

**Date: July 21, 2008**

**To:** District Extension Administrators, County Extension Directors and County Coordinators  
**From:** Chris Boleman and Courtney Dodd  
**Subject:** Validation of Stakeholder Input with the County Leadership Advisory Board

With the advent of the Leadership Advisory Boards in 2007, one of their major roles is to help provide direction and focus for the county program by ensuring that educational programs are reaching the needs of local audiences. The next "official" Leadership Advisory Board Validation of Stakeholder Input will be in late Fall 08 – Spring 09. This process has taken the place of the Texas Community Futures Forum.

One of the items that should help the county Leadership Advisory Board validate issues is the new county strategic plan. Faculty and staff in Extension Organizational Development have created a county strategic plan for each county. These documents were created by using program plans placed into the TExAS system. Please use these documents as a resource to share with county Leadership Advisory Boards as they assist you in determining the next appropriate steps with educational programs and to help identify new issues the county might be facing.

This process will be similar to 2007 except there will be fewer questions. This year's process will not ask you to identify the issue source or provide a narrative update. Instead, it will focus on progress of programs addressing the issue and new issues that have been identified by the Leadership Advisory Boards. The attached user's guide provides specific directions and steps to complete this task.

As mentioned above, we would like this process to be conducted with the Leadership Advisory Board in the fall of 2008 or spring of 2009. The website will be open for data entry on November 1, 2008 and will close May 15, 2009.

Please know that this is one of the most important items our Leadership Advisory Board does with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Their commitment to identifying new issues and validating current ones helps shape programmatic direction for the county, region, and state. The Leadership Advisory Board is critical to ensuring that our agency maintains relevancy.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Chris Boleman or Courtney Dodd.

*Attachments (2) – County Strategic Plans & Validation of Stakeholder Input User's Guide*

*cc – Regional Program Directors, Volunteer Steering Committee*

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