

EXTENOVATIONS

February 1983

Volume 4, Number 1

ST. PAUL CAMPUS LIBRARIES

'Caribbean Project' enters phase II

Since June 1, 1980, the Agricultural Extension Service has been involved in the "Caribbean Agricultural Extension Project," a project designed to improve the economic and social well-being of small farm households in the newly independent nations of the English-speaking Caribbean.

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (US/AID), the project is a partnership between the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA) and the University of the West Indies (UWI). As partners, MUCIA and UWI seek to increase the effectiveness of national public and private sector extension systems in six eastern Caribbean states and Belize.

During phase I (planning and program development), U.S. and UWI extension professionals worked with local staff in the Caribbean to conduct a detailed analysis of the extension systems in each of the participating states. This work led to development of a national extension planning committee and a national extension improvement plan in each country. Phase II (program implementation) has now begun, and with it comes a commitment to do something about the problems identified during phase I.

Roland Abraham, former director of extension in Minnesota, coordinated phase I of the project and did much to assure full support for the project and to maintain access to resources of the University of Minnesota and the MUCIA institutions. The University of Minnesota has been the lead institution for the Caribbean project, and will continue to lead the project now that Michael Patton, a Minnesota sociologist who specializes in program evaluation and policy analysis, has been named director of phase II. Patton was the team

leader living in the Caribbean during the first phase, and has worked extensively with Tom Henderson, director of the Department of Agricultural Extension at UWI and project director from UWI, to learn the situation first-hand.

Other members of the U.S. project team are George Saksa, Ray Woodis, Don Smucker, and Gene Pilgram. George Saksa was the district program leader for the Northeast District until his assignment to the Caribbean project and will be the team leader in Dominica where he will be working with Tom Henderson. Ray Woodis is an extension communications specialist from the University of Illinois and will be developing a regional communications center out of Trinidad at UWI. Don Smucker is an extension professional from the University of Illinois and will be in Belize. Gene Pilgram will be on short-term assignment between February and June doing program development work.

According to Patton, the problems confronting extension efforts are numerous. Poor production systems make all of these countries net food importers, resulting in balance of payments problems. Farming is a low-status occupation in the Caribbean and many farmers must take off-farm jobs to support themselves and their families. Geographical diversity in the area is also a problem with chief crops ranging from sugar cane in St. Kitts, hot peppers in Monserrat, arrowroot in St. Vincent, bananas in Dominica and St. Lucia, and cotton in Nevis. The size of the region makes communication difficult and expensive with the Caribbean islands scattered 500 miles from north to south, and with 2000 miles separating the most easterly island, Barbados, from Belize in Central America. Land scarcity, one of the most striking features

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Miller fills in for Pilgram



Gerald Miller

Extension Agronomist Gerald Miller began serving as acting assistant director of extension for agriculture on January 1 and will continue through December 31, 1983. He temporarily replaces Gene Pilgram, who continues for the next six months as co-administrator for

the program before retiring in September. During this time, Dr. Pilgram will be spending considerable time with the Caribbean project.

A nationally recognized weed scientist, Miller also coordinates the Minnesota extension crop pest management program. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Illinois and his Ph.D. degree from Michigan State University. He joined the Minnesota staff in 1964 after two years as extension agronomist at Purdue University.

Of his appointment, Director Norm Brown says, "I am delighted that we are able to benefit from the leadership of such a capable professional in this critical time."

Center aids pork industry

The pork industry is big business in Minnesota, according to Dr. Al Leman, extension veterinarian, and it's likely to stay that way, especially in light of the current low grain prices.

Leman is director of the University of Minnesota Swine Center, chartered in December, 1981 to "enhance both the quality and quantity of research, teaching, extension, and service to the swine industries of Minnesota and the Midwest."

