

**Churchill County
Agenda Report**

Letters Received C
Consent # _____

Date Submitted: February 11, 2008

Agenda Item:

Agenda Date Requested: February 20, 2008

To: Board of Churchill County Commissioners
From: Pamela D. Moore, Administrative Aide to the Board of County Commissioners
Subject Title: The Churchill County Farm Bureau writes to the Office of the President of the University of Nevada, Reno concerning evaluation of the Cooperative Extension and a potential merging of Extended Studies.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

Resolution

Ordinance

Formal Action/Motion

Other – Informational Only

Does this action require a Business Impact Statement? No


Recommended Board Action: None.

Discussion: The Churchill County Farm Bureau writes to the Office of the President of the University of Nevada, Reno concerning evaluation of the Cooperative Extension and a potential merging of Extended Studies. Churchill County Farm Bureau is concerned that stakeholders were not consulted earlier in the process. Their concerns are outlined in the attached letter.

Prepared By: _____ Date: February 11, 2008
Pamela D. Moore, Administrative Aide

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____, 2008
Brad Goetsch, Churchill County Manager

 _____ Date: *2/11*, 2008
Rusty Jardine, Churchill County Civil Deputy Attorney

 _____ Date: *2/11/08*, 2008
Alan Kall, Churchill County Comptroller

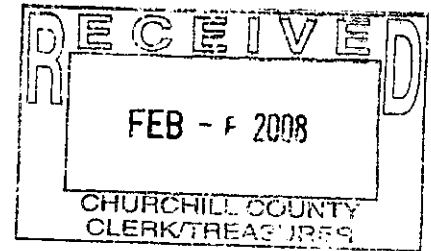
Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____
1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____

(Vote Recorded By)

To:

President Milton Glick
Office of the President
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-0016



Stan Johnson
Retired Vice Provost for Extension
Iowa State University

Dear President Glick and Stan Johnson:

Churchill County Farm Bureau is concerned that stakeholders were not consulted earlier in the process of evaluating Cooperative Extension and a potential merging of Extended Studies. We oppose any such merging of Cooperative Extension with Extended studies for the following reasons:

1. Nevada Farm Bureau, with Churchill County Farm Bureau strongly concurring, asked the Nevada legislature to move Cooperative Extension out of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR) and into a separate college because CABNR no longer conducted agricultural research that met our needs in the field. This occurred just prior to the 1993 date mentioned on page 3 of your report "Draft Report: Review of Cooperative Extension and Extended Studies" dated January 15, 2008. With this arrangement each county Extension office can tailor their programming to the needs of the stakeholders they serve. The result of this move, as we see it has been positive. Now Extension personnel are more sympathetic to our needs and doing everything they can; including collaborating with appropriate personnel at land grant universities in other states that still have practical agricultural research. In our opinion the only thing that would make Extension even more effective and useful to us would be to change the research emphasis of various faculty positions on University of Nevada, Reno campus to better reflect the needs Extension faculty see in their counties. We oppose moving Extension faculty onto the main campus because they would lose the connection that makes them so useful to stakeholders.
2. Extended Studies is a fee based program and as such would not be consistent with the USDA Office of General Counsel as is mentioned in your report on page 10. Churchill County Farm Bureau would also like to remind you that the money you receive from the counties comes from property taxes collected directly from property owners or indirectly from people who rent from property owners. We feel all citizens have already paid for the services of Cooperative Extension.
3. Any studies or changes to Cooperative Extension should not be initiated without the input of the "County Advisory Boards" that you recommend on page 8 of your report. If a county does not currently have one of these boards they should immediately formulate one. Recommendations for

members of these boards should come from county commissions and not university faculty. We recommend any decisions regarding "Draft Report: Review of Cooperative Extension and Extended Studies" be postponed until each county has a "County Advisory Board".

4. In reading "Draft Report: Review of Cooperative Extension and Extended Studies" Churchill County Farm Bureau is concerned about faculty attitudes toward agriculture. The tone of the report seemed "anti-agriculture" and some of our members have had encounters with UNR faculty on the main campus in which they were told they shouldn't be farming in Churchill County. One local farmer who had this experience wanted information on raising sweet corn to sell either at a roadside stand or farmers' market. Currently farmers' markets in Nevada are begging for more Nevada grown fresh produce.

In closing the Churchill County Farm Bureau recommends that any changes to Cooperative Extension at the UNR be postponed until "County Advisory Boards" in all of Nevada's counties have a chance to review the report and make their recommendations. Further we want the UNR, University of Nevada Board of Regents, and the Nevada legislature to follow these recommendations and let any future decisions about Cooperative Extension be driven by ongoing "County Advisory Board" recommendations.

Sincerely,

Edith Isidoro-Mills
Edith Isidoro-Mills

President Churchill County Farm Bureau

Julie Wolf

Julie Wolf

Churchill County Farm Bureau Board

John McNary
John McNary

Churchill County Farm Bureau Board

Cc: Gwen Washburn (Churchill County Commission Chair), Assemblyman Tom Grady, Assemblyman Pete Goicochea, Assemblyman Ed Goedhart, State Senator Mike McGinness, Governor Jim Gibbons