

WORKSHOP ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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These sessions were intended to report on the progress of the ECOP Task Force on local government activities. This report is a follow-up to the brief report made at the Burr Oak, Ohio 1978 Conference.

The Task Force has completed a preliminary draft of its final report which is now being released to a variety of individuals and organizations for their information, review, and comment. The Task Force was organized "to explore the ramifications of Co-operative Extension's involvement in local government educational programming."

The report contains six major elements: an introductory statement—titled "A New Challenge for Extension"; a statement defining local government and its participants; a statement considering the needs (information and educational) of local government and its participants; a review of current educational programming (Extension and others); a suggested set of strategies for Extension; and finally, a set of recommendations.

Of special concern to the conferees was the set of recommendations. While the number of specific recommendations may vary as the final report is completed, in essence they urge extension aggressively to pursue educational programming in this topical area. It should be noted that a number of Washington-based public interest groups have been generally supportive of the Task Force's work and favor some form of cooperative effort in the field.