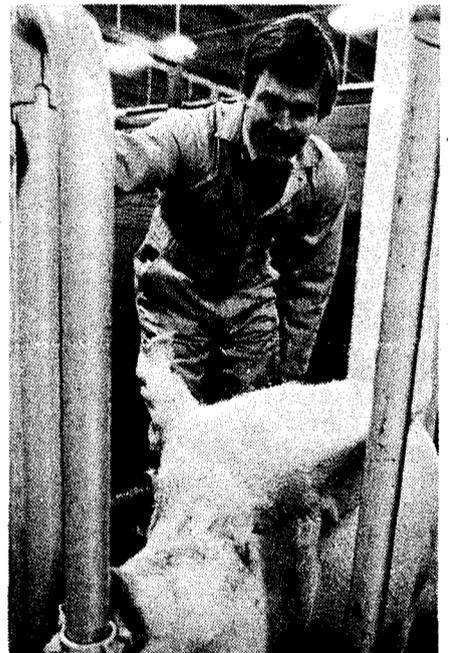
"The center is a loose association of people," Leman explains. "About 60 faculty members are involved with center activities. Some work full-time with pigs and others give very little time to that species. They represent all areas on campus that work with swine: animal science, veterinary medicine, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics, and food science and nutrition."

The swine center focuses on interdisciplinary swine research, extension, and teaching, and brings university people with a professional interest in swine together. This involves sharing ideas, knowledge, expertise, lab space, equipment, personnel, pigs, and other resources. Weekly seminars on a wide variety of swine-related topics are another means for increasing communication between different areas of specialization.

"We feel that the traditional university segregation of disciplines may not best serve the farm," says Leman. "The pig doesn't know whether the problem is in veterinary medicine, ag engineering, or whatever."

Another goal is to generate funds to support their research. "The center serves as an identifiable structure for receiving contributions to swine research," says Leman. "It also improves our effectiveness in competing for national grants by coordinating interdisciplinary grant applications and fund raising efforts."

The center has received two \$12,000 grants from the Minnesota Pork Producer's Association, \$21,000 from the National Pork Producer's Council, and \$90,000 in private



Al Leman

pledges. Leman's goal is to generate \$1 million in private funds, which would be used for a building to house new swine production and research facilities.

The visible structure of the center has also served to improve lines of communication between university personnel and the Minnesota pork industry. "It is helping us assess the needs of the swine industry and make necessary additions to or changes in our research agenda," says Leman.

Leman is not aware of any other universities with such strong cooperation between all areas of swine research and education. Departmental structure and historical competition between animal science and veterinary medicine departments, as well as weak channels of communication, inhibit cooperation. "Members of the center do disagree," says Leman, "but we are committed to keeping communication open. With strong administrative support and active member involvement, the University of Minnesota Swine Center has become a model of on-campus cooperation."

—Denise A. Bonebright
Communication Resources



Left to right: Mike Patton, George Saksa, Norm Brown, Tom Henderson, and Ray Woodis.

GOOD NEWS

The Carver County Bankers' Association presented the county 4-H Federation with a check for \$2,700 at an annual 4-H awards banquet in November, with compliments to the leaders for their work with young people in the county. The money will be used to strengthen the clubs' health projects.

In response to a need for criteria for installing microwave ovens properly, extension specialist Wanda Olson and experiment station researcher Becky Yust developed guidelines for work center placement, for which a field study is now in progress. Results of their work include a 10 percent reduction of food preparation accidents connected with microwave ovens.

In 1981-82 the Minnesota Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) program, which provides information about herd management and improvement of milk quality to Minnesota farmers, increased membership by 358 herds, bringing total herd membership to 7,328. Estimated labor return per DHI cow was \$467 compared to a \$111 loss in labor returns for non-DHI dairy farmers.

