

# EXTENSION RECONSIDERED MINNESOTA 2014

Total **247** participants

**4**  
Aug 27, 2014

**33**

**EXTENSION RECONSIDERED INTERACTIVE SESSION, CAC + AMC MEETING**

33 CAC + AMC members participated. We asked: "What should U of M Extension do to deliver on that purpose and promise in the next 100 years?" **5 key themes emerged:** 1. **Innovate & be flexible;** 2. **Community-based;** 3. **Preserve the past;** 4. **Be excellent in research and delivery;** 5. **Partner and collaborate;** 6. **Address administration.**

The Lord made me | He made a simple man | Not much money | Not much land | He didn't make me no banker, accountant or a lawyer | When the Lord made me he made a back land farmer

I got involved with Extension at Cluster 12 days | Helped Martin County stay strong in 4-H | Ran test plots for research with Liz Stahl | Recorded all the data during harvest in the fall

I was honored to be asked to join the CAC | But I wondered why Extension would want a country hick like me | But I hope with my advisory & communications skills | I could help get Extension through the bumps & the hills

Cause when the Lord made me | He made a simple man...  
*Guitar Song*

**5**  
Sep 24, 2014

**STATEWIDE TEAM INTERACTIVE PLANNING SESSION**

8 Key themes emerged: 1. Build a coalition & continue the effort; 2. Extend effort to Ext. meetings; 3. Communicate about Ext.; 4. Address faculty/U + Ext. exchange; 5. Involve Arts + Humanities; 6. Envision the future Ext.; 7. Address Ext.'s focus on Grand Challenges; 8. Address Ext.'s approach to Community.

**11**

**6**  
Oct 6 | 7, 2014

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS, EXTENSION PROGRAM CONFERENCE**

30 Extension staffs participated. We asked: "What are the 'Essential', 'Delightful' and 'Strong' elements that might 'Set Aside' to keep Extension strong. Essential: 1. **Access and connection;** 2. **Transformation of current model;** 3. **Appropriate service;** 4. **Leveraging past experience and brand;** 5. **Responsive and quality approaches;** 6. **Capacity building.** Delightful: 1. **New building;** 2. **Innovative teaching/training for all ages;** 3. **Access, Connection, Trust;** 4. **Extension as a going beyond risk;** 5. **Letting go and reuse of tools.** Strong: 1. **No silos or ivory tower;** 2. **No silos;** 3. **Capacity**

**30**

**EXTENSION RECONSIDERED KICKOFF SESSION, RSDP SCC MEETING**

**EXTENSION RECONSIDERED MINNESOTA RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. **Keep accessibility and equity to all;** 2. **Keep partnership and collaboration with the community;** 3. **Continue to be the go-to place of expertise;** 4. **Establish a process of continuous innovation and transformation;** 5. **Address grand challenges while engaging community;** 6. **Continue to preserve and leverage the past to inform the future;** 7. **Integrate internally across Extension while transcending silos;** 8. **Address administrative structure and transform models;** 9. **Build capacity within Extension;** 10. **Continue engaging in public Extension Reconsidered;** 11. **Continue engaging in scholarship and revitalizing of democratic ideals and practice;** 12. **Build a coalition by involving Extension staff and community at the county level;** 13. **Build connections across Extension with the work of the engaged University;** 14. **Communicate about Extension and its work including using the arts, design and humanities.**

**1**  
May 21, 2014

**25**

**7 Cloquet Regional Ext. Office staffs participated.** We reinforced the idea of ER as a "thought experiment" and asked to explore the 'promise' of Extension and give feedback. **6 key themes emerged:** 1. **Innovation;** 2. **Grand challenges;** 3. **Quality and depth of service;** 4. **Accessibility;** 5. **Integration;** 6. **Purpose & Need.**

**INPUT SESSION, REGIONAL EXTENSION OFFICE, CLOQUET**

25 RSDP SCC members representing community and University participated. We asked to envision the future agenda for Extension from the 'University perspective' and a 'Community perspective' while addressing the questions related to the past, present and future of Extension.

**5 key themes emerged:** 1. **Integration;** 2. **Innovation/Redefinition/Flexibility;** 3. **Partnership;** 4. **Skill building;** 5. **Grand challenges.**

**7**

**2**  
July 17, 2014

**PLENARY SESSION**

100 participants as audience including Extension staff, university staff and faculty and community members. 3 speakers represented the university, community and national Extension Reconsidered. Jeff Garfinkle representing community suggested **7 key points:**

1. **Long-term thought experiment;** 2. **Land-grant focus;** 3. **Equity and Access;** 4. **Promise of Engaged U;** 5. **Public Scholarship;** 6. **Revitalizing democratic ideals and practice;** 7. **Continuous "folk-process" of renewal.**

