



# Affiliate Annual Report Form

Submit this form to your Regional Director and the  
NEAFCS National Office, 325 John Knox Rd. Suite L103 Tallahassee, FL 32303  
Fax: (850) 222-3019 Email: djessup@executiveoffice.org

Please return this form by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year to your Regional Director and a copy to the National Office.  
**This report should cover anything that has occurred between January 1 and December 31 of the current year.**

State/Territory: Montana Date: 12/12/2024  
Person Completing Form: Kati Purkett Phone: 406-400-2333

**What accomplishments/progress has your Affiliate made in the past year?** (Consider member resources, awards and recognition, public affairs, etc.)

2024 MEAFCS Awards: **Sara Fluer, in Yellowstone County**, receives a Family Health and Wellness Award for “Home Food Preservation: What’s In and What’s Out”, **Michelle Grocke, Alison Brennan, Lori Meyr and Katharine Sutphen**, have the winning a team award for Innovation in Programming with the Mental Wellness Conversation Curriculum, **Kellie Kahtani, in Silver Bow County** won a School Wellness Award for Harvest of the Month, **Katrin Finch, former Cascade County** Agent won a state award **and placed second in the western region** for Human Development and Family Relationships for her work on the Memory Café work in Great Falls.

**What are your Affiliate’s goals for the next 12 months?**

- The Montana Affiliate plans to collaborate with stakeholders to continue to meet the emerging needs of Montana residents in all aspects of Family and Consumer Science.
- We plan to offer more multidisciplinary workshops by intertwining mental health topics when opportunities arise.
- We plan to continue to utilize our formal and informal needs assessment data to inform programming.

**What challenges do Cooperative Extension and/or Family & Consumer Sciences face in your state?**

Societal costs of poor health related to nutrition and physical activity are on the rise in Montana. Accessing healthy, nutritious and affordable foods is a major challenge for many families in Montana. Almost 20% of Montana children live in poverty (higher on reservations). Montana has an abundance of nutritious, seasonal, wild, and homegrown foods appropriate for food preservation.

Family economic education can extend financial resources and increase the ability of families to meet their own needs, thereby reducing costs to society. Understanding estate law can prevent tremendous financial loss for families. Family economic education can extend financial resources and increase the ability of families to meet their own needs, thereby reducing costs to society. Understanding estate law can prevent tremendous financial loss for families.

Montana’s population is aging, with unique needs for elderly citizens. Changes in health, self-sufficiency, access to nutritious food, and appropriate healthcare are challenges for the elderly. Over 6,000 Montanans are the primary care providers for their grandchildren. Approximately 118,000 unpaid caregivers provide 110 million hours of care to loved ones at a value of \$1.4 billion.

Montana has ranked in the top five in the U.S. in suicide rates for more than 40 years. This alarming statistic and the previously mentioned stresses on individuals and families are increasing citizens’ recognition of the importance of mental health.

Extension, COA/MAES will continue to conduct research, education, and outreach that improves healthy living, nutrition education, food preservation skills, food safety knowledge and practice, food accessibility, individual and family economic and estate planning education, caregiver support and resources, and mental health support ([Montana State University Combined Research and Extension 2023 Plan of Work](#)).

**To assist NEAFCS in future planning and communication, please list concerns your Affiliate has for the NEAFCS Board to address:**