In response to increased concern over mistreatment of animals in Minnesota, extension wildlife specialist Jim Kitts is working with several organizations to develop a human education curriculum for grades K-12. Goal of the program is to provide, over the next three to four years, teacher aids and lesson plans regarding humane treatment of farm animals, companion animals, and wild animals. Materials for grades K-5 are now being field tested. Cooperating agencies include the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Health, and Education; the Minnesota Humane Society, and Friends of Animals and Their Environment (FATE).

The Minnesota Soil Atlas Map series, begun 12 years ago, was recently completed with the publication of the New Ulm document. Total cost of the project, funded by the Legislative Committee on Minnesota Resources, was about \$1 million, or approximately \$.02 per acre for Minnesota's 55 million acres. Specific benefits include routing power lines, identifying prime farm land, and determining appropriate subsoil fertility classes in a statewide soil test computer program. An estimated 15% improvement in soil fertility recommendations alone saved farmers up to \$500,000 annually. Cooperating with extension specialists were soils staff from the State Department of Agriculture.

Extension entomologist Mark Ascerno reports that in 1982 he received calls from several Dakota County homeowners who suspected termite problems, a relatively rare occurrence in Minnesota. Upon positive identification of termite infestation, Ascerno and others worked with Dakota County staff and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to begin treatment and prevention procedures. As a result of timely action, several homes valued at about \$45,000 were saved from extensive damage.



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of the region is, unfortunately, one of the things these islands do have in common, though Belize has abundant land.

The extension services in the Caribbean are agencies of the national government rather than under a university, and that also creates problems. "It would be easier to start from scratch," says Patton, referring to the fact that the extension agents have been poorly trained and organized in the past and lack credibility among farmers. They have been involved heavily in regulatory work for the governments ranging from enforcing policies to handling service subsidies. Consequently, farmers often see agents as enforcing regulations or dispensing "goodies," and the project needs to overcome that image and replace it with one of providing knowledge and technically sound advice.

But despite the problems identi-

fied in phase I, phase II is proceeding confidently. Patton and the others are realistic about the problems, but expect that the new extension models being developed there will allow people to participate and help carry out a long-term process of rebuilding their production systems.

Malcolm Purvis, assistant dean of the Office of International Programs, oversees the contract management of the project and stresses that the partnership concept that exists between MUCIA and UWI is most effective in situations like this. The contract is only a mechanism for handling the money, and unless the project is brought about through cooperation, the contract becomes unenforceable. Since it is in the interest of the region to cooperate in this effort, there is much that they can learn and implement from the experience of extension in Minnesota and other states. One example is the role of women and the family in agriculture. Emphasis on the farm family rather than the individual, and on the need to have

more women in farm management has been a trend in Minnesota extension and may be well received in the Caribbean where emigration of male farmers has left many women as heads of farm families.

Now that phase II is underway, support to the Caribbean nations will take three main forms: 1) training, 2) equipment, and 3) program development. Training will occur at all levels, from agents to directors, and will be both short and long term. Equipment will emphasize communications but will also include vehicles and many farm implements. Organizational development will focus on increasing professionalism and program development approaches including job descriptions and work plans. Minnesota excels in organizational development and that is where Minnesota's leadership in the project may have its most lasting impact.

—Richard Sherman
Communication Resources

VISTA project expands role of 4-H in state

"While the future funding of the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) volunteers is uncertain, the volunteers working with 4-H in Minnesota will have a lasting effect," says Chuck Williams, northeast district program leader and director of the VISTA project.

The project began last March with the training of 25 volunteers, 22 of whom are still in the program. Most of these volunteers were hired from the communities in which they are seeking to identify, recruit, train, and support 4-H leaders and members from low-income families.

According to Williams, the volunteers have an excellent grasp of the 4-H program and have gone into counties and communities where 4-H was hardly known or not known at all.

As a result of the VISTA volunteers' work, seven areas have reported significant membership enrollment. Total youth enrollment is 6,955 and the number of adult leaders is 699. Area enrollments are Clay county, 158 members and 30 #leaders; Dakota county, 536 members and 45 leaders; Hennepin county, 1,237 members and 152 leaders; Mower county, 507 members and

10 leaders; Ramsey county, 2,800 members and 69 leaders; North St. Louis county, 889 members and 204 leaders; and South St. Louis county, 822 members and 189 leaders.

