with assigned invasive responsibilities for any taxa

How can we (Dialogue) effectively exploit & use expertise and strengths of CES and Land Grant system ?