

Distance Education Report

January – March, 2007

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Award Winning Program

The MSU Extension Service's Distance Education Program recently won two national awards and one state award.

The American Distance Education Consortium
Award of Excellence in Distance Education

The United States Distance Learning Association
Best Practices in Distance Learning Programming for Videoconferencing, Bronze Award

Mississippi IHL
Best Practices in Technology Second Place Award

Videoconferencing Sites Available

Research & Extension Centers: 9 rooms
County Classrooms: 6 rooms
Counties with carted units: 76 sites
On campus DAFVM rooms: 13 rooms

10 other sites are in process

County sites are a collaborative effort between the county boards of supervisors and the MSU Extension Service.

Videoconferences Year-to-Date

January 2007- March 2007: 287

18.11% increase above 1st Qtr, 2006

Includes client programs, in-service training, meetings, seminars, interviews, classes, CE programs and conferences.

Podcasting

The MSU Extension Service is one of the first Extension Services in the United States to begin providing programming appropriate for this medium. Some podcasts currently available can be found at <http://msucare.com/podcast/>

1st Quarter Highlighted Programs

County Employee Safety Training Program: Regularly scheduled safety training conferences are held at 7:30am in order to accommodate county employee's schedules. These programs are in response to a need made known by the county boards of supervisors. The first program was videoconferenced from the Ag and Bio Engineering Shop in order to use a tractor in the training.

Freedom Calls: Three videoconferences have been conducted this quarter between military families in Mississippi and their family members stationed in Camp Taji, Iraq and one with Al Asad Air Force Base, Iraq.

Mississippi Homemaker Volunteers: In February alone, 15 MHV board meetings, committee meetings and planning meetings were held over interactive video.

Quick Bites: Quick Bites is a lunchtime program held every Thursday targeted at general Extension clientele. The topics range from fiscal fitness to Tai Chi to various horticulture topics. Some sessions have had over 50 videoconference sites across the state.

Agribition Bull Sale: An online bidding system was piloted in conjunction with the videoconference component of the bull auction. Updates will be made and the system will be ready for use in the BCIA and MAFES sales this fall.

Rose Short Course: This short course, which involved 45 sites and over 500 participants, is co-sponsored by the American Rose Society (ARS), the MSU Extension Service and the MS Master Gardener Assoc. Presenters included the National Past



President of the ARS, MSU Horticulture Specialists, Director of Gardens at MSU, the MSU Florist Manager, Consulting Rosarians and Jackson and Perkins Marketing Coordinator. This is a pilot program of the ARS with national implications.