Byron J. Schneider, assistant director, 4-H Youth Development, says, "these statistics are only the surface of VISTA activities. I am confident that a high percentage of kids in short-term activities will become 4-H club members. For example, Dick Byrne, northwest district extension program leader, reports that as a result of work at the Laotian Resettlement Center, programs with senior citizens, and activities in migrant schools in the summer, kids will become members of 4-H clubs as a result of their involvement in the VISTA project in Clay County.

Many of the members are in traditional 4-H programs and others have been drawn into programs through short-term projects, sports, games, and expressive arts activities. Most of the communities are low-income areas where unemployment is a primary concern, so the 4-H programs are occupation oriented.

Ongoing support for the VISTA volunteers includes training programs offered in cooperation with the

Center for Youth Development and Research (CYDR). Topics include critical issues faced by adolescents, networking, and cooperation with social service agencies in the communities.

As a result of networking, 4-H has worked with agencies using schools and other community buildings and has arranged cooperative transportation arrangements for participants. "This has been beneficial for 4-H and the cooperating agencies," says Williams.

Continuation of the program, beyond the one year deadline of March 1983, depends on funding. If funds are cut back, the volunteers may be moved to part time. If congress cuts all funds, the volunteers will lose their jobs—the end of March. Should funds be cut, Williams says, "the longer lasting effect of the VISTA volunteers will be seen. They have developed bases where 4-H hasn't been before and the county agents will provide continuing support."

An evaluation program for the VISTA project is now being developed by the CYDR.

—Jon N. Groth
Communication Resources

ExtenOVATIONS to . . .

Bob Aherin, extension safety specialist, was elected president and chairman of the board of directors of the National Institute for Farm Safety.

Uel Blank, retired extension resource economist, received two awards last fall: the 1982 Service Award from the CenStates Chapter, Travel and Tourism Research Association at its meeting in November (award includes a plaque and two round-trip tickets for one week to any destination via Republic Airlines); and the 1982 Outstanding Individual in Travel award from the Minnesota State Division of Tourism, presented at the annual governor's tourism conference in Duluth in December.



Mayor Latimer and Dave Radford (photo by Wade Lawrence)

Floyd Bellin, Jr., Martin County extension director, received the Conservation Education Award from the Minnesota chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

Credited with putting long-range plans for district programs in soil conservation, tillage, and fertility into action, Bellin credits the efforts of innovative farmers, extension and experiment station specialists, soil conservation officers, vo-ag teachers, dealers, and association representatives who helped present the program.

The programs emphasize the stewardship responsibility of people in agriculture.

Lorilee Sandmann, northeast district program leader, home economics family living, and **Dave Radford**, area extension agent, small farm program, received awards from the Minnesota Association of Continuing Adult Education (MACAE) at its annual awards program in November.

Sandmann received the Different Drummer Award: Best Untried Idea, for the Iron Range community survival program scheduled for launching in January, 1983.

Radford received the Learner-Contributor Award for the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of correspondence courses for farm families, with special emphasis on small dairy farmers.

EXTEND in action

The December *Extenovations* carried several articles on the newly organized EXTension Educational Network and Database (EXTEND).

Shown below are examples of audience participation in the conferences held outstate in December.



JoAnne Slavin, extension nutritionist, helps a participant with applications of a food cost program.



Earl Fuller, farm management specialist, demonstrates an EXTEND-AID program in farm management.



Dick Walter, Goodhue County extension director looks on as Lowell Hanson, extension soil specialist, describes a soil mapping application (photos by Don Breneman).

