What is a Good Extension Council?

Charles St. Clair, Community Development Specialist

There are a variety of ways to define what a "good" extension council might be, following are some characteristics.

- Has a clear written statement of its purposes and understands those purposes as a result of discussion.
- Believes in, respects and practices democratic values.
- Has a responsible leader who guides the council in its deliberations.
- Has a staff person who acts as advisor and information source.
- Has elected members who are qualified and genuinely interested in serving.
- Carefully plans the work to be accomplished.
- Works through its tasks one step at a time.
- Has a sense of priorities and timing.
- Works as a team rather than as individuals.
- Has compatible members who participate actively in deliberations and discussions.
- Keeps a written agenda, minutes of meetings and other necessary records.
- Evaluates itself regularly.
- Provides an enjoyable and productive experience for its members.
- Is open to new ideas and opportunities.
- Reflects the diversity of the citizens of the county.