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INSERVICE EXTENSION AGENT TRAINING IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

James D. Shaffer
Professor, Marketing and Consumer Behavior
Michigan State University

The discussion was introduced by a brief description of the Michigan inservice training program (known as PACE). The program was designed for 39 county level agents which included 13 county extension directors and 23 home economics agents. The program included six two-day sessions and a week of meetings with officials in Washington, D.C.

The program was responsive to the interests of the participants through a combination of program advisory committees and evaluation from each session. The program combined material on specific policy issues, analytical concepts, political processes, educational program design, and delivery techniques.

Six strategies for agent involvement in public affairs education were discussed.

1. Adding a public affairs dimension to other educational activities.
2. Expand the scope of individuals and group consulting to include more public affairs content.
3. Sponsor and/or facilitate community dialogue dealing with public affairs topics.
4. Sponsor public affairs study groups.
5. Provide special information services to people in positions of public responsibility.
6. Provide general citizenship education via mass media.

Participants in the PACE program reported that they gained confidence in their ability to provide public affairs education and that they have expanded such programming as a result of the program.

Two papers were distributed: "Some Observations on Extension Education in Public Affairs," by J. Shaffer and "Project Pace — Public Affairs Community Education: A Preliminary Process Report,"

by J. Shaffer & G. Benson. The latter report includes description of project programs, activities, and evaluation comments. Both papers can be obtained by writing to J. Shaffer, Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 48824.

PART VII

Summary