Halbach returns from EPA with fresh views on water

Tom Halbach's appointment as extension liaison to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (USEPA) signaled a fresh start for water quality control. For the past two years Tom has been "on loan" from Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service, working out of the water quality office of the USEPA in Chicago, with the goal of improved cooperation and understanding between the Cooperative Extension Service and the EPA in the six-states that make up Federal Region V.

"The EPA believes that half of all water pollution from agriculture comes from non-point pollution sources," commented Tom recently. "Not readily identifiable as coming from a specific point, such pollution is usually dispersed throughout a wide area. Cases of non-point pollution occur in almost every county in Minnesota."

As a former Southwest Area CRD



Tom Halbach

agent, Tom had prior experience working with the Department of Natural Resources, the SCS, the Army Corps, and various other agencies in Southwest Minnesota. The goal of the EPA water quality office was to share research based extension information with other agencies, in an effort to deal with common concerns. The overall strategy was on education, technical assistance, and cost-sharing, aiming toward control of water quality problems by local agencies.

Like Minnesota, the five other states in the region share the common question of how water quality issues could best be addressed. Each state has or is currently writing an agricultural non-point water quality strategy. As liaison in the six-state area, Tom was at a key vantage point to observe existing programs. "Illinois has a unique educational and technical assistance emphasis, realigning current organization and funding strategy to meet new needs. The Wisconsin Fund program is a state effort at cost-sharing," notes Tom. One cooperative effort is the continuation of the liaison position Tom served in. An extension staff member from Wisconsin filled the liaison position shortly after the first of the year, and the position will be filled on a rotating basis for two-year terms.

Since his return to CRD work as an area agent in the Anoka County extension office, 25 percent of Tom's

time has been reserved for water quality activities involving the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the DNR, as well as the USEPA. He cautions that Minnesota must develop creative water quality strategies that are effective as well as acceptable to farmers. "The EPA is looking at water quality issues in terms of providing technical assistance and education, while continuing to meet standards that have been set," Tom says. "They realize that those programs that are destructive to individual farmers won't get a lot of support." Between ten and twelve Minnesota counties have more serious agricultural non-point pollution control problems, although the state, overall, has a less severe problem than other areas of Federal Region V. Water quality issues that are unique to Minnesota include the complex Karst topography in the Southeast. Control efforts such as well-monitoring and surface-monitoring are being done in Winona County. The Garvin Brook Rural Clean Water Project, which includes extension, is an example of a cooperative agency approach to addressing water quality problems.

Tom observes long-term water quality goals as being clear-cut and viable. "The EPA sees extension's role as one of integrating water quality information into regular ongoing educational efforts whenever this is appropriate and to incorporate information on potential benefits, costs, and alternatives in water quality projects," says Tom.

Commenting on future efforts,

Tom gives high priority to extension work in this area. "Through educational programs and the research of the experiment station, extension could play a larger role in addressing the issues and working with other states in the region. We have the research base that gives us the information source, as well as the delivery system to get this information to the farmers. We don't have all the answers, but we've learned a tremendous amount. Many problems could be solved with existing technology."

—Linda Dietz

Communication Resources

Extension Economist dies

Friends and colleagues were saddened by the death in December of former extension economist Martin K. Christiansen. A faculty member of the department of agricultural and applied economics for 28 years, he had just recently retired from Extension and was completing additional assignments under his creative retirement program.

As an extension economist, Christiansen worked primarily with educational programs in agricultural policy, including price and income issues, government programs, and economic analyses of market factors.

A native of Slayton, MN, he received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota.

