President’s Message

One might think I was a little early to say that now is the time to begin thinking ahead as this year draws to a close. After all, it is only August. However, planning takes time. As we plan, we must invest ample time for creating a suitable path for the coming year.

Soon, we will all be speaking about Plan of Work and ROA. We will be determining which objectives are appropriate for next year and creating new objectives for new programs. We will adapt and modify that which didn’t work while enhancing and improving upon that which worked well. Taking an annual indepth look at our work is one of many ways we continue to grow professionally.

When was the last time you took an indepth evaluation of your life outside of Extension? As you plan for a new year, remember to stop and set personal goals in addition to your professional ones. What do you want to accomplish in the coming year? What have you been talking about for the past few years that has been all talk and no action? How will you work towards your goals? What can you do to turn them into reality?

Once you have determined your goals, write them down. Then, put them where you will see them and read them often. When we write a Plan of Work, we write down our goals, or objectives, for the coming year. However, I’m guessing that once we’ve submitted our Plan on Unifas that it’s likely most of us don’t see our objectives again until we begin writing our ROA, if we even go back and read them then. Writing our goals is only one step. In order to keep them fresh in our minds so that we may continue to work towards them, we must keep our goals where we can read and act upon them.

Look toward this new year as one filled with potential. Decide what challenges you will face, what goals you will accomplish, and chart a course for achievement. Keep your goals a priority and face each new day with ambition.

Danielle Gordon
President

Simply Florida: Achieving Goals, Setting New Ones

By setting a goal, making a plan, and carrying it through, we are well on our way to having a cookbook. It was the hard work of our membership and various committees that brought us this far. However, we have not yet reached the end of our journey.

It is time now to work together to achieve another set of goals. Mary Beth Salisbury, Marketing Chair, and her committee have been hard at work setting goals and making plans for cookbook marketing and sales. At this year’s FEAFCs annual membership
Meeting, you will receive information about the next phase of Simply Florida. Plan to be there – this is one meeting you won’t want to miss!

**NEAFCS Annual Session Approaches**

This fall, several of Florida’s FCS Agents will be traveling out west for the annual NEAFCS conference October 3rd – 6th. The conference will afford many opportunities for networking, learning new programs and enjoying time with colleagues. Here are a few items to think about as you prepare for the meeting:

- The “Giving Back to the Community” project supports child care centers affected by Hurricane Katrina. NEAFCS President, Sandy McLain, is asking for donations of children’s books or gift cards to stores such as WalMart or Target to help purchase educational materials for the centers.
- Do you have items to donate to the annual silent auction? If so, please let Danielle know as each state has been asked to bring 1 - 5 items.
- State’s night out will be on Thursday, October 5th – more information coming soon.
- If you are planning to attend the conference, please let Danielle know so she can provide the information to the District Director’s office.

**Interested in Serving NEAFCS?**

The Southern Region needs two representatives to serve on the NEAFCS nominating committee. It is recommended that these individuals have attended several national meetings. Elaine Courtney represented Florida on the Nominating Committee this past year. If you are interested and have questions, please contact Elaine. Please contact Danielle for the application form if you are interested in running for this position.

**Proposed Bylaws Changes**

Have you followed up from the email distributed by Gayle Whitworth regarding proposed FEAFCs bylaws changes? If not, please visit our website at [http://feafcs.ifas.ufl.edu](http://feafcs.ifas.ufl.edu) and look under What’s New. We will vote on these changes during the upcoming annual membership meeting at EPAF.

There are also proposed bylaws changes for NEAFCS. These changes were highlighted in the August 2006 eNEAFCS newsletter. You can review them at [http://www.neafcs.org/eneafcs/enews.asp?P=1134](http://www.neafcs.org/eneafcs/enews.asp?P=1134).

*Cherish your dreams. Follow your passions.*

*They are the guiding hands of your heart.*
Hurricane Preparedness was the Theme

Once again, our auction basket was the highlight at Marco Island during the June meeting of the Florida Association of Counties. Thanks to Celia Hill’s creativity, FEAFCS presented a hurricane cooler stuffed with all the lucky winner would need to prepare for the hurricane season. Since June was the beginning of the hurricane season, it was a timely theme for attendees of the annual meeting. Thanks Celia for your time and talent!

~Diann Douglas, FEAFCS Vice President Public Affairs

Three Cheers for a Great Year!

Many thanks to the members of the 2005-06 FEAFCS Board. Everyone has worked hard to fulfill their many responsibilities and duties, keeping our association focused and serving the membership over the past year. When you see these officers at EPAF, let them know how much you appreciate them taking the time to serve.

Life is a gift whose value increases with each mountain we climb and each new star we reach for.

Dates to Remember

- 9/3/06 – NEAFCS Hotel Reservation Deadline
- 9/11/06 – EPAF Board Meeting; FEAFCS Fall Board Meeting @ Marco Island
- 9/11-14/06 – EPAF Conference @ Marco Island
- 9/12/06 – FEAFCS Annual Membership Meeting
- 10/3-6/06 – NEAFCS Annual Session @ Denver, Colorado

This day is like no other.
May you fill it with laughter and live the magic of forgotten dreams.