

## Extension Information Technologies Mentor Project

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**Date:** June 16, 1999

### ***Introduction:***

During the Florida First Conference, many participants stated that information provided by UF/IFAS must be current and available in electronic form. The information must be obtainable on demand at any time.

Currently, UF/IFAS Extension Faculty do not have the skills required to meet these needs and demands. Particularly, in relationship to the delivery of information using web-based technologies such as web pages, interactive video via the web, streaming video and audio, interactive digital diagnostics and other new technologies under development.

An alternative for adoption and development of technology skills by UF/IFAS County Extension Faculty is that of insuring that early adopters are well trained and supported. The purpose of this is to create a faculty resource that demonstrates the technology in actual program delivery and becomes part of the support structure for learning faculty.

We envision a system where county extension faculty have the capacity to use information technologies as an aid to effectively and efficiently deliver county extension programs. In order to achieve this, it is imperative that county faculty are conversant with a minimum set of skills. These skills will evolve as IT evolves in the near future, and as the level of competence of faculty and clients increases. This set of skills is as follows:

1) Web site design, development and maintenance

2) Use of communication facilities

Email

List and chat servers

Video conferencing

Shared Applications

Electronic Calendar

3) Use web facilities provided by IFAS

Plan of work and reporting system

Digital Distance Information System

EDIS, etc.

Making IT a part of the Extension Faculty culture will require a multifaceted strategy, including:

1. The development of better facilities and tools that are relevant and enhance the abilities of county faculty,
2. On-going and system-wide training in IT, and
3. Peer conducted demonstrations with a successful track record.

This particular proposal addresses item 3 above.

**Goal**

The goal of this project is to identify and train two faculty members (0.2 FTE each) per district to be trained and act as early IT adopters and IT mentors for other faculty in the district. This group of faculty will:

1. Attend training conducted by UF/IFAS –IT to insure that they acquire the skill set above.
2. Is fully equipped to implement and use current IT systems.
3. Conducts demonstrations and peer-to-peer training.

**Time line**

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Call for participants												
Selection of participants												
Equipment purchases												
Training of participants												
Mentoring/Training												
Travel to Comdex												
Project evaluation												

**Budget**

**Extension Information Technologies Mentor Project**

**First  
Year**

Equipment	UC	No.	Subtotal
Notebook PC	\$ 2,000	10	\$ 20,000
Digital Camera	\$ 1,000	10	\$ 10,000
Projection Unit	\$ 2,400	10	\$ 24,000
VideoCam	\$ 120	10	\$ 1,200
<b>Software</b>			
Office 2000	\$ 34	10	\$ 340
Photo Enhancer	\$ 55	10	\$ 550
CU See Me	\$ 50	10	\$ 500
<b>Travel</b>			
GNV IST			\$ 12,500
Comdex			\$ 10,100
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 79,190</b>

**Second Year**

<b>Travel</b>			
GNV IST			\$ 12,500
Comdex			\$ 10,100
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,600</b>