Extenovations

Vol. 4, No. 1
February 1983

Published bimonthly by the Director's Office, 240 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Ave., University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

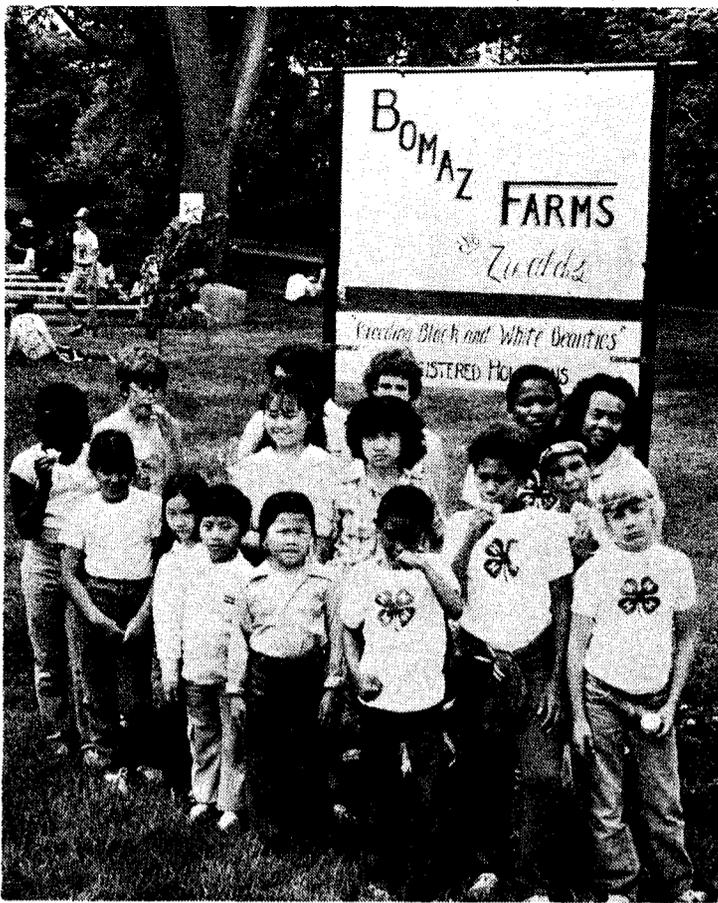
Editor Julie Medbery
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Production Coordinator Rich Sherman
Photo Editor Dave Hansen

Produced by Communication Resources, 433 Coffey Hall.

The University of Minnesota, including the Agricultural Extension Service, is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or handicap.

4-H youth visit dairy farm

Over 200 4-H youth from seven community centers located in St. Paul were enthusiastic participants in a one-day city to farm visit to the Bomaz farm in Hudson, Wisconsin.



Wilma Gary, urban agent of Ramsey County (upper right) with a group of 4-H youth at the entrance to the Bomaz farm

4-H survey gets eager responses

Would you believe there are at least 58 good reasons for 4-H? In a recent questionnaire, that's how many southwest district people responded to the question "How has involvement in 4-H affected me and my family?" Some were eloquent. All were deserving of space, but here is just a sampling of answers.

"I plan to keep on going in 4-H until I have grown up," says one youngster. Another apparently found a new perception of her parents' abilities. "Our parents can show us that they have many talents and skills that can help us in setting and accomplishing these goals." A different perspective was offered by someone who said, "During the teenage years, the junior leadership project gives practice at organizing and leading and beginning to 'share-back' what was received."

4-H projects were often credited with helping people grow. "We began in 4-H with our daughter and a little gray pony, not realizing how much 4-H would change our lives, learning along with our daughter about the projects that she has enrolled in, meeting new people and making friends," says one, or as a kid put it, "I like taking my projects to the fair because you learn more from the judge."

New friends and new places were a common motivation. Many cited trips to Washington, D.C. or other states. For some who stayed home the opportunity to experience being a host to a foreign guest was the important thing. And where there are friends there is fun, "... meetings, roller skating parties, Christmas parties, ... games and singing and much more." And don't forget "good sportsmanship" as an important effect of 4-H.

One young fellow learned some very practical things. "4-H has helped me learn how to conduct a meeting correctly and discuss business and how to make motions. At one of our meetings all our fathers got up and talked about farm safety. They told us about some close calls they had and warned us about machinery and animals." One girl's approach also stresses the practical. "We give demonstrations and project talks. This helps develop better speaking confidence and we learn from other demonstrations."