**100**

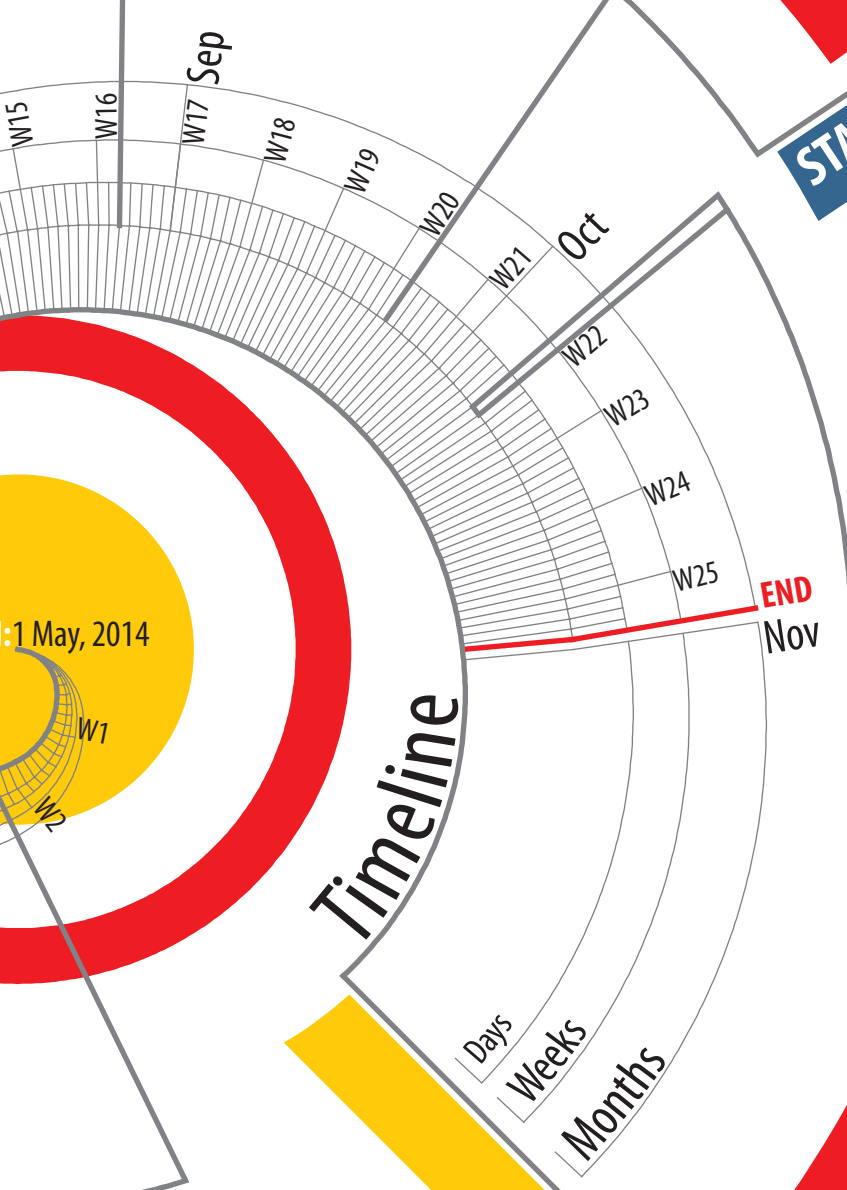
**3**  
July 31, 2014

**EXTENSION RECONSIDERED SESSIONS, RURAL DESIGN CONFERENCE**

**EXTENSION RECONSIDERED DESIGN THINKING WORKSHOP**

41 participants representing the voice of University and community members included Extension staff, university staff and faculty and community members. 2 of the 5 teams focused on 'Extension serving the people of Minnesota for the next 100 years'. 2 teams focused on 'Extension at an engaged University and faculty and community members'. 3 teams focused on 'Extension's role and contribution in the national-global context for the next 100 years'. 4 themes emerged from the Design Thinking Session: 1. **Partnership-** Strong relationship/partnership between University and community with mutual benefits; 2. **Networked, weblike engagement-** A two way flow or multidirectional flow of resources and benefits, between University and community, supporting Equity, sustainability, and access; 3. **Equity & Access-** Meeting needs of community, technology, high quality practices, information, expertise, community, technology, high quality practices.

**41**



- ↑ = 1 participant
- Red = Extension Reconsidered Main Sessions
- Blue = Extension Reconsidered Input/Planning Sessions
- Yellow = Recommendations

## ABOUT

In February 2014, Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life announced a new initiative in partnership with the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, and the Art of the Rural organization. The initiative, titled "Extension Reconsidered", is engaging teams from 13 states in organizing a series of events that invite citizens to imagine and consider new ways for Cooperative Extension to serve as a vital resource for communities in the 21st century.

University of Minnesota is one of 13 land-grant universities participating in reflecting upon and envisioning cooperative extension's role and relevance across the whole of American higher education. University of Minnesota Extension has a vision of

creating a stronger Minnesota by generating research, education and outreach in environment, agriculture, communities, food, families and youth. Extension in Minnesota provides practical education and science-based research to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

University of Minnesota Extension, in partnership with colleagues from Design Thinking @ College of Design will develop and facilitate a series of meaningful and creative discussions for our state's Extension Reconsidered using Design Thinking.



Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**EXTENSION**

**Design Thinking**  
@ COLLEGE OF DESIGN

**COLLEGE OF DESIGN**  
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