Happy New Year! I imagine that each of us are very busy with programs and reports. It seems there is always too much to do and too little time! I hope you did take the time over the holidays to rest and enjoy being with family and friends. May 2005 be a wonderful year for you…personally and professionally.

Elaine Courtney, FEAFCS President

FEAFCS Major project to begin in 2005!!!!

At the December Executive Board meeting, it was decided to move forward with an “Economic/Professional Development” project. What is it? We’re going to do a cookbook that will feature agriculture commodities in Florida!!! But this is more than just any old cookbook!!!

We are patterning our plans after those of the Kentucky Association (KEAFCS) who developed the “Pride of Kentucky.” Their profit since book sales began (august 2003) is over $85,000!!!!!

The purpose of this project is to

1. Promote professional development opportunities for FEAFCS members. This will include the Mary Harrison Enhancement Award and Professional development scholarships and awards.
2. Promote awareness and consumption of Florida Agriculture commodities, including nutrition and food safety. (This is part of Goal 1, Focus 2)

This is a huge project, that will require the work of ALL members. Don’t hesitate—volunteer today!

Dr. Brenda Williams, Alachua County--Project Chairman and Sponsorship Coordinator.
Joan Elmore, Jackson County—Recipe Chair
Gayle Whitworth, Brevard County—Layout & Design Chair
Chris Procise, Martin County—Layout & Design Co-chair

We will be needing people to serve on these and other committees. There is room for EVERYONE to be involved!! Need committee members immediately for Sponsorships, Layout and Design, and Recipes. We will be forming marketing and distribution committees, as well as subcommittees as needed. (ex. Text for sidebars and section dividers will need to be written.)

The good news: Because this will require major commitments of time for committee chairs and members, we have requested (and Dr. Arrington approved) permission for agents to put this in their Plan of Work (See Goal 1, Focus 2). If you are interested in being part of this, please contact me or Brenda Williams.

On the website, there is more detailed information about the proposal.

http://feafcs.ifas.ufl.edu
If you have not seen the Kentucky cookbook, check the following website, http://ces.ca.uky.edu/keafcs. You can also check with officers and committee chairs who have seen the book.

This is a HUGE project!! I know it will be successful because of our membership!! There will be lots of benefits:

- Raising funds will allow us to help fund the Mary Harrison Award
- Fund & support members in professional development pursuits
- Promote Agriculture and strengthen the bonds with the ag community, gaining support for FCS along the way!

Your help is needed! Volunteer Today!

AWARDS
The deadline for awards is fast approaching! Be sure to refer to http://neafcs.org for application and more info. The on-line application will not be accessible until after all NEAFCS Dues are collected, so be patient. You can still access the info on different awards. An awards update can be found at http://www.neafcs.org/eneafcs/enews.asp?P=598. Look for more info from FEAFCS VP Beth Shepard, Brevard County. As you look over the list of awards, think about co-workers who are doing outstanding work. Call or email them—encourage them to apply!! Florida does great stuff, but we are not very good about telling our story! This is an opportunity for you to do that!! Don’t hesitate—check out the awards and begin compiling your entry!

Committees
One of the goals for our organization this year is to involve each and every member in committees. In addition to our special project committees, there are the standing committees: Awards, Public Affairs, Members Resources, Professional Development, Budget, Youth, ByLaws & Handbook. Please contact the chairs of these committees and get involved! It helps our organization AND looks good on that annual Accomplishment Report/Promotion application!!

NEAFCS—Poster and concurrent session proposals for 2005 NEAFCS are due January 31st. Again, this is a great opportunity to share your great programs. More info: http://www.neafcs.org/eneafcs/enews.asp?P=606.

Congratulations to Joan Elmore and Judy Corbus. They were the winners of the 2004 Georgia EAFCS Dean Don Felker Financial Management Award, along with Claudia Meadows, Linda Sartain, and Ann Hudgins, who submitted the award, for our 2002 multi-state Catch the Spirit! Be Wise Consumer Fraud Prevention program.

Joan Elmore was the first recipient of the Mary Harrison Professional Development Enhancement Award! Way to go, Joan!

Please let me know of other accomplishments so I can share your success!!
Retiring: We will miss those dedicated FCS agents who have recently retired and wish them the very best in retirement!! Enjoy!!
    Susan Hedges-Lee County
    Dee Wilkens-Orange County

Don’t forget to bookmark our website:
    [http://feafcs.ifas.ufl.edu](http://feafcs.ifas.ufl.edu)

If you have suggestions or items for the site, contact Lisa Leslie! Thanks Lisa for a great job!