



**STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION/FFA AND
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

It is mutually agreed young people/adults regardless of residence need an education with excellence. Agriculture continues to become more complex, with increasing need for specialized informal education, leadership, educational experiences, and good citizenship. It is understood the training offered by both Agricultural Education/FFA and Cooperative Extension Service/4-H contributes to the individual's preparation for a future in agricultural production, agribusiness, or related life preparation. The need for educational opportunities, diverse programs, and activities is much greater than the combined capacities of both agencies or youth organizations.

To accomplish the most potential for the greater number of youth/adults in Nebraska, each agency and organization agrees with the following items set forth:

1. Where Agricultural Education/FFA and Extension Staff or members are jointly active or cooperating on community or other educational efforts, joint planning, staffing, organization by the youth/adult involved, program execution is expected by each agency in a cooperative and harmonious relationship. Publicity or other public statements issued by either, will give joint recognition to the participation and contribution of each. Publicity will reflect the quality and quantity of programming and achievement.
2. If the youth desire, simultaneous participation in both programs is acceptable and encouraged. However, there will not be duplication of project animals or other production units. For purposes of exhibition, this means an animal can only be nominated and shown in one organization or the other, not both. Participants enrolling in the same project or enterprise in both organizations is permissible but not recommended.
3. Contest entries, livestock shows, and judging shall be the responsibility of the respective agency. Each agency is responsible for entries in their own contests, the conduct and supervision of judging of their own shows and events.
4. In relation to district and state contests, fairs and shows, the two organizations believe these should be separate activities to retain identity, provide recognition and opportunities to more individuals. When participation level does not warrant separate contests in the same discipline area, the contests may be held simultaneously.
5. Local Extension Staff and Agricultural Education/FFA Instructors should determine the desirability of events, shows, and fairs when decisions are made to jointly sponsor. Equal and cooperative efforts in planning and staffing will be required. Decisions at local or county fairs are to be determined by the policy groups at that level.
6. Extension prepared written materials cannot be furnished free to public or private schools. If colleges and high schools wish to use Extension and/or 4-H literature, single copies will be supplied for reference or duplication. If such materials are available in sufficient numbers, they may be purchased in quantity. Slide sets and audio-visual aids will be available for purchase.

Congeniality, cooperation and adequate communication should be the basis of working relationships and understandings between the two programs.

Date: _____

Elizabeth Birnstihl

Elizabeth Birnstihl
State 4-H Program Administrator
University of Nebraska

Donelle Johnson

Donelle Johnson
FFA Executive Director
State Department of Education