MCSFR & RREA Administrative Meeting  
November 15th, 2021  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

The 2021 McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research (MCSFR) and the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) programs will hold two events (Fall and Spring) to identify opportunities, discuss challenges, and collaborate in addressing the sustainability of forest and rangeland resources through research, education, and extension strategies.

This first meeting –Nov. 15th-, intends to connect MCSFR Administrative Technical Representatives and RREA Project Directors through a series of talks, breakout groups, webinars, and guest speakers to learn more about the latest changes in the reporting system, financial and administrative management of programs.

The Spring meeting –TBA-, will bring together the programs’ PDs to share their projects in terms of planning challenges and successes. As an output, we expect that the meeting serves as a venue for PDs to learn about each other efforts and initiate a conversation on how they can collaborate to keep moving forward to a sustainable agriculture system.

Panelists

George Ruyle  
Marley Chair for Sustainable Rangeland Stewardship, University of Arizona

Mark Thorn  
Specialist, State Range and Livestock Extension, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Kris Tiles  
Natural Resources Educator, University of Wisconsin-Extension
# NIFA Staff

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Timothy Conner</strong></td>
<td>Acting Deputy Director</td>
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<td>Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment</td>
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<td><strong>Jim Dobrowolski</strong></td>
<td>National Program Leader, RREA</td>
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<td><strong>Daniel Cassidy</strong></td>
<td>National Program Leader, MCSFR</td>
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<td><strong>Eric Norland</strong></td>
<td>National Science Liaison</td>
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<td><strong>Rocio Gutierrez</strong></td>
<td>Program Specialist-RREA</td>
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<td><strong>Monica Jerome</strong></td>
<td>Program Specialist-MCSFR</td>
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<td><strong>Andrea Thompson</strong></td>
<td>Program Assistant</td>
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### Panelists

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<td>George Ruyle</td>
<td>Specialist, Rangeland Ecology and Management</td>
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**George Ruyle**  
**Specialist, Rangeland Ecology and Management**  
**Marley Endowed Chair for Sustainable Rangeland Stewardship**  
**Co-Director, Natural Resources Users Law and Policy Center**  
**University of Arizona**  

As a professor and extension specialist in Rangeland Management, his primary role is to provide leadership for statewide educational programming backed by problem-solving research and focused on sustainable use of rangelands. His interests have a central theme to provide various client-groups the ecological foundation essential for the implementation of effective rangeland management. Through participatory research and education, George’s programming helps build capacity in collaborative conservation, usually in rural communities and involving publicly held resources. Dr. Ruyle enjoys working with widely diverse interests and blending the theoretical aspects of rangeland science with the practical needs of local communities. He specializes in conservation ranching for sustainable rangeland livestock production, primarily through the practices of planned grazing, monitoring, and adaptive management.

**Kris Tiles**  
**Co-Director, Regional Natural Resources Education Program**  
**Marathon County UW-Extension**  

Kris joined UW-Extension in April 2004. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in Forest Science from the UW-Madison, she joined the Peace Corps where she worked as an agroforestry volunteer for two years. Upon her return, she worked for Oregon State University as a researcher looking at spotted owl habitat. She returned to Madison, where she earned a master’s degree in Social Forestry. Previously to joining UW-Extension, she worked with the Cooperative Development Services assisting private forest owners. She is currently one of the Natural Resource Educators that provide leadership on nutrient reduction and water quality projects and a variety of forestry initiatives across the state. Signature water projects include Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation efforts in the Lower Fox, Wisconsin, St. Croix, Red Cedar and Rock River watersheds and the Lower Fox River Demo Farm Network. Forestry initiatives include Learn About Your Land (LAYL) workshops and other efforts to engage landowners and encourage sustainable management of privately-owned forests.
Mark Thorne
Associate Specialist in Range and Livestock Management
University of Hawaii-Manoa, Cooperative Extension Service
Dr. Thorne has served Hawaii since 2003 with a focus on sustainable tropical livestock production. Dr. Thorne’s applied research and extension outreach programs focus on the development of decision support tools, livestock production practices, and grazing management strategies that help Hawaii livestock producers remain sustainable in the face of changing climate conditions that result in frequent droughts, severe storms, and invasive pasture pests. The findings of his research are disseminated through workshops, extension publications, and direct assistance to Hawaii’s livestock producers. Interests: food, agricultural sustainability, natural resources

Program (1:00-6:00 PM EDT)
1:00 PM  NIFA Introductions
1:15 PM  MCSFR & RREA Programs: Overview
2:00 PM  Panel Discussion (RREA and MCSFR Strategic Plans)
3:00 PM  Break
3:15 PM  NRS Webinar
4:00 PM  Administrative processes: Request for applications, Amendments, Extension for projects, expectation for reviewing projects
4:30 PM  MCSFR & RREA Program Evaluation-stakeholders’ discussion
5:20 PM  Q&A and feedback
6:00  Adjourn

Contact
For questions related to the MCSFR & RREA Administrative Meeting, please contact your program specialist:

National Program Leader MCSFR/RREA
Patrick.cassidy@usda.gov

RREA Program Specialist
Rocio.gutierrezgarzon@usda.gov

MCSFR Program Specialist
Registration

You are invited to a ZoomGov meeting.

When: Nov 15, 2021 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItd-6grzkrGvcmZw-fx0eZ2a0T170F9X0

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

“If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Rocio Gutierrez, RREA Program Specialist, at Rocio.gutierrezgarzon@usda.gov no later than Monday, November 1st 2021. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.”