

Budget Justification Resources

Frequently Asked Questions – continued

7. What does an Agricultural Agent contribute to your county?

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agricultural agents help producers and agribusinesses provide a safe, nutritious food supply, meet their financial goals in a competitive, global marketplace and protect soil and water resources. They also work with individual citizens, businesses, organizations and government to develop effective public policies involving the agricultural community. These agents develop programs that focus on production technologies, farm financial management and marketing, nutrient and pest management and the interactions between land use and agriculture. Agriculture agents help urban and rural people with home and community gardening, landscaping and protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

How County Agricultural Agents Help:

County Agricultural Agents are the Link to University Research.

The county Agricultural agents provide direct access to the research and technology of the University of Wisconsin System. They provide direct contact to over \$74 million of research annually in the Colleges of Agriculture alone. Teams of county agents, state specialists and researchers bring world-class scientific knowledge directly to counties for use in developing options and alternatives for solving local problems.

County Agricultural Agents Provide Education and Options and Alternatives.

County agricultural education programs work with farmers and business people to select appropriate technologies and design production systems that improve their competitive position while enhancing the environment for all citizens. Equally important, these agents help citizens understand the complex nature of national and international business, which affects local farmers and agribusinesses.

County Agricultural Agents Educate Other Professionals.

Professional consultants, business people and concerned groups receive up-to-date information and training in many areas important to the local community. These professionals extend the resources and efforts of the individual agents. These educational programs empower local leaders and citizens with the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to address local problems effectively.

County Agricultural Agents Facilitate Decision-Making and Action.

The County Extension Office and the County Agricultural Agent are local facilitators who help people come together to solve their problems. These linkages are key to effective local action. They help identify issues and bring community leaders and groups together to develop options and alternatives. This leads to better coordination of local programs, better use of community resources, less duplication of effort and a more positive, viable community.