

Who's Really Saving the World? Extension's Role Implementing the Next Farm Bill (A04-nipp163656-Oral)

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Abstract:

The 2002 Farm Bill expands existing conservation programs and creates new ones. These new provisions will require expanded technical assistance, education and outreach programs for farmers and ranchers. Extension will need to collaborate in new ways with their colleagues in conservation at the local, state and federal levels. While the need for expanded education and outreach programs will create new opportunities for collaboration and new programming, it can also revive competition and strife. This presentation will review the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill; consider what disappeared in the last hours of legislative negotiation; and, present efforts currently underway at the national level to enhance Extension's collaborative involvement in the conservation provisions of the new Farm Bill. As well, the importance and relevance of impact assessment and reporting requirements will be explored. Impact assessment reporting requirements can be frustrating, especially when it is not clear how or if reports are used. This presentation will explore how these assessments are currently used and how they can be utilized to strengthen Extension's role in conservation education.

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