An unidentified quote credits extension. "There is the helpful staff and helpful information from the extension office, project meetings, parents who give their time and talent..."

Most numerous were quotes that emphasized the family. "It's an excuse. It's been a good excuse for me to help my daughters learn to sew, to do craft work, to learn vegetable and flower gardening. It's been a good excuse for father-son-daughters to discuss what makes a good lamb, cow, calf, carcass, and whatever. It's been a good excuse for grandmothers to spend time teaching their grandchildren an art or craft." Summing up what many others expressed, one writes: "4-H also fosters closer relationships between the parents and the children. There isn't much that matches the closeness achieved while struggling together to train a steer to walk, head-to-head contact over a lamb while washing it, or looking for the perfect vegetable. Our family has countless memories and many pictures in photograph albums all because of 4-H."

—Henri Drews
Communication Resources

Homemakers build personal, family strengths

Almost 300 Minnesota homemakers met on the St. Paul campus on October 28 for a conference on building personal and family strengths. The day-long program included presentations on many topics, including nutrition, computers, and family communication.

Many of the participants were involved with Extension Home Study Groups (ESHGs). According to Irene Ott, acting assistant director for Home Economics Family Living Programs, study groups have been a successful part of HE/FL programs for more than 60 years.

Originally started to teach improved homemaking skills to women, the ESHGs now serve both women and men, and some groups invite participation by the whole family. Topics can be related to almost any aspect of home, family, and community needs, and an emphasis is placed on learning to be active in community issues.

"Home study groups have some unique advantages as a delivery method," says Ott. "For one thing, they are less formal than many other programs, and they have a supportive social aspect, so they may reach people that would shy away from a more formal education. There is an opportunity to select study topics that are of special interest to the members of each group, and the group structure can encourage people to explore topics they might not pursue on their own."

An important aspect of ESHGs is leadership training and development. Local ESHGs choose representatives who are sent to training meetings conducted by home economics professionals, either extension specialists and agents or community experts. These leaders learn how to teach and then return to teach the local groups.

County Home Councils provide another opportunity for members of ESHGs to gain leadership skills. Each group sends representatives to this advisory council, which plans programs for the study groups, helps to implement them, and provides evaluation for the program.

"Our goal is to provide education not only in home economics subject

matter, but also in leadership skills—learning how to make a difference in the community," says Ott. "Out of about 40,000 people involved in ESHGs last year, about 21,400 served as leader-teachers and about 3,750 were home councilors, so this is an important part of the program."

One of the purposes for the day on campus was to provide ideas and direction for planning ESHG programs statewide. "We try to provide a model of many possibilities that participants can bring back to their communities," explains Ott.

The local groups seemed to agree that the conference was useful. Forty-one counties were represented, and people from some of the more distant counties arranged vans and overnight stays. Several counties provided scholarships to help homemakers who otherwise couldn't afford to attend the conference.

The day on campus was co-sponsored by extension Home Economics Family Living Programs, Office of Special Programs, and the College of Home Economics. Conference telephone calls were used to involve district program leaders, extension agents, college alumni, and homemakers from across the state in the planning process. This cooperation resulted in a varied list of session topics, and presentations given by about 35 speakers representing extension, the college, and the community.

According to Annette Dowdy, OSP, who coordinated the conference, evaluations showed many positive reactions. She credits the cooperative effort and variety of speakers with helping make the day "a great success."

Plans are already underway for next year's conference, which will be held in several out-state locations rather than on campus. "We're pleased with the success of the yearly conferences, and very pleased with the ESHG delivery method," says Ott. "We have the third largest ESHG membership in the United States, and receive an amazing number of volunteer hours each year from group members. We can be justly proud of this program."

—Denise A. Bonebright
Communication Resources