***DRAFT [September 2014]:***

**2015 Regional Priorities: As Established by the NCR Deans/Directors**

**A Review of Priorities from 2014:**

* Provide regional and national leadership to the implementation of the national 4H Working Group’s recommendations.

***ACHIEVEMENTS:*** Cathann Kress (IA) and Renee McKee (Purdue) have demonstrated NCR leadership as members of the newly formed national 4H Leadership Committee.

* Expand use (and contributions) to the Measuring Excellence in Extension Database.

***ACHIEVEMENTS:*** Michael Ouart, one of our three ECOP representatives, serves as a member to the ECOP Program Sub-Committee which also means he is a member on the Measuring Excellence in Extension Database Committee. Michael has been instrumental in helping to align the national reporting database with our NCR Banner Outcomes. Also, the NCR is currently the only region in the country in which all of our (12) states have contributed information to the database.

* Follow-up from Fall Conference of 2013 – on several of the key observations and recommendations from the administrative groups regarding 21st Century Extension Professional [based upon the debriefing reports from each group].

***ACHIEVEMENTS:*** The theme from last year’s (2013) Fall Conference – the 21st Century Extension Profession has been carried on in many ways during the past year. For example, the 2014 Fall Conference theme on Organizational Culture, and keynote presentation by Joel Kotkin, are continuation of such attention.

* Look for more opportunities to have in-depth interaction; fewer number and select issues.

***ACHIEVEMENTS:*** The year’s fall conference is an example of that with the attention to Community Vitality. The topic arose from a Director’s Retreat on the subject this past July.

**FOR 2015:**

* Focus attention on evaluating our leadership development efforts of NELD, Lead21, and FSLI. We want to examine how those leadership and training programs are helping us support the next generation of Extension leaders in the NCR.
* Continue looking for opportunities to have in-depth interactions as a Directors group: fewer discussions, but more attention to select issues. Topics for 2015 may include (these and others): follow up to the organizational culture survey, opportunities to enhance collaboration with NCRA.
* The following are priority topics on which the NCR will provide regional and national leadership.

**Water Security (quantity and quality).**

The NCR is well positioned to lead on Water Security. This includes taking advantage of the NCR’s Regional Water Network, leading in the development of a Hypoxia Extension Research Activity (ERA), and in continuing to provide leadership that will operationalize the recommendations from the national Water Working Group (e.g., the $100M ‘Ask,’ for our nation’s Land Grant Universities).

**Climate**

The North Central Directors have identified key (INITIAL) contacts in all 12 of our states. While we have already begun working with the newly emerging USDA Climate HUBS, we will be asking these state-climate contacts to consider forming a team, much like a multistate Extension Research Activity (ERA). Both of our Executive Directors (NCCEA and NCRA) will assist in helping to start this NCR Climate Team.

**Community Vitality**

Based on recommendations from the Fall Conference (which includes recommendations from: Program Area break-out Discussion and the follow-up post-conference meeting) the North Central Region will hold a regional symposium on Community Vitality in 2015. This symposium will be used to identify: (1) multistate priorities and program needs; (2) the Extension niche in addressing Community Vitality needs; (3) the opportunities for cross-state sharing of program approaches, curriculum, and specialist expertise; and (4) prospects for enhancing support for Extension programming.

**Health**

Recommendations from the ECOP Health Task Force have created a lot of attention for defining Extension program priorities across a variety of health issues here. Our Region should continue providing a national role in these discussions as the Policy Board of Directors (Board of Ag Assembly) charges a follow-up Task Force with integrating the ECOP recommendations across the other COPS (ESCOP, etc.). We also challenge our NCR program areas to further identify priorities for how they can have a role in providing programming on health and wellness; especially as integrated approaches within a state and/or among NCR states. Furthermore, we want to continue the (12-state) synergy/collaboration that has been created in the proposal for a Regional Nutrition Center. This center will be an essential catalyst in developing a regional road map for health and wellness priorities in the NCR.