

THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

The Cooperative Extension System (CES) is administered through the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). For more information on the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), see their Web site at: www.csrees.usda.gov. For more information on Extension, see <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/qlinks/extension.html>.

EXTENSION COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND POLICY (ECOP)

The Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) is the Cooperative Extension System's national level policy development and planning body. An Extension Committee, appointed in 1905, was the genesis of the present Extension Committee on Organization and Policy.

Four years later, at the 1909 meeting of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Agricultural Experiment Stations, an Extension section was established. In 1915, the duties of the original committee were enlarged, and the present acronym was adopted.

ECOP is a standing committee created by the Cooperative Extension Section of the Board on Agriculture of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). For more information on NASULGC, see their Web site at www.nasulgc.org. It is an elected committee that functions as a Board of Directors with authority to make decisions consistent with a common mission and purpose.

Structurally, ECOP works through NASULGC, in concert with the CSREES/USDA, to initiate strategic planning and identify nationwide issues that lead to local, state, and national program/budget priorities. ECOP represents the states and territories in legislative matters before Congress, and develops and maintains linkages and supportive relationships with other federal agencies, national organizations, and associations.

For more information on ECOP, see their Web site at:
<http://www.aplu.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=387&srcid=637>.