



Fire-Related Training and Educational Opportunities for Cooperative Extension & Other Educators

Jennifer Fawcett, North Carolina State University, jennifer_fawcett@ncsu.edu

MAIN QUESTIONS OR ISSUES THAT YOU ADDRESSED

What types of fire-related training and educational opportunities are available for Cooperative Extension and other educators?

LOCATION AND ECOSYSTEM INVESTIGATED

Nationwide, in all states where wildfires are an issue and/or prescribed fire is an opportunity to mitigate wildfire effects.

KEY FINDINGS OF YOUR RESEARCH

1. As communication and education experts with established trust in communities, the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) is well-positioned to educate diverse audiences on an array of fire issue topics across the U.S. However, more wildland fire education and training of CES staff is needed.
2. There are multiple online and in-person wildland fire-related training and educational opportunities available for Cooperative Extension and other educators, even for those with little to no previous experience or background in the subject.
3. Online opportunities such as those found on campus.extension.org allow for participants to work at their own pace.
4. Training is available for youth educators through programs such as the FireWorks Educational Program.

HOW DID YOU ANSWER THE MAIN QUESTIONS OR INFORM THE ISSUES?

1. Reviewed and compiled existing training and educational programs that would be appropriate for Extension and other educators.
2. Compiled a list of Universities offering distance education courses on wildland fire.
3. Noted any available asynchronous, self-paced courses, which may be most appropriate for those Extension and other educators who do not have focus areas in forestry or fire.

HOW MIGHT/WILL IT INFLUENCE FIRE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS OR PRACTICES?

When Cooperative Extension Service (CES) staff participate in wildland fire training and other educational opportunities, they will be better prepared to assist not only with programming but also to serve as a resource before, during, and after local incidents.

WHO IS THE MAIN END-USER OF YOUR RESEARCH?

1. Cooperative Extension Service, as well as educators in schools or agencies.
2. Homeowners, landowners, and youth will be the ultimate end users and beneficiaries.

CONGRESS SESSION

Exploring Past & Future Roles of the Cooperative Extension Service in U.S. Fire Education