

THE NEEDS OF EXTENSION IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS) conducted research to identify the needs of Extension in the Southeast region as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey was completed by 831 Extension professionals in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and the Virgin Islands. These extension professionals included county agents, state specialists, multi-county agents, RSAs, SSAs, regional specialists, administrators, support staff, and miscellaneous others. Data were collected through an online Qualtrics survey sent to Extension professionals throughout the Southeast region. A panel of specialists with expertise in evaluation, survey design and Extension developed the survey and had a panel of experts in public health and medicine review the content before distribution. Data were collected from May 18 - June 16, 2020.

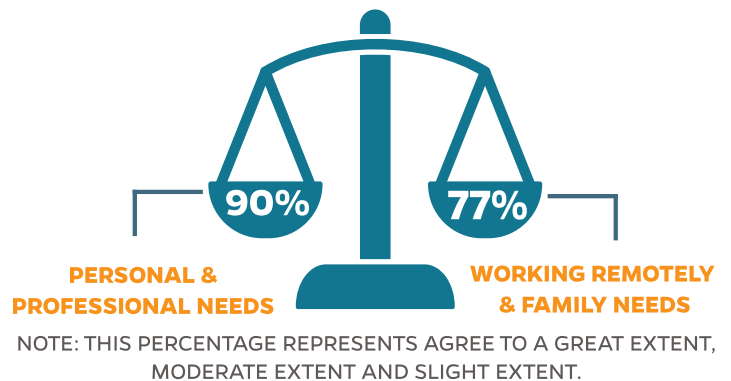
IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EXTENSION

According to a recent survey conducted by the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS), extension professionals are well-informed about COVID-19.

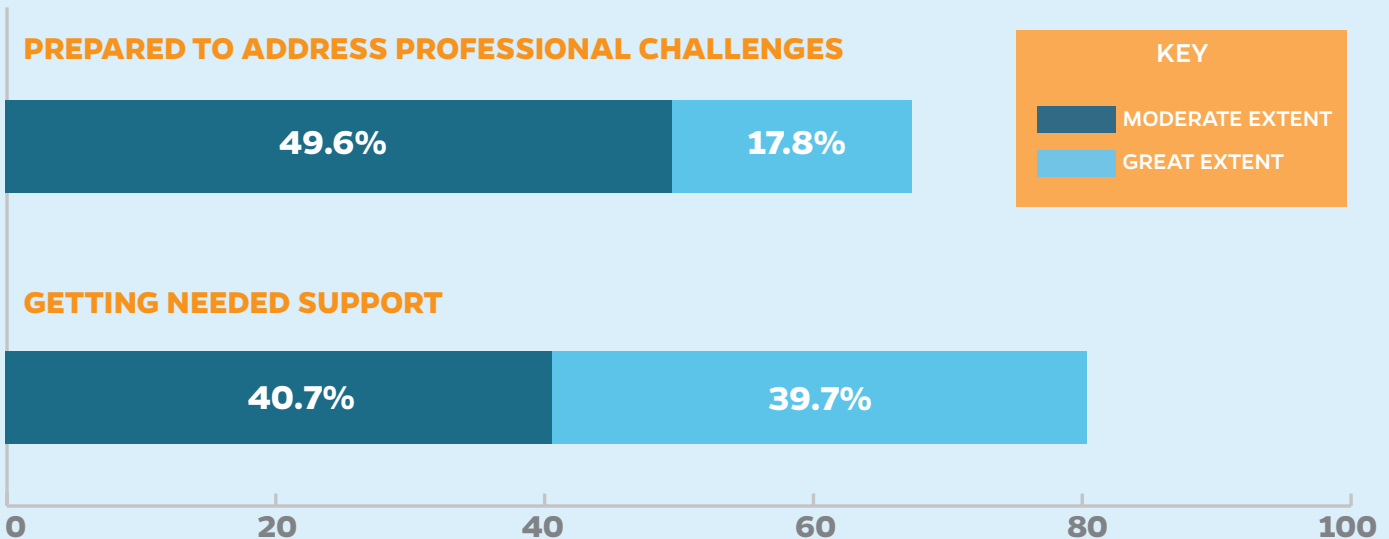
Extension professionals were asked about their difficulties balancing personal and professional needs, as well as their difficulty balancing working remotely and family needs. Ninety percent of respondents indicated that they experienced some level of difficulty balancing personal and professional needs. Meanwhile, 77% of respondents indicated that they experienced some level of difficulty balancing working remotely and family needs. Further analysis determined that parents with children, especially under the age of five, were more likely to experience difficulty balancing needs to a great extent.

