



# Extension Council Member Opinion Survey

November 2009

To provide the best possible service to our members, the Iowa Association of County Extension Councils (IACEC) is asking for your response to the following questions regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ISU and Extension Councils as well as a few questions about options for benefits for county-paid Extension staff members. We estimate that it will take you approximately 5-10 minutes to complete this survey. Your input is important. Thank you for taking the time to respond.

*Please note that hard copy surveys must be postmarked by Nov. 25 to be included in the analysis of the data.*

## Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

With the elimination of the partnership agreement, the draft MOU attempts to incorporate the working relationship between ISU Extension and each County Extension District. Please review the video discussion of the 2010-2012 MOU (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/webcast/>) and then answer the following questions. It may be helpful for you to have the proposed MOU handy as you answer this survey.

**1. The old MOU was a five year document. The committee recommends a two year agreement this time in light of restructuring. Is this an acceptable length?**

Yes, two years is acceptable

No, it should be longer

No, it should only be one year

**2. As you review the proposed MOU document, what is your opinion of the points listed in "Section A: ISU Extension agrees to..."**

Acceptable as is

Indifferent

Modification needed on the following points:

*If you feel modification is needed, list the subsection number and your recommendation below:*

**3. As you review the proposed MOU document, what is your opinion of the points listed in "Section B: The Extension district agrees to..."**

Acceptable as is

Indifferent

Modification needed on the following points:

*If you feel modification is needed, list the subsection number and your recommendation below:*

**4. As you review the proposed MOU document, what is your opinion of the points listed in "Section C: ISU Extension and the Extension District agrees to..."**

Acceptable as is

Indifferent

Modification needed on the following points:

*If you feel modification is needed, list the subsection number and your recommendation below:*

**5. After you have heard or seen the proposed MOU, which choice would you prefer?**

- Continue with the current /old MOU and the access fee approach in the April 2009 restructuring document.
- Move to the proposed MOU and Shared Support Services approach, taking into consideration feedback and new ideas received by this survey.

**6. The proposed MOU calls for councils to participate in the Shared Support Services at the rate of 1.1 percent of the annual maximum tax asking for the district. What is your level of satisfaction on those two items that are for the county's benefit?**

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
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Cougar Mountain software, license, & support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information Technology (I.T.) Network support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Comments:*

7. The proposed MOU approach also calls for elimination of "in and out money". This is money sent to campus (the access fee), and then reallocated back to counties under various formulas. (i.e.: send access fee in for postage, and then receive funds for postage.)

The new approach recommended is essentially "pay as you go."

As you answer the following questions, be mindful that the only way for campus to continue these items is to raise the Shared Support Services percent that counties pay in.

	Acceptable	Indifferent	Unacceptable
County pays the group rental price of its postage machine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Print on demand credit eliminated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4-H publication credit eliminated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No postage allocation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. A major objective of the MOU committee was to more clearly answer the question of how funds sent to campus are spent. What additional information do you need?

9. As you think about revised council responsibilities due to restructuring, what are the parts of greatest concern for you?

10. Mark the region in which you are located:

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1  | <input type="radio"/> 2  | <input type="radio"/> 3  | <input type="radio"/> 4  | <input type="radio"/> 5  |
| <input type="radio"/> 6  | <input type="radio"/> 7  | <input type="radio"/> 8  | <input type="radio"/> 9  | <input type="radio"/> 10 |
| <input type="radio"/> 11 | <input type="radio"/> 12 | <input type="radio"/> 13 | <input type="radio"/> 14 | <input type="radio"/> 15 |
| <input type="radio"/> 16 | <input type="radio"/> 17 | <input type="radio"/> 18 | <input type="radio"/> 19 | <input type="radio"/> 20 |

11. Please note your county: \_\_\_\_\_

12. My County Extension District is best described as a

- Large population county, over approximately 50,000 people
- Medium population county
- Small population county, under approximately 10,000 people

13. My tenure with the Extension Council:

- In my first term
- In my second term
- Three or more terms

14. What questions or comments do you have for the MOU Committee? (feel free to use back of paper)

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## Group Options for County Extension Employee Benefits

*This section is NOT related to the MOU*

At the IACEC meeting on October 24th, Poweshiek County Extension Council representatives inquired about IACEC considering a group health insurance option for County Extension employees. The needs for these benefits may have changed due to restructuring. Please take a few minutes to give us your opinion on the idea and interest.

**1. Do you now have, or will you soon have, more county paid employees than before the elimination of the CEED position?**

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

**2. Has your council had discussions in the last six months about how to provide and administer employee benefits such as health insurance or other similar benefits options?**

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

**3. In light of restructuring and changing Extension employee situations, what is your opinion on investigating the following:**

*NOTE: This does not mean that Extension provides for all the costs of the benefit, rather that this benefit is offered as an option available for employee's purchase at a group price. Councils would each decide to what degree they fund these benefits.*

	Yes, this is a good time	Yes, but not now	Never
Group plan health insurance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group plan dental and vision insurance, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group life insurance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child care spending account (tax sheltered)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health care spending account (tax sheltered)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cafeteria plan where employee chooses how to spend their money	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**4. Does your council now offer access to a modern employee benefit plan where employees may choose options (sometimes called a cafeteria plan) that meets users specific family needs?**

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

**5. Should the Iowa Association of County Extension Councils:**

	Yes	No
Give leadership to investigating this	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Be the coordinating state entity for County Extension employee group benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Return to: IACEC  
1426 Elm St.  
Grinnell, IA 50112**

Surveys must be postmarked by Wed., November 25 to be included in the analysis. Alternately, you may fill out the web survey by going to [www.iacec.info/MOU.htm](http://www.iacec.info/MOU.htm). Web surveys will be accepted until November 30 at 12:00 noon.