Majority of respondents reported feeling prepared to address professional challenges and getting needed support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fifty percent of respondents indicated that they felt prepared to address professional challenges to a moderate extent. Another 18% indicated that they felt prepared to a great extent. Eighty percent of respondents agreed that they were getting needed support to a moderate or great extent.

MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED DIFFICULTIES BALANCING:



EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS PREPARED TO FACE CHALLENGES

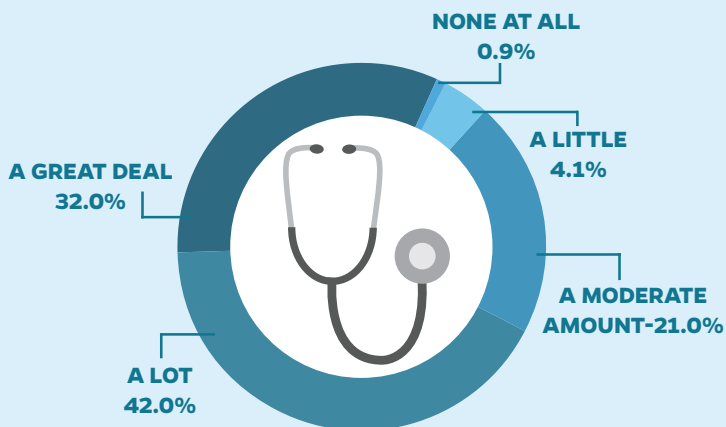


EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS' EXPERIENCES DURING COVID-19

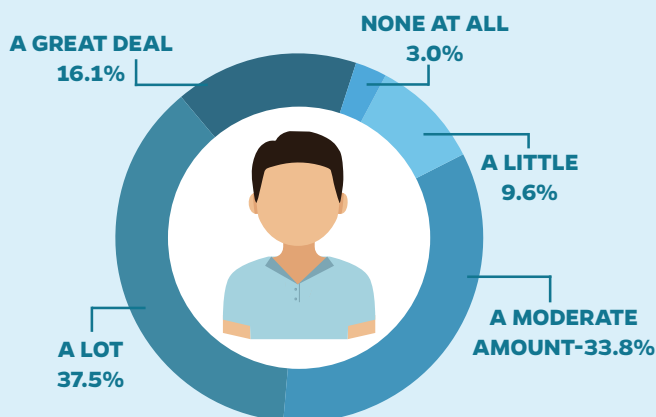
Most of the respondents reported the highest level of trust in healthcare service providers and Extension administrators regarding information about COVID-19 prevention and treatment. Receiving trusted information from healthcare providers and Extension administrators makes Extension professionals in the Southeast well-prepared to share information with clientele. Most respondents (79%) were sharing information about COVID-19 through various methods and 15% reported conducting educational programs or trainings on COVID-19.

HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST EACH OF THE FOLLOWING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 PREVENTION/TREATMENT?

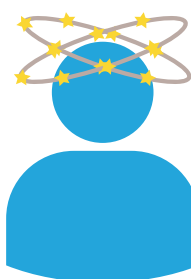
HEALTHCARE SERVICE PROVIDERS



EXTENSION ADMINISTRATORS



Respondents were asked based on their experiences with COVID-19 if they had observed stress or emotional symptoms in their clientele. Nearly 88% of the respondents reported that they had observed stress or emotional symptoms in their clientele to some extent, or great extent during the COVID-19 pandemic.



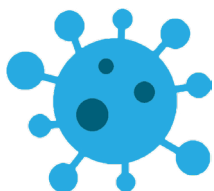
ALMOST 88% OF RESPONDENTS OBSERVED STRESS OR EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS IN THEIR CLIENTELE DUE TO COVID-19.

NOTE: THIS PERCENTAGE REPRESENTS AGREE TO A GREAT EXTENT, MODERATE EXTENT AND SLIGHT EXTENT.

Majority of respondents agreed that they knew the proper steps to take if they thought that they had been exposed to COVID-19. Eighty-six percent of respondents reported that they somewhat agreed or strongly agreed that they knew the proper steps to take. Approximately 91% of respondents reported that they had a healthcare provider that they could contact if they become ill.

Research was conducted by:

Galindo, S., Israel, G., Diehl, D., Ward, C., Nelson, J., Saqib, H., & Gaines, T.



NEARLY 86% OF RESPONDENTS KNOW THE PROPER STEPS TO TAKE IF THEY THINK THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19.

NOTE: THIS PERCENTAGE REPRESENTS STRONGLY AGREE AND SOMEWHAT AGREE.